

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Twelfth Series, Vol. VIII, Fourth Session, 1999/1920 (Saka)]

No. 5, Friday, February 26, 1999/Phalgun 7, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
Starred Question Nos. 61-64	1—24
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS:	
Starred Question Nos. 65-80	24—86
Unstarred Question Nos. 598-827	67—425
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	425—437
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE	
Fifth Report	437
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Action-taken Reports	438
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
Eighty-first Report	438—439
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	439—442
ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES	442—447
RE: ISSUE OF SIGNING CTBT AGREEMENT	449—457
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Re: Prime Minister's Recent Visit to Pakistan	
Shri Jaswant Singh	466—469
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF BIHAR	457—466, 469—604
Dr. Shakeel Ahmad	458
Shri Indrajit Gupta	471
Shri Chandrashekhar	480

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav	484
Shri R. Muthiah	498
Kumari Mayawati	505
Shri George Fernandes	511
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam	534
Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar	538
Shri N.K. Premachandran	546
Shri R.S. Gaval	551
Prof. Saifuddin Soz	554
Kumari Mamta Banerjee	558
Shri K. Yerrannaidu	572
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	573
Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan	575
Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra	577
Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde	579
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	586
Dr. Jayanta Rongpi	587
Shri S.S. Owaisi	590
Shri Shakuni Chowdhary	591
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	593
Shri L.K. Advani	596
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SPEAKER	604—626
(i) RE : Operation of Automatic Vote Recording Machine	604
(ii) RE : Permission to Vote from Inner Lobby	604

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 26, 1999/Phalgun 7, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Import of Newsprint

*61. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported during 1998-99 and proposed to be imported during the next financial year;

(b) whether the domestic supply of newsprint is sufficient to meet the requirement;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the estimated gap between demand and supply of newsprint in the country at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The quantity of newsprint imported between April '98 & November '98 stood at 2.86 lakh MT. While the domestic supply of writing and printing paper is adequate to meet the requirement, certain varieties of newsprint/paper required for special application need to be imported to some extent.

The Government has taken the following steps to increase the production and supply of newsprint:

(i) Newsprint industry has been delicensed.

(ii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.

(iii) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.

(iv) Such paper mills, which are producing printing paper, conforming to BIS standards for newsprint where such paper is being used by RNI registered newspapers and where its quality is found satisfactory by them, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have come out with a statement which reads: 'The quantity of newsprint imported between April, 1998 and November, 1998 stood at 2.86 lakh MT. While the Domestic supply of writing and printing paper is adequate to meet the requirement, certain varieties of newsprint/paper required for special application need to be imported to some extent.' In fact, they are contradicting their own statement.

This is the figure for import for about six to seven months. If you take the whole year, it will come to about Rs. 1,000 crore in money terms. I know that in the last two or three years, there has been a decrease in the growth of newspaper prints and some of the mills manufacturing newsprint like the NEPA Limited, the Aurangabad Paper Mills Limited and the Rama Newsprint and Papers Limited have closed down because of the weak Government at the Centre. This is because of the unsound policy of the Centre.

We know that newsprint is a very basic and critical raw material accounting to fifty to sixty per cent of the total cost of publishing a newspaper. Therefore, the small and medium newspapers cannot sustain and themselves cannot withstand without very reasonable rates being provided. As we know, newspapers are very useful and are thought of as good for a democracy but unfortunately the Government is not taking any proper step. My suggestion is that they should take bold steps so that we can increase our indigenous production and cut down the imports.

My first supplementary question is whether the Government is planning to offer a package to newsprint producing mills to help full production, to ease the shortage position and to save foreign exchange.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, what the hon. Member has termed as a weak Government has nothing to do with the present sickness of the newsprint industry.

The Government has given all possible encouragement and help and the import of newsprint is not freely allowed. It has been allowed only for users certified by the Indian Newspapers Society. It is on the basis of a memorandum submitted by 89 hon. Members of Parliament that we have allowed the import of newsprint.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: You have not answered part (a) of my question. What is the total quantity of newsprint which is being produced in the country?

Now, I come to my second supplementary. There was one petition filed by the Indian Newsprint Manufacturing Association about two years ago. Have the findings been announced by the Government? If the answer is yes, what are the salient points?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: The demand for newsprint in 1997-98 is for seven lakh tonnes and the indigenous production is only four lakh tonnes. I am not aware of the representation referred to by the hon. Member. I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has estimated the demand for newsprint in the country on the basis of memorandum submitted by the Associations. During the period of six months from April, 1998 to November 1998, the Government imported only 2 lakh 86 thousand metric tonnes of newsprint. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the quantity of newsprint being produced by the paper mills in our country? Hon. Minister has told just now that in peculiar circumstances we might have to import newsprint in future. My question to the Hon. Minister is what is the total requirement of newsprint in the country and what is the policy evolved by the Government for the import of newsprint? The Hon. Minister has provided for many concessions there should be no necessity to import the newsprint. Even then I would like to know the quantity of newsprint being produced by the paper mills in our country and the total requirement of newsprint in future?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE: Sir, the total production of newsprint in our country is 4 lakh tonnes and the demand is that of 7 lakh tonnes. Today, several mills are lying closed and many of them are in a poor condition. There are five newsprint manufacturing units in our country. These are Nepa Newsprint Mill, Hindustan

Newsprint Mill, Tamil Nadu Newsprint Mill, Katchar Newsprint Mill and Mysore Paper Mill. Last year the production has increased by 35 percent in these paper mills. If there is any shortfall, we have to import to meet the same.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In Kerala, there is a newsprint factory owned by the Union Government. That is functioning at Vallore near Kottayam. Now, that factory is on the brink of closure. At least two thousand workers will be thrown out. The Industry Minister of the Kerala Government, myself and some other MPs have represented this matter to the hon. Commerce Minister Shri Ramakrishna Hegde. This is due to the delicensing process.

Moreover, since the excise duty on newsprint is taken away, it is running at a huge loss; and that factory will be closed. The State Government as well as the people are very much interested in reviving because it will lead to the question of unemployment. Thousands of workers will be thrown out. Without any protection for our Indian industry, the Government have thrown open everything to the multinational companies to import newsprint.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask the question now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Hon. Minister may kindly look into the matter as to how this industry owned by the Union Government could be saved from ruin.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Certainly the Government will look into this. May I inform the hon. Member that the Government is not levying any excise duty on indigenously produced paper? We have given several encouragements by way of removing the import duty on pulp and several other measures. But in spite of that, the Indian industry has not made any further progress.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH: My question is slightly different from newsprint. The general paper industry in this country is facing a lot of problems.

A number of units belonging to the Hindustan Paper Corporation have been closed and other industries also are more or less facing the same problem. Will the Ministry of Commerce agree to conduct a study into the functioning of these units and see whether the EXIM policy changes can help to revive this industry?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: I have no objection to have a study conducted. But the EXIM policy has nothing to do with the ailment of the newsprint paper industry. There are other reasons. But EXIM policy has nothing to do with that. As I said, the import of newsprint is allowed only on actual user basis.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I would like to know two specific things from the hon. Minister. A few years ago there were newspaper reports that certain foreign newsprint manufacturers were dumping their products in India with a view to undercutting the local mills so that the local mills become sick and India becomes dependent on foreign producers to import newsprint. Is the Government aware of this?

The second part of my question is whether the Government is aware that the newsprint manufactured within India is of extremely poor quality, in the sense that the paper is thick and the mileage that the newspaper gets from Indian newsprint is much less than that of the imported newsprint. Is the hon. Minister aware of this? If that be the case, have they got any plans to improve the quality of Indian newsprint?

It seems the Government is very much concerned about the newspapers and the Government views the newspaper industry as a profit making industry. That is why every six months there are Wage Boards, like Palekar and Bachawat. But the plight of the newspaper is not understood by the Government. Will the Government think of supplying inexpensive or reasonably-priced good quality newsprint, especially to small and medium newspapers in the country?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I will first answer his second part of the question. The quality of indigenous newsprint is, no doubt, inferior to the quality of imported newsprint. Therefore, there is a very strong request, in fact a lobby, that newspaper industry should be allowed to import newsprint.

As far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, it is true that there have been cases of dumping, particularly from Canada, America and one or two other countries. The Directorate of Anti-dumping Authority has already conducted an investigation and made certain recommendations. Those recommendations are under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: That was not the reply to my question.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Sir, the entire newspaper industry is suffering from recession. The recession is so

much that nearly fifty per cent of the paper mills are sick at the moment.

[Translation]

There are recoveries at several places. People are being sent to prison. The situation is that bad. Lakhs of people are losing their jobs. Many mills are closing down in Western Uttar Pradesh. In the enquiry you had conducted earlier it was said that newsprint is being dumped in our country but almost two years have passed and no action has been taken in this regard.

[English]

There was a provision that if you buy two portions in India, you would be allowed to import one portion from outside. That provision was there earlier but it has also been withdrawn. I would like to know what the Government of India is going to do. The paper industry is in a bad shape and we are receiving representations from all. It is true not only for the newsprint but also for the entire paper industry. Under the garb of newsprint, other paper is being imported. What is the Government of India doing about this?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: As the hon. Member knows, the price of indigenous newsprint is much lower than the price of imported newsprint.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, the Minister is perhaps not aware of it. This is not correct.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may disagree with him.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I will give you the figures. The current price of imported newsprint is in the range of US Dollars 460 to 590 per tonne, that means Rs. 19,550 to Rs. 25,075. The corresponding indigenous price is ranging between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 22,500. If the hon. Member knows better than I do, he is welcome to have his own idea.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply to my question.

[English]

I had asked a very specific question regarding the anti-dumping duty recommended by the Ministry of Commerce.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given answer. It may not be up to your satisfaction.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I have already said that investigation has been conducted and anti-dumping authority have made recommendations to the Finance Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already said it. That is what I was telling him.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: They have recommended 30 per cent duty. The Finance Ministry has to take a decision. It is under its consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am constrained to regret on the reply which the Government have given. They have said that sub-standard newsprint is produced in the country that is why we have to import it. I would like to know from the Government the names of the countries from where the newsprint is imported and the price thereof and the names of the mills which produce sub-standard paper and what is the plan of the Government to revamp these mills and increase the production.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not said that the newsprint produced in the country is sub-standard but its quality is little lower than the imported paper, its quality is not so good. The owners of the industry would themselves try to improve it.

We import the newsprint from Canada, America, Sweden and two three other nations. The Government do not import it. It is imported by the actual users and we charge 5 percent customs duty on it.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue and our industry is in danger. I am related to this industry and I would like to say that some other paper is being imported in the name of newsprint. I would appreciate a short reply from the Hon. Minister whether he knows about it or not. I myself own a business of paper, that is why I want an answer to this question...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

External/Domestic Debt

+
*62. DR. ASIM BALA:
DR. SAROJA V.:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the external/domestic debt of the country has increased abnormally;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount of external/domestic debt outstanding, as on the date, country-wise and institution-wise, separately;

(d) the comparative figures of the external/domestic debt, as on December, 31,1990, December, 31,1995 and December, 31,1998, separately;

(e) the amount paid in the form of principal and interest to the external/domestic creditors during each of the last three years; and

(f) the plan of the Government to repay the debt and to avoid burden of more debt?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The external debt of India, in absolute terms, increased from US\$ 83.80 billion at end-March 1991 to US\$ 95.20 billion at end-September 1998. There has been no abnormal increase in the external debt stock of the country. On the contrary external debt indicators such as debt-GDP and debt service to current receipts ratios have declined considerably.

The Government of India's domestic debt and other internal liabilities, in absolute terms, were Rs. 2,83,032 crores at end-March, 1991. According to Budget Estimates (B.E.) 1998-99, it is estimated at Rs. 8,10,912 crores at end-March 1999. The increase in Government of India's debt is due to recurring fiscal deficits which represent

the gap between total expenditure (net of repayments) and non-debt receipts, and which in turn lead to additional borrowings.

(c) The creditor category-wise classification of external debt at end-September 1998 is as under:

Creditor Category	External Debt Outstanding (US\$ million)
1. Multilateral	29827
2. Bilateral	17229
3. IMF	480
4. Export Credit	6970
5. Commercial Borrowings	21091
6. NRI & FC (B&O) Deposits	11701
7. Rupee Debt	4366
Long Term Debt (1 to 7)	91684
8. Short-term Debt	3531
Total External Debt	95195

The composition of Government of India's outstanding domestic debt and other internal liabilities at the end of March, 1999 (B.E.) is as under:

Instruments	Domestic Debt Outstanding (Budget Estimate 1998-99) (Rs. Crore)
1. Market Loans	265952
2. 91 Days Treasury Bills/Treasury Bills Funded into Special Securities	107519
3. Other Internal Debt	63637
4. Small Saving Schemes	142851
5. Provident Funds	51721
6. Other Accounts	135512
7. Reserve Funds and Deposits	43720
Total	810912

(d) The comparative figures for external debt of India are as under:

External Debt	31.3.1991	31.3.1996	30.9.1998
(USD million)	83801	97330	95195

The comparative figures for domestic debt (and other internal liabilities) of the Government of India are as under:

Domestic Debt	31.3.1991	31.3.1996	31.3.1999 (B.E.)
(Rs. crore)	283032	554983	810912

(e) The amount paid as principal and interest on external debt during the last three years are as under:

External Debt Service (USD million)	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Repayment of Principal	7694	7672	6735
Interest Payments	4344	4010	4465
Total	12038	11682	11200

The amount paid as principal and interest on domestic debt and other internal liabilities during the last three years are as under:

Domestic Debt Service (Rs. crore)	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Repayment of Principal*	66888	65444	74885
Interest Payments	45631	55255	61550
Total	112519	120699	136435

*Repayment of principal excludes discharge of 91 day/14 day TBs, Ways and Means and Advances, Reserve Funds and advance not bearing interest and suspense transactions.

(f) Government is following a prudent external debt management policy, the main planks of which are sustaining the growth of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total amount of commercial debt under manageable limits and encouraging non-debt creating inflows. As a result, there has been steady improvement in external indebtedness indicators over time. The debt service ratio declined from 35.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 19.5 per cent in 1997-98. The debt-GDP ratio

also declined from the high of 37.7 per cent in 1991-92 to 23.8 per cent in 1997-98.

For management of domestic debt the Government's endeavour has been to contain fiscal deficit by maximising non-debt receipts and containing expenditure over time.

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, higher imports and marginal exports at constant price have resulted in negative balance of payment in the recent years which increases the foreign debt. I want to know whether this will lead our country into a debt trap like Mexico.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the answer is no. I have already, in reply which I have laid on the Table of the House, indicated how debt service burden has been coming down, especially the external debt service burden has been coming down over the years. Therefore, there is absolutely no danger of India going the Mexican way.

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, the debt rate of inflow i.e., rate of increase in a year, was three billion dollars during 1997-98. This led to outstanding debt. I want to know how the Government is going to resist outstanding debt that is going to increase year after year.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have already indicated that the over all trend in external debt is one of decline. But if in one particular year it has gone up marginally that is because of a number of factors and that is not a matter of concern. It is because when we are looking at the external debt, we are looking at various indices, debt-GDP ratio and debt-current account ratio and all that. When we look at these indices, we find that there is no reason for undue concern.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, the hon. Minister replied that it is not a matter of great concern on the external debt issue. But in the same question there is a comparative statement of external debt and domestic debt. While the external debt has increased from US\$ 83 billion to US\$ 95 billion from 1991 to 1998, the domestic debt has increased from Rs. 2,83,000 crore to Rs. 8,18,000 crore. As against 15 per cent increase in the external debt, there is a 300 per cent increase in domestic debt. If you see the break up of Rs. 3,10,000 crore of domestic debt, Rs. 2,65,952 crore is coming under the market loans. I wonder whether the Minister will consider to redeem these loans prematurely under the PSUs by the bank and convert them into equity. This will save the outgoing interest as well as it will save them from the problem of disinvestment of PSU shares. You convert the loans into equity by redeeming them prematurely.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the hon. Member is absolutely right in drawing the attention of the House to a very significant increase over the years as far as the internal debt is concerned. The internal debt is definitely a matter of serious concern. This increase in internal debt is reflective of the fiscal profligacy over the years. I have repeatedly said in this House and outside that we have been borrowing beyond sustainable limits and that there is a need to put a control on these deficits and borrowings.

But the suggestion which the hon. Member has made about converting all the PSU debts into equity...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : It is not only for PSU debts but also other debts.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is a suggestion for action. But I do not know how it will be possible...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA : You may implement it tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the measures suggested by the Hon. Finance Minister to solve the problem of internal and external debt are promoting export and efforts are going on to maintain financial discipline. If we keep in mind the economic survey of this country which has been presented we find that World Trade deficit is continuously increasing and considering the way DA has been increased during last one year due to pricerise and the losses incurred by the Government and semi Government institutions due to recession, the Government have taken only one decision and that they have decreased the rate of interest on public money. What measures are the Government planning to initiate to control the administrative expenditure of the Central Government and especially that of the State Governments which is increasing due to responsible manners so that we could lessen the amount of internal debt.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tomorrow I will speak about it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so many things already have leaked out, it will be no harm if one or two things more are leaked out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait till tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not been able to understand one thing is the economic survey of the country which has been presented, so I would like to know from the Hon. Minister when the concessional debts of the Government are gradually decreasing and the non-concessional debts

among the non Government borrowings are side by side increasing then what type of effect it will have on the economy. It is essential to calculate it. Apart from this, since we have been talking about globalization for many years, and for that private sector might take borrowings from abroad. I would like to know whether the Government have made any arrangement to monitor their borrowings to keep them under check because after all, they will take loans from other countries and that too will affect the economic policies of our country. Have the Government considered all these points.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the data which I have presented have in my statement is studied carefully then you will find that out of 95 billion dollar of external debt, there is a longterm debt of 91.6 billion dollar and a short term debt of only 3.5 billion dollar. I would like to assure the hon. Member and the House that be it Government debt or private external debt, Government keeps an eye on it and we continuously monitor it so that it does not go out of hand and if India is not in the grip of globalization crisis it is just because of the Government which is so alert.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the coming years and particularly in the next year, the Government has got an obligation of redemption of Rs. 16,353 crores by way of retaining security with 364 days period for treasury bill which is worth about Rs. 10,000 crores alongwith a likely borrowing of about Rs. 75,000 crore. All put together there will be a borrowing of about Rs. 1,00,000 crore. Fifty per cent of the revenue receipt is being utilised for the purpose of serving interest.

The borrowings are increasingly utilised for the purpose of current expenditure and the Capital Expenditure is decreasing day by day to the level of 22 per cent. Before this Government is declared run out by the captain, suppose he may bring some spin bowlers from Hyderabad! We do not know about it. Before that, I want to know whether the hon. Minister proposes or inclined to propose to utilise the funds borrowed to increase the Capital Expenditure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He is asking a query and I am repeating his own words that we are going to run out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: You are on a slippery ground. You are on a slippery wicket...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He is asking a batsman who is running whether he is going to run out. What a question!

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Rather, you will be declared run out.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In regard to the question what will be the Capital Expenditure and its ratio to the Revenue Expenditure in the Budget for next year, why do we all not wait for a little while? I cannot answer that question as yet. But by this time tomorrow, I will be answering those questions...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let there be question hour tomorrow and let him leave today. In response to every question, he is saying that he will speak tomorrow, then why has he been allotted this date? Let him leave today. Tomorrow we will ask him after the budget.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is absolutely right in saying that it is the domestic borrowing which is more worrying than the external borrowing. Nevertheless, I want to draw his attention to some aspects of the external borrowing.

I am grateful to him for acknowledging that in the past eight years, the Governments have followed a very prudent external debt management policy. Having acknowledged that, will he please explain to us why he went for the Resurgent India Bond? If it was a preemptive action in order to forestall a possible run down of reserves - he has not said that so far in any forum, to my knowledge - then he must give reasons why he anticipated that there will be a run down in the reserves. According to the Economic Survey presented a couple of days ago, the external debt this year, at the end of 1999, will, perhaps, rise to about \$ 99 billion. Most of this is accounted for by the RIB. Despite reserves being at \$ 26 billion by the end of last year, at the end of this year, the reserves will be only about \$27.5 billion. It is the cash reserve, which means that despite a borrowing of \$4.2 billion, reserves are not rising to the extent of \$4.2 billion. The inference is quite clear. Reserves were run down, reserves would have run down and that is why he has borrowed. What I would like to know is this. Is borrowing a part of the present Government's prudent external debt management policy? Is it not correct that the effective interest rates including the exchange rate depreciation is about 14.8 per cent? Is it his case that borrowing at 14.8 per cent, adding to the external debt is the prudent debt management policy of this

Government? I would call it imprudent. I would contrast it with the prudent debt management policy of the last eight years.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Here, we are up against a question of one's character. I have complimented the previous Governments, as Shri Chidambaram has pointed out, for prudent management of the debt profile. This is something which I have said in this House. This is something which I have said in fora within this country and this is something which I have said in fora outside the country.

I have said this because this is a national task which all Governments have performed with diligence. So, I have no hesitation in accepting every Government's contribution to this national task.

Now, I have figures here which we have quoted in the Economic Survey. This is a page out of the Economic Survey. I am reading out some indicators. The debt to GDP in 1997-98, when Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister, was 23.8 per cent. In 1998-99, during my year, it has come down to 22.9 per cent. Short-term debt to total debt was 5.4 per cent in 1997-98. It has come down to 3.7 per cent during 1998-99. Concessional debt to total debt was 39.3 per cent, which is the only higher figure, in 1997-98. It has come down marginally to 37.7 per cent. Debt service to current receipts which was 19.5 per cent in 1997-98 has come down to 18.3 per cent in 1998-99.

After having put all these figures before this august House, I will come to the second part of his question about prudent management of the debt profile, the RIB. The Resurgent India Bonds, as I had mentioned in my Budget speech last year, was a scheme that we have devised in response to the enthusiastic support of the Non-Resident Indians to the nuclear tests. They approached us repeatedly and said that they wanted to do something for their motherland. We gave them an opportunity to respond to the Resurgent India Bonds. This bond which was floated by the State Bank of India was kept open, as is well-known to this House, for only about 14 working days in the month of August, 1998 and it was able to collect over four billion dollars. That was the response of the Non-Resident Indians to India.

Now, the question is whether it was prudent. I have not brought those figures here. But I have put it before this House on an earlier occasion that at the time when we went to the international market, to the NRIs, with a certain rate of interest on the RIB, that was the time when other emerging markets were also in the international market with their loans and I will say it with

all the confidence at my command that the rate of interest at which we have raised the Resurgent India Bonds not only compares very favourable with the interest rate at which other emerging markets have raised loans, but it is, perhaps, the lowest interest rate at which any country has raised loans during that period.

So, the short answer to Shri Chidambaram's question is that the prudent management of India's external debt stock continues and we are as acutely aware of this responsibility as he was or his predecessors were.

SHRI P. SANKARAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the percentage of the total debt of the country, both domestic and external, to the GDP as also the annual interest burden.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have just mentioned that as far as the external debt indicators are concerned, the debt to GDP is 22.9 per cent. As far as the internal debt is concerned, the figure is around 49 per cent.

As far as the interest that we pay on these debts is concerned, according to this year's Budget Estimates, it was Rs. 75,000 crore.

Revenue Collection

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*63. **SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:**
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government foresee substantial reduction in revenue collection during 1998-99 in comparison to the projected figure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected figure of fiscal deficit the Government expect now by the end of this year; and

(d) the measures the Government intend to take in future to rein in the fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Sir, as against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 153,973 crores towards collection of Excise duty, customs duty, Corporation tax, Income tax and Interest tax during the year 1998-99, the actual collection upto January, 1999 is Rs. 104,231 crores. The extent of actual shortfall, if any in the overall collection will be known at the end of the financial year.

(c) and (d) General Budget-1999-2000 will contain the information sought for.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I concede that I am at a disadvantage in view of the fact that tomorrow, the hon. Finance Minister is going to present the Budget. So, he may not answer my question and also some of the related questions that were asked through supplementaries to Q. No. 62.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, you do not want to put your question.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I will put my question. He may answer it if it is possible now or he may reply tomorrow. I do not require the answer today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then why do you ask the question?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I will ask my question. It is because previously, he said "wait for tomorrow" -

In an ideal world, there should be a revenue surplus large enough to finance capital expenditure on defence and other social sectors where there are no tangible results. This should ensure that the borrowings would be used only to finance investment expenditures which yield a future income flow to the Exchequer. But, it seems, our debt servicing is more than our revenue earnings. For revenue expenditures also, we resort to borrowings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: So my question is this. Do the Government have any plan to progressively reduce the borrowings used for consumption expenditure?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the points which the hon. Member has raised are absolutely unexceptionable. It is very correct to say that there should be a revenue surplus in public account and that that revenue surplus should go to finance development or capital expenditure. But this balance has been skewed in this country for over two decades now. Unfortunately, we have entered a phase where there is a huge revenue deficit. It is true that a part of it is being met by borrowings.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned regarding the steps that we should take to correct the situation, he is quite right in believing that this is a question that I cannot answer just now, this is a question for which I will have to wait until tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In view of this answer, do you want to ask your second supplementary?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes. This is a different question. As per the expectations of the Government, the disinvestments of PSUs will fetch the Government around Rs. 7,000 crore this year. Do the Government intend to utilise this fund only to bridge the fiscal deficit or for re-investments in certain other sectors?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, all the revenues and disinvestments from the public sector flows into the Consolidated Fund of India. Once it comes into the Consolidated Fund, it is one basket. As we do not have different colours for different sources of receipts, it is very difficult for us to say which money is going where. But obviously, a large part of the Government's expenditure is also development expenditure. The money that we receive from PSUs' disinvestments also goes to development expenditure.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, whenever the Government finds that the gap in the fiscal deficit is increasing because of the shortfall in the collections of direct taxes or indirect taxes, the first people that are coming to their minds to be taxed are the poor people by way of increasing the prices of the essential commodities or cutting down the subsidies.

In this context, I wish to know from the hon. Minister, what is the amount outstanding, both in indirect taxes and direct taxes, from the rich and the well to do in comparison with the savings that the Government expects by increasing the price of essential commodities or by reducing the subsidies.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: First of all, it will be entirely wrong to say that the reduction in subsidy is a tax on the poor. It is not. Why the issue prices in the PDS had to be increased is a matter which my colleague, the hon. Minister for Food had already explained in detail in this House.

As far as the outstanding, arrears of taxes are concerned, on the indirect taxes side, the outstanding arrears are Rs. 12,000 crore and on the direct taxes side, the outstanding areas are Rs. 43,000 crore. Both of them together make a total of about Rs. 55,000 crore. It appears to be a very large sum of money which has continued over a period of time. But I would like to say that most of it is locked in litigations. Government is actively pursuing a policy of realising these taxes. But in many cases for large amounts, I have said, we are at the mercy of the courts.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Please tell me the figures whether you consider the increase in price of essential commodities as a tax or not?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The total savings that will accrue to the Government as a result of the reduction in subsidy and increase in the issue prices will be less than Rs. 3,000 crore. It could be Rs. 2,800 crore.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question which I am asking will not be needed to reserve for tomorrow. This year there is a shortfall of around 50 crore rupees in the collection. Considering the overage collection of last ten months, the average stands at 10 crore rupees per month. In the coming two months of February and March, 20 crore rupees should be collected. My question is in two parts. First part is that how much collection does the hon. Minister expect in the coming two months. Second part is whether the hon. Minister is aware that during the months of February and March huge collection is created artificially especially in excise and customs. Tax payers are pressurised and they are told that the Govt. have to achieve their target and as such they should pay as much as they can. It does not prove beneficial in the end as there is less collection for the next quarter in the same proportions. Is the hon. Minister aware that some people are in the grip of this vicious circle and whether you think this kind of system should be abolished and feel the need of making some sort of arrangement so that the people who pay accurate amount of tax, custom and excise for whole year, should not face any problem?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we look at the data of every year, we will find that it is a natural trend to get more collection at the end of the year. We have data for the month of January which shows an increase be it excise or custom. It happens at times that many people wait till the end of the year and then pay the arrears. Therefore, the collection at the end of the year will be more than the average collection of last 9-10 months. I am stating a general fact.

It is a general fact and today I would not like to say anything on the basis of anticipation that how much we would be able to collect in the following two months but we have with us the data upto December.

The Second point that the hon. Member has raised is that much pressure is put at the end of the year and we try to collect more tax, I would like to say that it happens when a change of Government is about to take place as happened last year when the then Finance Minister know that he would not be the Finance Minister again much pressure was put on the tax payers. I do not have such doubts in my mind so I have directed the

Department that there is no need to put pressure in such a manner. I agree with the hon. Member that if we collect more this year then we will have to tax hardships next year.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister admitted that there is a huge shortfall in the collection of direct taxes. In reply to many of our questions in this House about income tax, we have found that very big politicians are involved; we have found that very big actors and actresses are involved and we have found that very big houses are involved. I am sure that all are not under litigation. I would like to know the present position with regard to those. I would also like to know what steps the Government has taken really to get this money from these sources.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would first like to correct the impression of the hon. Member that there is a huge shortfall on the direct taxes side. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: There is an impression. You have answered so to our questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No. Madam, it is not. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I will give names if you want to. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have given the figures. I have the figures here. Up to the month of January 1999, within this current year direct tax collection is 17 per cent. Therefore, we are absolutely confident that as far as direct taxes are concerned, we shall not fall short of the target which is projected in the Budget Estimate. The shortfall will be on the indirect taxes side, on Excise and more particularly on Customs side for various reasons. But as far as collection of direct taxes is concerned, I would like to assure the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that the Department is pro-actively following up all cases, whether they are film stars or they are big people. We do not look at the status of the assessee. For us, all the assesseees are equal and we approach all of them in the same spirit.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is a question that relates to the system irrespective of the Government, the colour of the Government that may be there. It is a question of the

system. Now, in the case of indirect taxes, often the Budget Estimates and the Revised Estimates are not realistic, are not related to ground realities. For example, this year the Budget Estimates were decided without taking into consideration the industrial and the business recession particularly in the case of indirect taxes.

In view of these, what measures will the Government think of in order to make this revenue collection figures, specially in the case of indirect taxes, more realistic with greater and a wider consultation with those on the spot asked to collect?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member that the systems in place are sufficient to enable the Government to make projections which are as close to reality as possible. But at the time of preparation of the budget certain assumptions are made. There have been various years in the past where the realisation has been more than what had been estimated in the Budget Estimates. There have been years where it has fallen short. It is not the fault of the system as much as the way things develop in the economy often beyond the control of those who are in charge of the management of the economy. Even this year, as the hon. Member himself has pointed out, on direct taxes, as I said earlier, we are on target.

Obviously, the system which enabled me to project this growth was a system which was functioning properly. Our assumptions came true on indirect taxes and some of the assumptions have not come true. I had pointed out that there has been a decline on Customs duties. That has happened because there are international factors over which I have no control, Government of India has no control and those international factors have contributed to a tremendous reduction, for instance, in commodity prices all over the world. It is the reduction in the commodity prices which have led to a decline in Custom receipts. There is an industrial slow down which has resulted in lesser realisation of Excise Duty, though Excise Duty is much better than the previous year. So, sometimes, your assumptions come true, sometimes they do not. It is not the fault of the system, it is the fault of the circumstances which develop over a period of 12 months.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: He has himself agreed that Rs. 1.53 crore is the estimated revenue which, I must say, is very optimistic. Till today we have got only Rs. 1,05,000 crore and it is impossible to collect Rs. 45,000 crore. There is going to be a heavy shortage. So, is he going to have the same optimistic budget tomorrow also and give a very beautiful picture to the country? Again, he will say that for some reasons

something went wrong. He has himself agreed several times previously when we got good results. But this time he is telling various reasons. I agree with him. But what is he going to do about it tomorrow?

Secondly, he has never touched about fiscal deficit, even no Member touched about it. He never answered this question. Where do we stand now? How much is the gap, as on today, as per your anticipation?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have already pointed out that there will be shortfall on the indirect taxes side. What will be the quantum of the shortfall is something which I will put before the House when I come with the revised figures tomorrow. At this point of time it is not possible for me to disclose those figures. ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Is he taking the same experience into consideration? Is he going to be more optimistic, little optimistic or optimistic to the same extent?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: That will be for the hon. Member to judge when I put the figures before the House tomorrow. Then, he will judge whether I have been unduly optimistic or not.

[Translation]

Lifting Ban on Export of Potato and Onion

*64. † SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to lift the ban on export of potatoes and onions;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries to which these potatoes and onions are likely to be exported during the current financial year and 1999-2000;

(c) if not, by when this ban is likely to be lifted;

(d) the estimated loss of foreign exchange suffered due to the ban on export of these items; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of potato and onion to save the cultivators?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government has lifted the ban on export of potatoes with effect from 22.1.1999. Partial ban on export of onions was also lifted on 1.2.99 by allowing export of 3000 MTs onions of all varieties to Sri Lanka through NAFED on a Government to Government basis. Also the carry over stock of Bangalore rose onions and a small quantity of Krishnapuram onions have been allowed to be exported through NAFED. On 12.2.99 Government of India further permitted exports of onions by an Agency designated by the Government of Maharashtra for a quantity of 25000 MTs per month for three months (till May 1999) subject to certain conditions.

Potatoes are being exported mainly to neighbouring countries such as Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, S. Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and UAE. Onions are being exported mainly to Bahrain, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, S. Arabia, Sri Lanka and UAE.

The temporary ban on export of potatoes and onions were imposed to meet the scarcity condition in the domestic market and when viewed in this context, it may not be regarded as 'loss of foreign exchange' as such. Further it is not possible to quantify the 'loss of foreign exchange' due to the ban as the exports depend upon international supply and demand position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences, varieties traded and variations in quality.

Some of the steps taken to promote export of various products including onions and potatoes are; identification of new markets, collection and dissemination of market intelligence, provision of referral and sourcing services to foreign buyers, participation in international trade fairs, organization of buyer-seller meets and assistance to exporters in establishing and promoting their products.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year the prices of potatoes and onions were so high that the farmers had to bear huge losses. They had to let their potatoes spoil. The farmers were discouraged and as a result the farm area of these crops were reduced. During last several days the prices of potatoes and onions were so high that the general consumer got exploited and he had to bear huge loss. This year the yield of potatoes is anticipated to be 2 crores 40 lakh tonnes.

12.00 hrs.

We would like to know the names of the countries to which you have made provision to export potatoes and what provision has been made for onions? Besides, what is the minimum support price of potato and onion at which NAFED should buy it and export it?

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the yield of potatoes is around 1 crore 20 to 40 lakh tonnes but the export is a very less as its larger share is consumed in the country. There is no restriction on its export. Any body can export it to any country.

[English]

Sir, we produce about 45 to 50 lakh tonnes of onions. The export has never been more than 10 percent of that. Last time, because of the benefit of which the Congress won the election in Delhi and because of the destruction of crop due to unseasonal rains, there was a sudden price rise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Kar Vivad Samadhan

*65. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme 1998 in the month of September;

(b) if so, the rationale behind launching this Scheme;

(c) the total proceeds realised under the scheme;

(d) the target fixed and achieved;

(e) whether the said scheme was extended by one month;

(f) if so, the reasons for the same;

(g) whether the Government propose to give some concessions to realise more tax;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether the Government propose to disburse the amount collected through Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme among different States; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (j) The Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme, 1998, as announced as a part of the 1998-99 Budget Proposal and incorporated in Chapter-V of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 was duly launched and made operative from 1.9.1998. The basic objectives behind the Scheme as explained in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech were to bring down the pending litigation/disputes between the Department and the assessees both on the direct tax and indirect taxes side, declog the appellate and judicial system as well as to speedily realise the arrears of taxes locked up in various disputes.

The Scheme provided that the designated authority would determine the sum payable for settlement of tax arrear payable under the Scheme within 60 days of the filing of a declaration as prescribed under the Scheme. The declarant is required to make payment within 30 days thereafter. The exercise of determining the tax payable in all applications filed upto the permissible limit of 31.1.1999 is not yet complete. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the total proceeds realised under the Scheme. The Scheme being voluntary in nature, it was not possible to make any assessment about the likely realisation from the cases covered by the Scheme and hence no target was fixed in respect of the likely tax disputes to be settled or the amount of tax arrears to be realised under the Scheme. However, on the basis of information available, the estimated revenue likely to be collected upto 31.3.1999 from the declarations filed under the scheme upto 31.1.1999 are Rs. 950 crores for Direct Taxes and Rs. 850 crores for Indirect Taxes.

Initially the Scheme envisaged 31.12.1998 to be the last date for making declarations under the Scheme. However, a large number of representations were received by the Government to extend the scheme in view of quite a few clarifications issued towards the end of the scheme including the one communicating the acceptance of Delhi High Court judgement to extend the scheme to cover Departmental appeals. The Government, therefore, promulgated an Ordinance on 31.12.1998 to extend the scheme by one month i.e., upto 31.1.1999. Simultaneously, to ensure that the tax arrears determined as payable in respect of declarations filed during January, 1999, are realised by 31.3.1999, the Government amended the Scheme to provide that the designated authorities shall determine the sum payable within 30 days of the receipt of declarations filed on or after 1.1.1999.

The Scheme having closed as on 31.1.1999, the question of giving further concessions to realise more tax under the Scheme does not arise.

Share of the States in the net proceeds of Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme will be disbursed in accordance with the devolution formula recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission and accepted by the Government.

[Translation]

Trade Deficit

*66. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sarkar Badhte Vypar Ghate Ko Jhelne Ke liye Taiyar" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 5, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the trade deficit is widening continuously during 1998-99;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to curb the increasing trend to trade deficit and to save the Indian Economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the DGCI&S provisional data, the Trade Deficit for the period April-December, 1998-99 was US\$ 7296 million which is higher than the deficit at US\$ 4478.3 million during April-December, 1997-98. In rupee terms the deficit was estimated at Rs. 30597 crores. The reason for the increase in trade deficit is a deceleration in growth of exports coupled with a high growth of imports especially gold. The deceleration of exports is mainly due to South East Asian crisis and world wide recession.

(d) Policy review is a continuous process and the Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to boost the economy. As far as export promotion is concerned, the external trade sector of India has been further liberalised with the changes introduced in the new Exim Policy. The rate of interest on export credit has been reduced from 11% to 9%. The existing export incentive schemes have been strengthened. Procedures are constantly being simplified and sector specific issues are being addressed to deal with specific sectoral inadequacies so that a higher growth can be achieved in these sectors. The threshold limit under the export promotion capital goods scheme has been reduced to

Rs. 1 crore for some sectors. In addition, necessary impetus has been provided in the Exim Policy for the development of the tourism sector. Through these efforts, the Government is trying to boost exports so that the trade deficit can be curtailed.

Decline in Profit of Public Units

*67. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been substantial decrease in the profits of many public sector units during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for decline; and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) During 1997-98, out of 236 Public Sector

Undertakings (PSUs), 134 earned profits. While the overall performance of Public Sector Undertakings has shown improvement, significant number of undertakings continue to incur losses.

(b) The details of PSUs which have shown deterioration in profitability either through reduction of profits or increase in losses substantially in 1997-98 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The reasons attributable to decrease in profits are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons are excess manpower, increases in inputs cost, old and obsolete plant and machinery, out-dated technology, low capacity utilisation, lack of orders, lower realisation due to decline in demand, lower prices in international markets, etc.

(d) Performance improvement in CPSUs is a continuous process and enterprise specific. However, some of the measures taken are technology upgradation, diversification and change in product mix, modernisation of plants, inventory and cost control, forming of joint ventures and rationalisation of manpower including providing training for acquiring new skills.

Statement

List of Undertakings showing substantial decline in Profit/increase in losses in 1997-98 over 1996-97

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Enterprises	1997-98	1996-97	Difference
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	132.99	515.17	-382.18
2.	Indian Petro-Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	243.69	510.20	-266.51
3.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	-541.89	-341.15	-200.74
4.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	-724.93	-538.02	-186.91
5.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	-395.15	-213.03	-182.12

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.	1.51	169.38	-167.87
7.	Konkan Railway Corpn. Ltd.	-153.60	-20.77	-132.83
8.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	-647.83	-532.64	-115.19
9.	Hindustan Steel Works Constn. Ltd.	-224.65	-132.58	-92.07
10.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	-176.29	-91.30	-84.99
11.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	2.76	82.28	-79.52
12.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	-153.60	-77.55	-76.05
13.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	-85.67	-15.52	-70.15
14.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	-55.35	12.10	-67.45
15.	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	-128.35	-62.59	-65.76
16.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	-20.75	41.17	-61.92
17.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	-105.53	-60.63	-44.90
18.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	-169.72	-130.62	-39.10
19.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	2.57	37.72	-35.15
20.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.	-41.80	-8.28	-33.52
21.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd.	-146.46	-114.79	-31.67
22.	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	-100.13	-68.81	-31.32
23.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	-173.94	-146.13	-27.81

1	2	3	4	5
24.	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	-90.52	-62.72	-27.80
25.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	6.09	31.82	-25.73
26.	Hotel Corpn. of India Ltd.	8.05	30.74	-22.69
27.	Goa Shipyard Ltd.	14.40	35.59	-21.19
28.	Housing & Urban Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	40.54	61.54	-21.00
29.	Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.	28.18	49.13	-20.95
Total		-3655.38	-1040.29	-2615.09

I.T. Arrears Against banks

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

(a) the outstanding amount of income tax towards each Nationalised Bank and the financial institutions in the country, as on March 31,1998;

(b) the reasons for accumulation of this outstanding amount; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government, as on date, to recover the outstanding amount of Income-Tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The outstanding amount of income tax towards major nationalised banks and financial institutions as on 31.3.1998 was as under:—

Name of the bank/ financial institution		Demand outstanding as on 31.3.1998 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	
1.	Andhra Bank	729
2.	Andhra Bank Financial Services Ltd.	11446
3.	Bank of Baroda	123

1	2
4. Vysya Bank Ltd.	5060
5. Bank of Karad Ltd.	420
6. Bank of Madura Ltd.	1789
7. I.D.B.I.	4899
8. I.F.C.I. Ltd.	7052
9. I.F.C.I. Ltd. (Interest tax)	355
10. Karnataka Bank Ltd.	258
11. Kerala State Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	147
12. Life Insurance Corpn. of India Ltd.	732
13. Punjab National Bank	8594
14. Punjab National Bank (Interest tax)	6183
15. South India Bank Ltd. (Interest tax)	100
16. State Bank of Indore	893
17. Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	330
18. The Maharashtra State Co-op. Bank	9782
19. Union Bank of India	6704
20. United Bank of India	17606

(b) The main reasons for accumulation of this outstanding amount towards these banks and financial institutions are:—

- (i) Demands are disputed in appeals and appeals are pending before appellate authorities and courts;
- (ii) Demands are stayed by the courts and appellate authorities;
- (iii) Time gap between payment of taxes by the assessee and its receipt and giving credit in income-tax assessment.

(c) The recovery of tax is a continuous process, involving the use of various statutory provisions. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are made by higher authorities on a continuous basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

[English]

Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka

*69. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Sri Lanka have signed a free trade pact recently;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the pact;
- (c) the extent to which this trade pact is likely to solve the domestic needs of both the countries;
- (d) the details of items put under the free trade agreement;
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to sign such treaties with other SAARC countries;
- (f) whether the Government have received any representation from the Government of Kerala against this agreement as it will adversely affect the coconut, rubber growers in the State; and
- (g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (g) To strengthen economic ties amongst SAARC countries, an offer was made by the Prime Minister to all the SAARC member countries during the Colombo Summit that India would be willing to enter into bilateral free trade agreements with them to accelerate the pace of trade liberalisation in the region. Only Sri Lanka has responded positively to this offer so far.

A Free Trade Agreement was signed with Sri Lanka in New Delhi on 28th December, 1998. The Agreement provides for establishment of a Free Trade Area for the purpose of free movement of goods between their countries through gradual elimination of tariffs on the movement of goods. The FTA will accelerate the development of national economies, promote mutually beneficial bilateral trade and strengthen intra regional economic cooperation which will lead towards expansion of world trade.

The salient features of the Free Trade Agreement are as follows:—

1. The Agreement envisages phasing out of tariff on all products except for a limited number of items in the Negative List, over a period of time. While India would complete the process of tariff elimination over a period of 3 years, Sri Lanka would achieve this over 8 years.
2. The rules of Origin specify that domestic value addition requirement should be 35%. If the raw material/inputs are sourced from each others country, the value addition is reduced to 25% within the overall limit of 35%. The criterion of "Substantial transformation" has been provided in the Rules. The goods must undergo transformation at 4 digit level of the Harmonized System.

As per the Agreement, the lists on which the tariff concessions will be given shall be finalised within 60 days of signing of the Agreement. The details of various items on which tariff concessions are to be given are being worked out. Representations received from various sources including the representation from the State Govt. of Kerala in this regard are being given due consideration.

It may also be pointed out that the tariff concessions will be given only on the Basic Customs Duty and the import duties on Special Customs Duty, Additional customs Duty in lieu of Central Excise and SAD shall continue which will provide sufficient protection and a level playing field to the domestic industry.

Gold/Drugs Confiscated by the Customs

*70. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold and narcotic drugs confiscated by the Customs and Excise Department in the country during the last six months upto 31st January, 1999 and the estimated value thereof;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the steps taken to stop such illegal smuggling of gold and narcotic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) A quantity of 207.238 kgs. of gold, with estimated value of Rs. 8.62 crores has reportedly been seized by the officers of Customs & Central Excise Department during the last 6 months, upto 31.1.1999. During the same period, a quantity of 180.385 kgs. of gold, with estimated value of Rs. 8.11 crores is reported to have been ordered for confiscation by various adjudicating officers. A quantity of 13751.868 kgs. of Narcotic Drugs having an estimated value of Rs. 24.29 crores was reportedly seized by various officers of Customs & Central Excise Department, during the said period.

210 persons were arrested in connection with aforesaid seizures in the last 6 months.

(c) All the field officers of Customs & Central Excise Department including officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are on high alert to detect and prevent smuggling of all contrabands including gold and narcotic drugs.

Prices of Rubber

*71. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the price of rubber has come down to an alarming low level as compared to the international market rate;

(b) the procurement rate of Rubber by the STC at present and the difference between the market price and the floor price;

(c) whether the Government propose to insist that the STC should enhance the procurement rate of Rubber;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to check the diminishing price rate of Rubber; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The prices of natural rubber in the last few months have been higher than international prices. However, in January, 1999, for the first time in several months the international prices were marginally above the domestic price.

(b) STC is procuring rubber at the prevailing market price not exceeding Rs. 34.05 per kg. No floor price is fixed for Natural Rubber.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government is seized of the problems of rubber growers and in order to reduce the surplus rubber available in the market, STC, on the direction of the Government of India, has been procuring rubber from domestic market on Government Account. For discouraging import of rubber, the rubber procured by STC is being sold to the Advance Licence Holders. The Govt. have also decided to exclude temporarily natural rubber from items eligible for import under Advance Licences w.e.f. 20th February, 1999.

Investment by Banks in SLR

*72. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public and private sector banks are investing more money in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) in excess of RBI's prescribed norms than lending money to potential borrowers/customers;

(b) if so, the names of public/private sector banks which have invested more money in SLR during the last three years, bank-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to inquire into the matter and to punish the banks which have committed such irregularities and ensure availability of loans to potential and genuine borrowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The names of public sector and private sector banks which have invested in Government securities beyond the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirements during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Investments by banks in Government securities in excess of the SLR requirements is not an irregularity. Banks are required to deploy their resources in an optimal manner. Banks deploy their resources in Government paper when the off-take of credit by the commercial sector is subdued. Investments in Government Securities are to be viewed as investment decisions of banks based on their commercial judgement.

The Monetary and Credit Policy statements of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emphasise the importance of availability of adequate credit to stimulate the growth in the economy. The policy seeks to ensure that the commercial sector does not suffer due to paucity of funds from the banking system. The recent monetary policy initiatives have also been geared at improving the efficiency of the credit delivery mechanism.

Statement

The names of banks which have invested in the Government Securities over and above the SLR requirements

Public Sector Banks

1. State Bank of India
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
3. State Bank of Hyderabad
4. State Bank of Mysore
5. State Bank of Patiala
6. State Bank of Saurashtra
7. State Bank of Travancore
8. State Bank of Indore
9. Allahabad Bank
10. Andhra Bank

11. Bank of Baroda
12. Bank of India
13. Bank of Maharashtra
14. Canara Bank
15. Central Bank of India
16. Corporation Bank
17. Dena Bank
18. Indian Bank
19. Indian Overseas Bank
20. Oriental Bank of Commerce
21. Punjab & Sind Bank
22. Punjab National Bank
23. Syndicate Bank
24. UCO Bank
25. Union Bank of India
26. United Bank of India
27. Vijaya Bank

Indian Private Sector Banks

1. Bank of Madura Ltd.
2. Bank of Punjab Ltd.
3. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
4. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.
5. Benaras State Bank Ltd.
6. Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.
7. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
8. Centurian Bank Ltd.
9. City Union Bank Ltd.

10. Development Credit Bank
11. Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.
12. Federal Bank Ltd.
13. Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad
14. Global Trust Bank Ltd.
15. HDFC Bank Ltd.
16. ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd.
17. IDBI Bank Ltd.
18. Indusind Bank
19. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
20. Karnataka Bank Ltd.
21. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
22. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
23. Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.
24. Nainital Bank Ltd.
25. Nedungadi Bank Ltd.
26. Punjab Cooperative Bank Ltd.
27. Ratnakar Bank Ltd.
28. Sangli Bank Ltd.
29. SBI Comml. & Intl. Bank Ltd.

30. South Indian Bank Ltd.
31. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.
32. Times Bank Ltd.
33. United Western Bank Ltd.
34. UTI Bank Ltd.
35. Vysya Bank Ltd.

Exploration of Gold and Silver

*73. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on various projects for exploration of gold and silver during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such projects started by foreign companies and the present status of these projects;

(c) the total amount in foreign exchange spent on such projects during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken to assign such exploration work to Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) to (d) The expenditure incurred by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) for exploration of gold and associated base metals during each of the last three years is given below:—

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
GSI	5,98,60,382	6,97,71,113	8,07,68,892	21,04,00,387
MECL	—	16,67,753	2,61,68,611	2,78,36,364
HZL	89,95,000	67,23,000	60,44,000	2,17,62,00
Total:	6,88,55,382	7,81,61,866	11,29,81,503	25,99,98,751

Apart from the above, the GSI carried out investigation by regional geo-chemical inventory in Karnataka for gold in collaboration with BRGM, France, a State-owned organisation. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 44,32,666 in 1995-96, Rs. 13,60,453 in 1996-97 and Rs. 14,38,069 in 1997-98, making a total of Rs. 72,31,188.

Under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 only an Indian national or a company as defined in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted a prospecting license for exploration of minerals including gold and silver. As such, under the existing scheme of mining legislation a foreign company is not allowed to undertake prospecting operations.

[Translation]

Award to Informers

*74. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases are lying pending with the Income-Tax Department for the last many years for finally awarding the informers, on the basis of whose information raids were conducted and additional taxes were recovered;

(b) the number of those pending group cases in which the award amount has not been paid finally to the informers even after five years of conducting raids;

(c) the rules in regard to the time limit pertaining to the payment of the said award amount to the informers; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy payment of award money to the informers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of such pending group cases in which the award amount has not been paid finally to the informers even after five years of conducting raids, is 988.

(c) No time limit has been prescribed in the guidelines for grant of reward to informants. The existing guidelines

for grant of reward to informants provide for payment of final reward only after all the assessments have become final and no appeal is pending or filed and the time for filing of appeal has expired. Moreover, the final reward can only be granted after the extra taxes levied are actually realised.

(d) Speedier payment of reward to informants is ensured by regularly reviewing such cases and facilitating prompt payment after the conditions prescribed by the existing guidelines are satisfied.

[English]

Euro Currency

*75. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eleven European countries have adopted a common currency named "Euro" recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the countries which have adopted this currency;

(c) the impact of introduction of new European Currency on Indian companies;

(d) whether India has taken all steps to deal in Euros;

(e) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard;

(f) the benefit this currency is likely to give as compared to trading in dollar;

(g) whether any difficulty has been experienced by India in trading with these eleven countries;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the present stage of agreements already signed with these countries in earlier currencies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Eleven European countries, namely, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Ireland, Finland, Luxembourg and Austria, have adopted a common currency 'Euro' with effect from January 1, 1999. Euro is for use by Central Banks, Commercial Banks and some large market players to begin with. It is too early to assess its full impact. However, some of the likely implications of the introduction

of single currency are: reduction in transaction cost, elimination of exchange rate risks and wider market. At the same time, companies are likely to face more competition.

(d) to (h) RBI has permitted banks to extend FCNR deposit facilities in Euro and/or DM till 31 December 2001. Thereafter banks can offer only deposits denominated in Euro. RBI has advised banks to adopt EURIBOR and EURO LIBOR bench marks for pricing their foreign exchange transactions. Banks have been asked to set up Core Groups within each one of them to deal with issues relating to Euro.

(i) Agreements already signed with the eleven countries in earlier currencies would not face any problems with the introduction of euro if these expire before December 31, 2001, as the settlements can be made either in earlier currencies or euro during this period. On continuity of contracts beyond January 1, 2002 specific legislation has been established in the European Union (EU) and there would be no difficulty in Indian law regarding continuity of contracts *per se*.

Financial Crisis Faced by South-Eastern Countries

*76. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the impact on the economy of the country of the financial crisis faced by South-Eastern countries;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to save the country from the repercussion of the financial crisis of the South Eastern countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The repercussions of the financial crisis in the Southeast Asian countries are being assessed continuously and suitable measures are taken, as and when necessary, to minimise its impact on the Indian economy. The steps taken, from time to time, *inter alia* include: (i) monetary measures aimed at countering speculative pressures on the exchange rate of the rupee and maintaining orderly foreign exchange market conditions; (ii) financial sector reforms aimed at

strengthening prudential norms and supervision and enhancing transparency and competition; (iii) pragmatism in managing capital account to impart reasonable stability; (iv) cautious approach to capital account convertibility; and (v) a policy for management of external sector, which is consciously directed to keep the external debt and debt service burden within prudent levels.

Loan/Assistance through NABARD to States

*77. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loan/assistance provided by NABARD to various States during each of the last three years, State-wise, particularly to Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the State-wise details of the projects/works undertaken through this loan during the above period; and

(c) the policies being formulated by NABARD to boost their investment in the coming financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides loans to State Governments under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to complete on-going projects or for taking up new projects under rural infrastructure including major, medium, minor irrigation, soil conservation and watershed management, etc. Details of the loans provided to States, including projects undertaken and financial progress made under RIDF I, II and III during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively are given in Statement-I, II and III.

NABARD also provides loans to State Governments for share capital contribution to cooperative credit institutions. Details of the loans provided by NABARD during the preceding three years are given in Statement IV.

(c) Measures taken by NABARD to improve flow of funds to State Governments include-

- (i) Reduction in interest rate on RIDF loans to the State Governments from 13% per annum in RIDF-I to 12% per annum for RIDF-II & III;
- (ii) Loans with an initial grace period of two years;

(iii) Constitution of Steering Committees by State Govts. to monitor the progress of projects and to co-ordinate expeditious implementation;

(iv) Expansion of scope of RIDF to cover construction of fish jetties, rural market yards, godowns and cold storages.

Statement-I

Statewise Details of RIDF-I as on 15.01.1999

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	No of Projects	RIDE Loan	Target (31.03.99)	Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Cost Escalation)	68	227.08 21.88	227.08	196.78
2.	Bihar	783	26.18	26.18	
3.	Goa	1	6.85	5.85	6.85
4.	Gujarat	44	141.48	141.48	132.76
5.	Haryana	3	18.28	18.28	13.74
6.	Himachal Pradesh	77	14.23	14.23	14.16
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	6.22	6.22	6.04
8.	Karnataka	90	143.45	143.45	121.91
9.	Kerala	136	99.72	99.72	73.22
10.	Madhya Pradesh	163	199.63	199.63	152.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Maharashtra	105	173.74	173.74	151.34
12.	Manipur	63	1.75	1.75	0.96
13.	Meghalaya	19	3.39	3.39	2.95
14.	Mizoram	21	2.38	2.38	2.37
15.	Nagaland	18	1.38	1.38	1.38
16.	Orissa (Cost Escalation)	2556	160.34 7.66	160.34	136.84
17.	Punjab	5	60.50	60.50	60.50
18.	Rajasthan (Cost Escalation)	38	110.29 4.72	110.29	98.54
19.	Tripura	36	1.82	1.82	0.32
20.	Uttar Pradesh	34	292.35	292.35	261.34
21.	West Bengal	23	103.79	103.79	78.70
Total		4295	1794.85	1794.85	1512.78

Statement-II**Statewise Details of RIDF-II as on 15.01.1999****(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	RIDF Loan	Target (31.03.99)	Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh (AP—Cyclone)	414 177	334.00 139.47	334.00 139.47	147.59
2.	Assam	44	63.29	63.29	6.20
3.	Gujarat	144	129.63	129.63	6.20
4.	Haryana	5	61.06	61.06	38.20
5.	Himachal Pradesh	66	49.50	49.50	26.98
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	8.06	8.06	0.57
7.	Karnataka	249	173.00	173.00	77.46
8.	Kerala	180	87.60	87.60	39.97
9.	Madhya Pradesh	70	207.60	179.23	80.73
10.	Maharashtra	106	231.66	231.66	156.13
11.	Orissa	46	125.14	125.14	70.20
12.	Punjab	5	62.50	62.50	52.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Rajasthan	248	148.90	148.90	95.80
14.	Tamil Nadu	1589	271.38	271.38	146.13
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1613	491.65	491.65	190.18
16.	West Bengal	3459	169.51	169.51	33.18
Total		8241	2614.48	2586.11	1223.81

Statement-III**Statewise Details of RIDF-III as on 15.01.1999**

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	RIDF Loan	Target (31.03.99)	Disbursement
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	304	275.11	232.77	42.80
2.	Assam	11	16.07	14.01	1.61
3.	Bihar	424	62.31	62.31	
4.	Gujarat	1228	160.60	111.94	51.50
5.	Haryana	48	74.96	74.96	23.53
6.	Himachal Pradesh	29	50.11	32.84	22.52

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	164	35.95	26.86	7.18
8.	Karnataka	496	172.38	166.26	12.42
9.	Kerala	313	93.33	79.90	6.60
10.	Madhya Pradesh	281	248.70	199.33	51.02
11.	Maharashtra	722	254.31	238.43	38.46
12.	Meghalaya	21	8.25	8.25	0.82
13.	Orissa	53	162.91	123.55	36.16
14.	Punjab	53	88.85	88.85	46.41
15.	Rajasthan	264	162.88	124.97	39.51
16.	Tamil Nadu	615	202.02	151.08	14.09
17.	Uttar Pradesh	9279	432.98	328.44	56.84
18.	West Bengal	151	177.84	94.67	17.79
Total		14455	2679.58	2159.44	469.27

Statement-IV

*Long Term Loans Sanctioned to State Governments Under Section 27 of NABARD Act, 1981
Out of NRC (LTO) for the Years 1995-96 to 1997-98*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State Government	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Limit	Drawals	Limit	Drawals	Limit	Drawals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	16.24	—
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	1.70	—	—	—
4.	Gujarat	1.40	0.00	0.64	—	11.19	8.78
5.	Haryana	14.92	14.92	12.80	12.17	6.82	0.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.50	0.56	0.75	0.75	1.60	1.60
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	0.65	0.65	0.50	—
8.	Karnataka	3.38	1.38	5.12	3.38	4.65	9.48
9.	Kerala	6.29	6.29	9.19	9.19	18.26	18.26
10.	Madhya Pradesh	13.47	13.47	16.16	16.16	26.17	26.17
11.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	0.35	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	0.30	—
14.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.50	—	—	0.50
15.	Orissa	6.41	6.41	6.47	6.47	10.17	10.17
16.	Punjab	1.88	1.88	3.62	0.00	3.07	—
17.	Rajasthan	9.76	9.76	11.81	11.81	10.24	10.24
18.	Tamil Nadu	21.86	21.86	14.84	—	11.15	25.99
19.	Tripura	0.00	0.24	0.08	—	0.00	0.08
20.	Uttar Pradesh	16.78	27.22	14.14	14.14	21.15	21.15
21.	West Bengal	3.49	3.79	2.11	2.11	8.09	7.38
Total		100.14	107.78	100.58	76.83	149.95	139.80

Global Bid for Disinvestment of PSUs

*78. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any global bid has been called by the Government for disinvestment of its stakes in PSUs so far; and

(b) if so, the number of PSUs for which such bids have been called and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) During 1998-99, ten million shares held by the Government in Videah Sanchar Nigam Limited were sold as GDRs and an amount of about Rs. 785 crores has been realised.

Supply of Coal to State Electricity Boards

*79. DR. RAVI MALLU:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal companies have decided not to supply coal to the State Electricity Boards for non-payment of dues;

(b) whether the Coal companies have demanded minimum payment in supply of coal;

(c) whether this decision of the Coal companies has greatly affected the State Electricity Boards;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has written the State Governments informing them of the decision;

(e) whether the Ministry of Coal is greatly concerned about non-payment of dues by State Electricity Boards;

(f) whether the dues were reached to Rs. 1200 crores between April-September, 1998; and

(g) if so, the extent to which the decision will affect the working of the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir. Coal companies have only decided to supply coal to consumers in the power sector on the payment of moneys due for a given consignment.

(b) Coal companies have decided to strictly implement the Government's decision of 1997 requiring supplies to be made on a "cash and carry" basis.

(c) No, Sir. The generation statement of the Central Electricity Authority shows that the coal based thermal power stations in the period April-98 to January-99 showed a 3% growth in generation over the corresponding period last year, similarly the average PLF has increased from 63.3% to 63.6%.

(d) Ministry of Coal has written to the State Governments informing them that coal would be supplied only on the basis of due payments being made.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) As on 30th September, 1998 the dues to CIL and SCCL from State Electricity Boards amount to Rs. 4878.25 crores (Provisional). Further the dues to Neyveli Lignite Corporation for sale of power amount to Rs. 1055.17 crores (Provisional) as on 30.9.98.

(g) The working of any State Electricity Board would necessarily have to take into account the payment for coal supplies on a regular basis as indeed payment of wages and other consumables. As payment for goods and services is an integral part of any commercial operation this decision should not affect the working of State Electricity Boards.

Welfare of Khadi Workers

*80. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers engaged in Khadi Industry in the country, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent on the welfare schemes of Khadi workers during each of the last three years and funds allocated during 1998-99, State-wise;

(c) the number of workers benefited therefrom during the above period;

(d) whether the Government propose to take steps to enhance the amount for the welfare of Khadi workers; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The statement showing the State-wise number of workers engaged in the Khadi Industry in the country is given in statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) The KVIC is not making any separate budget allocation for any welfare scheme for Khadi workers. However, in the Khadi cost chart, there is an inbuilt provision for establishment of artisans welfare fund. Certified Khadi institutions are required to create such funds with subscription from the artisans @ 10% of gross wages and matching contribution from the institutions themselves.

Statement

State-wise Artisans and Workers Under Khadi

Sl. No.	State & Union Territories	(Nos. in Lakhs)		1997-98
		Spinners/ Weavers	Workers	Total
1	2	3	4	5
I. States				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.34	0.02	0.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	.	.	.

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	0.16	•	0.16
4.	Bihar	2.47	0.04	2.51
5.	Goa	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	0.51	0.02	0.53
7.	Haryana	0.51	0.01	0.52
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13	•	0.13
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.26	•	0.26
10.	Karnataka	0.45	•	0.45
11.	Kerala	0.14	—	0.14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.20	0.01	0.21
13.	Maharashtra	0.16	0.01	0.17
14.	Manipur	•	•	•
15.	Meghalaya	•	•	•
16.	Mizoram	•	•	•
17.	Nagaland	•	•	•
18.	Orissa	0.03	•	0.03
19.	Punjab	0.88	0.01	0.89

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Rajasthan	1.23	0.03	1.26
21.	Sikkim	*	*	*
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.55	0.07	0.62
23.	Tripura	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5.04	0.13	5.17
25.	West Bengal	0.54	0.02	0.56
	Total-I	13.60	0.37	13.97
II	UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
4.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	0.03	—	0.03
6.	Lakshdweep	0.01	*	0.01
7.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
	Total-II	0.04	*	0.04
	Total (I+II)	13.64	0.37	14.01

* Less than 500

Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture

598. DR. VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has offered consultancy to the Indian Government on negotiations for the review of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture;

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

(c) the extent to which this consultancy is likely to help India to put its case strongly before the World Trade Organisation; and

(d) the salient features of the agreement so reached?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) A Round Table was organised at New Delhi on 18-19 January, 1999 with participation of two officials of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to discuss the strategies for forthcoming negotiations of the Review of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture.

(c) The participation of FAO officials in the Round Table helped in generating awareness about the thinking in other countries and the issues that are likely to arise during the forthcoming review of the Agreement on Agriculture.

(d) No formal Agreement is contemplated with FAO in this regard.

Coffee Plantation

599. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists of Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) have developed a pheromone pest control method;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to propagate the use of new technology in coffee plantation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The Central Coffee Research Institute in collaboration with Natural Resources

Institute (NRI), United Kingdom have succeeded in identifying and synthesising a Pheromone compound for the lab and field evaluation and its possible use to control the dreaded coffee pest viz. White Stem Borer (*Xylotrechus Quadripes*).

A Senior Scientist of CCRI was deployed to NRI, London to work in collaboration with that institute to identify and synthesise the Pheromone compound, to combat the White Stem Borer. Subsequently, Pheromone compound present in the male beetles of White Stem Borer was successfully identified. The scientists have also identified a few models of field traps for carrying out the efficacy of the Pheromone in the coffee plantations.

The scientists of the Board have already started evaluating the success of Pheromone compound to trap the female beetles of White Stem Borer in the field. The initial tests have shown positive results. However, large scale field evaluation of the Pheromone in different coffee tracks are necessary before recommending usage of this Pheromone in the field. Further, methodology for large scale synthesis of Pheromone, standardisation of trap designs, cost benefit ratio and adaptability in different regions are to be worked out.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

600. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the policy adopted by the Government to provide employment to the people on compassionate grounds in Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): Below Board Level appointments come under the purview of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and compassionate appointments in PSUs are regulated by the rules of the PSU concerned.

[English]

Coal Carried by Private Contractors

601. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private contractors are allowed to carry coal from the collieries of E.C.L. to the dumping ground;

(b) if so, the names of such contractors;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the said contractors are raising coal from some coalmines of ECL which have been left by the company without permission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the losses incurred by the company as a result thereof; and

(f) the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

Data on Industrial Production

602. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not produced quality datas on industrial production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any discrepancies in the datas on industrial production compiled by Central Statistical Organisation;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is required to furnish information on monthly production in respect of 213 item Groups to the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) as input for compilation of the Index of Industrial production within a time frame of four weeks. This is done as per the methodology agreed between the CSO and the Department.

(c) and (d) CSO has confirmed that in the compilation of the Index of Industrial production there has been no discrepancy in the data utilised by CSO.

(e) There is a continuing effort for improvement in the methodology for compilation of the Index of Industrial production and also for increasing the coverage and response of the industrial units for reporting the data.

Assistance to Assam by Financial Institutions

603. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1539, dated June 5, 1998 regarding assistance by Public Sector Financial Institutions to Assam and state:

(a) whether the information sought for has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the attached statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) As per information provided by IDBI/NABARD, the details of financial assistance given by All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)* and NABARD to Assam during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	DISBURSEMENT		
	AIFIs	NABARD	Total
1995-96	121.40	44.46	165.86
1996-97	242.12	65.53	307.65
1997-98	88.09	81.33	169.42

(b) The decision to locate an industrial enterprise rests with the businessman/company. They take into account various factors like infrastructure facilities available before deciding to set up a project. The financial institutions are there to help them financially. The All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), as their usual strategy of business promotion, make all possible efforts to increase financial assistance to various States including Assam. However, the flow of financial assistance depend upon the flow of credit worthy applications received from any State. As per the information furnished by the IDBI, the financial assistance given to Assam appears favourable with other similarly placed States.

(c) Most of the financial institutions including IDBI have their full fledged offices in Assam which have been catering to the financial needs of entrepreneurs in the State. SIDBI has been taking care of needs of small scale industries. NEDFI has been set up exclusively for the economic and industrial development of North Eastern Region. State financial corporation have been providing financial assistance to medium and small industrial units in the State. NABARD has reported that the credit facilities to agricultural sector has been liberalised.

* AIFIs include: IDBI, Industrial Financial Corporation of India Ltd., Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI), Small Industries Development Bank of India, Industrial Investment Bank of India, SCICI Ltd. (since merged with ICICI), Risk Capital & Technology Finance Corporation Ltd., Technology Development & Information Company of India Ltd., Life Insurance Corporation of India, Unit Trust of India and General Insurance Corporation of India.

Provident Fund

604. SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deduction of Provident Fund vary from employees strength in an establishment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Deduction of Provident Fund does not vary with reference to the employees strength in an establishment.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Surplus Land of Bokaro

605. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land of Bokaro Steel Plant lying surplus;

(b) whether the said land is being encroached;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government propose to return this land to the State Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Land for setting up the Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) was acquired as per the Project Report and its major portion has been utilized for the Plant, township and other facilities; the remaining land would be utilized in due course.

(b) and (c) At times there is encroachment on the land. In pursuance of the directive of the Hon'ble High Court Patna, permanent encroachments on the BSL's land have been removed with the help of the District Administration and periodic dozing is also being carried out. However, there are, at times, encroachments of mobile & temporary nature, for which it is difficult to maintain records.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Steel Production

606. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the steel production in the country from Fifth Five Year Plan to Eighth Five Year Plan, Plan-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of steel in each Plan; and

(c) the demand supply gap in each Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The

production of finished carbon steel in India from Fifth Five Year Plan to Eighth Five Year Plan was as under:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Plan	Production of Finished Carbon Steel
1.	5th Plan (1974-79)	32.332
2.	6th Plan (1980-85)	43.694
3.	7th Plan (1985-90)	59.708
4.	8th Plan (1992-97)	92.340

(b) The details of per capita availability of steel in each terminal year of Plan was as under:

5th Plan	13 Kg.
6th Plan	13 Kg.
7th Plan	17 Kg.
8th Plan	25 Kg.

(c) The apparent consumption of steel over a given period of time is taken as the actual demand. The production *vis-a-vis* demand/apparent consumption in respect of finished carbon steel in the last 4 Plans was as under:

(Quantity in Million tonnes)

Plan	Production	Demand/Apparent Consumption
5th Plan	32.332	34.789
6th Plan	43.694	45.305
7th Plan	59.708	62.334
8th Plan	92.340	92.409

Evening Branches of SBI

branches during the current year?

607. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of evening branches of the State Bank of India are now functioning in Orissa and the names of the location thereof; and

(b) the target fixed by SBI for opening more such

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that at present, 20 evening branches are functioning in the State of Orissa, their locations are as follows:—

	Names of the Branches	Location	District
	1	2	3
1.	Buxibazar Evening Branch	Cuttack	Cuttack
2.	Malgodown Branch	Cuttack	Cuttack
3.	Gandarpur Branch	Cuttack	Cuttack
4.	Pithapur Evening Branch	Cuttack	Cuttack
5.	Rajpath Evening Branch	Bhubaneswar	Khurda
6.	Laxmisagar Evening Branch	Bhubaneswar	Khurda
7.	IRC Village Evening Branch	Bhubaneswar	Khurda
8.	Bhapur Bazar Evening Branch	Berhampur	Ganjam
9.	Aska Road Branch	Berhampur	Ganjam
10.	Rourkela Township Branch	Rourkela	Sundergarh
11.	Sector 14, Rourkela	Rourkela	Sundergarh
12.	Daily Mkt. Evening Br.	Rourkela	Sundergarh

	1	2	3
13.	Balidhubi Branch	Rourkela	Sundergarh
14.	Sambalpur Bazar Evening Br.	Sambalpur	Sambalpur
15.	Dhenkanal Evening Br.	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal
16.	Motiganj Evening Br.	Balasore	Balasore
17.	Jeypore Bazar Evening Br.	Jeypore	Koraput
18.	Temple Road Evening Br.	Puri	Puri
19.	Brajrajnagar MCL Evening Br.	Brajrajnagar	Jharsuguda
20.	Bhawanipatna Evening Br.	Bhawanipatna	Kalahandi

(b) SBI has further reported that the Bank have no plans to open more such branches during the current year.

Import of Rubber

608. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of the Government to import rubber;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any changes in its stand on the import of rubber; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) As per current EXIM Policy, import of Natural Rubber is in the Restricted List and is allowed against Advance Licence/Special Import Licence only. However, in view of the surplus situation prevailing in the domestic market, Government of India,

with effect from 20.2.1999, has withdrawn the facility of Advance Licence for import of natural rubber.

With effect from 1.8.96 import of Natural Rubber from SAARC countries has been placed under OGL.

Revival of TTCI

609. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the TTCI (Tea Trading Corporation of India);

(b) if so, the details of the revival package; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its

obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.1997. The Corporation is presently engaged with the following three options:—

- (i) Out right sale of the shares of Corporation;
- (ii) Bifurcation of the existing Company in case (i) is not found possible; and
- (iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case options (i) & (ii) above are not found practicable.

Export of Raw Skins and Hides

610. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation representing the All India Skins and Hides Manufacturers Association met the Hon'ble Minister and demanded free trade in raw skins and hides;

(b) if so, the details of the demands raised by the Leather Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The All India Skin and Hide Tanners and Merchants Association had represented to the Hon'ble Minister to allow exports of semifinished leather with an export levy.

(b) The All India Leather Garments Manufacturers Association has demanded that the existing policy in the export of semi-processed hides and skins, EI tanned and Wet Blue hides and skins and crust leather may be continued, in the interest of value added products industry.

(c) In view of the constraints in domestic production of raw skins and hides, the demand for free trade in export of semi-processed hides and skins has not been favoured.

Coal Mines in Jammu and Kashmir

611. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of coal mines which are under operation in Jammu and Kashmir presently;

(b) the total coal production achieved in these mines in the year 1997-98;

(c) whether any exploration for the vergin coal reserve has been carried out by the Geological Survey of India or any other agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The number, names and addresses of three coal mines presently under operation in Jammu and Kashmir and the total coal production achieved in such mines in the year 1997-98 are given below:—

Sl.	Name of the coal mine with address	Production in 1997-98 (in metric tonnes)
1.	Metka Mine (Underground), P.O. Kalakot, Dist. Rajouri	939
2.	New Moghla Mine (Underground), PO Moghla, Dist. Rajouri	3348
3.	Tatapani Mine (Opencast), P.O. Kalakot, Dist. Rajouri.	902
Total production in 1997-98		5189

(c) and (d) During 1961-1968 Geological Survey of India (GSI) had carried out exploration of coal reserves in Jammu & Kashmir. However, on account of highly disturbed coal seams in the State, it has not been possible for the GSI to assess the coal reserves there with any degree of accuracy. No other agency has so far carried out any exploration of coal reserves in Jammu & Kashmir.

Bilateral Trade with Croatia

612. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum of understanding was signed on November 16, 1998 at New Delhi between Confederation of Indian Industry and Chamber of Economy of Croatia to promote bilateral trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) & Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK) states that CII and HGK, *inter alia*, would endeavour to undertake study to determine the support for the benefit of their respective members. Both sides agree to exchange professional experience for the benefit of their members as also to exchange information about product and industrial processes, industrial training, source of financing, offers and requests for joint ventures and licensing and identification of possible partners. Both sides also agreed to exchange information on economic and commercial matters with regard to their respective countries. CII and HGK further agreed to support activities like seminars, courses and conferences in both the countries and to provide full cooperation to each other in the promotion of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions in both the countries.

Hike in Duty for Import

613. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed high duty charges on import of agricultural products, particularly from Pakistan, Afghanistan and other neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the loss of revenue as our Indian agricultural products cost cheaper as compared to other countries; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith reasons regarding the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) In general, agricultural products imported from Pakistan, Afghanistan and other neighbouring countries attract the same rate of import duty as is applicable to the import of these products from other countries. In a few cases, preferential rates lower than the general effective rates have also been prescribed for imports from SAARC countries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Technical Education in Coal Sector

614. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the adequate arrangements have been made for the technical education keeping in view the increasing number of coal mines;

(b) whether any proposal of assistance from Coal India Limited for establishing any educational institute like 'Indian School of Mines' in Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh is under consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there is any plan to avoid the non-obtainment of the locals of high level employment in lack of any such educational institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) A number of Institutes exist in Madhya Pradesh which offer higher technical education.

(e) As reported by Coal India Limited, any person who has obtained requisite qualifications as prescribed for the job becomes eligible for high level employment.

[Translation]

Loan to Farmers in Gujarat by Banks

615. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI JAISINHJI CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise total amount of loan provided to small and marginal farmers in the country, particularly in Gujarat, by cooperative banks, commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks during each of the last three years and current year, till date;

(b) whether the banks have achieved their target for providing loans to farmers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any irregularities have been detected in sanctioning the loan;

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(f) the amount of loan recovered during the above period, State-wise; and

(g) the steps being taken to streamline the procedure of granting bank loans to farmers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, information regarding loans to small farmers/marginal farmers having and holding upto 5 acres by public sector banks is given below:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

As on the last Friday	All India	Gujarat
June 1994	2487.31	78.82
June 1995	3166.25	179.10
June 1996 (Latest available)	3953.40	250.15

The details of the crop loans issued to small and marginal farmers by District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in the country (State-wise) as reported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are given in the attached statement-I. Details of the agricultural loans issued by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) upto 1996-97 to target groups which mainly comprises of loans to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections are given in the attached statement-II.

(b) and (c) All scheduled commercial banks in the country are required to lend 18 per cent of their net bank credit (NBC) for agriculture under priority sector. The position regarding agricultural lending by public sector banks as on ending March 1996, 1997 and 1998 and September 1998 is as under:

	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Crores)	Percentage to NBC
March 1996	26351	14.29
March 1997	31012	16.35
March 1998	34304	15.72
September 1998	35697	16.06

It may be noted from above that though loan outstanding have increased from Rs. 26351 crores in March 1996 to Rs. 35697 crores in September 1998, the Public Sector Banks have not been able to achieve the target of 18 per cent of NBC. This is mainly on account of substantial increase in NBC due to doubling of lendable resources of banks on account of reduction in reserve requirements.

(d) and (e) Occasional irregularities in sanctioning of loans by banks are brought to notice of RBI and NABARD. There is a well laid down procedure for dealing with such cases and defects observed in the sanction of loans are pointed out for rectification by banks and compliance obtained and reviewed periodically.

(f) The comparative State-wise recovery position of Agricultural Advances (Direct Finance) of all scheduled commercial banks (as percentage of recovery to Demand) as on the last Friday of June 1995, 1996 and 1997, as furnished by the RBI is given in the attached statement-III.

(g) Reserve Bank of India appointed a High Level Committee on Agriculture Credit to study the working of the credit delivery system and to make suggestions for simplification and improvement in systems and procedures including reduction in paper work for delivery of farm credit. The committee suggested several procedural modifications in regard to agricultural advances which include *inter-alia*, simplification of procedures regarding application, agreements, etc.; delegation of more powers to branch managers; introduction of composite cash credit limit to agricultural farmers; introduction of new loan products with savings components; cash disbursements of loans, dispensing with 'No Due Certificate'; discretion

to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for agricultural loans above Rs. 10,000/- etc. Banks have been advised to implement the recommendations. The banks were also asked to introduce Kisan Credit Cards to facilitate flow of credit to Agricultural Sector. These measures are expected to facilitate easy access of credit by farmers from banks, quicken the pace of flow of credit to agricultural sector; enhance the quantum of flow of credit to farmers besides enabling them to get timely and adequate credit from banks to meeting production needs as also household post harvest expenditure.

Statement-I

Statement Showing State-wise Position of Crop Loans Disbursed by the Central Co-operative Banks to Small and Marginal Farmers during the Years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (April-March)

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NA	0.01	0.15
2.	Andhra Pradesh	656.74	930.62	861.46
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA	NA	NA
4.	Assam	0.00	0.03	0.1
5.	Bihar	45.44	56.49	41.49
6.	Chandigarh	NA	NA	NA
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	NA	NA	NA
8.	Daman & Diu	NA	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Goa	NA	NA	NA
10.	Gujarat	234.36	248.32	295.29
11.	Haryana	487.60	586.41	694.8
12.	Himachal Pradesh	1.67	NA	1.89
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.26	3.43	NA
14.	Karnataka	158.83	218.27	368.93
15.	Kerala	250.69	210.55	262.71
16.	Lakshadweep	NA	NA	NA
17.	Madhya Pradesh	282.67	326.34	351.43
18.	Maharashtra	464.12	468.19	591.88
19.	Manipur	NA	NA	NA
20.	Meghalaya	0.78	0.57	0.18
21.	Mizoram	0.01	NA	NA
22.	Nagaland	0.81	NA	1.34
23.	N.C.T. of Delhi	NA	NA	NA
24.	Orissa	113.87	128.92	147.24

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Pondicherry	0.00	NA	NA
26.	Punjab	571.56	729.89	905.55
27.	Rajasthan	104.55	134.49	168.97
28.	Sikkim	NA	NA	NA
29.	Tamil Nadu	352.75	349.77	395.36
30.	Tripura	1.57	NA	2.70
31.	Uttar Pradesh	506.58	863.51	496.87
32.	West Bengal	102.11	NA	NA
Total:		4340.07	4830.86	5585.34

Statement-II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26080.00	34900.00	42276
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	61.00	91.00	141
4.	Assam	642.00	376.00	361

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Bihar	2935.00	5550.00	5270
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
8.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
9.	Goa	—	—	—
10.	Gujarat	6171.00	7637.00	9286
11.	Haryana	4942.00	7085.00	11226
12.	Himachal Pradesh	270.00	475.00	711
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	297.00	608.00	614
14.	Karnataka	27233.00	29437.00	34954
15.	Kerala	12690.00	16290.00	19659
16.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
17.	Madhya Pradesh	7785.00	8444.00	11506
18.	Maharashtra	3814.00	5067.00	5374
19.	Manipur	15.00	10.00	14
20.	Meghalaya	104.00	116.00	48

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Mizoram	90.00	70.00	39
22.	Nagaland	1.00	—	—
23.	N.C.T. of Delhi	—	—	—
24.	Orissa	4727.00	866.00	6711
25.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
26.	Punjab	3908.00	5317.00	6785
27.	Rajasthan	6179.00	8530.00	12208
28.	Sikkim	—	—	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	4602.00	6566.00	9583
30.	Tripura	92.00	112.00	141
31.	Uttar Pradesh	22669.00	27465.00	24392
32.	West Bengal	2802.00	3381.00	2539
Total:		138109.00	168393.00	203838

Statement-III

S.No.	State/Union Territory	June 1995	June 1996	June 1997
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	48.37	43.80	56.59
2.	Andhra Pradesh	60.42	63.24	62.46
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.63	40.82	59.60
4.	Assam	21.15	20.69	22.57
5.	Bihar	37.77	40.87	39.67
6.	Chandigarh	52.50	72.32	63.19
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	39.51	28.74	47.71
8.	Daman & Diu	12.56	18.48	12.70
9.	Goa	52.93	53.97	58.20
10.	Gujarat	64.69	67.74	65.98
11.	Haryana	62.60	63.61	66.36
12.	Himachal Pradesh	42.74	53.61	63.02
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.53	22.47	21.56
14.	Karnataka	53.54	57.54	64.28

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Kerala	76.12	78.52	80.66
16.	Lakshadweep	79.44	90.59	75.30
17.	Madhya Pradesh	52.25	52.59	54.83
18.	Maharashtra	52.61	55.06	57.88
19.	Manipur	13.28	13.65	11.09
20.	Meghalaya	22.48	30.75	20.26
21.	Mizoram	15.87	17.69	13.39
22.	Nagaland	21.05	26.20	32.16
23.	N.C.T. of Delhi	44.16	72.21	35.21
24.	Orissa	46.04	52.95	45.23
25.	Pondicherry	68.71	75.13	56.58
26.	Punjab	71.26	71.82	75.75
27.	Rajasthan	49.59	52.01	52.28
28.	Sikkim	42.92	46.26	52.53

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Tamil Nadu	72.83	74.64	74.40
30.	Tripura	15.13	14.77	14.71
31.	Uttar Pradesh	63.34	62.56	63.44
32.	West Bengal	51.68	54.42	59.08
	All India	59.45	61.99	63.31

[English]

Rebate on Khadi

616. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from various States for allowing more rebate on Khadi items as the Khadi and Village Industries are facing serious crisis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such request has been received from any of the State. However, on the basis of requests from various Khadi Institutions, KVIC had requested Govt. to extend the period of special rebate from 90 to 120 days. Accordingly, Govt. has extended the period of special rebate allowing rebate @ on Khadi & Khadi related items from 90 days to 120 days.

[Translation]

District Industry Centre for Promoting SSIs

617. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstitute the 'District Industry Centre' and make them viable during the Ninth Five Year Plan in order to promote Small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The DIC Scheme was transferred to States/UTs in 1993-94 on the recommendations of the NDC. Hence there is no Central Scheme to reconstitute the DICs.

[English]

Expansion of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

618. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion plan prepared by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Orissa to meet the requirements of existing and future thermal plants;

(b) the names of existing Thermal Power Plants of public and private sector located in Orissa and new Thermal Power Plants proposed and the requirement of coal of those plants submitted to MCL; and

(c) the consideration of MCL, public sector projects and the State Government to sort out the problems of

clearance and cooperation at all level for development of Infrastructure facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The coal production from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) by the terminal year of the IX Plan i.e. 2001-02 has been projected at 50.90 million tonnes and by the end of the terminal year of X Plan i.e. 2006-07 at 86.55 million tonnes. The capacity of the sanctioned and completed projects and on-going projects is 43.54 million tonnes. MCL has undertaken implementation of 6 nos. of Advance Action projects and one re-organisation project which will create an additional capacity of 44.90 million tonnes. With the implementation

of these projects, production projection of the X Plan will be met.

(b) The name of the existing thermal power plants of public and private sector located in Orissa and new thermal power plants prepared and their requirement of coal from MCL is given in the attached statement.

(c) The matter of development of infrastructural facilities like acquisition of forest and tenancy land, mining rights, roads, rails and port facilities etc. is being taken up with the state administration at the appropriate level to sort out the problems.

Statement

	Name	Capacity (MW)	Demand		
			99-00	01-02	06-07
Power Utility					
Existing	1. IB TPS	420	2.28	2.28	2.28
	2. Talcher TPS	460	1.35	1.35	1.35
	3. Talcher STPS	1000	3.00	3.16	3.20
New	1. IB TPS 3&4	420	—	—	2.10
	2. IB TPS 5&6	500	—	—	2.56
	3. Hirma (CEPA)	3960	—	—	19.00
	4. Talcher STPS-II	2000	—	0.82	10.00
Captive Power					
Existing	Nil	—	—	—	—
New	1. Larsen & Toubro	60	—	—	0.57
	2. Sterlite Industries	720	—	—	3.50
Total		9,540	6.63	7.61	44.56

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs

619. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of narcotic drugs seized in the capital during the year 1998;

(b) whether the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 is not fool-proof in dealing with the persons arrested in this connection;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring about changes in the Act to deal with children and women engaged in this illegal trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Sir, the details of narcotic drugs seized during 1998 in the capital is as under:—

Drugs	Quantity in Kgs. 1998 (Prov.)
Opium	5.000
Heroin	140.000
Ganja	4985.000
Hashish	90.000

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Funds by Ministries

620. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments as well as various Ministries of the Union Government are not utilising the entire funds allocated to them by the Centre;

(b) if so, the position during the last three years and the reasons for not utilising the allocation; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) In the Central budget, funds are allocated to Central Ministries/Departments. It is correct that some Ministries/Departments have not been able to spend the full budgeted amounts. The savings are reported to Parliament through Appropriation Accounts and Audit Reports thereon, which are examined by the PAC. Ministry-wise BE/RE in previous 3 years is available in Expenditure Budget, Volume-I (1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; pages 4 to 7).

The reasons for non-utilisation vary from scheme to scheme. Improvement in the position in this regard is a continuous part of the Government's efforts.

Funds are released to the State Governments by this Ministry for their Annual Plans based on the allocation made by the Planning Commission within the overall Budget allocation. Savings, if any, by the States are reported to the State Legislatures through State's Appropriation Accounts and Audit Reports thereon, which are examined by the State PACs.

Setting up of Export Oriented Units in Maharashtra

621. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Export Oriented Units in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Export Oriented Units are established by private entrepreneurs under the provisions of Exim Policy. The Government of India through the concerned agencies provides facilities of customs bonding, duty exemption on imports and other relief as and when approached by the entrepreneurs.

(b) There are 514 approved export oriented units in Maharashtra, out of which 176 units are already in operation.

(c) As regards remaining units, it is for the entrepreneurs to establish the unit and take other steps for commencement of production.

Committee to Supervise Financial Strengthening

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set up a Committee to examine ways of strengthening Financial Supervision;

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

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) the institutional coverage of the supervisory panel;

(e) whether GIC, LIC, UTI, IDBI, ICICI, IFCI and other major Government Financial Institutions are to be covered under the proposed R.B.I.'s supervisory panel; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not set up any Committee recently to examine ways of strengthening of Financial Supervision.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Global Investors

623. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are making efforts to invite global investors to their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance extended or proposed to be extended by Union Government to assist the States in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PSUs in Swadeshi Mela

624. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector undertakings which have opened stalls in Swadeshi Mela recently organised in Delhi and the amount contributed by them;

(b) whether the Government have approved the rate for allotment of these stalls; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Contribution of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. for Development of Golf Club

625. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has contributed funds for development of Golf Club in the Colliery area;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by MCL for the purpose;

(c) whether the trade unions in the Joint Bipartite Committee of coal industry has objected to the expenditure of this nature; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 3.2 lakh has been sanctioned by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. as a contribution to the Brahmani Golf Club of Talcher Coalfield for purchase of three Golf Sets and Kits.

(c) No objection has been raised by the Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry at the level of Coal India Limited nor by Joint Consultative Committee at the level of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

[Translation]

Percentage of Ash in Non-Coking Coal

626. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of ash found normally in the total quantum of non-coking coal produced in the country; and

(b) the percentage of ash in the coal extracted from the opencast mines and underground mines, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) It has been reported by Coal India that the average ash percentage in the non-coking coal produced from the CIL mines in 1997-98 which produce around 88% of the total non-coking coal in the country, is around 30.

(b) The average ash percentage in the non-coking coal produced from opencast mines and underground mines of CIL in 1997-98 is around 32% and 22% respectively.

[English]

Export Package

627. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have embarked on sector specific export package to boost up exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of export performance during the current financial year, sector-wise as against target fixed; and

(d) the figures in comparison with the corresponding previous year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measure as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. The Government is also initiating action through several measures to facilitate investment in sectors with strong export potential, encourage diversification of India's export basket, address infrastructure short comings, improve export facilitation measures and thus enhance the overall competitiveness of Indian exports. The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on high growth trajectory.

(c) and (d) The details of provisional targets fixed for different commodity groups for 1998-99, sector-wise export performance during April-November, 1998-99 and during the corresponding period in the previous year as per provisional data from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics are as follows:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Items	Targets	Apr.-Nov. Performance	
		1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1. Plantations	900	563	640
2. Agri. & Allied Products	3984	2496	2447
3. Marine Products	1400	828	710

	1	2	3	4
4. Ores and Minerals		1252	678	522
5. Leather & Manufactures		1700	1022	1020
6. Gems and Jewellery		5800	3231	3723
7. Sports Goods		86	54	47
8. Chemicals & Allied Products		5128	2924	2582
9. Engineering Goods		4800	2807	2349
10. Electronics Hardware		962	522	291
11. Textiles including Handicrafts and Carpets		10370	6322	5924
12. Cotton Raw		250	206	38
13. Petroleum Products		550	286	87
14. Other Exports		1100	325	1046
15. Computer Software		2518	*1115	*1648
Total		40800	23379	23074

* Source: Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council. The export growth rate during Apr-Dec, 1998-99 shows a decline of 2.88 percent in dollar terms over the corresponding period of previous year if software exports are excluded.

[Translation]

Export of Foodgrains

528. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the additional foodgrains made available for export during each of the last three years, foodgrain-wise;

(b) whether the opportunities to dispose of such additional foodgrains in the world foodgrain market are being properly encashed; and

(c) the likely effect of such export on the prices of foodgrains for domestic use and their availability?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The current export policy

provisions for exports of foodgrains are as under:—

- (i) *Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice*— Exports allowed without quantitative and price restrictions subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- (ii) *Wheat and Wheat Products*— Exports permitted against a quantitative ceiling as may be notified by Director General of Foreign Trade from time to time and Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate issued by APEDA.
- (iii) *Coarse Grains*—Exports permitted against a quantitative ceiling as may be notified by Director General of Foreign Trade from time to time and Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate issued by APEDA.

The ceilings of foodgrain announced for export during each of the last three years are as follows:—

(Qty. in Lakhs MTs.)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Grains
1996-97	Exports freely permitted. Further, Food Corporation of India was authorised to export/sell for exports 5 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine varieties of rice from the public stocks.	A ceiling of 10 lakh MTs of non-durum wheat and 5 Lakh MTs of durum wheat and 1.5 Lakh MTs of wheat products released for exports. Further, food corporation of India was authorised to export/sell for exports from the public stocks 5 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat against the carry-over commitment made in 1995-96.	1
1997-98	Exports freely permitted.	5 (Wheat products) 0.132 (Wheat)	0.5
1998-99	Exports freely permitted.	0.70 (Wheat) 1.00 wheat products	1

(b) and (c) The policy of the Government concerning exports of food items is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximisation of farm incomes and earning of foreign exchange. It is not possible to estimate the likely impact of exports of

foodgrains on the prices in the domestic market, as the exports would depend on international demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences and other terms of trade.

Import of Technology

629. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to liberalise the rules in regard to import of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith guidelines issued in this regard;

(c) whether various projects in Public and Private sector financed by the financial institutions, are likely to be provided with the facility to import technology without any restriction under the automatic route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) The Government have decided to liberalise the parameters for automatic approval for import of such technology which would not be detrimental to the national interest in terms of public safety, health and environmental considerations.

Prior to notifying the details of the liberalisation measures, it is necessary to notify the negative list of technologies which are detrimental to the national interest in terms of public safety, health and environmental considerations and hence, the detailed guidelines for liberalisation in technology imports have not been issued as yet.

Trade of Sports Goods

630. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has got one percent share in the trade of sports goods in the world;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps to boost the export of sports goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, India has not got one percent share in the trade of sports goods in the world.

(b) and (c) Various steps have been proposed by the Government to increase of export the Sports Goods. These include:

- (1) Drawback rates on some of the Sports Goods like Cricket Gloves for Cricket, Hockey, Boxing, Football etc., Protective Equipments, Carrom Boards, Tennis Balls, Inflatable Balls etc. have been increased. Similarly, new item namely, Table Tennis Racket has been included in the drawback schedule.
- (2) Process-cum-Product Development Centres (PPDC) have been set up by Government for developing new technology and upgrading the existing level of technology of Sports Goods.
- (3) The exporter's through the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council are given grant under Market Development Assistance (MDA) to participate in fairs/exhibitions, Sales-cum-study teams in overseas markets/countries.

Import Duty on Raw Materials Used in Sports

631. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reationalise the import duty on raw materials used in sport goods industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In view of the ensuing budget, no details can be disclosed at this stage.

Scheme to Increase Export of Fruits

632. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the largest producer of fruits but India's share in the international fruits export is meagre;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase India's share in the international fruits export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of increase likely to be made in the international fruits export during 1999-2000, as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir India is the third largest producer of fruits in the World (Source: FAO Year Book 1997) and its share in the total world trade of fruits is meagre.

(b) and (c) The Government has been taking various measures to boost exports of horticultural products such as fruits and vegetables. Some of the steps taken to enhance production and boost exports of horticultural products including fruits are:—

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development to Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;
- (ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);
- (iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;
- (v) Grant of air freight subsidy for exports of selected fresh fruits and vegetables.
- (vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the

product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;

- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.

(d) It is not possible to accurately assess the likely increase in export of fruits as it would depend on international demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preferences and other terms of international trade.

[English]

Non-Aligned Movement

633. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Aligned Movement has called for an accelerated review of the global financial system's impact on poor countries during the summit in South Africa;

(b) if so, whether the NAM has also called for a democratic review of international financial mechanism, including the operation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in consultation with the developing world; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) In the NAM summit the Heads of States or Government urged the developed countries, acting in concert with developing countries, as well as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United Nations, to accelerate the review of the world financial system with the objective of ensuring that short-

term capital flows were supportive of expanding trade, employment and development. They also stressed that a review of the world financial system and the Bretton Woods Institutions should be carried out on a truly multilateral basis, and through a democratic process.

(c) Government is actively participating in various international fora on deliberations on international financial architecture.

Growth of Khadi and Village Industries

634. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in the Khadi and Village Industries sector in the country;

(b) whether any study has been made to enlarge the scope of this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the fresh initiatives being taken by the Government to encourage the growth of this sector in view of large employment potential;

(e) whether any new incentives are being proposed to be given to this sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The number of persons employed in Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector in the country is about 56.50 lakh persons (Khadi = 14.01 lakhs and V.I. = 42.49 lakhs).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such study has been made in the recent past.

(d) The Government is extending full support for the growth of KVI Sector. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched an Intensive Rural Employment Programme in the tribal dominated Santhal Pargana and Chotanagpur Region in Bihar. This Programme is a part of the on-going Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) being implemented by the KVIC since 1995-96 with a target of generating 2 million jobs.

(e) and (f) No new incentives are being proposed at present.

National consensus on Subsidies

635. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economists have suggested for national consensus on subsidies;

(b) if so, the other details of their suggestions; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Finance Minister met a group of Economists on January 12, 1999 as a part of his pre-Budget discussions. In the meeting, the Economists made a number of suggestions which *inter-alia* included the following: emphasis on expenditure control and quality of fiscal deficit; cap on Government debt; professionalisation of Public Sector Enterprise management; strategic disinvestment to raise resources for retiring Government debt and financing social sector; liberalisation in the agricultural sector to reap full benefits of reforms; step up investment in the agricultural sector; promote housing sector to generate more income and employment; encourage export growth; take measures to mobilise NRI savings to take care of likely fluctuations/decline in the flow from Foreign Institutional Investors; remove customs surcharge and reduce spread and average rate of import duties etc.

(c) Suggestions made by professionals and associations are kept in view while formulating appropriate policies by the Government.

Price Index

636. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) correctly measures the price fluctuations at the retail level;

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government explain about the fact that when the CPI - Industrial workers had shown an inflation rate of 19.7 per cent in November, 1998, the WPI figure was a mere fourth of this; and

(c) whether the Government are considering to obtain the CPI indices which can truly serve as the mirror of the economic health of the people and of correct planning for the future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures the changes in the wholesale prices of all commodities traded in the country. It does not reflect the retail price changes. There are four consumer price indices (CPI) measuring the retail price movement: (1) for Industrial Workers (2) Urban Non-Manual employees (3) Agricultural Labourers and (4) Rural Labourers. CPI(IW) is the most commonly used retail price index series.

The inflation rate based on CPI(IW) was 19.7 per cent for the month of November 1998, whereas WPI based inflation was 8.1 per cent (Average of four weeks). The increase in CPI-IW was more pronounced because food items (the main culprit for the unprecedented rise in inflation rate) have the weight of 57.5 per cent in CPI-IW as against a weight of 17.4 per cent in WPI.

Income Tax Raids on Educational Institutions

637. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educational institutions and schools raided by the Income Tax Officials during the last year;

(b) the total amount recovered from these schools and institutions; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Search and seizure operations under the Income Tax Act, 1961 were conducted in eighteen cases of Educational Institutions and other schools.

(b) Cash, jewellery and other assets aggregating to Rs. 5,17,95,304/- were seized.

(c) Investigations are in progress and the assessments of these cases are being taken up according to the provisions of Chapter XIV B of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Lifting of Sanctions

638. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether break through has been achieved recently for lifting of multilateral sanctions against the country by International Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the International Financial Institutions which have lifted sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) At the multilateral International Financial Institutions, namely, ADB and World Bank, G-8 countries had adopted a collectivised approach to work for postponement of all loans to India meant for non-basic human needs.

Recently, however, the IFC Board approved an investment of \$35 million in favour of Integrated Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd. India on 2.2.1999. The AP Power Restructuring Loan for \$210 million was approved by the World Bank Board recently. These are the first cases of non-basic human needs projects being approved by the World Bank and its affiliates after May 1998.

The ADB Board had also approved a loan of US\$ 250 million in December 1998 for the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project treating it as a "basic human needs project". Besides, a loan of US\$ 180 million was also successfully negotiated with the Bank for the Surat Manor Tollway project in January 1999.

[Translation]

All India banks Hindi Conference

639. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite repeated requests the Fourth All India Banks Hindi Conference has not been held even after elapsing many years since its third conference;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is neglecting the use of Hindi on the pretext of using modern devices;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to encourage the use of Hindi in his department on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b)

An All India level Official Language Conference of Banks is organised every year by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) where discussions are held on different subjects pertaining to the implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government and resolutions are passed. Representatives from all public sector banks and financial institutions participate in this All India Conference. Therefore, it was earlier decided that an all India Conference of Banks on Official Language on the lines of the conference organised in 1988, 1990 and 1991 may not be necessary. However, in order to give an added impetus to the effective implementation of the Official Language Policy, the Ministry have requested the Indian Banks Association (IBA) to convene a National Level Official Language Conference once in three years. IBA have agreed with the proposal.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Besides making efforts to achieve the targets stipulated in the annual programme, issued by the Department of Official Language, a request has also been made to Indian Banks' Association to organise various programmes between 14th September 1999 and 13th September 2000 for taking affective measures for propagation/implementation of Official Language to mark the Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language.

[English]

Requirement of Funds for Textiles Mills in Gujarat

640. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total of number of NTC mills in Gujarat and the production capacity thereof;

(b) the installed production capacity of the mills;

(c) whether the installed production capacity of the mills is sufficient to meet the increasing demand of textiles;

(d) if not, the required installed capacity to meet the demand and the funds required for that purpose;

(e) whether the Government propose to invite private sector mills to achieve the required results; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) NTC has 11 mills located in Gujarat, with a total installed capacity of 296656 spindles, 6019 looms and processing capacity of 4.50 lakh mtrs per day.

(c) to (f) The total production of different sectors of textile industry is adequate not only for the requirements of the country but also for exports.

Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation

641. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom and powerloom weavers are facing problems in Kanpur, U.P. due to rise in the prices of cotton and non-export of manufactured goods and the weavers are on the verge of starvation because Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation is not purchasing goods from the small weavers; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the State and Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) On the basis of information available from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh it is incorrect to state that weavers are on the verge of starvation because Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation is not purchasing goods from small weavers. The State Government has informed that at the beginning of every financial year the U.P. Export Corporation floats tender notices inviting Societies as well as individual weavers to attend the Purchase Committee meetings for procurement of goods to be sold through the outlets of the Corporation. Besides, individual weavers and Cooperative Societies are also motivated by the District Industries Centres to attend the Purchase Committee meeting and also sell their products through the U.P. Export Corporation.

Money Laundering Scam

642. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a money laundering scam running into thousands of crores of rupees through misuse of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme has been unearthed in the metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the errants declarants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No Sir. VDIS, 1997 did not envisage the holding of any inquiries either at the time of declarations, or at the stage of issue of certificates by the Commissioners of Income Tax. These declarations will become relevant when credit for the amount declared is introduced in the books of accounts of the declarant, and the consequential assessments are taken up for scrutiny.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Permanent Account Number

643. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doubts surface over efficacy of PAN system" published in 'Hindustan Times' (Delhi) dated February 1,1999;

(b) if so, the main drawbacks pointed out in the said press report with respect to the PAN system;

(c) the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps taken if any or are contemplated to remove the said drawbacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The

news item has referred to possible use of permanent account number (PAN) cards and credit cards which are not genuine and had been obtained by unscrupulous persons using incorrect names and addresses to defeat the provisions relating to quoting of PAN or GIR No. The provisions relating to PAN has become operational only from 1st November, last year and is still in the process of setting down. The question of taking rigorous steps on the basis of possibility of misuse in isolated cases, does not arise at this stage.

[Translation]

Loans for Construction of Houses by LIC

644. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets of Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) the total amount received from the various policy holders;

(c) the names of the institutions provided loans by LIC for construction of houses for individuals;

(d) the amount provided for the purpose; and

(e) the amount of loan given to each State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The total assets of the Life Insurance Corporation as on 31.03.1998 amounts to Rs. 10995.437 crores.

(b) The total amount received by way of premium on policies from various policy holders as on 31.03.1998 is Rs. 19356.759 crores.

(c) The following are the names of the agencies to which LIC grants loan for Housing Sector:

(i) State Governments for financing social housing schemes (General & Rural) as per allocation made by the Planning Commission.

(ii) State level Co-operative Housing federations for on-lending to their member Co-operative Housing Societies for construction/purchase of houses by individual members of the Co-operative Societies.

- (iii) All India Housing Finance Institutions like HUDCO for financing various housing projects. NHB for providing refinance to housing finance companies etc.
- (iv) Housing Finance Companies like LIC Housing Finance Ltd., Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. for providing housing loans to individuals.
- (v) State Police Housing Corporation for construction of staff quarters to police personnel.

- (vi) LIC's on mortgage housing schemes for its Employees, Agents, etc.

(d) and (e) The details of amount of loan provided to the various agencies in the last five years and total loan outstanding as at 31.03.1998 are given in the attached statement-I. The details of amount of loan given to each State Government in the last five years and total loan outstanding as on 31.03.1998 are given in the attached statement-II.

Statement-I

LIC's Investments in the Housing Sector in the last 5 years and Upto 31st March, 1998

(Rs. in crores)

Category	Loans Advanced During the Year					Total Loan Outstanding as at 31.03.1998
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	
State Government (U)	119.56	143.23	154.39	154.55	194.33	1671.77
(Housing) (R)	37.73	41.72	50.26	51.12	105.82	
State Co-op. Hsg. Fed.	131.52	138.00	120.00	140.50	130.00	1528.89
HUDCO	50.00	—	100.00	200.00	—	360.33
NHB	250.00	—	—	100.00	100.00	1018.67
Police HSG. Coop.	3.60	1.90	—	—	—	22.14
HDFC	—	—	75.00	100.00	150.00	257.73
LICHFL	363.28	397.00	513.00	500.00	500.00	2729.09
Mortgage HSG. Schemes of LIC	114.98	110.67	70.79	66.48	75.98	958.18
Total	1070.67	832.52	1083.44	1312.65	1256.13	8546.80

Statement-II*LIC Loans to State Govt. For Financing Social Housing Schemes for the last 5 years*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
		Gen.	Rural	Total	Gen.	Rural	Total	Gen.	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.56	5.69	28.25	24.11	8.04	32.15	37.83	12.61	50.44
2.	Assam	—	—	—	1.70	0.57	2.27	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	0.50	0.16	0.66	0.54	0.18	0.72	0.28	0.09	0.37
6.	Gujarat	6.90	2.30	9.20	8.91	2.97	11.88	11.27	3.76	15.03
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.85	0.29	1.14	1.11	0.37	1.49	3.00	1.00	4.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.45	0.81	3.26	2.45	0.81	3.26	3.00	1.00	4.00
10.	Karnataka	14.90	12.96	19.86	35.29	5.76	41.05	18.80	6.26	25.06
11.	Kerala	16.50	5.50	22.00	18.91	6.30	25.11	20.46	6.82	27.28
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5.21	1.73	6.94	5.66	1.88	7.54	7.07	2.35	9.42
13.	Maharashtra	0.90	—	0.90	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.	Manipur	0.55	0.20	0.75	0.61	0.20	0.81	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	6.49	2.17	8.66	6.88	2.29	9.17	3.30	1.70	5.00
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	3.83	1.28	5.11	4.83	1.61	6.44	5.41	1.80	7.21
21.	Sikkim	0.30	0.10	0.40	—	—	—	0.29	0.09	0.38
22.	Tamilnadu	13.81	4.60	18.41	15.53	5.18	20.71	16.73	5.58	22.31
23.	Tripura	2.79	0.93	3.72	2.79	0.93	3.72	5.34	—	5.34
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8.03	2.68	10.71	13.91	4.63	18.54	21.61	7.20	28.81
25.	West Bengal	12.99	4.33	17.32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		119.58	37.73	157.29	143.23	41.72	184.95	154.39	50.26	204.65

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1996-97			1997-98			Total Loan O/s as at 31.3.98
		Gen.	Rural	Total	Gen.	Rural	Total	
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.47	13.82	55.29	—	—	—	249.42
2.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.99
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.66
4.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.36
5.	Goa	2.62	0.88	3.50	4.50	1.50	6.00	11.74
6.	Gujarat	33.42	1.57	34.99	34.55	1.78	36.33	147.54
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	51.82
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.75	1.25	5.00	—	—	—	18.28
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.12	1.70	6.82	—	—	—	31.66
10.	Karnataka	16.39	15.46	31.85	30.85	10.28	41.13	187.92
11.	Kerala	23.72	7.91	31.63	45.02	65.01	110.83	278.80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7.91	2.64	10.55	—	—	—	61.85

1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	12.07
14.	Manipur	2.10	0.70	2.80	1.75	0.25	2.00	10.02
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.46
16.	Mizoram	2.45	—	2.45	6.45	2.15	8.60	11.55
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.08
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	54.77
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	15.40
20.	Rajasthan	8.17	2.72	10.89	10.30	3.44	13.74	88.08
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	1.10	1.10	3.65
22.	Tamilnadu	—	—	—	53.41	17.81	71.22	202.22
23.	Tripura	7.43	2.47	9.90	7.50	2.50	10.00	48.15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	116.00
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	69.72
Total		154.55	51.12	205.67	194.35	105.82	300.15	1671.77

Bilateral Trade with Israel

645. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel have agreed to promote bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement have been signed by both the countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A trade agreement has been signed between India and Israel on 21.12.94. Under this agreement, the Second Meeting of India-Israel Joint Trade and Economic Committee was held in New Delhi on 27th October, 1998. According to the Agreed Minutes of this Meeting, product such as plastics & rubber, electrical and electronic components, computer software, building material, drugs and pharmaceuticals, medical disposables, metals, machinery, chemicals & allied products and engineering goods have been identified as having considerable scope for increasing India's exports to Israel. Similarly, sectors such as telecommunication equipment, agro-technology, fertilizers, bio-technology, medical equipment, geothermal technologies, educational aids and water management have been identified as having considerable scope for increasing Israel's exports to India.

[English]

Shortfall in Demand of Coal

646. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. has expressed concern over the fall in demand of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons for fall in demand; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to mine quality coal at competitive cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There

has been shortfall in demand of coal in the country because of general economic recession. The other reasons for reduced offtake of coal includes.

(1) Cement companies are increasingly using imported coal which is cheaper than domestic coal in certain locations.

(2) Quality of coal is comparatively superior.

(3) Offtake of coal by power sector is reduced because of the stocks available with power houses and because of increased generation from hydel power stations.

(c) The cost of domestic coal at pitheads is probably the lowest in the world. However, the cost to the consumer is higher owing to rail freight and high level of royalty and other imposts on domestic coal as compared to imported coal.

ICD, Tughlakabad

647. SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Inspection, under Central Board of Excise and Customs has submitted an inspection report regarding functioning of Customs Department at ICD, Tughlakabad;

(b) if so, whether the Directorate General of Inspection has brought out the facts regarding missing of 1453 Imported Containers from ICD, Tughlakabad from 1993-97;

(c) if so, the value of goods smuggled and amount of duty evaded;

(d) the status of Import General Manifest (IGM) closure at ICD, Tughlakabad; and

(e) the action taken on the report of Directorate General of Inspection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Director General of Inspection, Customs and Central Excise, New Delhi had inspected the ICD at Tughlakabad in July-August, 1997. However, the said report has not brought out any fact regarding missing containers from the ICD, Tughlakabad between 1993 and

1997. The Container Corporation of India, which is the custodian of the containers in the ICD, Tughlakabad, have reported that no container is missing from 1993 to 1997.

(d) As on 1.2.99, 777 Import General Manifests (IGMs) are awaiting closure. These IGMs have been kept open as the goods brought in under the said IGMs are pending clearance because of their involvement in court cases at different levels, appeal and adjudication. Action for disposal of 1017 containers under Section 48 of the Customs Act has also been initiated to enable closure of the IGMs under which these goods were imported.

(e) The suggestions made by the Director General of Inspection have been implemented by the Customs House.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Loan to Coal India Limited

648. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan sanctioned recently by the World Bank to the Coal India Limited;

(b) the details of the targetted purchase to be made by this loan;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration for purchase of equipments in large quantity from both the Indian suppliers and foreign suppliers;

(d) if so, the steps taken for ensuring transparency in this purchase; and

(e) the authorities through which these purchases are likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The World Bank loan sanctioned to Coal India Limited against Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project comprises US\$ 530 million from IBRD and an equal amount from EXIM Bank of Japan.

(b) to (d) The details of the targetted purchase to be made by this loan are given in the attached statement. The procurement will be through International Competitive Bidding procedure of the World Bank. All equipment packages and turnkey contracts are subject to prior review and no-objection by the World Bank. For this purpose, Standard Bidding Documents are used which have been designed by the World Bank with great care to ensure total transparency in the bidding and the bid evaluation process.

(e) CIL Board with no objection from World Bank is the competent authority for purchases of Rs. 10 crores and above and Chairman, CIL is the competent authority for purchases below Rs. 10 crores.

Statement

Package No.	Description	Quantity
1	2	3
	Phase-I	
1.	Dragline 24/88	3
2.	Shovel, electric 5m ³	30
3.	Shovel, electric 10m ³	22
4.	Excavator hydraulic 2.5/3.5m ³	14

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1	2	3
5.	Excavator hydraulic 4.5/5m ³	10
6.	Dumper 50 tons	259
7.	Dumper 85 tons	63
8.	Dumper 120 tons	160
9.	Dozer 240 KW	48
10.	Dozer 310 KW	97
11.	Dozer 600 KW	5
12.	Dozer, Wheel	35
13.	Drill 160 mm	31
14.	Drill 250 mm	34
15.	Drill 310 mm	5
16.	FE loader 5.7m ³	3
17.	Grader	26
18.	Crane 70 T	2
19.	Crane 30 T	3
20.	Tire Handler	2

1	2	3
21.	Water Sprinkler	11
22.	Coal Handling Plant KD Hesalong	1
23.	Coal Handling Plant Parej	1
24.	Coal Handling Plant Dudhichua	1
25.	Coal Handling Plant Nigahi	1
26.	Dispatch system	4
27.	Telecommunication system	30
28.	Coal quality mining equipment	4
	Phase-II	
29.	Shovel, electric 5m ³	11
30.	Shovel, electric 10m ³	9
31.	Excavator hydraulic 2.5/3.5m ³	20
32.	Excavator hydraulic 4.5/5m ³	5
33.	Dumper 50 tons	115
34.	Dumper 85 tons	35
35.	Dumper 120 tons	88

1	2	3
36.	Dozer 240 KW	28
37.	Dozer 310 KW	57
38.	Dozer, Wheel	7
39.	Drill 160 mm	35
40.	Drill 250 mm	31
41.	Drill 310 mm	3
42.	FE loader 5.7m ³	1
43.	Grader	9
44.	Water Sprinkler	2

[English]

Shares of Profit Making PSUs

649. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ordinance was promulgated on amendment to Company Law with certain changes to allow the profit making Public Sector Undertakings to purchase their own shares from the Government; and

(b) if so, the impact on such PSUs as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated on 31st October, 1998. The ordinance is applicable to all companies and provides for buyback of shares subject to safeguards in law and SEBI regulations.

Technology Upgradation Fund

650. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDARAN:
SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allot Rs. 25,000 crores for upgradation of technology in the textiles and jute industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the criteria fixed for availing the assistance and repayment of loan under the scheme;

(d) whether this scheme will not cover the spinning mills of Public Sector and Cooperative Sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) Government have decided to launch Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for technological upgradation of Textiles and Jute industries. Under the scheme, eligible units from identified textile and jute sectors would be able to apply for loans at applicable rate of interest from designated nodal agencies which, after satisfying themselves, as regards viability etc. would advance loan to applicant unit, stipulating the conditions for repayment of loan etc. The Scheme would cover the weaving, knitting, processing and finishing sectors including composite mills and such of the spinning mills as would choose to undertake technological upgradation alongwith post-spinning activities including processing or weaving. Such of Public Sector/Cooperative Sector unit as fulfil the criteria of eligibility would also be covered. Under this Scheme, interest to the extent of 5%, interest points would be reimbursed to the lending nodal agencies (IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI) by the Ministry of Textiles. Operational details will be discussed in the Steering Committee.

Jessop and Company Ltd.

651. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY:
SHRI HIRA LAL ROY:
SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Head Office of Jessop and Company Ltd. building at Calcutta has been sold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above building was sold out by the authorities with any sanction from the Ministry; and

(d) if not, the action taken against the persons responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Sale proceeds of the building were taken as a means of financing the Company's revival scheme as sanctioned by BIFR.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Chhatrapati Sahu Mill of Kolhapur

652. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the amount earmarked for modernisation of the National Textile Mills is being diverted for other items;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to modernise/revive the Chhatrapati district of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Government has been providing funds only for payment of wages, salaries and bonus to NTC to meet the shortfall faced by them in payment of wages, salaries and bonus. Therefore, the question of modernisation fund being diverted for other items does not arise.

(c) to (e) Chhatrapati Sahu Mill of Kolhapur is not an NTC mill. Therefore, Government formulating any scheme for its modernisation/revival does not arise.

New Banks in Gujarat

653. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any application for seeking permission to set up new private banks in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b)

Consequent on issue of guidelines dated January 22,1993 regarding entry of new private sector banks, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have received eight applications for setting up of new banks with headquarters in Gujarat. The details are given below:

No.	Name of applicant	Date of application	proposed HQ at
1.	Unit Trust of India (UTI)	27.03.1993	Ahmedabad
2.	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI)	28.05.1993	Baroda
3.	Gujarat State Fertiliser Co. Ltd. (GSFC)	09.07.1993	Ahmedabad
4.	Shri H.T. Patel	18.08.1993	Ahmedabad
5.	Ross Morarka Finance Ltd.	08.09.1993	Surat
6.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	19.11.1993	Ahmedabad
7.	Gujarat International Holdings Ltd.	26.05.1994	Ahmedabad
8.	Chicago Futures Markets Ltd.	19.04.1995	Surat

(c) Union Government is not required to take any action on any of these applications. RBI has issued licences, under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on banking business, to banks promoted by UTI Ltd. and ICICI Ltd. applications filed by Shri H.T. Patel, Ross Morarka Finance Ltd. and Chicago Futures Markets Ltd. have been rejected. Gujarat State Fertilizer

Company Ltd. was issued an 'in principle' approval on 27.1.94. However, due to changes in the Composition of the promoter group and delay in setting up the bank, the in principle approval was withdrawn on January 21,1999 by the Reserve Bank of India. Decisions on two other cases await the recommendations of an in-house working group set up by RBI and decisions thereon.

Balance of Payment

654. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of the Balance of payments;

(b) whether due to economic recession and gloomy scenario, the crisis of BoP may face serious challenge;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to face any crisis being created by BoP situation;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue white paper on the Balance of payments situations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The latest available data on India's balance of payments (BoP) relate to the period upto the quarter ended September, 1998. According to these data, the current account deficit during the first half of 1998-99 amounted to US\$ 3085 million. Latest available information for 1998-99 indicates that despite a modest widening of the trade deficit, the net surplus under invisibles continues to remain buoyant while in the capital account net inflows of US\$ 4.2 billion under the Resurgent India Bonds have supplemented normal sources of external finance. As a result, the foreign currency assets of the RBI have increased by US\$ 1682 million in the current financial year upto February 12, 1999 to reach a level of US\$ 27657 million.

(d) to (f) As per the current indications, the BoP situation during the coming year is expected to remain manageable. However, the developments in the BoP are closely and continuously monitored with a view to undertaking suitable policy measures, if warranted. Economic survey, 1998-99 provides a detailed account of recent trends and prospects of our Balance of Payments.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

655. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether present foreign exchange reserves in the country is insufficient;

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to increase the foreign exchange reserve of the country;

(c) the total foreign currency set by Non-Resident Indians and the other people during last five years;

(d) whether the devaluation of rupee in the past few years has increased our income through export; and

(e) if so, the total foreign currency earned as a result thereof during each of the last five years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The country's foreign exchange reserves, including gold and SDRs, have increased by US\$ 1.3 billion during the current financial year so far and amounted to US\$ 30.7 billion as on February 12, 1999. At this level, the foreign exchange reserves provide a cover of about seven months of imports, which can be considered satisfactory.

(c) Foreign currency sent by non-resident Indians and by other people comprising current receipts (export receipts and invisible receipts) and gross inflows under all capital account items (including loans from the IMF) over the last five years is given below:

F/Year	Foreign currency Receipts (US\$ million)
1993-94	63,278
1994-95	68,323
1995-96	74,152
1996-97	91,729
1997-98	99,261

(d) and (e) Export performance depends up a number of external and internal factors. While India's exports benefited from movements in the external value of the Rupee, export performance in recent years has been constrained by unfavourable international trading environment caused by the economic and financial

turbulence in East Asia, sluggish growth of world demand, significant declines in export prices of primary and manufactured goods as well as some domestic factors. Indian export performance, on balance of payments basis, for the last five years is given below:

F/Year	Export (US \$ million)
1993-94	22,683
1994-95	26,855
1995-96	32,311
1996-97	34,133
1997-98	34,649

Pending Cases of Madhya Pradesh with KVIC

656. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether release of Rs. 1282.00 lakhs from Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai in 680 cases has been pending since March, 1998 to Khadi and Village Industries Board, Madhya Pradesh under the Consortium Bank Credit Scheme; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is likely to release this amount?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

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

Appointment of International consultants for SIDBI

657. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed international consultants to assist repositioning and restructuring of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for better credit impact;

(b) if so, the names of the international consultants;

(c) the terms of reference of the consultants;

(d) whether the consultants have presented the final report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Government have not appointed any consultants. However, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has appointed a consulting firm to give a report on strategic plan for SIDBI.

(b) SIDBI has reported that M/s. Partha S. Ghosh & Associates Pvt. Ltd. of Mumbai has been appointed as consultants.

(c) The broad terms of reference *inter alia* include development of an overall strategic plan for SIDBI based on opportunities, competitive position and core-capabilities, define SIDBI's future financial role as also its co-ordination role with other agencies engaged in development of SSI and redefining the objectives, goals and strategies of SIDBI to meet the requirement of SSI sector in the changing environment.

(d) to (f) The final report is likely to be received by end March, 1999.

Export of Tobacco

658. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign exchange earned by the Government by way of exports of tobacco products during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to enhance the tobacco exports;

(c) if so, whether the crop area of tobacco is being increased; and

(d) if so, the extent of increase planned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the current EXIM

policy exports of tobacco are free and can be undertaken by exporters in both public and private sectors. The quantity and value of tobacco and tobacco products exported during the last three years are as follows:—

(Qty. in tonnes; Value in Rs. Crores)

Year (Apl.-Mar.)	Unmanufactured Tobacco		Manufactured Tobacco		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1995-96	77,665	378.69	9,429	68.13	87,094	446.82
1996-97	106,644	660.48	10,266	96.29	1,16,910	756.77
1997-98	1,32,533	910.49	10,363	148.01	1,42,896	1058.50
1998-99 (Apl.-Nov.)	51,810	403.03	8,116	119.41	59,926	522.44

(Source: DGCI&S)

(b) Some of the steps taken to enhance export of tobacco, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) Re-orienting production and developmental strategies to the changing international needs *i.e.*, encouraging production of low tar, low nicotine and light soil tobaccos and discouraging production in undesirable soils.
- (ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing production cost so as to make it more price competitive in international markets.
- (iii) Monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues.
- (iv) Aligning grading at farmers level in line with International grading standards.
- (v) Allowing exports of tobacco to Russia through "Debt Repayment Route".

(vi) Reducing the preshipment export credit interest rate from 11% to 9%.

(vii) Sponsoring Delegations abroad and participation in International Trade Fairs.

(viii) Inviting Delegations, from Foreign Tobacco Monopolies to visit India to understand quality and cost competitiveness of Indian tobacco and arranging meetings with Indian Tobacco Exporters.

(ix) Undertaking market promotion for Indian tobacco through advertisements in International magazines and through distribution of product brochures.

(c) and (d) Crop size of FCV tobacco for the next year would be determined by the Tobacco Board keeping in view the anticipated international demand and supply position, carryover stocks in international and domestic markets, domestic demand and supply and domestic and international prices.

Minimum Import Price for Steel

659. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "By fixing prices Government forces hawala, say steel importers" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated January 30,1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has notified floor prices in respect of certain steel items to restrict their cheap imports into the country. This was necessitated due to the fact that the imports of steel at very low prices from CIS countries and some South East Asian countries in bulk quantities were causing serious threat to the indigenous steel industry by depressing prices to unremunerative levels. The floor prices were fixed on the basis of average Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) prices from non-dumping sources such as Europe & Japan. The floor prices are subject to revision from time to time based upon the trend of international prices.

[Translation]

C.M. Vasudev Committee

660. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted C.M. Vasudev Committee to give suggestions and recommendations in regard to expansion of steel industry;

(b) if so, the date on which the Committee was constituted and whether this Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by the Government for implementation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) In view of the recent slow down in the growth of the Indian steel industry a Working Group was set up in October '98 under the Chairmanship of Shri C.M. Vasudev for identifying measures to impart growth momentum to the steel sector and not for expansion of steel industry. The Group has since submitted its report.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Autonomy to Banks

661. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently granted autonomy to any nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criterion adopted for granting autonomy to any nationalised banks;

(d) whether the Government have received similar requests from any other nationalised banks in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) In the context of liberalisation of the economy as well as keeping in view the recommendations made by Mehta Committee on recruitment methods and practices in Public Sector Banks, the banks have been given autonomy for creation of posts upto TEGS VI, direct recruitment of specialists officers as well as campus recruitment upto 30 percent of the vacancies of Probationary Officers earmarked for direct recruitment, reimbursement of entertainment expenses; formulation of policies for rural/ semi-urban posting, deputation of officers, induction on contract basis, posting in overseas branches; and promotion of officers upto the rank of Deputy General Manager.

Autonomy with regard to creation of posts upto TEGS-VI, direct recruitment of specialist officers and probationary officers upto 30% of vacancies through campus recruitment, and reimbursement of entertainment expenses has been delegated to only those banks which fulfil the following criteria:—

1. Net profits for the last three years;
2. Capital adequacy ratio of more than eight percent;
3. Net NPA level below 9 percent of the total bank credit; and
4. Minimum owned funds of Rs. 100 crores.

(d) to (f) Government received a proposal recently for grant of autonomy to State Bank of Saurashtra which was not accepted by the Government as State Bank of Saurashtra did not fulfil the criteria of net profit for the last three years.

Economic Recession

662. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing severe economic recession in almost all the sectors;

(b) if so, the number of large scale Public Sector Undertakings and Private sector units which have shown negative growth during the year 1998 alongwith their percentage in shrinking; and

(c) the reasons leading to such a large scale slump in detail and the methods formulated to revive the recession in the industry sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) As per the Advance Estimates of National Income released recently by the Central Statistical organisations, the gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 5.8 per cent in 1998-99, compared with the 5 per cent achieved in 1997-98. The recovery in 1998-99 was basically led by the rebound in 'agriculture and allied sectors' which is projected to grow by 5.3 per cent. The growth of GDP from manufacturing has slipped to 5.7 per cent, that from electricity, gas and water supply to 6.3 per cent, and mining to 0.1 per cent. 'Trade, hotels, transport and communications' was the only other category where growth accelerated from 5.7 per cent in 1997-98 to 6.3 per cent in 1998-99.

(b) According to a study of financial performance by the RBI, of 953 non-financial Public Limited Companies during the first half (April-September) of the current fiscal, while growth in sales was higher, by about one percentage point, at 9.4 per cent during the first half of 1998-99 as compared to 8.6 per cent in the corresponding period of previous year, gross profits recorded lower growth of 3 per cent as against 4.1 per cent during the first half of 1997-98.

(c) The deceleration in industrial growth in the current year can be attributed to a number of factors such as decline in rural demand, sluggish export growth, loss of comparative advantage to Indian exports due to rapid depreciation in East Asian currencies, price disadvantage on account of cheap imports in certain key industries, depressed state of capital markets and infrastructural bottlenecks. Measures taken for revival of industrial growth include further deregulation and simplification of procedures for domestic, NRI and foreign direct investment, step up in outlay for key infrastructure sectors, revival of capital market and provide a level playing field to domestic industry.

Issuance of Cheque Books by Private Sector Banks

663. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no private sector banks who are members of the Indian Banks Association (IBA) can charge money for the issue of cheque books and computerised statement of accounts to the savings bank account holders;

(b) if so, the reasons for charging the money unabatedly even after bringing the same fact to the notice of the Government and the RBI; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not issued any guidelines to commercial banks regarding levy of service charges for issue of cheque books, statement of accounts, etc. Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had constituted a Committee to review the service charges and based on its recommendations, a revised schedule of service charges came into effect from 1st October, 1994. The uniform schedule of bench mark service charges issued

by IBA to its member banks is recommendatory in nature. In terms of the policy of gradual deregulation and moving away from micro-management of banks, the commercial banks have been given freedom by RBI for levy of service charges on the basis of their profitability and cost of funds. RBI does not intervene in the matter of service charges fixed by individual banks.

Losses to Tea Board

664. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board has suffered losses during 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Tea Board is a promotional Organisation set-up for development of the tea industry. The Tea Board is therefore not directly involved in operations like commercial production and trading of tea.

(c) Does not arise.

Corruption in Banks

665. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Bharastachar Se Nipatne ke liye Satarkata Ayog Ke Nirdesh' appearing in the Hindi daily 'Nav Bharat Times' date November 21, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Central Vigilance Commission have issued instructions to the higher officers of the Banking Division not to protect the bank managers found involved in corrupt practices;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check corruption in the State Bank of India and its associate banks;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the recent bungling worth crores of rupees at the top level in a number of branches of banks operating in Connaught Circus and Parliament Street, New Delhi;

(e) if so, the branch-wise and bank-wise details in this regard; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against the managers of the aforesaid banks and if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has in exercise of powers conferred under Section 8(1)(h) of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance 1998 issued instructions to improve vigilance administration in all departments/organisations. The instructions issued *inter-alia* provide that a junior employee who initiates any proposal relating to a vigilance matter which is likely to result in reference to CVC can send a copy directly to the CVC by name so as to thwart any attempt that may be made by senior officers to protect the corrupt or dilute the charges. However, no separate instructions of the kind contemplated by part (b) of the question have been issued to the officers of the Banking Division. CVC has notified a special chapter on banking in order to enhance managerial effectiveness and shed fear psychosis that the bank managers may have been experiencing.

(c) Public Sector Banks at the instance of Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken several steps from time to time for prevention of frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, advising the banks of modus-operandi in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the RBI.

(d) to (f) RBI has reported that from January 1998 till date only one large value fraud involving Rs. 209.7 lakhs took place in the Connaught Circus, New Delhi branch of State Bank of Indore in which two over drafts were sanctioned against security of 'Kisan Vikas Patras' which were subsequently found to be fake. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have registered a case on 27.8.1998 against three persons involved in the fraud in which loans were availed against 'Kisan Vikas Patras' which were later found to be out of a lot of 'Kisan Vikas Patras' found missing from a railway parcel during transit from Nasik Press to Calcutta. Some arrests have been

made. The bank has called for the explanation of the concerned staff and has also issued notices to all its branches/controlling authorities to exercise caution while financing against security of 'Kisan Vikas Patras'. No large value frauds has been reported by banks in the Parliament Street areas branches during the above period.

Non-Performing Assets

666. SHRI M. SELVARASU:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the views expressed by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner at a Seminar on Computerisation in Banks that a large portion of non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions are the result of connivance between banks officials and corporates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the Non-Performing Assets of the public sector banks and financial institutions bank-wise, institution-wise, and out of this how much is owed by corporate sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commissioner, while speaking in a seminar on computerisation on 22.1.1999 stated that "from a common man's perspective our banking system has become a convenient ground for exploitation by unscrupulous industrialists."

Advances of banks turn non-performing due to a variety of factors such as deficiencies in credit appraisal, non-observance of norms for sanction of loans and laxity in post-disbursement supervision, diversion of funds by the borrowers, wilful defaults, absence of Management Information System, etc. There are also external circumstances for rise in non-performing assets such as recession in the industry due to which the borrower fails to produce and market his goods, non-availability of raw material, closure of suspension of business due to strike, natural calamities, change in policy etc.

(c) Statements I and II giving details of NPAs of public sector banks and financial institutions bank-wise and institution-wise for the year 1997-98 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are attached. RBI's data base does not generate details on NPAs of corporate sector.

Statement-I

Details of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks for the year 1997-98 as Reported by Reserve Bank of India

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Bank	1997-98		1997-98	
	Gross NPA	% of NPAs to total advances	Net NPA	% of Net NPAs
1	2	3	4	5
State Bank of India	11465.36	14.14	4497.77	6.07
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	463.04	11.73	267.51	7.13
State Bank of Hyderabad	964.67	18.96	503.48	10.88
State Bank of Indore	299.83	15.05	208.48	10.96

1	2	3	4	5
State Bank of Mysore	538.83	17.47	306.67	10.75
State Bank of Patiala	514.75	11.88	288.90	7.04
State Bank of Saurashtra	364.78	14.83	157.14	6.98
State Bank of Travancore	911.00	20.06	504.73	12.21
Allahabad Bank	1458.93	23.18	859.36	15.09
Andhra Bank	341.30	9.86	93.76	2.92
Bank of Baroda	3129.28	14.63	1290.38	6.60
Bank of India	2669.00	11.55	1570.00	7.13
Bank of Maharashtra	709.09	17.39	316.57	8.59
Canara Bank	3580.81	18.69	1265.29	7.52
Central Bank of India	2414.53	20.47	1304.74	12.21
Corporation Bank	341.86	7.60	125.46	2.93
Dena Bank	774.79	13.73	439.43	8.28
Indian Bank	3428.39	38.96	1888.67	26.01
Indian Overseas Bank	1255.00	13.38	543.00	6.26
Oriental Bank of Commerce	397.23	6.16	287.15	4.84
Punjab National Bank	2447.00	14.50	1526.00	9.60

1	2	3	4	5
Punjab & Sind Bank	1038.90	26.79	345.08	10.84
Syndicate Bank	1185.29	15.31	401.94	5.78
Union Bank of India	1194.73	11.18	787.39	7.66
United Bank of India	1451.00	33.50	472.00	14.10
UCO Bank	1780.30	24.04	705.12	11.14
Vijaya Bank	532.95	15.21	276.16	7.50

(Data provisional)

Statement-II

Details of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Financial Institutions Institution-wise for the year 1997-98 as Reported by Reserve Bank of India

Name of the Institution	1997-98	
	Gross NPA	% of NPAs to total advances
ICICI	2834.62	7.66
IDBI	5101.00	10.14
Exim Bank	512.65	14.49
SIDBI	263.67	2.05
IFCI	2663.28	13.62
TFCI	53.84	7.24
IIBI	286.68	13.12
NABARD	330.57	1.46
NHB	0.00	0.00

(Data Provisional)

Recovery of Industrial Growth

667. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has predicted an improved industrial outlook during the second half of current financial year on the basis of recovery shown by a number of industrial sectors;

(b) whether any survey has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve industrial outlook further;

(e) the sectors in which industrial production has increased; and

(f) the extent to which it has given boost to the industrial production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The Confederation of Indian Industries based on information provided by member companies of CII, evaluates regularly the growth in different sectors of the manufacturing sector. As per CII, during April-Dec. '98 as compared to similar period last year, sectors like cement, fertilizer, crude oil, steel, diesel engines, machine tools, commercial vehicles have low growth of less than 10%, sectors having a high growth (10% to 20%) or more than 20% comprise motor cycles, computers, washing machines, drugs & pharmaceuticals etc.

As per the CII, aluminium, automotive tyre, consumer durables, drugs & pharmaceuticals, electrical machinery, electricity generation, paper and pulp, are expected to show increased growth during the next six months.

(d) to (f) The growth during the current year for the period April-December, 1998 is 3.5% as compared to 6.7% during April-December, 1997.

The analysis of the performance shows that during the nine months of the current year 1998-99 (Apr-Dec.), the sectors like metal products and parts except machinery and equipment (22.9%), transport equipment and parts (20.8%), paper and paper products (16.0%), beverages, tobacco and related products (13.8%) and rubber, plastic, petroleum and coal products (10.6%) have shown a fairly high growth rate of over 10%. Positive growth has also been recorded in electricity, food products, basic chemicals & chemical products, leather and fur products, non-metallic

mineral products and wool, silk and man-made fibre textiles.

The Government is conscious of the need for increased momentum for industrial growth. Various measures have been initiated for correcting sectoral policies to induce faster growth. The Government and the private sector have taken a number of steps which could restore the industrial growth to its long term trend.

The steps taken to improve industrial growth are:—

1. Special package announced for revival of growth in exports.
2. Repeal of ULCRA and incentive to house ownership.
3. The Government has recently allowed buy back of shares and inter corporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market.
4. The Reserve Bank of India has avoided raising interest rates in the busy season credit policy to boost industrial activity.
5. Private sector has been restructuring to induct new technology, improve efficiency and withdraw from non-core business. The financial results of the majority of the corporate for the year 1997-98 and 2nd and 3rd quarter of 1998-99 show a reduction in cost. After restructuring they are likely to undertake investment for expansion.
6. The Government conscious of the need for revival of the industrial sector, has constituted 4 Task Forces to recommend ameliorative measures for 4 sectors, most adversely affected, namely, steel, capital goods, commercial vehicles and cement. The recommendations of the Task Force have been submitted to Ministry of Finance. Certain measures relating to steel have been announced and policy announcements relating to other sectors are expected shortly.

[Translation]

Retired Employees under V.R.S. of SAIL

668. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and its ancillary units, approximately 5500 employees have retired under Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) if not, the actual number of those employees and the number of administrative officers, officers-technical, officer-supervisor and labour respectively among the retired employees;

(c) the category-wise expenditure incurred by the units on the above employees at the time of retirement;

(d) whether the production will not be suffered as a result of retirement of these employees in these units; and

(e) if not, the number and category of employees who are yet to be retired and even after that the production will not be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) As a part of the manpower rationalisation efforts, SAIL has implemented a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) between March and August, 1998 and 5975 employees had availed voluntary retirement under the scheme. Out of this, around 71% were from Works (Technical) area and 29% were from non-works (Administrative Streams) areas. The number of executives and non-executives who had availed of Voluntary Retirement were 658 and 5317 respectively.

Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd., Chandrapur, a subsidiary of SAIL, had also introduced deferred payment VRS-98 scheme and 15 employees availed voluntary retirement. In addition, a lumpsum scheme based on DPE scheme was implemented in two other subsidiaries *i.e.* Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), Bumpur and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL), Bhadravati. Number of employees who availed voluntary retirements in IISCO and VISL during the period 1997-98 were 483 and 334 respectively.

IISCO employees who availed voluntary retirements belong to non-executive category. The break-up of 483 voluntary retirements at IISCO for Works (Technical) and Non-works (Administration) is in the ratio of around 90% and 10%.

The number of executives and non-executives who have availed voluntary retirements at VISL are 19 and 315 respectively and ratio of Works (Technical) and Non-Works (Administration) is 79% and 21% out of 334 voluntary retirements.

(c) The SAIL scheme is based on deferred payment. Employees are paid 80%, 90% or 100% of Basic + DA every month for their remaining months of service subject to a maximum period of twelve years. Since there is no lumpsum payment, there is no immediate expenditure at the time of voluntary retirement. However, employees are paid their normal separation dues like PF, Gratuity etc.

The IISCO and VISL adopted a lumpsum scheme and for 483 and 334 voluntary retirements and a sum of Rs. 10 crores and Rs. 12.35 crores respectively were availed from National Renewal Fund.

(d) Production has not suffered as a result of voluntary retirement of these employees.

(e) In the present competitive environment, to retain the competitive edge, it is necessary to continuously reduce the manpower cost. SAIL has taken a number of initiatives to reduce its manpower through operation of voluntary retirement scheme and strict control of recruitment against natural separations. The manpower requirement depends on the technology adopted, annual targets etc. and the same varies from time to time.

[English]

Export of Cotton and Yarn

669. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed the higher ceiling for export of cotton and yarn during 1999;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of cotton and yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Government have announced an initial export quota of Five lakh bales (of 170 kg. each) of raw cotton for the current cotton year 1998-99 (October-September) as against 7.20 lakh bales for the cotton year 1997-98.

Government have also announced a ceiling of 200 million kgs for export of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts for the calendar year 1999 as against 175 million kgs for the year 1998. The annual ceiling is fixed after

careful consideration of all relevant factors such as production, domestic demand, prices and requirement of decentralised sector etc. The ceiling, however, does not apply to certain specific categories:—

- (a) Export by 100% EOUs.
- (b) Exports under Advance Licensing Scheme/based on cotton imported under OGL.
- (c) Export by EPCG units to the extent of meeting their annualised export obligation.
- (d) All exports against bilateral quotas.
- (e) All exports of 41s counts and above.
- (f) Exports of processed yarn.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. Some recent steps include de-linking of cotton yarn exports from hank yarn obligation, relaxation of count/domestic cotton use restrictions etc.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Handloom Sector

670. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering on allocation of more funds for the handloom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to modernise the looms in addition to the existing provisions of modernisation of handloom development centres;
- (d) if so, the total amount allocated for the handloom sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the funds allocated in this regard during 1998-99, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Plan funds for the Handloom sector

are allocated on the recommendation of the Planning Commission and availability of resources.

(c) and (d) The scheme for modernising looms was transferred to State Governments. There is no provision of modernisation of looms under Handloom Development Centre scheme. However, under the project Package Scheme, there is a component which provides for modernisation of looms. Since the financial assistance is provided on need basis, no specific provision has been earmarked for the purpose in the 9th Plan period. The total amount allocated for the Handloom sector during the 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 600 crores.

(e) Funds are not allocated State-wise, but financial assistance is extended to States dependent upon submission of viable proposals.

[English]

Grants to Jammu and Kashmir

671. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir was brought into the Special Category of States with effect from 1990-91 by allowing financial assistance of 90% as grant and 10% loan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government had requested the Union Government to give retrospective effect from 1969-70 for considering the above assistance to the State;
- (d) if so, whether the Government in principal agreed to release such assistance;
- (e) if so, the amount released by the Central Government so far; and
- (f) if no assistance is released so far in this respect the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State of J&K was receiving Central assistance in the form of 70% loan and 30% grant until 1991-92, when NDC allowed the pattern of 90% grant and 10% loan to the State. Meanwhile, Rangarajan Committee which was set up with a view to finding a durable solution to the financial problems of the Special Category States, recommended that the pattern of 90% grant and 10% loan should be extended to the

State of J&K and Assam from the year 1990-91. The recommendation was accepted and implemented by the Government of India.

(c) The State Government had asked for the waiver of Rs. 1275 crores from their outstanding liability by applying the revised pattern of Central Assistance i.e. 90% grant and 10% loan with retrospective effect from 1969-70 onwards.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of CNG Vehicles

672. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote manufacture of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and battery driven vehicles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Automobile industry is delicensed, and as such, entrepreneurs wanting to manufacture any kind of automobiles, including Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs), have only to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with the Ministry of Industry.

Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) is promoting the development, manufacture of non-polluting environmentally benign BOVs in the country under the Alternative Fuels for Surface Transportation (AFST) Programme. They are providing subsidy on the battery driven 10-seater and bigger passenger vehicles upto 50% of the cost of the vehicles exclusive of customs duty, sales tax and all other levies.

Investigations of Sale of UTI Shares

673. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI had made an application or requested to his Ministry seeking permission to proceed further in the investigation on the sale of UTI shares to Reliance Industries Ltd.;

(b) if so, the dates on which such permission was sought and whether such permission has been granted; and

(c) if so, the details of the case?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) On 24.5.96 CBI had requested the Ministry of Finance to issue concurrence for registration of a regular case (RC) in the matter. The matter was examined in the Ministry and material pertaining to the case was provided by the Ministry to CBI. CBI then took up the matter with the regulatory authorities concerned namely, SEBI and Company Law Board. According to CBI, SEBI authorities have not found any violation of their guidelines. Also the Company Law Board has stated that the transaction appears to be legally in order. In view of the clarification received from SEBI and the Department of Company Affairs, CBI has now stated that their intervention in the matter at this stage is not considered necessary.

Export of Shrimps

674. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export of Shrimp has been affected due to the decision taken by the World Trade Organisation on patent protection;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with the W.T.O.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Economic Vigilance Bureau

675. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the constitution of Economic Vigilance Bureau;

(b) the year of its constitution and the organisational set up thereof;

(c) the number of cases of economic offences disposed of by the Bureau in the country and abroad during the last three years;

(d) the annual financial responsibilities of the Bureau;

(e) whether the investigation by the Bureau is consistent to its financial responsibilities; and

(f) if not, the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) was set up in July, 1985 with the objective of coordinating and strengthening the intelligence gathering activities, the investigative efforts and enforcement action by various agencies concerned with investigation into economic offences and enforcement of economic laws. The organisational set up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) During the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, the number of major cases detected by the Bureau were 11, 11 & 13 respectively. The annual financial liability of the Bureau is Rs. 2.60 crores for the year 1997-98. The gain to the exchequer in the form of taxes, duties, fines and penalties on account of Bureau's cases exceeds manifold the annual expenditure incurred on the Bureau.

Statement

Organisational details relating to CEIB

S.No.	Post	Sanctioned Strength
1	2	3
(1) Group 'A'		
	(a) Director General	1
	(b) Jt. Secretary & Dy Dir. General	3
	(c) Assistant Director General	5
	(d) Sr. Technical Officer/ Under Secretary/ Sr. Statistician Gr. I	13
	(e) Sr. Statistician Gr. II/ Private Secretary (Grade 'A')	2
Total Group 'A' —		24

1	2	3
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(2) Group - 'B'

(a) Section Officer		2
(b) Private Secretary		4
(c) Assistant		4
(d) Personal Assistant (Steno)		5
Total Group 'B'		15

(3) Group 'C'

(a) Intelligence Officers		28
(b) Investigators		2
(c) U.D.C.		4
(d) Steno Grade 'D'		12
(e) L.D.C.		7
(f) Drivers		5
Total Group 'C'		58

(4) Group 'D'

(a) Jamadar/Daftry		5
(b) Peon		21
(c) Sweeper/Farash		3
(d) Chowkidar		7
Total Group 'D' —		36
Grant Total —		133

*[English]***Products of KVIC**

676. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the new products proposed to be launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission at its outlets across the country;

(b) the turnover of KVIC for the last three years;

(c) whether the KVIC has finalised the village products to be introduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the safety matches produced by village industry is likely to be included in KVIC's products?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No new product is being proposed to be launched by Khadi & Village Industries Commission at its outlets across the country.

(b) The cumulative sales effected under Khadi & Village Industries in the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Sales Under KVIC		
	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1995-96	567.37	3861.75	4429.12
1996-97	581.11	4232.90	4814.01
1997-98	745.90	4319.38	5065.28

(c) and (d) In view of (a) above, Question does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. KVIC has already included the production of safety matches produced by village industries as one of the KVI products.

(c) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for increase in the subsidy amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith excess amount of subsidy than the allocated one given, due to each of these reasons, separately?

Supply on Food and Fertilizers

677. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidy provided on food and fertilizers during 1998-99 expected to be more than the provision made in the budget in this regard;

(b) if so, the excess amount of subsidy on food and fertilizers, separately;

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) The revised estimates of 1998-99 will be presented to the Parliament tomorrow i.e. on 27th February, 1999 as part of the General Budget 1999-2000. Hon'ble Member may kindly await the presentation of the Budget.

Development of Silk Worms

678. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new variety of eggs (races) developed by the Research and Development Department of Central Silk Board during 1996, 1997 and 1998?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Central Silk Board has set up Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory at Bangalore to train licensed mulberry seed producers who want training at the Institute or who are sponsored by the State Government. During the last three years 146 private licensed seed producers have been trained.

(c) During the years 1996, 1997 & 1998, Central Silk Board Research Institutes have worked on 60 races from which 16 hybrids with some promise have been isolated. These are:

1. BL43 X NB4D2
2. B-71 X A-69
3. B-72 X A-66
4. CSR12 X CSR6

5. CSR16 X CSR17
6. CSR18 X CSR19
7. SK-4 X SK-4
8. CNR4 X CNRS
9. CMR14 X CMR3
10. CPIB X J-PLAIN
11. KY-1 X JP1P
12. JP1A X SM-1
13. CP1B X JP1B
14. BM-1 X JP1B
15. (CSR6 X CSR26) X (CSR2 X CSR27)
16. (CSR6 X CSR20) X (CSR21 X CSR29)

The above hybrids are presently under field trials. After their success in these trials, they will be posed to the All India Race Authorisation Committee for authorisation. The races authorised in 1995, 1996 and 1997 are indicated in the attached statement.

Statement

The races authorised in 1995, 1996 and 1997

States	Combinations	Hybrids	Season
1	2	3	4
1995			
Andhra Pradesh	MULTI X BIV	P2D1 X NB18	Winter
West Bengal	MULTI X BIV	MY1 X NB18	Spring/Autumn
		P2D1 X NB18 N X (NB18 X P5)	Spring Autumn
	BIV X BIV	SH6 X KA CA2 X NB4D2	Spring/Autumn & Winter, Spring

1	2	3	4
Assam/Bihar Orissa/ Madhya Pradesh	MULTI X BIV	MY1 X NB18 P2D1 X NB18 N X (NB18XP5) PM X NB18	Spring/Autumn Spring Summer/Autumn Summer
	BIV X BIV	SH6 X KA CA2 X NB4D2 NB18 X P5	Spring/Autumn/Winter Spring Winter
Jammu & Kashmir	BIV X BIV	YS3 X SF19 SH6 x KA SH6 X NB4D2 CA2 X NB4D2 PAM101 X NB4D2 CC1 X NB4D2 PAM111 X SF19	Spring Spring Spring Spring/Autumn/Early Winter Autumn/Early Winter Autumn/Early Winter Autumn/Early Winter
Uttar Pradesh	MULTI X BIV	P2D1 X NB18 RD1 X NB18	Summer/Early Autumn Summer/Early Autumn
	BIV X BIV	YS3 X SF19 SH6 X KA SH6 X NB4D2 CA2 X NB4D2 PAM101 X NB4D2 CC1 X NB4D2 PAM111 X SF19	Spring Spring Spring Spring/Autumn/Early Winter Autumn/Early Winter Autumn/Early Winter Autumn/Early Winter
1996			
Jammu & Kashmir	BIV X BIV	SKUAST-1 X SKUAST-6	Spring
1997			
Rainfed Areas Irrigated Areas	MULTI X BIV	BL23 X NB4D2 BL24 X NB4D2	Spring/Autumn Spring/Autumn
South India Temperate/Sub- Tropical Zone	BIV X BIV	CSR2 X CSR4 CSR2 X CSR5	Spring/Autumn Spring/Autumn

*[Translation]***Credit Rating Information Service of India**

679. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited has given a negative rating in respect of the bonds of various corporations set up by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Credit Rating Information Services of India (CRISIL), bonds issued by Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC), Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation were downgraded from "AA(so)" to "A+(so)" in January, 1999.

(c) and (d) According to CRISIL the downgrading of rating is mainly based on the fiscal situation of the State Government, their debt servicing expenditure and the reliance on market borrowings for financing Plan outlay. Repayment obligations on the bonds are supported by the Government of Maharashtra through a tripartite agreement between these corporations, Government of Maharashtra and Trustees to the issues.

*[English]***PAN**

680. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have liberalised/propose to make any modifications relating to quoting of

Permanent Account Number (PAN) recently for financial transactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said modifications are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A number of modifications have been made in the provisions relating to quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) or GIR Number by Notification S.O.No. 33(E) dated 27th January, 1999. The significant changes are as follows.

- (i) Originally, there was no requirement to file declaration in Form No. 60 or 61 if the payment for the specified transactions was made by way of a crossed cheque drawn on a bank or by a crossed bank draft. According to the modified provisions, the exemption from filing the declarations shall be in respect of payment by way of a crossed cheque or through credit card issued by any bank.
- (ii) The non-residents shall not be required to furnish copies of their passports while making payment for the specified transactions.
- (iii) The provisions of PAN shall not be applicable for Central Government, State Government and Consular offices where they are payers.
- (iv) The provisions regarding reporting information to the concerned Director of Income-tax (Investigation) have been liberalised. Details in respect of transactions wherein PAN/GIR No. is quoted need not be reported. Only copies of declaration filed in Form No. 60 and Form No. 61 in respect of the specified transactions need to be sent. In respect of opening of bank accounts, the requirement of reporting has been done away with. These declarations shall be forwarded only once in every six months within a period of one month from the 30th of September and the 31st of March.
- (v) The persons receiving documents relating to specified transactions have to ensure PAN or GIR No. has been duly and correctly quoted.

Staff Inspection Unit*[Translation]*

681. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Ministries and its attached offices inspected during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by the Staff Inspection Unit;

(b) the economy achieved on their recommendations, Ministry-wise and group-wise, during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) the names of the Ministries and offices who have not implemented the recommendations of the Staff Inspection Unit;

(d) whether any action has been taken by the Government for not implementing the recommendations of Staff Inspection Unit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reservation Rules in Nationalised Banks

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

(a) whether the reservation rules are followed in the nationalised banks of the country;

(b) if so, the category-wise percentage of posts filled till date in Canara Bank;

(c) the number of posts reserved for different categories are lying vacant; and

(d) the time by which these vacancies are proposed to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information made available by the Canara Bank, the percentage of posts filled and backlog vacancies in different cadres is given below:—

Cadre	Percentage of post filled (as on 31.12.1998)			Backlog vacancies (as on 30.09.1998)		
	SC	ST	OBC*	SC	ST	OBC*
Officer	7.60	7.16	0.80	2	2	6
Clerical	5.67	4.09	2.45	40	29	102
Sub-Staff	24.85	4.22	5.48	13	12	104
PTEs	30.43	3.27	6.26	14	16	103

*Reservation for OBCs in direct recruitment came into effect from 8.9.1993.

(d) Bank has reported that steps have been taken for recruitment of SC/ST/OBC candidates to clear the backlog.

Exemption of I.T. on UTI, Mutual Funds

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

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt Income Tax for the Income from Unit Trust of India and other mutual funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Government's response in this regard will be contained in the annual budget proposals.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Stock of Coal

684. SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present stock of coal is sufficient for generation of electricity;

(b) if so, the estimated stock of coal in different coal mines at present in the country; and

(c) the time period for which the present stock is sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) The coal requirement of power houses are met from the current production and also from the available stocks. The estimated pithead stocks with Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. as on 31.12.98 were 27.32 million tonnes

(Provisional). The coal companies are fully geared up to meet the full demand of the power houses from the production and draw down of stocks. The existing estimated coal reserve of India is sufficient to meet the need of the power sector for more than a century.

[Translation]

Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

685. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to BIFR since its inception, till date;

(b) the State-wise number of cases disposed of by the Board, till April 30, 1998;

(c) the State-wise number of cases out of them recommended for revival and closure; and

(d) the number of recommendations accepted and the reasons for not accepting the remaining recommendations by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that upto 31.1.1999, 2474 number of cases has been registered under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

(b) and (c) The details of State-wise number of cases disposed, revival scheme approved and the cases recommended for winding up to the High Court by BIFR are attached as statement.

(d) The cases in which revival scheme is approved are monitored by BIFR. The cases where winding up is recommended by BIFR are dealt by the High Court under the provisions of Companies Act.

Statement*State-wise No. of Cases Registered, Revival Scheme approved and Recommended for Winding up*

S.No.	State/U.T.	Total Cases registered upto 31.1.1999	Total No. of Cases disposed of 30.4.1998	Revival Scheme approved by BIFR upto 30.4.1998	Winding up recommended by BIFR to High Court 30.4.1998
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	278	196	46	75
2.	Bihar	64	54	8	26
3.	Chandigarh	6	3	2	0
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	3	0	2
5.	Goa	9	6	2	0
6.	Gujarat	222	140	33	51
7.	Haryana	91	49	11	16
8.	Himachal Pradesh	41	33	7	13
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	6	2	4
10.	Kerala	68	60	19	14
11.	Karnataka	147	112	30	38

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135	85	20	40
13.	Maharashtra	417	261	75	75
14.	Manipur	2	2	0	1
15.	Meghalaya	4	0	0	0
16.	NCT of Delhi	46	9	2	2
17.	Nagaland	3	1	0	0
18.	Orissa	47	29	11	4
19.	Pondicherry	12	9	3	2
20.	Punjab	91	47	12	14
21.	Rajasthan	110	70	14	28
22.	Tamil Nadu	211	135	40	33
23.	Tripura	2	1	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	230	160	27	73
25.	West Bengal	215	145	33	60
26.	Assam	12	5	1	0
Total		2474	1621	398	571

Concession to the Export Oriented Units

686. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of trade out of the total import export trade carried out by the Export Oriented Industrial Units of the country during 1997-98;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by the said units during 1997-98; and

(c) whether these units are getting a lot of concessions from the Government on account of being export-oriented units and if so, the amount of concessions given to these units during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The percentage share of trade carried out by the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) was 4.51% of the total Import Export trade of the country during 1997-98.

(b) The BOUs earned foreign exchange of Rs. 10,122.70 crores during 1997-98.

(c) The EOUs are entitled to duty free import of capital goods and raw materials, exemption of excise duty on goods purchased from indigenous sources, tax exemptions and re-imbursment of Central Sales Tax paid on the goods procured locally. The incidence of these entitlements can not be quantified at any given point of time. However, this follows the broad principle of compensating through remission, suspension or reimbursement of taxes in case of exports.

[English]

Collaboration with MNCs

687. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
VAIDYA VISHNU DATT:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of Foreign Direct Investment cleared by the Government during the last six months, till date, company-wise, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of foreign industrialists who sought permission to set up industries in India after adoption of new liberalised policy;

(c) whether some multinational companies collaborated with Indian companies are trying to stop collaboration and start their own parent company in India;

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) A total number of 855 proposals, both financial and technical, involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 12867.03 crore have been approved by the Government during the last six months (*i.e.* July to Dec. 98). The details regarding origin/area of investment are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. No such case has been reported so far. However as per Press Note No. 18 (of 1998 series) foreign financial/technical collaborators with previous or existing Joint ventures in India can no longer access the Automatic Approval route for promoting new ventures (either partly or wholly owned) in the same or allied activity in which there has/or have been earlier ventures involving the same foreign collaborator.

Under the new dispensation such proposals are required to be considered and disposed of by FIPB by giving a reasoned decision taking into account the facts and circumstances of individual cases, including objections if any, raised by the previous/existing Indian partner of previous/existing joint ventures.

District Rural Industries Projects

688. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has decided to extend the Districts Rural Industries Project for seven more districts;

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

(c) the employment generated by the existing District Rural Industries Project implemented by NABARD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has been decided to extend the District Rural Industries Project (DRIP) to seven more districts with effect from 1st April 1999 for a period of five years.

(b) The selected districts are Akola (Maharashtra), Bijapur (Karnataka), Bargarh (Orissa), Kutch (Gujarat), Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) and Udaipur (Rajasthan).

(c) NABARD has reported that an estimated 1.63 lakh employment opportunities were created during the project period 1993-94 to 1997-98 in the five existing DRIP districts.

Change in the Design of Notes

689. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the common man because of the almost identical looking Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- notes;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to change the colour or design of either of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- notes; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been decided by the Government to make some changes in the colour scheme of new Rs. 500 note so as to make it more distinct from the new Rs. 100 note.

A revised colour scheme for the Rs. 500 notes is under preparation. Since note designing is an intricate job, it would take about a year for the Government to circulate Rs. 500 notes with a revised colour scheme.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Exporters

690. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Government to the exporters under the Duty Draw Back Scheme during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of the exporters, the products they exported and the countries to which this export was made;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment as to which extent this scheme has helped in the promotion of export from the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The amount provided by the Government to the exporters under the Duty Drawback Scheme during each of the last two years is as under:

1996-97	Rs. 2926.83 Crores
1997-98	Rs. 3660.95 Crores
1998-99 (upto Jan. 1999)	Rs. 3727.72 Crores

(b) The drawback rates are fixed on the basis of data provided by the respective Export Promotion Councils as well as individual exporters regarding duties of Customs and Central Excise suffered on the inputs/raw materials required to manufacture their export products. The drawback rates have been fixed for 753 categories of products. Out of these, the main sectors which are availing the duty drawback scheme are textiles, engineering, chemical, leather, plastics, electronics, metals and handicrafts. Duty Drawback is admissible for exports to any part of the world. However, our exports are primarily to the countries in North America, the European Union, West Asia and South-East Asia.

(c) and (d) The objective of draw-back scheme is to re-imburse to the exporters the duties of excise and customs which have been suffered on the inputs/raw materials used in the manufacture of the export products to enable exporters to be price competitive in export markets.

NALCO and BALCO

691. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employment generated by National Aluminium Company and Bharat Aluminium Company during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the annual profit earned by these companies in that plan period; and

(c) the projections made for employment generation and profit by these undertakings during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) During the Eighth Plan period 978 persons were given employment in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). In Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), no employment was generated during Eighth Plan period except for critical and specialised/statutory requirements.

(b) The net profit after tax earned by NALCO and BALCO in the Eighth Plan period was as under:—

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	NALCO	BALCO
1992-93	134.88	1.88
1993-94	156.72	15.27
1994-95	300.17	90.51
1995-96	535.26	163.33
1996-97	491.76	61.79
Total	1618.79	332.76

(c) NALCO has projected fresh employment of 2312 persons (taking into consideration the ongoing expansion projects of bauxite mines and alumina refinery at Damanjodi and expansion of the aluminum smelter and captive power plant at Angul), and a net profit (after tax) of Rs. 2359.19 crores during the Ninth Plan period. BALCO has no plans to employ additional manpower during the Ninth Plan period, as its manpower requirements would be met by redeployment of existing employees which will also take care of the implementation of the new cold rolling mill project. BALCO has projected a net profit of Rs. 397.07 crores (after tax) during the Ninth Plan period.

Foundry Industry

692. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Foundry Association is negotiating with the Government for withdrawal of red category label on the industry which bears its expansion;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for inclusion in the red category industries; and

(d) the name of countries which have not imposed such stringent pollution control norms on foundry industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir, the Government have not received any specific representation on the issue from the Indian Foundry Association.

(b) and (c) While no industry has been categorised as red industry by the Government, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 1994 has placed foundries (individuals) under Schedule-I list requiring environmental clearance from the Central Government.

(d) The Government has no information on the names of countries which have not imposed pollution control norms on foundry industry.

World Bank Loan to Andhra Pradesh for Power Projects

693. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has cleared \$ 1 billion loan for power projects to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other loans still being withheld by the World Bank;

(d) whether the World Bank has given any indication about the date by which these loans are likely to be cleared; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes. The Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Project (APSR) is being assisted by the World Bank through a series of Adaptable Lending Programme (APL) for a total support of US\$ 1 billion. The World Bank has recently approved the first adaptable programme loan of US\$ 210 million.

(c) The details of the loans which have been negotiated and not yet approved by the World Bank Board are:

Project	Amount (US\$ million)
1. Haryana State Highway Project	275
2. Gujarat State Highway Project	381
3. Power System Dev. Project-II	450
4. IREDA-II	135

(d) and (e) No. Does not arise.

Kurkunta Unit of CCI

694. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kurkunta unit of Cement Corporation of India in the undeveloped area of North Karnataka has stopped its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount of salary to be paid to the employees; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for its revival and for early payment of salary to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Production at Kurkunta Unit of Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has been temporarily suspended with effect from 1.11.98 due to operations becoming unviable on account of various factors. The total amount of salary and wages to be paid to the employees for December, 98 and January, 99 is Rs. 64 lakhs approx.

(c) CCI is a sick company and BIFR has already circulated a Draft Rehabilitation Scheme for the company which, *inter alia*, includes capital expenditure for revival of Kurkunta Plant. CCI has been facing liquidity problems which has led to delay in timely payment of salary and wages to the employees. Salary payment will be expedited by the Company as soon as the liquidity position improves.

Financial Assistance to Rubber Growers of Kerala

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for financial assistance from the Union Government for helping the rubber growers;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Losses in SAIL

696. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has suffered a net loss of Rs. 273.29 crore in the third quarter of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enable SAIL to earn profits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has suffered a net loss of Rs. 273.29 crores in the third quarter of current financial year.

(b) Main reasons for decline in profits include sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in the domestic market resulting in decline in

the net realisation from sales in the domestic market. Export prices have also declined in the international market etc.

While the benefits of modernisation would materialise in phases, SAIL had to absorb higher capital related cost (interest and depreciation) because of capitalization of modernization/capital schemes and also for maintaining a higher inventory level.

(c) SAIL is taking the following steps for improving the performance:—

- * Greater emphasis on cost control measures;
- * Fresh investment proposals are virtually on hold except; ongoing capital schemes and schemes relating to statutory requirement viz. safety, environment, etc.;
- * Introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees;
- * Improvement in techno-economic parameters;
- * Increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing;
- * Exploring new ways to bridge the resource gaps through business restructuring initiatives including closure of uneconomic units and having off non-core assets.

Government have taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry including SAIL and to overcome the present problems:—

- (i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCi&S) has launched a National Campaign.
- (ii) To reduce input costs for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content (2%), non-coking coal (ash content 12%), metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (28") has recently been waived.

(iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled Coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has recently been imposed.

(iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.

(v) A Steel Exporter's Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.

(vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms has been strongly recommended.

(vii) Government has set up an empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance the quality of Indian Steel.

Indian Intellectual Property Laws

697. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee of Experts to study the impact of final Act of Uruguay Round on Indian Intellectual Property Laws;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted any further amendments/recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Inter-Ministerial consultations are being held to consider measures necessary to fulfil India's obligations contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round.

Import of Raw Silk

698. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of raw silk including yarn imported during 1998;

(b) the name of the countries from whom silk was imported;

(c) whether import of raw silk is likely to continue during 1999 also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The total quantum of raw silk including yarn imported during 1998 (January 1998 to November, 1998) was 1794.2 tonnes (provisional) as per records of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S).

(b) As per DGCI&S records, the raw silk was imported mainly from China, Brazil, Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore, Korea RP, Uzbekistan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per present policy, in order to meet the demand of exporters, the Government has permitted the import of raw silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free raw silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition, in October, 1998 it has also been decided to allow import of Grade 2A and above Mulberry raw silk

under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the stipulation that the value of the surrendered SIL would be three times the value of the imported items.

Share Transfer Agent

699. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of certificates of registration, as category-II (Share Transfer Agent) given by SEBI (Delhi) during the last three years;

(b) the total number of cases rejected by the Board with the reasons of rejection thereof;

(c) whether some allegation of large scale corruption and nepotism has been reported in the SEBI (Delhi);

(d) if so, the action taken by the SEBI on these allegations; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the functioning and efficiency of SEBI (Delhi) Branch?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) SEBI has given the following details of registration of Category-II Share Transfer Agents by its Northern Regional Office:

Year	No. of Registration	No. of renewals	No. of cases Rejected
1995-96	10	0	17
1996-97	12	0	20
1997-98	8	6	8
1998-99 (Upto 24.2.99)	1	2	0

The rejections were made for non-compliance with the SEBI (Registrars to an issue and Share Transfer Agents) Rules and Regulations, 1993 by the applicants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) Improvement in the functioning of SEBI is a continuous process.

Unutilised Foreign Assistance

700. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Foreign aid is largely project tied and therefore, utilisation of the sanctioned aid for any project is spread over the project implementation period. As a result, there would be unutilised aid at any point of

time, reflecting aid in pipeline, which will be absorbed as project implementation takes place.

The State-wise and institution-wise details are given in the annexed Statement-I and Statement-II.

Slower than expected utilisation of foreign aid is due to fund constraints, procurement and contracting delays, delays in land acquisition and other project specific issues.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilisation are ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects (EAPs), release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as 100% additionally, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), portfolio rationalisation and setting up of Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

Statement-I

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	State	Undrawn Balance as on 31.1.99
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5306.30
2.	Assam	494.58
3.	Bihar	996.48
4.	Gujarat	1618.40
5.	Haryana	1041.45
6.	Himachal Pradesh	53.55
7.	Karnataka	2425.03

1	2	3
8.	Kerala	1128.27
9.	Madhya Pradesh	511.31
10.	Maharashtra	2717.67
11.	Manipur	143.31
12.	Meghalaya	63.42
13.	Orissa	3274.54
14.	Punjab	162.77
15.	Rajasthan	805.15
16.	Tamil Nadu	3698.83
17.	Uttar Pradesh	2079.18
18.	West Bengal	3307.92
19.	Multistates	4407.73
Total		34235.89

Statement II***Institution-wise Undrawn Balance (as on 31.1.1999)***

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Institution/Country	Undrawn Balance As on 31.1.99
1	2	3
1.	ADB	5438.27
2.	IBRD	13949.67
3.	IDA	17856.30
4.	IFAD	217.61
5.	OPEC	158.74
6.	AUSTRALIA	0.67
7.	BELGIUM	0.25
8.	FRANCE	638.51
9.	GERMANY	2555.86
10.	JAPAN	19514.15
11.	KUWAIT FUND	96.66
12.	NETHERLANDS	352.07

1	2	3
13.	SAUDI FUND	38.99
14.	SWITZERLAND	175.59
15.	CANADA	316.68
16.	DENMARK	740.87
17.	EEC GRANTS	2010.69
18.	SWEDEN	59.67
19.	NORWAY	68.66
20.	USA	1225.53
21.	UK	1554.12
TOTAL		66969.55

**Assistance to Industrial House by
Financial Institutions**

701. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public financial institutions like ICICI, and IDBI propose to finance the big private industrial houses to modernise their industries;

(b) if so, the industry-wise break up thereof:

(c) whether these industries are running into losses; and

(d) if so, the industry-wise break up thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and ICICI Limited extend financial assistance to industries including those belonging to private industrial houses of modernisation etc. provided the proposals satisfy viability and other norms and if the assistance is within the prudential exposure limits. Apart from this, decision in this regard is also based on the needs and benefits of modernisation.

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

Income/Expenditure of Income Tax Department

702. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred and the revenue earned by the Income Tax Department during 1996, 1997 and 1998, separately;

(b) whether the expenditure is much more than the revenue earned by this Department; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to minimise the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The details of revenue earned and expenditure incurred by the Income Tax Department during 1996, 1997 and 1998 is as follows:—

Fin. Year	Revenue earned (Rs. in crores)	Expenditure incurred
1995-96	33559	430.30
1996-97	38895	487.92
1997-98	48280	715.37

(b) No, Sir.

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

Devolution of Funds to State

703. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have asked for substantial increase in devolution to States from the combined pool of Central taxes to meet the development needs, particularly infrastructural and administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, whether this subject was discussed during the Eleventh Finance Commission meeting with the State Finance Ministers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the meeting of Finance Ministers of States with the Eleventh Finance Commission held on 2nd September, 1998, the State Governments asked for increase in the devolution to States from the Centres.

(c) It is for the Eleventh Finance Commission to consider the request of the State Governments while formulating its recommendations.

[English]

Duty on Imported Equipments

704. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether duty levied on imported equipments and materials used in power transmission and oil refineries is less than the duty levied on domestic manufacturing of the same products;

(b) if so, the amount of difference between these two duties;

(c) whether this difference will lead the Indian Industries on the verge of closure; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to save the indigenous industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Imported equipment and materials used in power transmission projects presently attract duty at 20% (Basic) plus special duty at 2% plus countervailing duty (CVD) at 10%. Specified items required for setting up of oil refinery is attract nil basic and nil special duty plus 10% CVD. Domestic manufacturers of similar products pay Central Excise duty on such products at varying rates depending upon the commodity, the general rate being 13%.

(c) and (d) The Tariff structure is determined keeping in view all relevant considerations including the interests of the domestic manufacturing industry as well as the user industry. There has been demand from domestic industry to abolish zero basic duty in customs duty structure. These representations are under examination.

Leasing out Mines to Non-Tribals in Tribal Areas

705. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to lease out mines to non-tribals in different tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mines in Dhar and Bhadwani districts of Madhya Pradesh where mining is going on;

(d) the number of mines out of these given on lease to tribals and non-tribals separately; and

(e) the number of illegal cases of mining brought to light in these districts and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) There is no provision in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 or Rules framed thereunder that relate to grant or prohibit the grant of mining lease to non-tribals in tribal areas.

(c) and (d) As per information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines there are 22 working mines for limestone in Dhar District and 11 working mines for calcite in Bhadwani Tehsil of Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh. Record of details of mines held by tribals and non-tribals is not maintained by the Central Government as mineral concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments.

(e) As per the scheme of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, the main responsibility for checking illegal mining rests with the State Governments. Central Government does not monitor illegal mining in the country.

[English]

Indo-Oman Trade Relations

706. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-Oman trade relations have been established; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the trade relations between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The areas of Indo-Oman bilateral trade relations include export of various items like rice, oil meals, meat and preparations, engineering goods, drug and pharmaceuticals, textiles etc. from India and import of certain items like fruits and nuts, dry dates, non-ferrous metals, crude oil etc. from Oman.

(b) These include holding of Joint Commission Meetings, participation in trade fairs & exhibitions, exchange of commercial information, exchange of delegation both at official & business level, enhancing competitiveness in manufacturing and ensuring product quality diversification of the export basket to include non-traditional items, reviewing trade exchanges on a continuous basis. These measures help in correcting imbalances and in resolving other trade related issues, thereby boosting trade.

Demand and Production of Salt

707. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of salt required and its production in the country annually, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase salt production in coastal States;

(c) the details of assistance provided in this regard by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The State-wise break up of the annual requirement of salt both for edible and industrial use in the country is given in the attached statement-I. The annual production of salt, State-wise, is given in the attached statement-II.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government to increase salt production in the country.

- No objection certificates are being issued for allotment of fresh lands for salt manufacture by the State Governments.
- Technical guidelines have been provided for laying out salt works on scientific lines with latest know-how.
- For increasing demand of quality salt for edible, industrial purpose and exports, salt refineries are being permitted in the States.
- In order to ensure that salt works restart their production after being affected by floods, rehabilitation measures are taken by way of financial assistance to affected salt works.

(c) and (d) Assistance out of salt cess proceeds is given for various labour welfare and development works. These include provision of medical facilities, drinking water facilities, educational facilities, rest sheds and creches at work places and recreational facilities for labourers and their families. Details of assistance provided for labour welfare and development works in the last three years

are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	94.4
1996-97	72.7
1997-98	69.0

The State-wise break-up is given in the attached statement-III. Ex-gratia assistance is also granted to salt manufacturers whose salt works are affected by natural calamities such as floods, rains etc. Details of such assistance granted in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	27.0
1996-97	39.5
1997-98	38.0

An amount of Rs. 3.65 crores has been granted during the current financial year 1998-99 as ex-gratia assistance to salt manufacturers whose works were affected by cyclone in June, 1998 in Gujarat.

Statement-I

Annual Requirement of salt for domestic use

S.No.	State	Domestic requirement of salt		
		Edible use	Industrial use	Total
1	2	3	4	5
STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	474	160	634
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	—	6

000' tonnes

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	160	30	190
4.	Bihar	616	75	691
5.	Delhi	67	45	112
6.	Goa	8	—	8
7.	Gujarat	295	3840	4135
8.	Haryana	117	35	152
9.	Himachal Pradesh	37	3	40
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	55	—	55
11.	Karnataka	321	95	416
12.	Kerala	207	70	277
13.	Madhya Pradesh	472	270	742
14.	Maharashtra	563	250	813
15.	Manipur	13	—	13
16.	Meghalaya	13	—	13
17.	Mizoram	5	—	5
18.	Nagaland	9	—	9

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Orissa	226	37	263
20.	Punjab	144	165	309
21.	Rajasthan	314	260	574
22.	Sikkim	3	—	3
23.	Tamil Nadu	398	420	818
24.	Tripura	20	—	20
25.	Uttar Pradesh	992	145	1137
26.	West Bengal	485	35	520
	U.T.s			
27.	Andaman Nicobar	2	—	2
28.	Chandigarh	5	—	5
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	1
30.	Daman & Diu	1	—	1
31.	Lakshadweep	1	—	1
32.	Pondicherry	6	30	36
	Total	6036	5965	12001

Statement-II**State-wise Salt Production**

S.No.	State	Salt Production			
		1995	1996	1997	1998
1.	Rajasthan	1526.2	1131.4	1031.6	1120.5
2.	Gujarat	8824.4	10403.5	10096.2	8716.8
3.	Maharashtra	224.3	245.9	200.6	218.7
4.	Karnataka	17.2	18.9	14.0	14.1
5.	Goa	1.7	2.5	2.6	0.2
6.	Tamil Nadu	1738.8	2283.6	2532.9	1565.6
7.	Andhra Pradesh	139.9	276.4	273.4	238.2
8.	Orissa	26.5	47.0	63.8	38.4
9.	West Bengal	19.3	21.7	5.6	6.8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.9	2.5	3.1	2.4
11.	Daman & Diu	23.8	32.7	27.3	42.7
Total		12544.0	14466.1	14251.1	11964.4

Statement-III**State-wise Details of Assistance provided out of Salt Cess Proceeds**

(In Lakh Rupees)

S.No.	State	Year			
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Gujarat	10.71	17.95	14.15	21.03
2.	Tamil Nadu	30.77	31.91	30.28	15.65
3.	Rajasthan	5.80	9.36	6.05	0.93
4.	Andhra Pradesh	9.51	13.11	7.59	7.50
5.	West Bengal	6.73	6.54	0.49	5.48
6.	Maharashtra	7.56	8.03	7.26	12.16
7.	Orissa	2.08	7.45	6.88	5.41
8.	Karnataka	0.03	—	—	—
Total		73.19	94.35	72.70	68.16

**SCs/STs in Board of Directors of Banks/
Financial Institutions**

708. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to nominate the representatives of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the Board of Directors of all Public Banks/Financial Institutions so that flexibility could be brought while taking

policy decision in regard to give loans to the weaker sections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b)

The appointment of Directors on the boards of public sector banks and financial institutions is made in accordance with the criteria and procedures prescribed in the relevant statute. These statutes do not specifically provide for appointment of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes on the boards of concerned public sector banks and financial institutions. However, Government attempts to reflect the plurality of Indian society in the composition of bank boards.

Tax Payer

709. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD);
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of tax payers have increased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of tax-payers during last three years, separately;

(c) the estimated number of tax-payers during the current year;

(d) whether the outstanding amount of tax on tax-payers being constantly increasing;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in this regard; and

(f) the estimated amount of outstanding taxes during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The information is as under:

Year	Effective number of Assesseees (in lakh)	Increase in number of Assesseees (in lakh)
1995-96	106.64	3.79
1996-97	116.43	9.79
1997-98	131.67	15.24
1-4-98—31-10-98	152.69*	—
Upto March, 99 (estimated)	160.00	—

* Figures are provisional.

(d) to (f) The year-wise figures of collection and arrears are as under:

Year	Collection (Rs. in crores)	Outstanding arrears at the end of the year (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	33557.63	28970
1996-97	38893.97	33585
1997-98	38561.82	45073*
1998-99	47480 **	N.A.

* Figures are provisional.

** Budget Target.

New Mines

710. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of STEEL & MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new mines where work has been started during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(b) the name of the deposits of different materials found therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The details of new mines, State-wise opened in the current financial year 1998-99 (as available with Indian Bureau of Mines on 22.2.1999) is given in the attached statement.

(b) The name of minerals which are found in these mines are bauxite, calcite, chalk, chinaclay, diaspore, dolomite, felspar, firclay, gypsum, laterite, limestone, manganese ore magnesite, mica, moulding sand, ochre, pyrophyllite, quartz, qartzite, selenite, sillica sand, soapstone/steatite, yellow ochre and white shale.

Statement

State-wise details of new mines opened in the current financial year 1998-99 (as on 22.2.99)

State	No. of Mines
Andhra Pradesh	19
Gujarat	8
Karnataka	2
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	21
Maharashtra	1
Rajasthan	10
Tamil Nadu	15
Total	78

Import of Rubber

711. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the projected production and demand of raw rubber in the country during 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government propose to import rubber during 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The production and demand of Natural Rubber in the country during 1999-2000 is estimated at 6,27,000 MT and 6,24,000 MT respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Labourers of Mills

712. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers of the public and private sector mills are not made permanent because they are treated as absent from duty after every three months;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to discontinue such practice; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) As far as public sector textile mills are concerned, the practice of treating the workers as absent from duty after three months is not prevalent. No complaints have been received from the labourers of private sector mills alleging that they are not made permanent because they are treated as absent from duty after three months.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

State Financial Corporations

713. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are taking any steps to have financial restructuring of 'C' Category State Financial Corporation, as mostly these State Financial Corporations have been instrumental in promoting small and medium industries in the States;

(b) whether proposals of many weak State Financial Corporations for financial restructuring are lying with IDBI for decision of recapitalisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the decision on these proposals is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 is proposed to be amended to enable the State Financial Corporations (SFCs) to enlarge their shareholder base, provide SFCs with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility and consequent ability to respond to the needs of changing financial system. These proposed amendments would enable SFCs to undertake financial restructuring, if required.

(b) to (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that no workable proposal from any of the SFCs is lying pending with IDBI for decision of recapitalisation.

[*Translation*]

Revival of Katihar Jute Mill

714. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 3398 dated December 18, 1998 regarding jute mill at Katihar and state the reasons for not reviving the Katihar Jute Mill which is lying closed since December, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Government of India had constituted a study group in 1984 for examining the proposal of vesting

Katihar Jute Mill Ltd. in NJMC. The study group rejected the proposal as it was not economically viable. Subsequently a meeting was held in January, 1991 and it was decided that NJMC would take lease of this unit and the State Govt., would declare KJML as a relief undertaking, waive electricity dues, freeze prior wage liability, arrear of employers dues to be paid in instalment from sales tax and other subsidies allowed by the State Govt. However, since the Govt. of Bihar have not spelt out the package of relief no further action could be taken by NJMC in the matter.

[*English*]

Training Centres of C.S.B.

715. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Training Centres of Central Silk Board are functioning in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that Chamarajanagar is one of the places in Karnataka where sericulture is the main occupation;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up Training Centre of Central Silk Board in Chamarajanagar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. To cater to the training needs of this area the Government of Karnataka has a full-fledged Sericulture Training School at Kuderu in Chamarajanagar district. In addition, the Central Silk Board Regional Sericulture Research Station at Chamarajanagar has been conducting adhoc training courses like Capsule Training Course, Refresher Training Course etc. to train the staff from Department of Sericulture in Karnataka and farmers in recently developed technologies. In view of the above, the Central Government does not propose to set up a separate training centre of Central Silk Board in Chamarajanagar.

Statement

State	Location	
	Mulberry	Non-mulberry
1	2	3
1. Karnataka		
Main Research Institute	Mysore	
Regional Research Stations	Kodathi Chamarajanagar	
Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Dharwar	
Sericulture Training School	Gulbarga	
2. Andhra Pradesh		
Regional Research Station	Ananthapur	
Regional Tasar Research Station		Chinoor
Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Hindupur	
3. Tamil Nadu		
Regional Sericulture Research Station	Salem	
	Coonoor	
Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Dharmapuri	
4. West Bengal		
Main Research Institute	Berhampore	
Regional Sericulture Research Station	Kalimpong	Bakreswar
Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Berhampore Malda Panchgram Ramnagar	
5. Jammu & Kashmir		
Main Research Institute	Pampore	
Regional Sericulture Research Station	Jammu	
Regional Tasar Research Station		Batote
Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Jammu	
Sericulture Training School	Udhampur	

	1	2	3
6.	Orissa		
	Regional Sericulture Research Station	Koraput	
	Regional Tasar Research Station		Baripada
	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Naupatana	Fakirpur
	Sericulture Training School	Koraput	
7.	Bihar		
	Main Research Institute		Ranchi
	Regional Sericulture Research Station	Ranchi	
	Regional Tasar Research Station		Dumka
	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre		Bhagalpur
	Sericulture Training School	Ranchi Kishanganj	
8.	Uttar Pradesh		
	Regional Sericulture Research Station	Sahaspur	
	Regional Tasar Research Station		Bhimtal
	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Dehradun	Varanasi
	Sericulture Training School	Dehradun	
9.	Assam		
	Central Muga Research & Trg. Institute		Ladoigarh (Jorhat)
	Regional Sericulture Research Station	Jorhat	
	Regional Muga Research Station		Boko
	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Sualkuchi	
	Sericulture Training School	Jorhat	
10.	Maharashtra		
	Regional Tasar Research Station		Bhandara
	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre	Akola	Bhandara
	Sericulture Training School	Shirala	
11.	Madhya Pradesh		
	Regional Tasar Research Station		Jagadalpur
	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre		Champa
	Sericulture Training School	Bademaranga	

	1	2	3
12. Kerala	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre Sericulture Training School	Palakkad Palakkad	
13. Rajasthan	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre Sericulture Training School	Dadok Fatehnagar	
14. Gujarat	Demonstration-cum-Training Centre Sericulture Training School	Valod Rajipura	
15. Manipur	Regional Tasar Research Station		Imphal
16. Himachal Pradesh	Sericulture Training School	Nallagarh	
17. Meghalaya	Central Eri Research Institute		Mehdipather

Indo-Russia Trade Agreement

716. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BUBURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed that 10 percent of the annual rouble-rupee debt are to be used by Moscow to invest in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which Indian and Russian trade is likely to be enhanced thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) There is an in-principle understanding between India and Russia that a part of Rupee Repayment Funds owed by India to Russia can be used for Russian investment in joint ventures in India. The details in this regard, including the areas for such investment, and related modalities are under discussion between the two governments. Operationalisation of such an agreement for investment can have a positive impact on the overall bilateral trade between the two countries.

Steps to Prevent Money Laundering

717. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India has suggested for setting up of a six member commission to advise the Government on the matters relating to attachment of property of drug money launderers so that misuse of authority by enforcement officers is avoided;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include necessary safeguards in the proposed legislation to prevent money laundering *i.e.* Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1998 are under consideration of the Standing Committee on Finance, whose report is awaited.

(c) In view of (b), does not arise.

[*Translation*]

B.S.P. With Nexus

718. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether low price steel is being purchased in Bokaro Steel Plant with the nexus of outsiders because of which the plant is suffering losses amounting to crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) No such instance wherein low price steel was being purchased from Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) with the nexus of outsiders due to which the plant suffered losses of crores has been brought to the notice of the Government.

[*English*]

Pay Package for Scientists of C.S.B.

719. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Textiles has recommended pay package for the scientists of Central Silk Board at par with other R&D organisations under Government of India for approval of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this package is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue regarding revision of pay scales to scientific personnel on Central Silk Board (CSB) has been under consideration with the Government of India for sometime. The previous proposal of the Ministry of Textiles was to bring the pay scales of these scientists at par with ICAR. This was, however, not accepted by the Government (Ministry of Finance) on account of the fact that the CSB does not have the status of a 'Deemed University'. Subsequently after discussions with the Association members the Ministry has recommended that keeping in view the specialised functions and responsibilities of the scientists, their pay scales should be equated with similarly placed employees in other R&D organisations such as CSIR and Deptt. of Science and Technology. This proposal is presently under consideration.

Rehabilitation of Unstable Localities in Eastern Coalfield Ltd.

720. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether four unstable localities in Eastern Coalfield Limited were identified for rehabilitation on known stable sites during 1997-98;

(b) if so, whether around 1123 houses were reported to be affected and the cost was estimated at Rs. 32.52 crores towards rehabilitation; and

(c) if so, the amount has been sanctioned so far and the number of people rehabilitated so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As reported by Coal India Ltd., a sum of Rs. 1 crore has been sanctioned. The number of people rehabilitated so far is Nil.

Export of Coffee

721. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coffee exported during the period from April 1998 to September, 1998; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) During the period from April, 1998 to September, 1998, a total quantity of 134,358 MT of Coffee has been exported and foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 1137 crores has been earned therefrom. The figures are subject to upward revision.

Suggestions By FIEO

722. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has submitted a Memorandum to the Government suggesting several measures to strengthen the base and content of hundred per cent export oriented units and units set up in the export processing zones;

(b) if so, the details of the measures to be suggested by FIEO; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Suggestions have been received, including from Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO), for change/modifications in Chapter 9 of export-import Policy pertaining to Export Oriented Units and Units in Export Processing Zones.

(b) Suggestions of FIEO include exclusion of value of capital goods imported on loan basis for the purpose of evaluation of the performance, simplification of subcontracting procedure, automatic facility to sell upto 5% of scrap in the domestic market, removal of bunching restrictions on domestic sale and utilisation of capital goods for manufacture of products for local market.

(c) These suggestions would be kept in view while formulating proposals for amendment of the Export-Import Policy.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Latex Limited

723. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the request of Government of Kerala to drop the idea of the proposed disinvestment move of Hindustan Latex Limited; and

(b) if so, the present stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The request of the Government of Kerala to drop the idea of disinvestment in HLL was considered in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare not agreed to.

Spinning Mills of Orissa

724. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills in Orissa alongwith the location thereof;

(b) whether some spinning mills have been privatised;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith their names;

(d) whether the workers of those mills are allowed to work in these mills; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) There are 15 Cotton/man-made fibre spinning mills in the State of Orissa as on 31st January, 1999. These mills are located in Sundergarh, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, Jharsuguda, Ganjam, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Subarnapur, Balasore and Chowdwar.

(b) and (c) One spinning mill namely, Gangapur Weaving Co-operative mill was privatised in July, 1997. The new name of the mill is M/s. Ashoka Synthetics Ltd., Sundergarh.

(d) and (e) The matter comes under the purview of the State Government from where the details are requisitioned.

Export from North Eastern States

725. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major items exported from North-Eastern States, particularly from Assam during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce maintains export data for the country as a whole and not State-wise. However, the major items exported from North Eastern States, including Assam, are lime-stone, coal, oranges, ginger, onion, citrus, fruits, rice, stone boulders and stones, garlic, dry chilly, pears.

Penalty on Private Banks

726. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether penalty of lacs of rupee has been imposed by RBI on many of the private sector banks;

(b) if so, the number of times the banks have given penalty in the last three years, bank-wise; and

(c) the reasons for imposing those penalties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Based on the information furnished by RBI, a statement indicating the names of the private sector banks, the number of occasions on which penalty was imposed on them and the reasons for imposition of penalties is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Sr.No.	Name of the Bank	Number of Occasions	Reasons
1	2	3	4
1.	The Indus Ind. Bank Ltd.	Once Once	(i) Default in maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio. (ii) For Violation of RBI Guidelines in the matter of Issue of Stockinvest.
2.	The Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	Once	Default in maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio.
3.	The Bank of Madura Ltd.	Twice Once	Default in Statutory Liquidity Ratio. For Violation of RBI Guidelins in the matter of Issue of Stockinvest.
4.	The Nainital Bank Ltd.	Once	Default in maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio.

1	2	3	4
5.	The Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	Once	Default in maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio.
6.	The HDFC Bank Ltd.	Once	Default in maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio.
7.	The Sangli Bank Ltd.	Once	For violation of RBI guidelines, inflating the profit by levying service charges on borrowal accounts, taking into account amount as income which had not actually accrued for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95.
8.	Sikkim Bank Ltd.	Fifteen	Default in maintenance of Statutory Liquidity Ratio.
9.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	Once	(a) Discounting of accomodation Bills (b) Packing credit (c) Advances against shares (d) Cheque purchase.
		Once	For violation of RBI Guidelines in the matter of Issue of Stockinvest.
10.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	Once	(a) Discounting of bills for non-customers (under LC) and bill business brought by NBFCs. (b) Sanction of Bridge loan (c) Advance against shares.
		Once	For violation of RBI Guidelines in the matter of Issue of Stockinvest.
11.	United Western Bank Ltd.	Once	(a) Discounting of bills for Non-customers (under LC) (b) Irregular transactions-financing of bank's for equity issue of the bank. (c) Diversion of cash credit.

1	2	3	4
12.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Once	Stockinvest.
13.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	Once	Violation of RBI instructions on the operation of Stock-Invest (SI) scheme such as Issue of SIs against third Party deposits, issue of SIs against inadequate deposits and poor maintenance of Relative records.

[*Translation*]

**Shortage Noticed in Coal Stock
during Inspection**

727. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal mines under various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, in which shortage has been found in the stock against the production at the time of enquiry during the last two years, till December, 1998, indicating the quantum of shortage noticed colliery-wise;

(b) the reasons for shortage in the stock;

(c) the officers found responsible for such shortage; and

(d) the action taken against them alongwith the number against whom the departmental enquiry have been initiated and the number against whom the cases have been registered with the police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) conducts annual physical verification of coal stocks centrally at the close of the financial year in its mines and also through independent agencies. The list of mines

where such shortages were noticed during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in attached statement.

(b) The reasons for stock shortages are reported as under:

(i) Reporting of production in excess of what was actually produced.

(ii) Not providing adequate discount in the reported production for the mixed stones raised with coal.

(iii) Inadequate/Improper assessment of physical stock.

(iv) Deterioration in stock.

(v) Theft/pilferage.

(vi) Incorrect assessment due to heavy stock built up.

(c) The Managers, agents and the General Managers of the Colliery during the relevant period have been held prima facie responsible for the shortage.

(d) In the case of shortage as on 1.4.97, departmental proceedings were taken up against 72 persons and most of the cases are at the conclusion stage. In so far as shortage as on 1.4.98 are concerned, charge-sheets have been issued to the concerned 31 officers.

Statement*Mine-wise Stock Shortage in Coal India Limited (Above 5% and 1000 Tonne)*

ECL		1996-97			1997-98
S.No.	Mine	Shortage (Te)	S.No.	Mine	Shortage (Te)
1.	Manderboni	3754	1.	Madhaipur	4753
2.	Gopinathpur	11723	2.	New Kenda	3016
3.	Dalurband	5671	3.	Ardhagram	17131
4.	Kapasara	2612	4.	Dhemo Main Pit	5438
5.	S S Pur	5165	5.	Dhemo Main Inc.	3253
6.	Cl Jambad	6416	6.	Kapasara	2870
7.	Jachipur	5556	Total		36461
8.	K K OCP	98988			
9.	Ratibati Project	3247			
10.	Chapui Khas	1767			
11.	West Kenda OCP	33000			
12.	New Kenda	3787			
13.	Amritnagar	19896			
14.	Kuardih	8131			
15.	Tirath	8247			
16.	Bhanora	3032			
17.	Bhanora W.B.	3991			
18.	Kalidaspur	11305			
19.	Ardhagram	67827			
20.	Ghusick	3333			
21.	Madhaipur	7115			
Total		314563			

BCCL			1996-97			1997-98		
S.No.	Mine	Shortage (Te)	S.No.	Mine	Shortage (Te)	S.No.	Mine	Shortage (Te)
1.	East Katras	5092	1.	N. Tisra UG	18012			
2.	Kustore	5134	2.	Jeenagorah	21484			
3.	Ghanoodih	316611	3.	Tetulmari	59594			
4.	GOCP	68026	4.	W. Mudidih	153566			
5.	Maheshpur	8021	5.	Ramkanali	101960			
6.	Jogidih	21539	6.	S Bansjora	25382			
7.	Ballihari	61500	7.	Ballihari	5603			
Total		485973	Total		385601			
CCL			1996-97			1997-98		
1.	Lapanga	5258	NIL					

[English]

Funds from World Bank and Other International Agencies

728. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of funds from World Bank, IMF and other international financial institutions has slowed down considerably due to restrictive pressure exerted by developed countries on these institutions recently;

(b) if so, the details of anticipated credit from these institutions for the current year vis-a-vis actual funds released for ongoing and new projects;

(c) the details of projects affected as a result of restrictive policies; and

(d) the details of steps taken under consideration to make available funds for execution of ongoing and new projects from alternate sources of financing?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The impact on the disbursements of the ongoing projects funded by World Bank and ADB has been minimal. During 1998-99, disbursement in respect of World Bank Projects and ADB Projects upto 31.1.1999 has been Rs. 3605.36 crore and Rs. 2354.54 crore respectively.

After May 1998, G-8 countries had adopted a collectivised approach to work for postponement of all loans by World Bank and other international financial institutions to India meant for non-basic human needs. Since then World Bank has approved 6 projects in "basic human needs" for a total assistance of US\$ 1399.60

million. Four projects worth US\$ 1236 million, which were negotiated earlier and were ready for Board presentation have not been brought before the Board because G-8 resolution restricts support to basic human needs projects. However, World Bank Board has recently approved AP Power Restructuring loan for US\$ 210 million, which is the 1st case approval under non-basic human needs category after May 1998. Four projects worth US\$ 425 million under basic human needs definition are likely to be negotiated during the current fiscal year. ADB have approved a loan of US\$ 250 million for the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project. A loan of US\$ 180 million for the project, Surat Manor Tollway, has also been negotiated with the ADB. Loan of US\$ 1100 million for four other projects, viz. Gujarat Power Sector Development, Power Transmission Improvement, Railway Sector Loan and M.P. Public Resources Management, is being processed.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Employment to those whose Land Acquired for PSU Projects in Maharashtra

729. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to give jobs to those persons whose land has been acquired for public sector undertaking projects in Raigarh district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such affected families provided jobs so far; and

(d) the time by which all such families are likely to be provided jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Incentive to Government Employees for Family Planning

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

(a) whether the special incentive in form of giving an extra increment to Government employees for going for family planning has been revised as per the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether the payment to the Government servant is being made as per the revised increment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Rule 7(C) of the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1997 provides *inter-alia* that employees who are in receipt of certain additions to pay in the existing scale such as personal pay for promoting small family norms and in whose case these have been replaced in the revised scale with corresponding allowance/pay at the same rate or at a different rate, the allowance at the new rate as recommended shall be drawn in addition to the pay in the revised scale of pay. Based on the provisions in the statutory rules, some of the Ministries and Departments have authorised the increment admissible as personal pay for promoting small family norms at the lowest rate applicable in the revised scales of pay recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission and accepted by the Government. In the context of representations received that certain Ministries and Departments have not adopted a similar course of action, the question of issuing appropriate clarificatory orders is under consideration.

[English]

Import of Soyabean

731. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import Soyabeans;

(b) if so, the names of the countries;

(c) the quantity to be imported and the import price thereof;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any study about the likely hazards of such imports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Soyabean in split & cracked form has been made freely importable with effect

from 15th October, 1998. Hence, the question of Government importing Soyabean does not arise.

(d) and (e) Although no recent study has been conducted by the Government about the likely hazards, import of soyabean in split and cracked form is subject to plant quarantine conditions.

Restructuring of IFCI

732. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consultancy Organisation has made certain recommendations regarding restructuring of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI);

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the said Organisation;

(c) whether in accordance with the recommendations, the main regional offices of IFCI are going to be closed; and

(d) if so, the details of such offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) had commissioned Consultants M/s. Arthur Anderson & Associates, in 1995 to study competitive repositioning of IFCI, covering important areas such as current business, strategy for new business, business process re-engineering and organisational review. Major recommendations of the consultants *interalia* included harnessing organisational strengths by concentrating on continuous improvement of core competence, focussed lending in some specific areas, entry in commercial banking, re-engineering various business processes to improve efficiency and speed through elimination of non-value added activities, restructuring Human Resources Policy in the areas of recruitment, training and development.

(c) There was neither any recommendations by the consultants nor any proposal to close any of the regional offices of IFCI. However, as part of restructuring 11 offices

of IFCI have been designated as Regional Offices which are functioning as full-fledged service centres. Remaining offices continue to attend crucial functions such as marketing, Business Development and Customer contacts etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Anti-Dumping duty by European Iron and Ore Council

733. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Iron and Ore Council has decided to impose Anti-Dumping duty on Indian Steel Exported to Member countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) This Ministry is not aware of any decision taken by the European Iron and Ore Council to impose Anti-Dumping Duty on Indian Steel Exported to Member countries. However, Anti-Dumping proceedings have been initiated by the European Commission against the following items originating from India:

- Stainless Steel Fasteners and parts
- Stainless Steel Bright Bars
- Steel Stranded Ropes and Cables
- Stainless Steel Fine Wire (with a diameter of 1 mm or more)
- Hot Rolled Coils/Flat Rolled products of Iron or non-alloy steel.

The European Commission/Council has so far imposed following Anti-Dumping duties on the Indian Steel product mentioned below:—

Name of the Product	Duty	Date from which imposed
Stainless Steel Fasteners and parts	Definitive duty ranging from 11.2% to 54% (against the individual Indian exporters)	21.02.1998
Steel Stranded Ropes and Cables	Provisional duty ranging from 39.8% to 40.2%.	19.02.99
Stainless Steel Bright Bars	Earlier in May, 1998, the provisional duties were proposed by the European Commission. However, the European Council, in November 1998, decided not to impose anti-dumping duties on stainless steel bright bars.	

The anti-dumping cases have been initiated against specific Indian companies, which have undertaken the legal defence. The Government has, through the Engineering Export Promotion Council, and otherwise extended necessary assistance to the Indian industry. The Government has also raised the issue with the Member-Countries of EU at diplomatic level.

[Translation]

Funds for Panchayati Raj

734. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 225 crores per year for Panchayati Raj in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the election process got obstructed in Bihar due to the Panchayati Raj Act being declared as ultra vires by the High Court though more than fifty crore rupees have already been spent on the ballot boxes for the elections under that head;

(c) if so, the justification for stalling the release of funds for Panchayati Raj as per the recommendations of the Commission;

(d) whether Government intend to release immediately the said funds to the State while considering all these things; and

(e) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 126.8 crores per year during 1996-2000 for Panchayati Raj Institutions in Bihar. The Patna High Court has struck down certain provisions of Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1993 relating to reservation of seats for backward classes. The Government of Bihar has filed a SLP in the Supreme Court. As grant recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission is part of a larger Constitutional scheme of devolution of functions and responsibilities from the State to local bodies with mandatory elections so that they function as effective units of local self Government it has been stipulated in the guidelines that the grant may be given only in respect of elected local bodies wherever such elections are mandatory under the Constitution. It is not possible to

release funds for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) of the State until elections of PRIs are held.

[*English*]

Circulation of Bhutanese Currency

735. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhutanese currency notes are in circulation in some States, particularly in lower Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government intend to take to check the circulation of foreign currency?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Strike by Bank Employees

736. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank employees were on country wide strike on January 12, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith their main demands;

(c) the stand of the Government in regard to their demands; and

(d) the total loss suffered by the financial market on account of this strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) A large number of employees of public sector banks observed one day's strike on 12th January, 1999 demanding expeditious wage settlement.

(c) Wage settlement in banking industry is done through the process of negotiations between Indian Banks' Association (IBA), representing the bank management and representatives of workmen unions/officers associations. Eight rounds of negotiations have taken place so far. IBA and unions/associations are expected to reach an amicable settlement through negotiations.

(d) Strikes in banking industry do cause inconvenience to the public and financial loss to trade and industry as the business cannot be transacted and clearing houses do not function on the day of strike. However, it is not possible to quantify the loss on this account.

[*English*]

Production of Textiles

737. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Textiles in the country has declined this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for this decline; and

(d) the efforts made/being made by the Government to increase the production in consonance with its demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The production of Yarn (including filament yarn) and fabrics has been 2973 million Kgs. and 36896 million sq. meters respectively in 1997-98. During April-November, 1998, the production of yarn and fabrics has been marginally lower at 2420 million Kgs. and 23806 million sq. meters as against 2506 million Kgs. and 24715 million sq. meters respectively in April-November, 1997.

(d) The Government have set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to review and evaluate the existing Textile Policy and

suggest necessary changes for effecting quantitative and qualitative improvement in production

Smuggled Ball Bearings

738. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:
SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a very large quantity of smuggled ball bearings from neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh are flooding the Indian market, especially in eastern and northern region, causing revenue losses to the Government;

(b) whether the seizures of illegal ball bearings across Indo-Nepal border every year is of a fraction of the total inflow; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The intelligence and available reports do indicate ball bearings as one of the items being smuggled into the country mainly from Nepal the goods enter illegally across the vast Indo-Nepal border and get marketed in the eastern and the northern regions of the country.

(b) Seizures of smuggled bearings of considerable value are effected by Customs as a result of its anti-smuggling measures every year. Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to give the exact quantum of illegal ball bearings which enter into country across Indo-Nepal border and the percentage thereof which is seized.

(c) All attempts are being made and measures taken by the field formations under the Department of Revenue including its Revenue Intelligence Agency to detect, prevent and minimise smuggling of ball bearings into the

country. Certain changes effected in the new Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit, and greater vigil by the Preventive and Intelligence Agencies of the Department of Revenue, specially on the Indo-Nepal border in coordination with the State Police and other concerned authorities are also expected to help in this regard.

Production of Mini-Steel Plants

739. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity and the annual steel production of mini-steel plants in the country during the last three years, capacity-wise and State-wise:

(b) whether production of steel by the mini-steel plants is well below their capacity;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) State-wise details of capacity & production of electric arc furnace based steel plants are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The production of steel by these plants is below their aggregate capacity due to various reasons such as high power tariffs, rising input costs, technological constraints etc. The recent slow-down in demand for steel has further contributed to less than full capacity utilisation.

(d) To reduce raw materials cost, Government has recently waived special import duty on several items such as non-coking coal, ferro nickel, charge nickel, nickel oxide sinter, low silica lime-stone, graphite electrodes etc. Concerned State Governments have also been requested to consider providing uninterrupted power supply and rationalise power tariffs. Besides, increased investment on infrastructural projects being facilitated by the Government is expected to boost the demand for steel which in turn will positively impact capacity utilisation of the steel producing units.

Statement

(in tonnes)

State/Union Territory	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	282800	4659	282800	9551	282800	2441
Assam	27000	—	27000	—	27000	—
Bihar	287000	145468	287000	200965	287000	127200
Chandigarh	40000	35297	40000	25852	40000	24136
Delhi	23000	—	23000	—	23000	—
Goa	150000	31194	150000	1170929	150000	40222
Gujarat	2210000	43992	2221000	84986	2221000	1544218
Haryana	479500	104051	479500	159090	479500	199490
Himachal Pradesh	166000	42380	166000	54731	166000	31451
Jammu & Kashmir	36000	27501	36000	51132	36000	26787
Karnataka	506000	131371	506000	110000	506000	40867
Kerala	50000	4210	50000	14286	50000	17295
Madhya Pradesh	1135500	167391	1135500	166085	1135500	63598

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	2467600	760178	2467600	1276623	2467600	880427
Orissa	53000	23336	53000	22563	53000	23972
Pondicherry	197000	18763	197000	48639	197000	34330
Punjab	416500	27635	416500	317062	416500	288163
Rajasthan	185200	40310	185200	37807	185200	15418
Tamil Nadu	367000	53694	367000	106588	367000	30401
Uttar Pradesh	779800	50391	779800	100713	779800	60384
West Bengal	573460	76136	573460	59451	573460	69950

[Translation]

Industrialization in Bihar

740. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY:
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details and manner in which the Union Government are supporting the efforts of the Government of Bihar being made for the industrialization of the State, particularly in no industry districts and blocks of the State;

(b) whether any funds have been earmarked to the State for the said purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) With a view to promoting industrialization of backward areas in the country, Ministry

of Industry has been operating the Growth Centres Scheme, under which 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed at an estimated project cost of about Rs. 25-30 crores per centre. These growth centres are to be endowed with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication and banking, enabling them to attract entrepreneurs. Each of the approved growth centres is eligible for Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores. The State of Bihar has been allotted 6 growth centres and all of them have been approved by the Government of India for implementation by the State Government. A total Central assistance of Rs. 7.00 crore has already been provided to them. Release of Central assistance depends upon both the physical and financial progress achieved by the State Government in the implementation of the growth centres.

In addition to the above a number of Plan Schemes for development of small industries are also being implemented by the Government of India. The important ones are Prime Minister's Rojagar Yojana, Tool Rooms and Training Centres, Process-cum-Product Development Centres, Entrepreneurial Development Programme, Management Training Programme, Export Promotion,

Ancillarisation. Sub-Contracting Exchanges and Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Schemes. These Schemes are being implemented across the country. The State of Bihar would also be benefited by these Schemes along with other States/UTs.

Under the Income Tax Act, 1961, industrially backward districts have been notified as Category 'A' and Category 'B' industrially backward districts for purposes of a two-tier fiscal benefit under Section 80 IA of the Act. In so far as the State of Bihar is concerned, 20 districts have been notified as Category 'A' industrially backward districts and 13 districts as Category 'B' industrially backward districts. The unit for assessing backwardness is the "district". There is no benefit under the Income-tax for a "block" or "taluka" in a district.

In respect of Category 'A' districts hundred percent deduction is allowed to undertakings for five years and 25% deduction (30% in the case of companies) is allowed for undertakings which start manufacture or production before 31.3.2000. For notified Category 'B' districts, the benefits of tax holiday is for a period of 3 years only (and not five years) while the second tier of the benefits is the same.

Financial Crisis in Uttar Pradesh

741. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh is facing financial crisis at present;

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

(c) whether the State Government has asked for financial assistance from the Union Government to meet the financial crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Uttar Pradesh Government had requested for additional market borrowings during the current year for completion of on-going Projects and for maintenance of completed infrastructure. Government of India have conveyed consent under Article 293(3) of the Constitution

for raising Rs. 400 crores of market borrowings additionally by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Grants to J&K

742. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various type of grants provided to Jammu and Kashmir Government during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the special assistance provided to the State to overcome the financial crunch and rebuild the infrastructure during the above said period;

(c) whether the flow of funds from the Centre is very slow;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount spent in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years for implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes;

(f) whether there is any check that the funds provided under the Central Schemes are utilised for the purpose for which these are provided and the utilisation certificates being provided by the State regularly; and

(g) if not, the details of pending cases, if any?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance releases Central assistance for State Plan in the form of Block grants and Block loans. Apart from this, the State Government is also receiving funds under the award of Tenth Finance Commission. details of releases from Ministry of Finance under various categories to the State Government of J&K for the last three years are enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d) The funds are generally released in monthly/quarterly instalments or as per stipulated terms and conditions. Sometimes advance releases are also made to the State Government to facilitate their cash management.

(e) to (g) Mechanism and monitoring of releases under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes as also expenditure against each scheme is controlled and monitored by the concerned Central Ministries.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Items	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 till 22.2.99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Normal Central Assistance	995.58	960.00	961.00	902.37
2.	Basic Minimum Services	—	156.52	156.52	150.57
3.	Slum Development Schemes	—	3.26	3.74	5.90
4.	Special Central Assistance	383.50	663.00	850.00	763.86
5.	Special Plan Assistance/Loan	44.00	100.00	200.00	250.00
6.	Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Project	6.50	12.42	10.51	8.42
7.	Border Area Development Programme	20.68	20.68	10.34	10.69
8.	Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant	535.39	419.05	170.85	53.94
9.	Calamity Relief Fund	13.95	14.78	15.59	16.39
10.	National Fund for Calamity Relief	18.17	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Other Non-Plan Grant to cover gap in resources	—	4.80	—	—
12.	Additional Central Assistance	—	—	67.00	100.00
13.	Share in Central Taxes including Railway Passenger Fare Grants	609.69	832.91	1102.00	945.87
14.	Special Problem Grant	—	5.55	—	5.50
15.	Upgradation Grant	—	2.77	2.94	5.40
16.	Grant for Local Bodies	—	12.42	3.10	—

Import of Tea from Sri Lanka

743. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed to import tea from Sri Lanka at concessional rate of duty;

(b) if so, the details of the concessional rate of duty;

(c) the reasons to allow duty-free/concessional duty import of tea;

(d) the estimated loss of revenue likely to be suffered by the country on this account;

(e) whether the Government have assessed the impact of this decision on domestic tea industry;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the domestic tea industry had been consulted before taking such decision; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to protect the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (h) The Government of India has signed a Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka on 28th December, 1998. The Agreement envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products except for a limited number of items in the Negative List. As per the Agreement, the lists on which the tariff concessions will be given shall be finalised within 60 days of signing of the Agreement. The details of various items on which tariff concessions are to be given are being worked out. Representations received from various sources in this regard are being given due consideration.

*[Translation]***Capital of ICICI**

744. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total capital of ICICI at present; and
- (b) the capital invested by ICICI in various institutions for purchase of shares and the present price value of these shares, institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) ICICI Limited has reported that as on December 31, 1998 their equity share capital was Rs. 478.37 crore and the preference Share Capital was Rs. 1193.88 crore.

(b) As part of normal term lending activity ICICI Ltd. takes up equity of the assisted companies. ICICI Ltd. has reported that the capital invested by them in various institutions including subsidiaries of ICICI Ltd. for purchase of shares is Rs. 704.45 crore while the market value of these shares as at December 31, 1998 is Rs. 883.78 crores.

*[English]***Export of Soyameal**

745. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the export of soyameal made during each of the last three years, country-wise;
- (b) the target fixed for export during 1998-99 and the extent to which it has been achieved;
- (c) whether the Government propose to enhance the export of soyameal in view of the bumper crop of soyabean; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The total quantity and value of soyameal exported during the last three years is as

follows:—

Quantity: in MTs
Value : in Rs. crores

Year	Quantity	Value
1996-97	2981749	2731.23
1997-98	2871569	2718.25
1998-99 (April-Sept., 98)	698685	489.90

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) A target of US\$ 750 million has been fixed for export of oilmeals (including soyabean meal) during 1998-99. During the period April-November, 1998 the value of exports of oilmeals have been US\$ 216.9 millions (US1 \$=Rs. 42.50).

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Some of the steps taken to enhance the export of oilmeals includes participation in International trade fairs, arranging buyer-seller meets and sponsoring trade delegation abroad.

Export of Flowers

746. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to give a new thrust to the export of flowers including Orchida from the hills and Himalayan regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are the two largest orchidology centres in the country; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of flowers and orchida from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The development and promotion of export of flowers including orchids has been identified as thrust area by the Government.

(d) Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim have rich collection of orchid varieties. However, the commercial production of flowers do not compare favourably with International standards of quality.

(e) The Government has been taking various measures to boost exports of floricultural products. Some of the steps taken to enhance production and boost exports of floricultural products include:—

- (i) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, quality testing equipment.
- (ii) Providing financial assistance by APEDA, NHB etc. to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as for purchase of specialised transport units (reefer containers), establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, etc.
- (iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control.
- (iv) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs, flower shows and exhibitions.
- (v) Setting up of walk-in-type cold storage and integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as floriculture and horticulture products; walk-in-type cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati and Calcutta Airports. Integrated cold storage and cargo handling facilities have been set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi and at Bangalore Airport. Similar facilities are being established at Chennai, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram Airports.
- (vi) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training to farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.
- (vii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of floriculture products.

- (viii) Provision of assistance for undertaking feasibility studies, surveys, etc. UNDP assisted feasibility study for development, promotion and post harvest handling of export oriented floriculture products from the North Eastern Region was undertaken in 1995. The report has been circulated to the North Eastern States Organisations in order to disseminate the recommendations to the growers/exporters.

Guns Seized by Customs Officials

747. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI M. RAJIAH:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of guns seized by the customs department since April 1995 and their disposal;

(b) the customs department sale price of the guns and their market price, category-wise;

(c) the category of persons who are given special concession for purchasing various types of guns/revolvers from the customs and the extent of concession given to them;

(d) the total number of Members of Parliament and persons of other category who purchased the guns/revolvers from the customs on concessional rates between 1995 to 1998; and

(e) the number of persons out of them who have sold their guns/revolvers after the stipulated period and the persons to whom these were sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): *(a) 132 Nos. of Guns/firearms (including Pistols, Revolvers, Rifles, Shotguns & Air Guns) are reported to have been seized by the officers of the Customs Department, since April, 1995. During the said period, 179 firearms/guns (including Pistols, Revolvers & Rifles) have been disposed of.

(b) The Customs are presently selling the weapons, on request and availability only to Members of Parliament

*The reply printed in part (a) above was sent by Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha afterwards in substitution of the original reply.

for their personal safety and these cannot be further disposed of. The sale price of fire arms varies with the Type, Model & Category e.g. rifle, revolver, pistol etc. and the prices ranges between Rs. 5,000/- and Rs. 41,000. Fire arms imports are restricted and as sale of imported arms is prohibited, the market prices are not available.

(c) As per the existing policy of the Government, the confiscated prohibited bore weapons are appropriated only for the Departmental use. Confiscated non-prohibited bore weapons are, however, given to the Departmental Officers on lease terms on a selective basis, subject to the condition that on retirement/superannuation, these weapons would be returned to the Department. After meeting the above requirements, if any non-prohibited bore confiscated weapons are available, the same can be sold to the Members of Parliament on first-cum-first-serve basis, with the approval of Finance Minister in each case. The sale is subject to the condition of no resale as it is only for their personal use-safety.

(d) Between 1995 & 1998, 176 Members of Parliament and 3 other VIPs were authorised and purchased guns including revolvers and pistols from the Customs Department.

(e) The weapons sold to the VIPs are with the specific condition of no resale. There is no information with the Govt. of any resale having been effected by any purchaser.

Pilferage of Customs Goods

748. SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling and pilferage of customs goods from the Custom Bonded area such as Inland Container Depot and Container Freight Station of Container Corporation of India is rampant;

The original reply by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Banking, Revenue and Insurance) (Shri Kadambur M.R. Janarthanan) reads as follows:

“(a) 93 Nos. of Guns (including pistols, revolvers, rifles & air guns) are reported to have been seized by the Officers of the Customs Department during April, 1995 to December, 1998. During the said period, 179 Guns (including pistols, revolvers & rifles) have been disposed of.”

(b) whether there is any nexus between CONCOR official and criminal;

(c) if so, whether Customs Authorities has proved and imposed penalties over CONCOR official for the charges of smuggling and pilferages under the Customs Act;

(d) if so, the number of such proved cases and action taken against the CONCOR officials; and

(e) the total amount of Duty and Penalties raised against CONCOR by customs and whether the amount has been deposited by CONCOR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (e) The reports available do not indicate any such rampant smuggling or pilferage of customs goods from the Customs Bonded Area, such as Inland Container depot and Container Freight Stations, of Container Corporation of India. As per reports available, 12 cases of pilferage of customs goods involving customs duty amounting to Rs. 18.02 lakhs for the period August '96 to February '99 have been booked by Delhi Customs, in which demands have been issued to Container Corporation of India — the Custodian of ICD at Delhi. Out of these 12 cases, demands of Rs. 3.60 lakhs have already been confirmed in 3 cases and recovery proceedings are underway. Other 9 cases are under process of adjudication. Further, in one case relating to ICD, Bangalore, an agent of CONCOR Bangalore, was *prima-facie*, found involved in an export fraud involving substitution of Raw Silk Sarees of mulberry silk of declared value Rs. 31.36 lakhs stuffed in one container cleared from ICD for transshipment to Chennai for final export. An offence case has been registered against the Exporter and the Agent of M/s. CONCOR, and Show Cause Notices have been issued to them, which are pending adjudication.

Writing-off the Loss of IISCO

749. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI K. PARYMOHAN:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI HANNAN MQLLAH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and the Government of Russia have taken any decision to start IISCO as joint venture;

(b) if so, whether the Russian Government has requested the Union Government to write-off the entire accumulated losses of IISCO;

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

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to modernise/revive IISCO;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent any proposals for its modernisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994 for determination of measures in regard to the future of the company. Several modernisation proposals were formulated in the past but none of them could fructify mainly due to funds constraints. SAIL have submitted a proposal to revive IISCO in a Joint Venture (JV) partnership with M/s. Tyazhprom Export (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee Debt Funds for which an Inter Governmental Agreement between the Government of Russia and Government of India is required. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 2107 crores. Govt. of India's efforts in this direction culminated in the signing of a Protocol in the Fifth Session of Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission in November, 1998. In the Protocol, it has been proposed to use a part of India Rupee Debts as contribution of the Russian side to the Joint Venture Company.

Accordingly, Govt. of India have already formally presented to the Russian side the draft of an agreement which could be signed between the two countries. The response of the Russian govt. is awaited. However, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Hike in the Prices of Tea

750. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing rates of tea in spite of record tea production in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of tea during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for rise in the prices of tea; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the increase in the prices of tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) After an initial rise of prices during mid 1997 which reached a peak of Rs. 91.80 per kg. in Jan. 1998, the average price at all India auctions has come down to Rs. 67.57 per kg in Jan., 1999. Rise in the prices of Tea has been due to higher domestic and export demand for Indian Tea.

The production of tea during each of the last three years are given below:

(Figures: M. Kgs.)

Year	Production
1996	780.23
1997	810.61
1998	870.40 (Estimated)

(d) In order to check the rise in prices of tea the Government has taken various steps which include (i) directive of the Tea Board to the producers for strict compliance with the provisions of Tea Marketing (Control) Order, 1984 (ii) relaxation of Policy regarding sale in the domestic tariff are (DTA) by Export Oriented Units and Units in Free Trade Zones for a period of 6 months i.e. upto June, 1998 (iii) supply of Nivedan Tea to the consumers at cheaper prices etc.

[English]

Schemes to Encourage Tax Payers

751. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for awarding 'Aaykar Ratna' to the top income tax payers for encouraging the income tax payers and giving importance to their contribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All individual taxpayers falling in each of the three categories *i.e.*, business, profession and salary having a declared income of Rs. 20 lacks or more in four out of five immediately preceding years shall receive Samman at the national level. The top tax-payer in the country, one in each of the three categories shall be honoured with 'Aaykar Ratna' at national level, subject to certain exceptions.

(c) The scheme is expected to be implemented in the first quarter of next Financial Year.

Medium Term Fiscal Adjustment Programme

752. SHRI LAXMAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IMF has asked India to launch a medium term Fiscal Adjustment Programme at Central and State level and initiate steps to revive the investment and growth momentum;

(b) if so, to what extent the Government have accepted the suggestion; and

(c) the extent to which it has been found to be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes. On the basis of discussions at the Board on India, the IMF, on September, 22, 1998 had stated, *inter-alia*, as follows:

"Looking beyond the 1998-99 budget, Directors urged the authorities to launch an ambitious and front-loaded medium-term fiscal adjustment program, involving actions not only by the centre, but importantly also, by the States. Reviving the fiscal reform process would help lower real interest rates, improve debt dynamics, create room for meeting essential social and infrastructure spending, and reduce the drag on growth...Expressing concern about the lack of any perceptible fiscal adjustment by the states as a group, Directors stressed that states will need to intensify and broaden efforts to lower deficits, and also improve the composition of spending."

(b) and (c) Government of India takes policy actions on the basis of its own priorities. Appropriate policy measures are undertaken whenever necessary in the light of emerging economic situation. Government has taken a number of steps to restore fiscal health and promote investment. On the fiscal side, the basic approach has been to raise revenues through a tax structure which is simple, rely on moderate tax rates with a wider base, coupled with prudential expenditure management.

Purchase of Long wall Machines by ECL

753. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ECL has purchased longwall machines from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating their costs;

(c) the authority responsible for purchasing the machines;

(d) whether the machines are not being used by the collieries;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the justification of purchasing such costly machines; and

(f) the details of interest burden on ECL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that the following long wall face

equipment have been procured from abroad for Eastern Coalfields Limited;

Sl. No.	Project	Year of Purchase	Country of origin	Cost in Indian Rupees (Cr.)
1.	Seetalpur	1981	UK	3.15
2.	Dhemo Main 1st face	1981	UK	8.86
3.	Jhanjra 1st Set	1987	USSR	14.00
4.	Jhanjra 2nd set	1987	USSR	14.00
5.	Kottadih	1991	France	82.00

(c) Powered support longwall equipment for Seetalpur and Dhemo Main were procured in terms of the decision taken in Indo-UK Working Group, for Jhanjra faces in Indo-USSR Working Group for co-operation in coal industries under auspices of science and technology co-operation and for Khottadih face in the Indo-French Working Group Meeting.

(d) and (e) The longwall faces at Seetalpur, Dhemo Main and Kottadih are out of operation at present. Seetalpur equipment stopped operation due to severe geo-mining problem of thinning of coal seam and coal evacuation problem, Dhemo Main face proved to be underrated for the geo-mining condition of the coal seam, and at Kottadih the equipment could not withstand the severe dynamic weighting of the roof and a portion of the face collapsed.

All these faces were procured as per decision taken at various Working Group Meetings as detailed in reply at (c) above for achieving rapid growth in production, productivity and for modernising underground mines.

(f) All these three idle PSLW faces were procured under protocol financing and the interest burden is at the same rate of interest as for loans from the Govt. The interest rate for the year 1981, when faces for Dhemo

Main & Seetalpur were procured was 12% and 16% for the year 1991, when equipment for Kottadih was procured. The life of these equipment is taken at 9 years.

Indian Stock Market

754. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary investigations made by his Ministry into the stock market collapse on October 5, when the *sensex* dipped by 224 points has revealed a deep rooted conspiracy of a cartel operating in the Indian stock market;

(b) if so, the outcome of the enquiry/investigations and their main recommendations;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the other steps being considered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) SEBI have informed that from preliminary enquiries till date it cannot be concluded that the fall in *sensex* on October 5, 1998 was due to a

conspiracy of a cartel operating in the Indian stock markets.

(d) The stock market witnesses fluctuations depending on performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, economic policies of the Government alternative avenues for raising resources by corporates as well as investment opportunities available to investors, expectations of the investors, speculative activity, development in the international capital market, etc. The principal consideration of Government and the market regulator is to ensure that the capital market operates in an orderly and transparent manner in full compliance with the rules and regulations.

Import of Tea

755. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted to import tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic tea industry is likely to face adverse effect due to import of tea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Import of tea is allowed against an import licence for the purpose of re-export under the Duty Exemption Scheme and EOU/EPZ Schemes. However, Government has permitted free import of tea, as one of the 2307 items, from SAARC countries in order to give a fillip to intra-regional trade.

(c) and (d) The tea industry apprehends that allowing free import of tea from SAARC countries would result into entry of sub-standard teas into the domestic market in the absence of adherence to international standard of tea by countries like Bangladesh and Nepal. It is also apprehended that import of tea may also effect the price situation in the country, as the teas produced in other SAARC countries are cheaper.

[Translation]

Awarding of Contract for Security to Ex-Servicemen

756. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are awarding security contract/transport work to the ex-servicemen of various projects of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. in Bilaspur;

(b) if so, whether any norms have been fixed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), is awarding security contract and coal transportation contracts to Ex-Servicemen Security agencies as well as transport companies.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The norms in respect of Ex-Servicemen Transport Companies are as follows:—

- (i) Ex-Servicemen Transport Companies are sponsored by the Director General of Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence to the concerned company on request.
- (ii) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in the year 1979, between Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Defence with the dual purpose of having problem free captive transport services in Coal subsidiaries and providing resettlement opportunities to Ex-servicemen.
- (iii) A revised MOU was executed on 08.04.1993 between the Director General of Resettlement and Coal India Limited.
- (iv) The rates are fixed by the subsidiary company based on the standard norms evolved by the Directorate General of Resettlement and Coal India Limited. The rates are revised at the beginning of each financial year.
- (v) The initial period of contract is for five years which is extendable for another 5 years subject to the performance of Ex-Servicemen

transport companies and the requirement of the coal companies.

- (vi) The Ex-Servicemen Transport companies are required to deploy only new tippers which shall be owned by the Ex-Servicemen, who will operate the same as their own masters and not as employees on salary basis.
- (vii) The Ex-Servicemen Transport Company should employ Ex-Servicemen in their company as per directives of DGR.
- (viii) Initially an Ex-Servicemen Transport Company starts work with 10 Tippers and one pay loader and the fleet is extended to 10 Tippers and two Pay Loaders within 3 to 6 months time. The fleet is further extendable to 30 Tippers and 3 Pay Loaders with the permission of the Director General of Resettlement, based on the requirement of the concerned coal company.

The norms in respect of Ex-Servicemen Security Agencies are as follows:—

- (1) As per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Industry, Ex-Servicemen Security Agencies in Public Sector Undertakings are to be deployed only from the panel sponsored by the Director General of Resettlement (DGR).
- (2) The Director General of Resettlement is sponsoring the security agencies to South Eastern Coalfields Limited based on the latter's requirement.
- (d) Does not arise in view of reply given to (b) and (c) above.

Restriction in Customs Duty

757. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items exported by the foreign companies based in India on which the customs duty has been reduced;

(b) whether the indigenous goods in comparison to foreign goods will become costlier as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to encourage the export of Indian goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Margin Money Scheme of KVIC

758. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai has started a margin money scheme under Rural Employment Generation Programme for the villages which have less than 20 thousand population with the help of scheduled commercial banks;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has also been provided in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and financial assistance provided?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The progress under Margin Money Scheme being implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Board, M.P. in Jabalpur district upto January, 1999 is as under:—

1. Projects received from individual beneficiaries and forwarded to the banks:—	26
2. The total amount of money for which projects have been forwarded to the banks:—	Rs. 150.80 lakhs
3. Total sanctioned Projects Amount sanctioned:—	5 Rs. 7.52 lakhs
4. Total amount sanctioned for institutions:—	Nil

[English]

Export of Cotton Yarn

759. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in export of cotton yarn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its export during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of cotton yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The values of exports of cotton yarn during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1995-96	3363.19
1996-97	5330.17
1997-98	5865.64
1998-99 (April-December, 1998)	4476.02

There are several factors for decline in the dollar value of cotton yarn exports which include recessionary trends in world economy, especially the decline in the economies of East Asian countries.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textile items, including cotton yarn, such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials, ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. Recently, Government have announced specific measures for boosting cotton yarn exports which include de-linking of cotton yarn exports from hank yarn obligation, although the obligation continues without any reduction in level;

greater operational flexibility to 100% EOUs producing cotton yarn by way of relaxation of count/domestic cotton use restrictions upto December, 1999; announcement of higher ceiling for exports of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts during 1999 etc.

Loss to Coal India Limited

760. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cumulative loss of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has become approximately 6700 crore rupees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the subsidiary-wise break up of the loss suffered by Coal India Ltd.;

(c) whether the total loss suffered by CIL was almost made up by the company three or four years ago;

(d) if so, the details of profit/loss incurred by CIL during each of the last three years, subsidiary-wise;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the losses;

(f) whether the Government propose to make actual assessment regarding financial position of CIL by reconsidering its cumulative loss; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The cumulated loss of Coal India Limited (CIL) and the subsidiary companies of CIL as on 31.3.98 is Rs. 1114.62 crores after tax provisions, provisions for dividend and reserves. Such accumulated loss is mainly on account of the heavy losses suffered by the two coal producing subsidiary companies of CIL namely, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited. The company-wise break-up of cumulative profit and loss of CIL till 31.3.98 is given

below:—

Company	Cumulative profit (+)/loss (-) balance as on 31.3.98 (after Tax Provisions Provision for Dividends and Reserves) (Rs. in Crores)
Eastern Coalfields Limited	(-) 1728.61
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	(-) 1654.48
Central Coalfields Limited	(+) 53.73
Western Coalfields Limited	(+) 371.72
Northern Coalfields Limited	(+) 908.59
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	(+) 470.34
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	(+) 439.79
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	(+) 22.66
CIL	(+) 1.66

(c) No, Sir. The accumulated or cumulative loss of CIL and its subsidiary companies as on 31.3.94 was Rs. 1767.88 crores which could be reduced to Rs. 1114.62 crores as on 31.3.98. Therefore, within a span of four financial years from 1993-94 to 1997-98, the accumulated or cumulated loss of CIL and its subsidiary companies was brought down by Rs. 653.26 crores.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

(e) The Government have taken following steps to improve the financial position of CIL and its subsidiary companies:—

- (i) In March, 1996 the prices of all grades of coking coal and A, B and C grades of non-coking coal were deregulated.
- (ii) In March, 1997 the prices of hard coke, soft coke and D grade of non-coking coal were

deregulated and CIL allowed to fix the prices of E, F and G grades of non-coking coal, once in every six months, by updating the cost indices as per the escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

- (iii) In July, 1996 certain measures were taken to restructure the capital base of CIL. These measures were (a) moratorium on repayment of outstanding interest free non-plan loan of Rs. 432.64 crores (owed by CIL to the Government as on 31.3.92) till 1998-99, (b) waiver of overdue interest of Rs. 891.75 crores payable by CIL as on 31.3.92 and penal interest of Rs. 138.48 crore on Government loans to CIL due from 1.4.95 to 31.3.96 and (c) conversion of outstanding Plan loan amounting to Rs. 904.18 crores due from CIL as on 31.3.92, into non-cumulative 10% preference shares (i.e. preference share equity) redeemable from the profits in the year 2003-04.

- (iv) In 1997-98 an internal exercise of restructuring of capital and debt profile of the subsidiary companies of CIL was done. As a result of this internal capital restructuring, the paid up equity capital of ECL and BCCL increased by Rs. 1179.45 crores and Rs. 996.00 crores respectively by conversion of their debt to CIL into equity.

However, despite the above measures, ECL and BCCL are continuing to incur losses. A fresh package for turn-around of ECL has been proposed which is under consideration. Action has been initiated to formulate a turn-around plan for BCCL.

(f) and (g) The Government do not feel that the financial position of CIL itself is unduly alarming. However, the financial position of the two subsidiary companies of CIL namely ECL and BCCL is indeed alarming. These companies have engaged the services of a domestic financial institution and other experts to make recommendations in order to improve their operations and to reduce their individual losses.

'Samadhan' Scheme

761. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete scheme in respect of 'Samadhan' which was introduced in the Union Budget 1998-99 has been worked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the scheme 'Samadhan' has been welcomed by the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Sir, Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme 1998 was introduced by Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 with a view to reducing the arrears existing in various direct tax and indirect tax enactments, and pending litigation in relation to these arrears. The scheme which was in operation from 1.9.1998 to 31.1.1999 provided a quick and voluntary settlement of tax dues determined on or before 31.3.1998, by offering waiver of interest, penalty and a part of tax. The tax payers were required to withdraw the pending appeal.

(c) The Scheme has evoked very good response from tax payers. More than 48,000 declarations covering tax arrears of about Rs. 2800 crores have been filed under direct taxes, and more than 18,000 declarations involving tax arrears of Rs. 2000 crores have been filed under indirect taxes.

[Translation]

Production Cost of Steel

762. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of steel production in India is more than that of the other countries of the world;

(b) if not, the cost thereof in countries like China, Japan, America etc. and the extent to which it is estimated to be higher than the average cost of production in India;

(c) whether the Government have modernised some of the public sector units to reduce the cost of production;

(d) if so, the percentage thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the cost of production of these modernised units likely to come down in comparison to the above said countries as a result of modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The cost of production of steel primarily depends upon prices of inputs such as iron ore, coal, steel scrap and energy, costs of freight and labour and financial charges. As per the latest estimates of the World Steel Dynamics published in March 1997, the cost of production of saleable steel in Bokaro Steel Plant of SAIL in 1997 was less than the cost of production of steel produced in other leading nations such as USA, Japan, Germany, France, South Korea etc. The details may be seen in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir, the public sector steel plants have taken measures to reduce production costs. Steps taken by SAIL to reduce production costs and to improve performance include:

— Modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants.

- Improved quality, product-mix and production in line with market requirements.
- Improving techno-economic factors viz., reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield etc.

- Improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance.
- Strict Control and reduction in cost of production.

SAIL had planned to reduce the controllable production cost of saleable steel by about 7-8% during 1997-98

Statement

World Cost Curve Reference Plant Comparisons as of March 1997

Item	USA	Japan	Germany	France	S. Korea	Brazil	CIS	SAIL BSL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Major Material/ Tonne Shipped								
Coking Coal	32	34	39	38	38	50	36	61
Iron Ore/Sinter/ Pillels	61	60	69	67	62	50	71	28
Scrap (Before Credits)	48	45	46	46	51	48	28	42
I. Total Raw Materials Costs	141	139	154	151	149	148	135	131
II. All other material Costs	177	184	177	174	163	182	203	148
Labour Cost								
Employment Cost/ Hour	37	35	38	33	18	11.25	2.5	1.5
MH/Tonne	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.9	6.3	26.6	32
III. Total Labour Cost	155	145	166	142	89	71	66	48
IV. Total Operating Cost (I+II+III)	472	468	497	467	402	401	404	327

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Financial Expenses	28	25	50	51	65	60	15	34
Depreciation Exp.								
Interest Expenses	10	27	10	17	12	24	12	31
V. Total Financial Exp.	38	82	60	68	77	84	27	65
Pretax Cost (IV+V)	510	550	557	535	479	485	431	392

Note: All the above data is for saleable steel.

Source: World Steel Dynamics, March '97.

[English]

Insurance Premium on Trucks

763. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance companies have any proposal to increase the insurance premium of trucks;

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

(c) whether the Insurance companies have also decided to increase the claim ratio from the present 111 percent; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Tariff Rates are regulated by Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC), a statutory body established under the Insurance Act, 1938. The TAC had initially increased the premium rates for third party risks of motor insurance in three instalments effective from February 1998. However, on reconsideration the TAC has recently withdrawn further instalments of rate revision due in February 1999 and

February 2000 and only the first instalment revision effective from February 1998 is operative.

(c) No, Sir. The claim ratio is based on the actual loss experience and cannot be pre-determined.

(d) Does not arise.

Declaration of Metropolitan cities as A-1 City

764. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metropolitan cities in the country have been declared as A-1 Cities;

(b) if so, the number of Central Government employees in these cities have been given HRA and CCA at higher rates as per A1 City status and the population of these metropolitan cities;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has declared that the population of Bangalore has crossed 60 lakhs;

(d) if so, the reasons for not declaring Bangalore as A1 City so far; and

(e) whether the Government propose to declare it as A1 City immediately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Delhi and Mumbai were declared as 'A-1' class cities for grant for HRA and CCA with effect from 1st August '97 since they fulfilled the population criteria prescribed by the Fifth Central Pay Commission and accepted by the Government. Subsequently, Government decided to classify the principal metropolitan cities of Calcutta and Chennai also as 'A-1' class cities for the purpose of grant of HRA in order to restore the parity that existed earlier between these four metropolitan cities.

(b) Information in regard to the number of Central Government employees in these cities who have been paid HRA and CCA at the rates applicable to 'A-1' class cities is not centrally maintained. However, the population of these four principal metropolitan cities as per the 1991 Census Report was as indicated below:

	Municipal Corporation	Urban Agglomeration
Delhi	72,06,704	84,19,084
Mumbai	99,25,891	1,25,96,243
Calcutta	43,99,819	1,10,21,918
Chennai	38,41,396	54,21,985

(c) to (e) Several representations have been received from various quarters mentioning that the population of Bangalore had increased after the last census in 1991. However, the population of a city within its municipal limits and that within the Urban Agglomeration, as reflected in the latest Census Report of the Registrar General of India, are taken into consideration for the purpose of HRA and CCA, respectively. The population of Bangalore as per the 1991 Census Report was 26,60,088 within its municipal limits and 41,30,288 in the Urban Agglomeration. The city does not, therefore, fulfil the prescribed population criteria so as to qualify for being declared as an 'A-1' class city for the grant of HRA and CCA.

Impact of Economic Recession on Indian Banks

765. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recession trend in the economy has seriously affected the Indian Banks;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) As per the latest data on GDP growth (1993-94 base), the economy is estimated to grow at 5.8 per cent in the current financial year. However, as noted in the Mid-term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 1998-99, Industrial slowdown still persists. This is reflected in the relatively lower growth of 6.8 per cent in non-food credit extended by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) till January 29, 1999 in the current financial year as against 8.8 per cent in the corresponding period of 1997-98. Nevertheless, investments by SCBs in Government and other approved securities increased by 14.8 per cent during this period as against 10.7 per cent in the comparable previous period. As this reflects addition to the aggregate expenditure, the economy is expected to get a stimulus, which in turn should contribute to industrial revival. In order to enable the SCBs to meet the credit requirements of productive sectors without impairing their financial health, the Mid-term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 1998-99 has announced a strengthening of prudential regulations based on the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee (II). These relate to, *inter-alia*, higher Capital to Risk-weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR), risk weight for Government and other approved securities and general provision for standard assets.

Export by Defaulters

766. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporters who have availed of the import facilities against export obligations have remained far behind in their exports;

(b) if so, the details of such exporters and the amount by which they have remained behind; and

(c) the action taken against such defaulting exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The Duty Exemption Scheme under the EXIM Policy allows a maximum period of 30 months for fulfilment of export obligation against licences for the import of duty free imports required for the export production.

In respect of duty free licences issued during five licensing period, that is, April-March, 1990-91 to April-March, 1994-95, the extent of export obligation fulfilment was 94.64%.

For all such licences issued upto 30th September, 1996, instructions have already been issued for completion of the export obligation or to get the obligation in default regularised by 31st March, 1999, as per the prescribed Rules.

In case of bona fide default in fulfilment of export obligation either wholly or partly, the exporter can get his case regularised in terms of Para 7.28 of the Hand Book of Procedures, 1997-2002 on payment of customs duty on the unutilised imported material along with interest @24% per annum thereon and surrender of Special Import Licence (SIL), failing which Enforcement-cum-Adjudication proceedings are initiated against such defaulting exporters under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 for imposition of fiscal penalties. Penalties imposed under the said Act, if not paid, are recovered as arrear of land revenue and the Importer-exporter Code number of the person concerned may be suspended on failure to pay the penalty by him in terms of Section 11(4) of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992.

Production/Consumption and Export of Cement

767. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production/consumption of cement in the country during the Eighth Plan, State-wise;

(b) the projection made for production of cement during the Ninth Plan;

(c) whether there has been surplus production of cement in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total quantum of cement exported during the last three years; and

(f) the projection made thereon in the coming three years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) According to statistical data published by Cement Manufacturers' Association the State-wise production in respect of large cement plants and

consumption of cement is given in the attached statements-I and II respectively. The data regarding production of cement in respect of mini cement plants is not maintained centrally.

(b) The projections made for production of cement including exports in the Ninth Plan period as per the Report of the Task Force on Cement Industry for Ninth Plan are as under:—

Year	Estimated Cement Production (In Million tonnes)
1997-98	83.50
1998-99	90.00
1999-2000	97.50
2000-01	105.50
2001-02	113.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The export of cement during the last three years was as under:—

Year	Cement Export (In Million tonnes)
1995-96	1.51
1996-97	1.71
1997-98	2.68

(f) The export of cement and clinker is likely to be about 8 million tonnes by 2001-02 as projected in the Report of the Task Force on Cement Industry for the Ninth Plan.

Statement-I**State-wise Cement Production during Eighth Plan**

(000' Tonnes)

Region/State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern Region					
Punjab	—	—	—	543.46	1312.09
Delhi	415.72	353.94	191.85	185.66	90.02
Haryana	557.40	533.79	576.16	551.62	493.07
Himachal Pradesh	1030.57	1028.03	1302.96	1875.79	2280.62
J & K	63.40	58.19	78.10	70.12	40.31
Rajasthan	5413.92	5723.67	6949.16	7832.93	8748.40
Uttar Pradesh	1271.07	1709.71	1359.44	1158.60	933.45
Total North	8752.08	9407.33	10457.67	12218.18	13897.96
Eastern Region					
Bihar	1048.28	1098.56	1532.29	2198.66	2430.51
Orissa	1007.11	1185.08	1445.84	1694.99	1700.92
West Bengal	437.35	442.55	518.43	506.53	569.83

1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	112.80	147.50	154.49	156.04	156.05
Meghalaya	37.61	111.53	142.65	120.50	110.42
Total East	2703.15	2985.22	3793.70	4676.72	4967.73
Southern Region					
Tamil Nadu	4879.40	5051.32	5494.59	5754.47	5520.53
Andhra Pradesh	8517.84	8622.24	8792.52	10043.99	10644.83
Karnataka	5149.45	5269.14	5715.52	5578.88	5208.38
Kerala	358.80	384.45	384.27	365.41	279.22
Total South	18905.49	19327.15	20386.90	21742.75	21652.96
Western Region					
Maharashtra	3883.13	4132.90	4277.78	4779.50	6121.06
Gujarat	3981.88	4373.64	4823.58	5548.21	6387.10
M.P.	12497.70	13866.30	14614.50	15569.56	16955.25
Total West	20362.71	22372.84	23715.86	25897.27	29463.41
Grand Total	50723.43	54092.54	58354.13	64534.92	69982.06

Statement-II**State-wise Cement Consumption during Eighth Plan**

(000' tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region						
1.	Uttar Pradesh	6270	6572	6700	6735	7394
2.	Punjab	2132	2488	2633	3279	3648
3.	Delhi	1782	1755	1741	2049	2270
4.	Rajasthan	2359	2661	2760	2981	3350
5.	Haryana	1212	1378	1561	1716	1906
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	400	369	411	461	366
7.	Chandigarh	276	240	327	393	383
8.	Himachal Pradesh	358	396	386	466	506
Total Northern Region		14789	15859	16519	18080	19823
Eastern Region						
1.	West Bengal	2663	2975	3195	3598	4021
2.	Bihar	2172	2115	2241	2318	2564

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Orissa	1195	1234	1264	1338	1587
4.	Assam	569	495	536	435	394
5.	Other N.E. States	234	243	282	244	261
Total Eastern Region		6833	7062	7518	7933	8827
Southern Region						
1.	Tamil Nadu	4743	4714	5455	5972	6250
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3811	4026	4129	4414	4877
3.	Karnataka	3068	3139	3459	3777	3998
4.	Kerala	2725	3079	3371	3868	4092
5.	Pondicherry	44	56	86	93	88
6.	Andaman & Nicobar	15	24	35	42	36
Total Southern Region		14406	15038	16535	18166	19341
Western Region						
1.	Maharashtra	6634	7053	7765	8736	9420
2.	Gujarat	4195	4689	4791	5521	6116
3.	Madhya Pradesh	2812	2981	3259	4206	4261
4.	Goa, Daman, Diu etc.	193	223	282	329	376
Total Western Region		13834	14946	16097	18792	20173
All India		49862	52905	56669	62971	68164

Dunlop India Limited

768. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and United Bank of India have submitted before BIFR that the Dunlop India Limited turned into a sick company on account of diversion of funds and not because of its actual operations;

(b) if so, the amount involved in such diversion of funds;

(c) the areas where the funds have been diverted; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover the diverted funds and use them for the revival of the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Dunlop India Limited (DIL) was registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 3.2.98. As regards the submission by State Bank of India (SBI) and United Bank of India (UBI) relating to the genuineness of certain entries etc. in the accounts of DIL, BIFR in the hearing held on 31.3.98, appointed IDBI under section 16(2) of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985(SICA) to look into the accounts of the company and submit status report. BIFR, thereafter in its meeting held on 22.6.98 as per provisions of SICA declared DIL a sick unit and appointed Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) as the Operating Agency (OA) to examine the viability of the company and submit a scheme for its rehabilitation. The orders of the BIFR have been stayed by the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR). Further action in the matter will be taken by the AAIFR/BIFR as per provisions of SICA.

Accident in Ling Raj Project of MCL

769. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal handling plant in Ling Raj Project in Sambalpur mines under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited was damaged entirely on July 21,1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the causes of accident and the number of persons died in this accident; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty, alongwith the details of compensation provided to the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Out of five mini coal handling plants only the bunker of one mini coal handling plant No. 1 in Lingraj project of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd collapsed on 21.7.98 due to failure of supporting structures. The supporting structures buckled and fell on the North-West side over a tipping truck which was under process of loading. In the accident two persons were fatally injured.

(d) It has been reported by Coal India that on the basis of the enquiry conducted by the Internal Safety Organisation show-cause notices have been issued to five executives and one supervisor. Apart from ex-gratia payment of Rs. 10,000/- for each deceased, compensation as per Workman Compensation Act, 1923 has been paid as per details below:—

1. Bibhoo Pd. Sahu	Rs. 2,09,920/-
2. Laxman Naik	Rs. 2,15,280/-

Lignite Deposit in Cauvery Basin

770. SHRI M. SELVARASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether good quality of lignite deposits have been found in the Cauvery basin in Mannargudi;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up third unit of Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Mannargudi to fully utilise newly found lignite deposits;

(c) if so, the progress made so far in the land acquisition proceedings in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Lignite deposits have been found in Mannargudi. The quality is as under:—

(i) Moisture	40-50%
(ii) Ash	4-12%
(iii) Volatile matter	18-23%
(iv) Fixed Carbon	17-22%
(v) Calorific Value	2200-3200 K.Cal./Kg
(vi) Bulk density	1.15-1.20 gm/cc
(vii) Total Sulphur	0.7-1.4%

(b) No, Sir. Neyveli Lignite Corporation does not propose to open any mine in Mannargudi in the near future, since detailed exploration of the deposits is not yet complete.

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

Refinance Scheme by R.B.I.

771. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has announced a refinance scheme for banks against their development of Resurgent India Bonds proceeds in Government securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the R.B.I. proposes to provide a special liquidity support finance facility upto limits specified for each bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the name of banks to which this facility is likely to be provided and to what extent these facilities are likely to help these banks for better performance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India had announced in September 1998 a Special Liquidity Support Facility to eligible banks under Section 17(4) (1) of RBI Act, 1934 by way of refinance to those scheduled commercial banks which would be temporarily deploying the rupee resources

available against Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) in Government Securities sold by RBI through the Open Market Operations (OMO) of the Bank on or after September 17, 1998 in excess of SLR requirements. This facility is available to banks for two blocks of four weeks each and at the end of eighth week, banks have to adjust their entire outstandings under this facility. Banks are not provided any refinance under the facility for two weeks thereafter. Rate of interest for the first block of four week is Bank rate (9.0 per cent per annum at present) and for the next block of four weeks it is Bank Rate plus one percentage point (10.0 per cent per annum). This will remain in force only upto March 31st, 1999.

The facility has been provided to the following banks. This facility would enable the banks to tide over their unanticipated temporary liquidity problems.

1. State Bank of India.
2. ABN Amro Bank.
3. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.
4. ANZ Grindlays Bank.
5. Bank of America.
6. British Bank of Middle East.
7. Citibank.
8. Credit Lyonnais.
9. Hongkong Bank.
10. Standard Chartered Bank.
11. Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait.
12. Barclays Bank.
13. Credit Agricole Indosuez.
14. Mashreq Bank.
15. Oman International Bank.
16. Global Trust Bank.
17. HFDC Bank.
18. ICICI Banking Corp.
19. Indusland Bank.

20. Times Bank.
21. UTI Bank.
22. Bank of India.
23. Bank of Baroda.
24. Punjab & Sind Bank.
25. India Bank.
26. State Bank of Travancore.
27. Deutsche Bank.
28. American Express Bank.
29. SBI Commercial and International Bank.

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Development of Steel Industry

772. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need for the development of Steel Industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have implemented any scheme during the last year for activating the research work for the development of Steel Industry;

(c) if so, the detailed outline of the scheme; and

(d) the total amount allocated for the implementation of this scheme during the current year and the amount released out of it upto December, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. To keep pace with the developments and competitiveness in the international arena, the Indian Steel industry needs to be backed up by comprehensive Research Development facilities.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Cabinet approval has been obtained to spend upto Rs. 150 crores annually from interest process of Steel Development Fund (SDF) to supplement Research & Development activity in Iron & Steel sector. An empowered Committee under the

Chairmanship of Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Steel with members from Department of Science & Technology, Planning Commission, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, main producers of steel, IIT, Kharagpur, National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel and others has been set up with a view to providing overall direction to the total research effort on Iron & Steel in the country and approve specific research projects placed before it.

The Empowered Committee will *inter alia* examine all aspects of Research & Development in the Iron & Steel sector; co-ordinate and monitor the on-going research programmes in the iron and steel sector; review the progress of Science & Technology programmes of national importance in the Iron & Steel Industry periodically and advise Department of Steel on policies and programmes in developing domestic capabilities for Research & Development in the iron and steel sector.

Research & Technology Mission, which will work as Secretariat to the Empowered Committee is being set up.

(d) An amount of Rs. 30.00 crores has been allocated for implementation of the scheme during 1998-99. Out of this, Rs. 0.32 crores has been released for Research & Development (R&D) upto December, 1998.

[*English*]

Benami Transaction Prohibition Act

773. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
 DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
 SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Benami Transaction Prohibition Act was promulgated about 10 years ago;

(b) if so, whether Government have not given powers to any authority to implement it;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the cases registered and persons prosecuted under the said Act during the last ten years; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to unearth the Benami transaction in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, was passed in September, 1988.

(b) and (c) The rules for implementing the Act could not be framed in view of the difficulties expressed by the Ministry of Law, relating to complexities in the law, which make it unworkable in its present form particularly having regard to agricultural properties which constitute the State subject.

(d) In view of the above, does not arise.

(e) The matter regarding the issues arising due to difficulties in implementing the Act in its current form is under consideration of the Government.

Export of Animals

774. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the animals are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to which the animals are being exported; and

(c) the manner in which these animals are used in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain animals are exported from the country. The major destinations for exports are Bangladesh, Nepal, Oman, S. Arabia, Sri Lanka and UAE.

(c) This information is not maintained by the Government.

Bank Branches

775. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks operating in the rural areas of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to strengthen the banking operations in rural areas of the country;

(c) if so, the number of new branches of banks are likely to be set up in rural parts of the country during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the criteria of setting up of bank branches in rural parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) State-wise number of branches of nationalised banks operating in the rural areas, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in attached statement.

Under the extent Branch Licensing Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is left to the judgement of the individual banks to assess the need for opening additional bank branches in rural areas including the underdeveloped hilly areas of the country and no State-wise/area-wise targets have been fixed. The proposals received from the banks for opening of additional rural branches at centres which fall in the service area of the applicant bank and which are recommended by the concerned State Government are considered by RBI on merits. The State-wise number of authorisations/licences issued to public sector banks for opening branches in rural areas is indicated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-Wise Number of Rural Branches of Nationalised Banks (As on 31st December 1998) and Number of authorisations/Licenses Issued for Opening Branches in Rural Centres

State Name	Total Number of Rural Branches of Nationalised Banks	No. of Authorisations Issued for Opening Branches in Rural Centres
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	4	—
Andhra Pradesh	909	5
Arunachal Pradesh	7	—
Assam	385	—
Bihar	1370	—
Chandigarh	5	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	—
Daman & Diu	—	—
Delhi	28	1
Goa	123	—
Gujarat	904	1
Haryana	324	5

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	342	7
Jammu & Kashmir	40	—
Karnataka	856	3
Kerala	84	—
Lakshadweep	9	—
Madhya Pradesh	933	2
Maharashtra	1363	—
Manipur	19	—
Meghalaya	17	—
Mizoram	—	—
Nagaland	4	—
Orissa	537	1
Pondicherry	20	—
Punjab	687	3
Rajasthan	549	2

1	2	3
Sikkim	10	—
Tamil Nadu	1134	4
Tripura	32	—
Uttar Pradesh	2037	1
West Bengal	1179	—
All India Total	13916	35

Overdraft by States

776. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) year-wise total amount of overdraft resorted to by each State and Union Territory during the last three years and the total amount pending for adjustment by the end of 1999-2000 with special reference to the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to recover the overdraft, if any, and to keep the States under financial discipline;

(c) whether the J&K State is passing through financial constrains to meet the plan & non-plan requirements in view of militancy related expenditure and other financial mismanagements; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to redress the financial problems of the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The position of cash balances and over-drawal if any of the State Governments may vary from day to day and State to State. Transfers between a State and the RBI is conducted as per an agreement between the two. Since it is a matter of relationship

between the banker and the client (between the RBI and the State Government), such information is not published by the Government of India. J&K Government, however, does not bank with RBI.

(c) and (d) Annual Plan for J&K for 1998-99 approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 1900 crores which marks an increase of 22.43% over last year's level. The Plan is being fully funded. Government of India provides Central assistance for funding the State Plans in the form of 90% grant and 10% loan. It also funds the non-Plan gap, and supports Security related expenditure incurred by the State Government as per approved norms.

Disinvestment of Sick PSUs

777. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a number of decisions for saving the sick Public Sector Undertakings and restoring health of such PSUs by way of disinvestment, converting loans into shares and other means;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps since been taken in pursuance thereof; and

(c) the success achieved and likely to be achieved thereby in resurrecting the sick Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Enterprise specific measures are taken by the Government for revival/rehabilitation of PSUs. Sick industrial PSUs, whose networth has become negative are registered with BIFR for formulating appropriate revival/rehabilitation packages. Of the 65 CPSUs referred to BIFR as on 31.12.1998, revival packages have been sanctioned for 22 cases. These revival packages often include capital and other modes of restructuring including conversion of loan into equity, besides other reliefs and concessions.

Overhauling of Anti-Dumping Duty Structure

778. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force on administrative and legal simplifications has recommended a complete overhauling of the present anti-dumping duty structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have gone through the recommendations of the task force; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The task force on administrative and legal simplification has *inter-alia* recommended that there should be a change in the regulations by making it obligatory on the dumping company/country to disprove the charge of dumping. The process of imposition of anti-dumping duty should be compressed within a period of three months.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal has been examined by the Ministry of Commerce.

(d) The Anti-dumping Rules in India are based on the agreement of implementation of Article 6 of GATT 1994. The rules clearly require prima facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link to be established before initiation of investigations. Once the anti-dumping case has been initiated, it is necessary that the exporters disprove the charge of dumping, therefore, there does not seem to be any necessity to change the regulation to provide for this. The present procedure is also as per the WTO agreements.

As per the Rules, provisional duties can be imposed only after a minimum of 60 days, after initiation of a case. However, due to the need to give sufficient time to the concerned parties to respond to the initiation of proceedings, and to investigate the case, the normal time taken to impose provisional duties in India is around seven months. This compares favourably with the time taken by the European Union, where it has been observed that in practice provisional duties are levied only after 7-10 months. It would be practically impossible to compress the process of imposition of anti-dumping duty within a period of three months. The Government will, however, take further steps to further compress the period of imposition of provisional duties as far as possible taking into account the necessity to follow due processes and transparent procedure.

Borrowings for Construction of Houses

779. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to infuse funds from abroad through the Foreign Direct investment route by granting access to international finance;

(b) whether the FICCI suggested FDI to play a crucial role in the housing sector and the investments should be on reportable basis of principle, profits and dividends;

(c) whether the FICCI also wanted that the limit on allocation of incremental deposits by hands in the housing sector be doubled to 3% from 1.5;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in regard thereto;

(e) whether the Government propose to allow 100% Income Tax deduction of interest on borrowings for acquisition on construction of houses for occupation by individuals and HUF; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

**Interest on Outstanding Amount of
Income Tax/Excise**

780. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose interest on the outstanding amount of income-tax and central excise;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Sir, provisions already exist under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and Central Excise Act, 1944 for charging of interest on outstanding amounts of income tax and excise duty, respectively. In respect of income tax, simple interest is chargeable under section 156 at the rate of 1½% per month or part thereof, for the period of default, if an assessee fails to pay the demand within 30 days of the service of demand notice. As regards excise duty, interest is chargeable at the rate of 20% per annum under Section 11AA after 90 days of the determination of an amount outstanding, and also under Section 11AB in case of fraud, suppression of facts, etc. on the part of the assessee, @ 20% per annum from the first day of the succeeding month in which duty ought to have been paid.

[*English*]

Performance of Manufacturing Sector

781. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the study of Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the performance of manufacturing sector has been depressed during the first half of 1998-99;

(b) if so, the industries which are the most sufferer;

(c) the reasons for their poor performance;

(d) the extent to which the profit of these industries have been declined; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The CMIE has indicated that certain sectors like textiles, cement and steel have suffered due to demand recession. As per the Index of Industrial Production for the period April-December, 1998, production has been negative in respect of cotton textiles, jute and vegetable fibre textiles, machinery and equipment other than transport equipment, wood and wood products, textile products and basic metal and alloy industries.

(c) The reduced industrial growth has been due to weak demand on account of inadequate investment in infrastructure sectors, like power, ports and transport, and slow down in general investment mainly due to capital market conditions. On the external side, the export growth has been sluggish which has been aggravated by fall in world export growth. Export growth at (—) 2.88% has declined substantially during April-December, 1998.

(d) Private sector has been restructuring to induct new technology, improve efficiency and withdraw from non-core business. The financial results of the majority of the corporates for the year 1997-98 and 2nd and 3rd quarter of 1998-99 show a reduction in cost.

(e) Steps taken to revive industrial growth.

During 1998-99 Budget and subsequently various measures have been announced for growth of the economy and to boost industrial growth. Some of the important measures are:

- De-licensing of coal and lignite, petroleum refining and sugar, to attract larger inflow of capital.
- Increase in the limit for investment by NRIs, and FII to 40% in the equity of the Company.
- Increase in the turnover limit in excise duty exemption for SSI from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs and nominal rate of 5% duty for clearance between Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs.
- Rationalisation of the tariff structure to remove disadvantages faced by the domestic industry. The disadvantages on account of non payment of sales tax by imports has been balanced by levying a special additional duty on customs @4%.

- Various measures to boost investment and revive capital market such as permission to buy back shares and inter corporate loans.
- To protect some of the domestic industries anti-dumping duty is being imposed.
- Increase in plan outlay for key infrastructure sectors of energy, transport and communication for development of infrastructure facilities.
- The Prime Minister has recently announced the decision to build 7000 Km six lane highways linking Silchar in the East to Saurashtra in the West and Kashmir in the North to Kanyakumari in the South.
- The Busy Season Credit Policy announced by Reserve Bank of India has consciously avoided raising the interest rates so that industrial recovery is not adversely affected.
- The Government is conscious of the need for revival of the industrial sector and has constituted 4 Task Forces to recommend ameliorative measures for 4 sectors, most adversely affected, namely, steel, capital goods, commercial vehicles and cement. The recommendations of the Task Forces have been submitted to Government and policy announcements relating to these sectors are expected shortly.

Decline in Industrial Growth

782. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial growth rate has been continuously declining for the last six months, as on date;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for decline;

(c) the sectors in which industrial growth rate has declined as compared to the corresponding months of last year; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to boost the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The industrial growth rate during 1997-98 and 1998-99 for the period April-December (month-wise):

	1997-98	1998-99
April	3.9	4.8
May	3.9	3.7
June	6.7	4.8
July	8.2	3.4
August	5.2	4.4
September	8.5	2.8
October	7.0	0.8
November	10.5	3.8
December	7.1	3.2

(b) The reduced industrial growth has been due to weak demand account of inadequate investment in infrastructure sectors, like powers, ports and transport, and slow down in general investment mainly due to capital market conditions. On the external side, the export growth has been sluggish which has been aggravated by fall in world export growth. Export growth at (—)2.88% has declined substantially during April-December 1998.

(c) The growth during the current year for the period April-December, 1998 is 3.5% as compared to 6.7% during April-December, 1997. The analysis of the performance as per the Index of Industrial Production shows that during the nine months of the current year 1998-99 (Apr-Dec.), under performance is confined to some sectors. Production has been negative in respect of cotton textiles (-9.9%), manufacture of jute and other vegetable fibre textiles (-5.4%), machinery & equipment other than transport equipment (-3.3%), wood & wood products (-3.3%), textile products (-3.1%) and basic metal & alloy industries (-3.0%).

(d) The steps taken to improve industrial growth are:—

1. Special package announced for revival of growth in exports.
2. Repeal of ULCRA and incentive to house ownership.
3. The Government has recently allowed buy back of shares and inter corporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market.
4. The Reserve Bank of India has avoided raising interest rates in the busy season credit policy to boost industrial activity.
5. Private sector has been restructuring to induct new technology, improve efficiency and withdraw from non-core business. The financial results of the majority of the corporate for the year 1997-98 and 2nd and 3rd quarter of 1998-99 show a reduction in cost. After restructuring they are likely to undertake investment for expansion.
6. The Government conscious of the need for revival of the industrial sector, has constituted 4 Task Forces to recommend ameliorative measures for 4 sectors most adversely affected, namely steel, capital goods, commercial vehicles and cement. The recommendations of the Task Forces have been submitted to Ministry of Finance. Certain measures relating to steel have been announced and policy announcements relating to other sectors are expected shortly.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Cement Units

783. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cement units are lying closed in the country particularly in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the reasons for their closure, unit-wise;
- (c) the total number of employees engaged in them; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to revive these units, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Fifteen large cement plants including two each from Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are reported closed/not working due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence and economic non-viability.

(c) Data relating to number of employees in the private sector is not maintained centrally.

(d) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units including those reported on the verge of closure. These, *inter-alia*, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Funds, etc.

[*English*]

Cheques Clearance Time in RBI

784. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days required for clearance of Reserve Bank of India Cheques deposited in the State Bank of India (SBI) branches, within the radius of one kilometer of RBI, after the date of deposit in such SBI branches;

(b) whether complaints have been received from customers of such SBI branches regarding non-clearance of cheques for even more than three to five days;

(c) if so, the regional office-wise number of complaints received from public/MPs about such branches, which are particularly within the radius of 2 Kms. from RBI as well as Regional Office during the month of November, 1997; and

(d) the action taken on each of them and persons found guilty in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it requires one day

excluding the date of deposit of the instruments for RBI local clearing. Withdrawals are allowed after completion of cheque return discipline. However, as per instructions issued by RBI to the commercial banks in respect of local cheques tendered for collection the customer's accounts should be credited and they should be allowed use of funds latest on the third working day from the date of acceptance of the cheques at counters. These instructions are applicable to all local cheques tendered for collection.

(b) SBI has reported that no such complaints appear to have been received by them in this regard, in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Bharat Gold Mines Limited

785. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for winding up of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.;

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

(c) whether the Government have made any efforts to revive the company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for rejecting the rehabilitation scheme submitted by the ICICI for the revival of BGML?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BHML), a Central Public Sector Undertaking, was referred to BIFR and declared sick in 1992 under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India was appointed by BIFR as the Operating Agency (O.A.) for the revival of BGML. The O.A.'s rehabilitation scheme, which, *inter-alia*, envisaged fresh infusion of funds, was not acceptable to the Government. It was decided by the Government in June 1997 to explore the possibility of associating a private co-promoter(s) with a view to rehabilitating BGML through the Joint Venture route. Accordingly, a Committee was constituted which has since

given its report. The future of BGML would be decided in accordance with the provisions of SICA.

[Translation]

Outstanding Excise Duty

786. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of excise duty outstanding for recovery, till date;

(b) whether the Government machinery has failed to recover the outstanding amount of excise duty; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Total amount of excise duty outstanding for recovery as on 31.12.98 is Rs. 7560.89 crores.

(b) and (c) There is no failure on the part of the Government. The assesses delay payment of excise dues until they exhaust all legal remedies right upto the apex Appellate Forum.

Due to stay granted by various courts, CEGAT and Appellate authorities etc. large amount of tax arrears has accumulated.

Special measures have been taken to get the stay vacated by filing urgent petitions in High Courts, Appellate Tribunals for either vacation of stay or for deciding the cases on priority basis. Wherever possible, bank guarantees are enforced. Efforts are also being made to realise the dues by taking persuasive/coercive/certificate action.

[English]

Pay Scales to Teachers of Coal India Limited

787. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether teachers working in the schools of Coal India Limited have no running pay scales and getting a consolidated monthly salary;

(b) if so, the reasons for not granting running pay scales like other organisations;

(c) whether any Committee on education has been set up by Coal India Limited in 1994 to look into the matter of salary of teachers;

(d) if so, the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Coal India Limited does not run any school.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

(c) A Committee was set up on 21.12.1994 by the Ministry of Coal under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) with members comprising Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Directors (Personnel) of Coal India Ltd., Bharat Coking Coal Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. to study the entire aspect of education of the children of coal mine workers including officers and give suggestions/schemes for betterment of their education and related matters to the Government.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee are as under:—

(i) The education in and around coalfield areas should be the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and no departmentalisation of the educational system be considered by the coal companies. When the process of rationalising manpower through various schemes including VRS is underway there can be no question of adding to manpower. This is even more so in the case of BCCL whose very survival is at stake.

(ii) The system of grant-in-aid to schools operating in the coalfield areas on the present lines should be continued, in default of the State Government providing adequate facilities for education of the children of the mining community.

(iii) There is no necessity of having uniformity in respect of pay scales and grant-in-aid given by each company since the conditions prevailing differ both in respect of the existing educational systems and prevailing pay scale patterns on the one hand and the financial condition of the various coal companies on the other.

(iv) The budget for education in the coal companies may continue to be determined, as at present, by the historical pattern and the agreements under the Coal Wage Award from time to time. However, within the available resources, there is need to provide incentives for merit at both the individual and institutional levels.

(v) The schools should be encouraged to secure recognition from the State authorities by fulfilling the prescribed conditions under the relevant order for example "Bihar Non-Government elementary school" taking over of Control (Act 1976) and the provisions of Bihar Government Notification No. 501 dated 31.12.82 published in Bihar Gazette of 20.4.83. This will improve the morale of both the teachers and students because the status of recognised schools gives a sense of security to the students as well as their guardians.

(vi) Until the schools so recognised are taken by the State Government on their grant-in-aid pattern, a somewhat higher grant may be considered, within the available budget for such schools in recognition of their status.

(vii) Similarly qualified and trained teachers also need to be recognised in the interest of better education. The number of qualified trained teachers should be identified out of the total so that their pay may be considered for at least symbolic increase over that of unqualified/non-trained teachers.

(viii) Possibilities of giving meritorious students preference in admission in Central Schools, DAV Schools, DPS Schools could be explored.

(ix) Where schools have been allowed to take part in the common examination system by the State Government, they could be considered for incentives based on their results.

- (x) Award of scholarship to meritorious students who are wards of the employees to enable them to pursue higher education should be considered.

(e) As reported by Coal India Limited, the recommendations which relate to the taking over of the schools by the State Government are subject to the decision of the concerned State Government. The other recommendations relating to giving grant-in-aid within the available budget has been implemented. The rest of recommendations mostly relate to continuing with the existing practice.

Performance of HPC

788. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production figures of the Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the financial losses incurred by the Corporation during above period;

(c) the number of posts lying vacant alongwith date of vacancy;

(d) whether appointments in HPC have not been made;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which such vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) The production of Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) during the last three years:

Year	Production (MT)
1996-97	1,44,933
1997-98	1,38,686
1998-99 (Upto January, 99)	1,16,703

(b) No loss has been incurred during the above period.

(c) to (f) The number of -senior level posts lying vacant in HPC alongwith date of vacancy are as under:—

Post	Date
(i) Director (Operations)-1	01.11.96
(ii) Executive Director (NPM)-1	21.04.97
(iii) General Manager (TS)-1	22.05.98
(iv) General Manager (Works)-1	December, 97
(v) Dy. Gen. Manager (Elect)-1	30.09.98
(vi) Dy. Gen. Manager (Fin)-1	January, 99
(vii) Sr. Manager (Fin/Internal Audit)-2	20.02.98 & 18.05.98
(viii) Sr. Manager (Legal)-1	31.01.97

The vacancies occurring due to superannuation, resignation etc. are filled in as per laid down procedure. Vacancies arising out of voluntary retirement are surrendered. Action for filling up the vacancies in HPC has been initiated.

[Translation]

Decline in Textile Export

789. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in export of textiles during the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to boost the export of textiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the export of textiles is likely to go up therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The exports of textiles, including handicrafts, jute and coir, during the last year i.e. 1997-98 had an increase of 4.6%, in dollar terms over the previous year.

(c) and (d) In order to encourage the export of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, etc.

[*English*]

Class IV Employees in Neelanchal Ispat Nigam

790. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of group IV employees recruited in the Neelanchal Ispat Nigam in Orissa in which MMTC and IPICOL are commissioning the project at Sukinda;

(b) the details of such employees appointed and the particulars of the Employment Exchanges asked by the Management to submit the names for interview; and

(c) the break-up of figures of SCs/STs employed in the project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE): (a) and (b) The present promoters of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. i.e. MMTC and IPICOL have not recruited any employee in Group IV category. The total number of Group IV employees are 13 and were first appointed on casual basis and subsequently regularised before MMTC and IPICOL took over the project for implementation.

(c) Sir, the break-up of SC, ST employees in Group IV employees is as under:—

SC	—	1
ST	—	Nil

Patent of Drugs

791. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received for exclusive marketing rights of drugs from the foreign companies in the Controllor of Patent Office after issue of Ordinance on Patent Bill;

(b) the number of applications so far cleared by Patent Office;

(c) the time by which these drugs are likely to be marketed in India;

(d) the number of Indian companies applied for patenting their drugs in foreign countries; and

(e) the number out of them cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDEF BAKHT): (a) None, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) This information will not be available with the Patent Office in India.

Pilferage of Manganese

792. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pilferage of manganese from the manganese mines in Sundergarh and Keonjhar districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) As per the scheme of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, the main responsibility for checking illegal mining rests with State Governments. As per information furnished by the State Government of Orissa, unauthorised extraction of manganese ore has come to the notice of the State Government in the lease-hold areas of M/s Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. in Village Baneikella, Khandabandha, Joda West etc. and Serenda, Bhedrashai mines of Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd., of Keonjhar district and Malda manganese mines of M/s Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. in Sundergarh district. With a view to curb such illegal extraction and theft, mining officers and staff are conducting frequent patrolling and surprise checks on roads and depots. This has yielded results in as much as they have so far been successful in seizing a total quantity of 1888.232 metric tonnes of manganese ore valued at about Rs. 39.35 lakhs in 155 numbers of theft cases. Out of these, in 16 theft cases, the loaded manganese ore trucks have been seized and cases have been lodged. These cases are pending in

the Courts of Law. Moreover, the State Government have instructed Collectors of Keonjhar and Sundergarh districts and to the field officers to take all possible measures to stop such illegal activities. Accordingly, steps have been taken to check clandestine working of the manganese ore.

Reservation Policy in financial institutions

793. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation policy is being followed in Government promoted organisations like IDBI, UTI, ICICI, GIC, LIC, Stock Holding Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the recruitment break-up of different

categories of above mentioned organisations for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) IDBI, UTI, GIC & LIC are following the reservation policy. ICICI and Stock Holding Corporation, are not owned or controlled by Govt. and therefore reservation policy is not being followed by them.

(b) As per information made available by the IDBI, UTI, LIC and GIC recruitment break-up of different categories for the last three years is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Figures regarding SC, ST & OBC candidates recruited during the years 1996, 1997 & 1998 in various grades in IDBI, UTI, LIC and GIC (including its 4 subsidiaries)

	1996			1997			1998		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
IDBI	34	15	17	28	11	25	17	6	13
UTI	17	12	—	24	6	10	8	22	19
LIC*	1259	858	2313	988	692	1338	374	200	549
GIC (including its subsidiary Companies)	362	166	50	346	199	253	230	85	483

Note:—*The figures in respect of LIC is for the financial years ending March, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Non-Productive Expenditure

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

(a) whether the Government have taken effective steps under economy drive launched to effect substantial

cut in non-productive expenditure in Central Government Organisations, Institutions and PSUs;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the likely financial implication thereof and the estimated savings likely to accrue during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Government have been issuing instructions from time to time on expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity measures for achieving economy in expenditure and avoiding non-productive expenditure. Fresh instructions on this were issued in August '98 and February '99 which broadly envisage the following:—

- (1) Greater emphasis on explicit recognition of the constraints of resources and a realistic projection of the budget allocation required and rigid adherence to budgetary ceilings.
- (2) Fixing responsibility for incurring expenditure over and above the appropriations.
- (3) Greater emphasis on achieving the end-objectives of the schemes rather than on merely incurring expenditure to avoid savings and surrenders.
- (4) Better control over release of funds to autonomous bodies based on actual utilisation of funds already provided and their absorptive capacity.
- (5) Reduction of establishment expenditure to the maximum possible extent.
- (6) Postponement of all avoidable seminars, conferences, workshops, etc.
- (7) Restrictions on foreign visits on study tours and for attending workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.
- (8) Imposition of 10 per cent cut on non-salary items of non-plan expenditure, viz. Travel Expenses, Office Expenses, Petrol, Oil and Lubricants, Overtime Allowances, Honorarium, etc.
- (9) Withdrawal of STD facilities from residences of the officers below Jt. Secy. level; imposition of 10% cut on STD connections and 25% cut on residential telephones of non-entitled officers.

It is difficult to assess at this stage the likely financial implications and the estimated savings as a result of these measures.

Production of Natural Rubber

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

(a) the total requirement of Natural Rubber for Domestic industries;

(b) the domestic production of natural rubber;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for import of natural rubber, limited to the requirement of domestic industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The total requirement and production of natural rubber for 1998-99 are estimated to be 5,84,000 tonnes and 6,10,000 tonnes respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Loans for Housing by Banks

796. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to provide loan for housing to the persons living below the poverty line has been chalked out by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of such persons in Gujarat to whom the loans disbursed by the banks during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) It is envisaged in the National Agenda for Governance that

there will be a substantial increase in the targets for construction of houses for the poor and deprived to the extent of 7 lakhs houses per year in the urban areas of the country. The Scheme will also cover the persons belonging to poor and deprived category. National Housing Bank have reported that the details of housing loans under priority sector viz. housing loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs disbursed by banks in Gujarat State during the years ended June, 1996 and June, 1997 as provided by Reserve Bank of India is as given below:

Year ended	No. of Accounts	Amount (Rs. in 1000)
For the year ended June, 1996	693	1,13,972
For the year ended June, 1997	1974	2,36,686

Prices of Gold

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gold premium at 10%" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the gap between international and domestic gold prices has widened to 10 per cent against around two per cent over the past few months and that this would encourage smuggling; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take to remove this gap and to prevent smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) A news item captioned "Gold premium at 10%" had appeared in the *Business Standard* dated 1.2.99. There

has been an increase in the gap between the international price and domestic price of gold approximately to the extent of increase in the rate of duty. Government does not perceive any risk of increased smuggling as a result of the increase in duty rate. However, the field formations have been alerted to maintain strict vigil against any spurt in smuggling activities.

Export of Marine Products

798. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of marine products and sea food has declined;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(c) the details of the countries in which export has been increased; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of marine goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) During the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 there has been an increase in the export of marine products both in quantity and value terms. However, during the current year starting from 1st April 1998 to 31st January 1999, there has been some decline in exports in quantity and in US dollar value terms as compared to the same period of the preceding year. Following are the details of exports of marine products from each of the States based on the exports effected through the various ports/airports located in their respective jurisdictions, during each of the last three years and during the current year from 1st April 1998 to 31st January 1999:—

Q: Quantity in Metric Tons

\$: Value in Million US Dollars

State		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 April 98-Jan. 99
i. Gujarat	Q	82558	123213	125561	55622
	\$	125.49	159.61	175.96	72.46
ii. Maharashtra	Q	55357	71660	78957	52639
	\$	153.77	144.96	175.49	124.32
iii. Goa	Q	13938	13603	11108	5539
	\$	22.34	17.73	14.88	6.40
iv. Karnataka	Q	137	1716	1970	2011
	\$	3.66	3.48	1.56	3.91
v. Kerala	Q	78896	92288	89366	58003
	\$	272.03	261.89	261.53	159.35
vi. Tamil Nadu	Q	31330	40878	41052	38527
	\$	228.31	300.88	336.57	291.22
vii. Andhra Pradesh	Q	20017	18560	23314	18825
	\$	193.29	146.06	213.78	188.62
viii. West Bengal	Q	14044	16281	14469	12168
	\$	112.57	118.22	116.05	96.51
ix. Delhi	Q	—	—	21	—
	\$	—	—	0.04	—
Total	Q	296277	378199	385818	243334
	\$	1111.46	1152.83	1295.86	942.79

Source: Marine Products Export Development Authority.

(c) Exports of marine products to Japan have shown an increasing trend from the year 1996-97 onwards but for a downward trend both in terms of quantity and value in US dollar terms in the current year (from 1st April 1998 to 31st January 1999). The exports of USA have also shown a positive growth trend from the year 1996-97 onwards but for a slight reduction in value in dollar terms during the current year from 1st April 1998 to 31st January 1999. After showing a positive growth trend in the year 1995-96 the exports to the European Union declined in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 but have shown a growth in exports both in quantity and value terms during the period 1st April 1998 to 31st January 1999. The exports to South East Asia also increased during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 but have declined during the period 1st April 1998 to 31st January 1999. Exports to middle East countries have shown an increasing trend since the beginning of the year 1997-98.

(d) The major steps taken by the Government to boost of export of fish and fishery products from India are as follows:—

1. The threshold limit for zero duty under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme has been reduced from the earlier Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 1 crore for the import of essential machinery and equipment by the fishery product processing units so as to facilitate upgradation and modernisation of units.
2. The Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for the export of fish and fishery products have been notified.
3. With a view to encourage conformance to high standards and quality, the units having a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) based Quality Assurance System, have been given entitlement of additional 5% SIL (Special Import Licence).
4. The Government have introduced a new interest subsidy scheme subsidising upto a maximum of 7% of interest over and above a base rate of 7% on the loans taken by the processing units from the financial institutions/banks for the purpose of modernising/upgrading their units.
5. Implementation of various subsidy schemes through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for helping the fishery product processing units to produce quality fish and fishery products for exports namely

schemes for the establishment of captive, peeling sheds, cold storages, mini laboratories, generator sets, flake/chip/tube ice making machines, individual quick freezing (IQF) units and procurement of refrigerated trucks, equipment and machinery for modernisation and for export of value added products etc.

6. Various training programmes have been got conducted by MPEDA and Export Inspection Council on the implementation of HACCP system and for maintaining high standards of food hygiene and safety at all stages of processing.
7. With a view to increase the availability of shrimps for exports, MPEDA has been extending capital subsidies for the development of new aquaculture farms and shrimp hatcheries. Necessary guidance and training is also being provided to aquaculture farmers on scientific methods for sustainable eco-friendly aquaculture for increased production of disease free shrimps.

Dearness Allowance

799. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Union Government have become eligible for one more instalment of Dearness Allowance due to steep increase in the prices of almost all the commodities, especially the essential commodities;

(b) if so, the per cent of increase in the D.A. that is due for the employees from January, 1999;

(c) whether the Government propose to sanction the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The instalment due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April and the decision to revise the rates of DA with effect from 1.1.99 will be taken well before it becomes payable.

Assistance from ADB to Karnataka

800. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has agreed for financing the development of west coast district of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the time by which ADB assistance for the purpose is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Asian Development Bank has agreed in principle to provide a loan assistance for Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environmental Management. The loan amount and other details will be known after the appraisal is completed, negotiation held and agreement signed with the Bank.

[*Translation*]

Export of Liquor

801. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish the Indian made liquor manufacture distilleries abroad as the foreign liquor manufacturing distilleries are being run in our country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government does not have proposals to invest and establish liquor manufacturing distilleries abroad.

[*English*]

Writing off the Loans to Coffee Growers

802. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received from the Coffee growers to write off their loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Coffee Growers have represented for waiver of penal interest/loans taken by them from Coffee Board.

(b) and (c) Relief has been sought under the Agricultural and Rural Development Scheme, 1990. However, it has not been possible to waive the loans as only those loans including loan for plantation, which were given directly by Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Co-operative Banks to farmers & artisans in the rural areas were eligible for providing relief upto Rs. 10,000 per borrower under the said scheme. This scheme ended on 31.3.91.

The Govt. of India, however, permitted Coffee Board to waive penal interest due to the Board from growers who repay the principal loan amount with normal interest.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

803. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units sponsored/ administered by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of works done by these industries during each of the last three years, till date; and

(c) the number of Khadi and Village Industries/ Institutions functioning under KVI Boards were provided assistance by KVIC during the above period. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Khadi & Village Industries Commission generally provides financial assistance to institutions directly registered with it. These registered Institutions in turn set up industrial units in their area of operation. There are 4969 Registered Institutions functioning under Khadi & Village Industries in the country. State-wise break-up is placed at Annexure.

(b) The cumulative performances of all implementing agencies of KVIC for the last three years in terms of

production, employment, sales and earnings is as given below:

	(Rs. in crores) (Employment in lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Production	4026.45	4880.00	4619.31
Sales	4429.12	4814.01	5065.28
Employment	56.72	60.22	56.50
Earning	1363.89	1532.55	1546.34

(c) The total number of registered institutions/cooperative societies and individuals functioning under various State KVI Boards which were financed from KVIC sources is as under:—

Registered institutions	—	4969
Cooperatives	—	30,129
Individuals	—	7.85 lakhs

State-wise break-up is placed at Annexure.

Statement

S.No.	State & Union Territories	Regd. Inst.	Coop.	Indl.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
I.	STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	277	2427	112680	115384
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	71	74
3.	Assam	35	298	7252	7585

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	85	3065	41786	44936
5.	Goa	20	1	4146	4167
6.	Gujarat	33	897	4080	5010
7.	Haryana	315	433	28610	29358
8.	Himachal Pradesh	55	2	17193	17250
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22	3822	21800	25644
10.	Karnataka	275	1264	13950	15489
11.	Kerala	35	1880	12297	14212
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135	886	17415	18436
13.	Maharashtra	19	2136	37222	39377
14.	Manipur	963	293	13470	14726
15.	Meghalaya	1	13	6773	6787
16.	Mizoram	—	98	4145	4243
17.	Nagaland	5	—	10527	10532
18.	Orissa	74	3531		3605

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Punjab	115	794	39408	40317
20.	Rajasthan	117	1586	106413	108116
21.	Sikkim	—	1	1667	1668
22.	Tamil Nadu	127	3218	36946	40291
23.	Tripura	5	—	20131	20136
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2060	3174	140155	145389
25.	West Bengal	183	260	81283	81726
II.	UNION TERRITORIES				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	41	41
2.	Chandigarh	—	15	404	419
3.	Delhi	10	24	5369	5403
4.	Lakshadweep	—	8	—	8
5.	Pondicherry	1	2	44	47
Total		4969	30129	785278	820376

Procurement of Cotton by C.C.I. in Gujarat

804. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has procured cotton from the farms of Gujarat during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed by the Government for the procurement of cotton from the farmers of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) had purchased 3,05,417 bales of cotton during 1996-97 and 2,48,575 bales of cotton during 1997-98 in Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) purchases cotton in all the cotton growing States except Maharashtra where the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of cotton of the State Government is in operation. During the current cotton season 1998-99, the CCI as on 19/2/1999 has purchased 98,952 bales of cotton in Gujarat.

Closure of New India Assurance Co. Ltd. at Partapur, Meerut

805. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branch of New India Assurance Company Ltd. at Partapur, District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh has been closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reopen this branch there; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) New India Assurance Company has reported that their

Partapur Branch has not been closed down but it has been merged with their Meerut Divisional Office-I. Their merger took place as a result of policy decision taken by the Management that the branch offices of the company which are located on the same floor where its Divisional Office (DO) is located, should be merged with its DO to make them viable.

(c) and (d) Since Partapur Branch has become part and parcel of Meerut D.O.-I the question does not arise.

Bank Accounts of Deceased Persons

806. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount lying in various nationalised banks of the depositors who have died and the cases of claims from their legal heirs are pending for disposal;

(b) the total number of such claims pending;

(c) the average period for which these claims have been pending;

(d) whether the accrued interest is also paid at the time of final disposal;

(e) if so, the interest rate thereof;

(f) whether any steps are being taken by the banks to identify the legal heirs in those cases where no claims are submitted; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that information relating to depositors who have died and their claims have remained unpaid is not complied by them. Details relating to unclaimed deposits more than 10 years old is, however, compiled by them on an annual basis. RBI has further reported that as on 13.12.97, a sum of Rs. 409.36 crores was lying with Scheduled Commercial Banks as unclaimed deposits.

(d) and (e) The rate of interest paid when such claims are settled is the rate applicable to type of account involved.

(f) and (g) It is for the legal successors of depositors, who have died to inform the banks of the death of the depositors and to file claims in relation to the balances standing at the credit of the accounts of depositors who have died. Where the amount is 'either or survivor' accounts or where the depositor has made nomination in respect of his bank account no difficulty is experienced by the bank in taking action following the death of the depositor concerned.

[*Translation*]

Items Produced by Textile Industries

807. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of textile industries in Karnataka and the items produced by these textile industries;

(b) whether there is any plan to provide assistance to the textile industries of the State to boost the production and export of textiles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills in Karnataka are located mainly in Bijapur, Belgaon, Dharwar, Davangere, Bangalore, Mysore etc. These mills are producing cotton yarn, man-made yarn and cloth etc. Besides, Karnataka houses many units in sericulture industry in places like Bangalore, Mysore etc.

(b) and (c) Government has approved launching the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme under which loans at applicable rate of interest would be available to the eligible textile and jute units. Under this Scheme, interest to the extent of 5%, interest points would be reimbursed to the lending nodal agencies (IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI) by the Ministry of Textiles. The scheme would be open to all identified units all over the country including the State of Karnataka.

Printing of One Thousand Rupee Note

808. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started printing of One Thousand Rupee Notes; and

(b) if so, the time by which this currency Note is likely to be in circulation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a decision to introduce Rs. 1000 notes. The printing of the notes and their circulation is likely to commence by the end of 1999.

[*English*]

Accidents in Coal Mines

809. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents took place in various coal mines during 1998, till date, coal-mine-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured, separately, in those accidents;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the affected persons/families;

(d) whether modern technology is being adopted in the coal mines to check the accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) The number of fatal accidents that took place in the coal mines of Coal India Limited during 98, the number of persons killed/injured and the amount of compensation paid to the dependents of the deceased is given in the annexure.

(d) and (e) Appropriate modern technology suitable to Indian conditions is being adopted to check accidents in the coal mines of Coal India Limited as under:

(i) Scientific systems of roof support based on the recommendations of the expert committee (company known as Paul Committee) is done in underground coal mines wherever possible by estimation of the support requirement through determination of rock mass rating and support of roof by roof bolting and roof stitching. In development districts timber support is being replaced by steel support. High set props developed by Central Mining Research Institute is being used at the faces to avoid dislodgement of support during blasting operations. Longwall mining is being done at some places where roof is supported by steel powered supports.

(ii) Manual loading is being replaced by mechanised loading by side-discharge-loaders and load-haul-dumpers in bord and pillar mines in a phased manner to reduce exposure of workmen to risk prone areas within ten metres of the coal face.

- (iii) About eighty percent of the coal production is being done from relatively safer opencast mines with modern heavy-earth-moving-machinery.
- (iv) Modern gas detecting instruments are being used for detecting presence of inflammable/ noxious gases in below-ground mines. Equipment for continuous monitoring of environmental conditions in underground mines to give advance warning of dangerous conditions are planned to be introduced in highly gassy/fiery mines in a phased manner.
- (v) Rescue services organisation is being equipped with modern equipment and accessories in a phased manner like modern self contained breathing apparatus, infra-red imager for detection of heating and rescue of persons in conditions of poor visibility, filter self rescuers, high capacity pumps, etc. Currently a large Dia boring machine has been procured and is being given a trial run in ECL.

Statement

Company	Date	Colliery	*Killed	Seriously injured	Name of Deceased	Compensation (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	01/10/98	Parasea	1	—	Tamil Bhuiya	139130
ECL	03/18/98	Madhaipur	2	—	Chandradip Rajbhar	201660
ECL	03/18/98	Madhaipur	—	—	Dharmendra Bhuiya	224000
ECL	03/29/98	Narsamunda	1	—	Sarju Mahato	135560
ECL	03/30/98	Khandra	1	—	Pasupati Sahis	125136
ECL	04/15/98	Amritnagar	1	—	Jamaru Manjhi	121050
ECL	05/07/98	Bahuta	1	—	Kameshwar Mahato	139130
ECL	05/28/98	Poidih	1	—	Nand Lal Mahato	50000
ECL	06/17/98	Chinakuri 2 Pit	1	—	Ram Raj Ahir	156470
ECL	07/01/98	Haripur	1	—	Mukeswar Singh	169440
ECL	07/24/98	Naba Kajora	1	—	Gouri Nath Bouri	195000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ECL	08/03/98	Kumardihi 'B'	1	—	Sheikh Nooru	142680
ECL	09/14/98	Chinakuri 1	2	1	Kailash Nunia	211790
ECL	09/14/98	Chinakuri 1	—	—	Narayan Paswan	153090
ECL	09/14/98	Chinakuri 1	—	—	Narayan Paswan	153090
ECL	09/15/98	Mithapur	1	—	Jadunath Rajbhar	114374
ECL	09/15/98	Badjna	1	—	Jageswar Mallah	131950
ECL	10/07/98	Ningha	1	—	Malay Chaterjee	147000
ECL	10/13/98	Damra	1	—	Ishaque Khan	128338
ECL	11/20/98	Manderboni	1	—	Narendra Kisku	Under Process
ECL	11/21/98	Jambad	1	—	Anil Kora	194840
ECL	12/10/98	Badjna	1	1	Shib Shankar Roy	128330
ECL	12/15/98	Naba Kajora	1	—	Radhey Shyam Mondal	131950
MCL	04/25/98	Bharatpur OCP	1	—	Umesh Pandey	221370
MCL	05/05/98	Orient No. 2	3	—	Hira Naik	178490
MCL	05/05/98	Orient No. 2	—	—	Sudam Morai	189584
MCL	05/05/98	Orient No. 2	—	—	Sundar Mirdha	181370

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MCL	07/04/98	Orient No. 2	1	—	Gorakh	124700
MCL	07/15/98	Samleswari OCP	1	—	Jitendra Sharma	112973
MCL	07/21/98	Lingraj OCP	2	—	Bibhu Prasad Sahu	215280
MCL	07/21/98	Lingraj OCP	—	—	Laxman Naik	209920
NCL	03/20/98	Dudhichua	1	—	Birendra Prasad	201660
NCL	04/04/98	Amlohari	1	—	Radhe Lal	181370
NCL	06/02/98	Jayant	1	—	O.K. Chaurasia	169440
NCL	07/08/98	Nigahi	1	—	Gorakhnath	186900
NCL	10/31/98	Jayant OC	1	—	Indra Mani Singh	175540
NEC	04/22/98	Baragola	1	—	K. Lochmaiya	146200
NEC	12/24/98	Triap OC	1	—	Nanhu Singh	191922
SECL	01/05/98	Chirimiri OC	1	—	Hari Lal	169440
SECL	02/05/98	Gevra Project	1	—	Bhagwant Sahu	86764
SECL	03/19/98	Kapildhara	—	—	Sanjay	225200
SECL	05/31/98	Rajendra UG	1	—	Zhu Jianhua#	Not Eligible
SECL	06/16/98	Kusmunda OC	1	—	A.K. Singh	192140

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SECL	09/09/98	Duman Hill Colly	1	—	Satyanarayan	162486
SECL	10/13/98	Kumda 7&8	2	1	Dohan	202660
SECL	10/13/98	Kumda 7&8	—	—	Kunwar	179490
SECL	11/02/98	Surakacchar	1	—	Anand Singh	116960
SECL	12/22/98	Gevra OC	1	—	Harihar Singh	175540
SECL	12/24/98	Harad Inc	—	—	Awdhesh Singh	Under Process
SECL	12/24/98	Harad Inc	2	—	Nand Kishore	Under Process
WCL	01/19/98	Ballarpur 3&4 pits	1	—	Balkaran Dudhnath	167440
WCL	02/10/98	HLC	1	—	B.D. Prasad	189650
WCL	02/25/98	Rawanwara Khas	1	—	Jangi	149670
WCL	04/11/98	Nakoda	1	—	Halim Khan	156470
WCL	05/31/98	Mahakati	1	—	R.B. Danao	194640
WCL	07/17/98	Rajur Pits	1	—	Jangloo Ukandi	163070
WCL	07/22/98	Gondegaon OC	1	—	M.R. Dayal	188000
WCL	08/01/98	Kamptee UG	1	—	A. Laxman	184170
WCL	09/19/98	Patnasaongi	1	—	Samundar Lal	81450

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WCL	09/20/98	Durgapur OC	1	—	N.M. Ragilwar	186900
WCL	11/02/98	Kamptee UG	1	—	H. Kedukar	153090
WCL	11/02/98	Nandan II	1	—	Jagan	189560
WCL	11/18/98	Walni UG	2	4	Ramrao Pillaji	98530
WCL	11/18/98	Walni UG	—	—	Sukitram	89245
BCCL	01/01/98	Block-IV UG	1	—	Nitya Nand Singh	146000
BCCL	01/16/98	Kharkharee	1	—	Sarju Mondal	Under Process
BCCL	02/11/98	South Govindpur	1	—	Bharat Karmakar	211790
BCCL	02/12/98	Bastacollah	2	—	Janeswar Manjhi	124700
BCCL	02/12/98	Bastacollah	—	—	Sabatab Majhi	142680
BCCL	02/25/98	Bastacollah	1	2	Baburam Manjhi	146200
BCCL	03/04/98	East Busseriya	1	1	Nanku Mia	117480
BCCL	04/04/98	Block-IV OCP	1	—	Ram Adhar Singh	124700
BCCL	04/07/98	Gopalichuck	1	—	Kewal Singh	186900
BCCL	04/20/98	Mooridih	1	—	Sona Ram Mahato	199140

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BCCL	06/01/98	Sendra Bansjora	1	—	Khas Kurban Mia	117410
BCCL	06/28/98	Damoda	1	—	Pushan Mahato	128000
BCCL	07/03/98	Sudamdih Shoft Mine	1	—	Mahadeo Singh	163070
BCCL	07/10/98	Pootki	1	—	Sheo Shankar Paswan	186900
BCCL	08/10/98	Sudamdih Incline	1	—	Sahdeo Bouri	139000
BCCL	09/22/98	Kachchi Balihari 5/6 pit	1	—	Kachi Balihar	189560
BCCL	09/25/98	East Busseriya	1	—	Ram Kishan Yadav	166290
BCCL	09/26/98	Lohapatti	1	—	Shankar Narayan Dubey	139130
BCCL	09/27/98	Bhowrah North	1	—	Gopal Shaw	186900
BCCL	10/18/98	Bhowrah South	1	—	Budhram Dusadh	120350
BCCL	11/14/98	Kachchi Balihari 10/12 Pit	1	—	Vidyanath Pd Pal	205960
BCCL	11/23/98	Gondudih	1	—	Karmu Ravidas	199400
BCCL	11/28/98	Sudamdih Inc.	1	—	Manager Mahato	131950
BCCL	12/12/98	Basantimata	1	—	Balleswar Bhuiya	166270
BCCL	12/15/98	Moonidih	1	—	Raw Asis Sao	186200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CCL	12/24/98	Lodna	1	—	Mahadeo Bouri	120040
CCL	02/10/98	Ray Bachra	1	—	Naresh Ganju	219950
CCL	02/15/98	Sirka	1	2	Gopal Oraon*	213570
CCL	03/18/98	Ara	1	—	Hukam Nath	142630
CCL	06/08/98	Kuju	5	1	Bydhuwe Oraon	207980
CCL	08/08/98	Kuju	—	—	Fagu Mahato	211790
CCL	08/08/98	Kuju	—	—	Jeet Bhuiyan	203850
CCL	08/08/98	Kuju	—	—	Preetam Bhuiya	184170
CCL	08/08/98	Kuju	—	—	Sauresh Gope	172520
CCL	09/06/98	Tapin North	1	—	Binda Natha Pandey	169440
CCL	12/10/98	Amla	1	—	Radhika Devi	Outsider Not Eligible

* Figures subject to reconciliation with DGMS.

Not payable as per agreement with Chinese Contractor.

Off Loading of Coal

810. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ABHAY SINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the off loading of coal was very low in the first quarter of 1998-99 as compared to the corresponding period during the previous year;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to sale the coal in the open market due to existing huge stock of coal lying with the coal companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Offtake of coal from Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) during the first quarter of 1998-99 (April-June, 1998) as compared to the same period last year are given below:—

	(In million tonnes) Data Provisional
April-June, 98	62.39
April-June, 97	70.43

The offtake of coal during first quarter of 1998-99 was low as compared to the last year on account of lower demand from the power and cement sectors. Because of all time high stock at the power houses end, most of the power houses resorted to restriction/curtailment in supplies resulting in reduced offtake. The cement plants particularly those located in coastal region are switching over from indigenous coal to the imported coal thereby affecting coal despatches to cement industry.

(c) to (e) In view of the comfortable stocks, various steps have been taken to improve despatches of coal which include:

- (i) With a view to make coal freely available to Small Scale Industries and other consumers the Liberalised Sale Scheme has been made more attractive.
- (ii) State-wise and Coal company-wise ceiling limits for supply of coal to the brick kilns and the seasonal industries have been removed; and
- (iii) A new Scheme called "Trade Channel Network" is being introduced in order to improve coal despatches. Under this Scheme the traders will be appointed (on the basis of tenders) at selected locations in the country. The supplying coal companies will enter into Fuel Supply Agreement with the selected traders for a period of five years.

Import of Coal by Cement Plants

811. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal based generation was even less than what was envisaged in the Annual Plan;

(b) whether Cement Plants are importing coal;

(c) if so, the quantity imported by Cement Plants during 1997-98; and

(d) the steps the Government have contemplated to uplift the low off-take of coal by the Power and Cement Sectors for the growth of the Coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Coal based generation target and actual generation during the period April, 98 to January, 99 is given below:

	(Data provisional) (Figures in Billion Units)
Target	240.99
Actual	234.22
Percentage Achievement	97.20%

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the information furnished by Cement Manufacturers Association, the cement industries imported about 3.5 million tonnes of coal during the year 1997-98.

(d) Steps taken to increase offtake of coal by Power and Cement Plants include:

- (i) Entering into Fuel Supply Agreement with Power houses for ensuring offtake of contracted quantity and quality of coal;
- (ii) Urging the power houses to build up stocks as per the norms; and
- (iii) Persuading Cement Plants to use more indigenous coal by offering consumer options of contract agreement *inter-alia* covering long term commitments for supply of coal.

Abhyudaya Programme of KVIC

812. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various activities launched in the Khadi and Village Industries sector under the Abhyudaya Programme in 1998-99;

(b) the cities and towns where sale exhibitions including campus exhibitions were organised and the response of the public and business organisations thereto;

(c) whether such exhibition are proposed to be organised in every district headquarters; and

(d) the other steps are being taken to promote Khadi and Village Industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) During 1998-99, following activities have been launched in the KVI sector under the Abhyudaya Programme:

- (a) Awareness campaign and campus exhibition.
- (b) Mobile exhibition-cum-sales campaign.
- (c) Essay competition for college and University students.
- (d) Publicity campaign to popularise Khadi & V.I. programmes.
- (e) Special sales campaign/exhibitions in various States and Union Territories.
- (f) Programme to recognise the best artisans, the

best Khadi & V.I. institutions and the best KVI Board by conferring awards.

(g) Decision to honour two individuals who had made life long contribution in the field of Khadi & Village Industries.

(b) Details are given in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir. No further proposal is under consideration to extend the same in other areas.

(d) Khadi & Village Industries Commission propose to take up the following programmes to promote Khadi and Village Industries:—

- (a) To start awareness campaign at district level.
- (b) To identify clusters for strengthening and widening KVIC activities.
- (c) Status survey of excellence in Traditional and KVI sector with potentials particularly in the areas like pottery, small tools and handmade paper etc.
- (d) Strengthening of research and development activities in the KVIC and also to collaborate with other agencies for the promotion of KVI activities.

Statement

Marketing Sales Campaign programme of KVIC

I. Sales Campaign Through State Office

S.No.	State Office	Venue of Exhibition	Dates	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	Panchayat Bhavan, Sector 18, Chandigarh	1.08.98 to 9.08.98	Completed Sales achieved Rs. 5,38,000/-
2.	Ranchi	St. Joseph Club Hall, Purulia Rd., Ranchi	1.08.98 to 14.08.98	Completed Sales achieved Rs. 22,00,000/-
3.	Madurai	Meenakshi Temple	4th to 14th August, 98	Completed Sales achieved Rs. 60,00,000/-

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Chennai	1. Quide Mileth College, Chennai by Khadi Gr. Sangh, Madras.	6th to 7th Aug, 98	Sales achieved Rs. 55,000/-
		2. Ethiraj College, Chennai by Madras Sar Sangh.	7th to 10th Aug., 98	Sales Rs. 60,000/-
		3. IIT Chennai by Bharati Gr. KG Sangh	6th to 13th Aug., 98	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
		4. Kaliaimagude Kalwi Niliyan, Erode by Padiyur S. Sangh	12th to 13th Aug., 98	Sales Rs. 14,63,500/-
5.	Rajasthan, Jaipur	1. Birla Auditorium	4.08.98 to	Completed Sales achieved
		2. Rajpat Sabha Bhavan	14.08.98	Rs. 2,35,000/-

II. Sales Campaign Through Mobile Vans

State/RO Office	Venue of Exhibition	Dates	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Chandigarh	Ludhiana and Barnala Dist. Sangrur	3.08.98 to 12.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 25,000/-
Ambala Cantt.	Kurukshetra	3.08.98 to 14.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 14,000
Varanasi	Mobile sales conducted by K.S.G.A. Phepnen, Ballia	1.08.98 to 14.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 1,25,525
Chennai	Quide Mileth College and Womens Govt. College	6.08.98 to 11.08.98	Sales Rs. 70,000/-

1	2	3	4
Bikaner	Bikaner & Ganga Nagar District	1.08.98 to 14.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 50,262/-
Karnataka, KVIB	Vidhan Sabha, RTO Complex, Kendriya Sadan M.S. Building, Jayanagar Complex, Gandhi Bazar, Mysore Bank Circle, High Court	10.08.98 to 14.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 73,600/-
Himachal Pradesh		1.08.98 to 14.08.98	Details awaited
Meghalaya KVIB	Norekeen Morali, Cherapunji	10.08.98 to 13.08.98	Details awaited
Pondicherry KVIB		15.07.98 to 15.08.98	Details awaited
Vizag	Venue at Super Bazar Hall, Vishakhapatnam	1.01.99 to 12.01.99	Details awaited
Ernakulam	Darbar Hall ground, Ernakulam, Cochin	2.12.98 to 24.12.98	Details awaited
Bangalore	Srinivas Sagar, Kalyana Mandapa, Nr. Ashoka Pillar, Jayanagar, Bangalore	2.08.98 onwards	Sales achieved Rs. 19.53 lakhs
Calcutta	Calcutta city	16th Sept. to 30th Sept., 98	Sales achieved Rs. 17,505/-
Bhopal	Community hall	13.10.98 to 20.10.98	Sales achieved Rs. 1,93,142/-
Goa	Shenai Hall, Phonda, Goa	5.12.98 to 11.12.98	Sales Rs. 2.00 lakhs
Bhubaneswar	SAIL premises of SAIL Rourkela	4.1.99 to 11.01.99	Details awaited

III. Sales Campaign Through State KVI Boards

S.No.	State Boards	Venue of Exhibition	Dates	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman	1. Hut Bay, Little Andaman 2. Diglipur, North Andaman	22.07.98 to 28.07.98 2nd Week of Aug.	Hut Bag, Little Andaman Details awaited
2.	Pondicherry	Khadi Mela at Ananda Thirumala Nilayam, Pondicherry	10.08.98 to 14.08.98	Details awaited
3.	Sikkim	Exhibition at seven Khadi Bhandars and Mobile Sales at various places	10.08.98 to 26.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 3,27,000/-
4.	Tripura	Tripura Khadi & V.I. Board	14.02.99 to 25.2.99 (Mobile Extn.)	Details awaited
5.	Goa	Margao, Salute, Goa	19.12.98 to 4.01.99	Details awaited

VI. Sales Campaign Through K.G. Bhavans

S.No.	K.G. Bhavans	Venue of Exhibition	Dates	Remarks
1.	New Delhi	K.G. Bhavan, New Delhi	1.08.98 to 14.08.98	Sales achieved Rs. 5.8 lakhs 1. K.G. Bhavan 1.00 Lakhs 2. G. Shilpa, 1.00 lakhs 3. Inst. 3.78 lakhs

*[Translation]***Utility of Coal in Fertilizer Sector**

813. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utility of coal is being felt in the production of chemical fertilisers;

(b) if so, whether a proposal to this effect has been received from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to ensure the maximum use of coal in the production of urea;

(c) if so, the broad outlines of the said proposal; and

(d) the efforts being made to increase the production of coal so that production capacity of urea could be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Two coal based fertilizer units are functioning at Ramagundam and Talcher. The details of coal supplies from MCL and SCCL to these units during the last three years are given below:—

(In lakh tonnes)
(Data Provisional)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
MCL	7.10	6.98	6.55
SCCL	5.17	4.69	5.99

As production of fertilizers from other feed stocks such as Neptha is more economical, there does not seem to be much interest for increasing production of fertilizers from coal based units, even though the coal companies are in a position to meet the full requirement of these fertilizer units.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. A proposal has been received from a private company which has sought a captive mine for sourcing supplies for producing coal based fertilizers. The proposal is in a preliminary stage.

(d) The country has abundant stock of low grade coal and such coal could be made available for any coal based fertilizer unit if they so desire.

*[English]***Vigilance Inquiries**

814. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Inquiries were conducted against some Chief Commissioners of Income tax during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names and other details thereof;

(c) the names of Chief Commissioners of Income tax exonerated;

(d) whether the inquiry has been hushed up in any particular case;

(e) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three years:

(i) In the case of 2 (two) Chief Commissioners disciplinary proceedings under CCS/CCA Rules have been initiated after completion of preliminary verification.

(ii) Complaints were received against 12 (twelve) more Chief Commissioners of Income tax which were taken up for preliminary verification. Out of these 6 (six) complaints were filed as the allegations could not be substantiated. In the remaining cases inquiries are in progress.

(c) (i) None of the officers at (b) (i) above has been exonerated as yet.

(ii) In respect of cases included at (b) (ii) above, question of exoneration does not arise as no disciplinary proceedings under CCS/CCA rules have yet been initiated.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of answer to part (d) above.

(f) Not applicable.

Export of Processed Food

815. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established Agricultural Processed Food Product Export Development Authority to boost up export of processed food;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with major achievements of the organisation;

(c) whether out of the total production of food and fruits, hardly 2 to 3 per cent of the total agricultural produce is processed leaving tremendous scope for development of food processing industry; and

(d) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken by the Government to restructure the existing policies governing the Industry and offer a package of incentives to the food processing industry and supporting packaging industry to harness huge potential?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority was established by an Act of Parliament in the year 1986 with the objective of development and promotion of exports of certain agricultural and processed food products.

(b) Some of the major promotional activities undertaken by the organisation to enhance exports, *inter-alia*, include market development and product promotion in the international markets, quality upgradation or export products, improvement of export packaging, provision of export market information to exporters, provision of financial assistance to growers and exporters for achievement of the above and for creation of infrastructure such as precooling and cold storages purchase of specialised transport units (reefer containers, etc.).

APEDA has also been strengthening infrastructure facilities for export. The infrastructural facilities created by APEDA include establishment of walk-in-type cold storages and integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as floriculture and horticulture products; walk-in-type cold storage facilities have been set up at Guwahati and Calcutta Airports. Integrated cold

storage and cargo handling facilities have been established at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi and at Bangalore Airport. Similar facilities are being established at Chennai, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram Airports.

(c) and (d) The present level of processing of fruits and vegetables and other agricultural products in the country is negligible compared to their production. In order to promote the development of processed food industry, the Government has accorded it the status of "sunrise industry" and has identified it as a thrust area for export promotion. The following policy changes have been introduced in this regard:—

- Food processing industry declared a priority area.
- Almost entire sector has been delicensed.
- Automatic approvals for foreign investment.
- Foreign equity upto 51% allowed in high priority industries.
- Foreign technology transfer agreements within norms made automatic.
- 100% agro EOUs allowed 50% sale in domestic tariff area.
- Threshold for EPCG scheme applicability to the sector lowered to Rs. 1 crore.

Ways and Means Advances

816. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to review the system of Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to States for financing their temporary mismatches in receipts and payments;

(b) if so, the details of regulatory steps taken so far and proposals under consideration to deal with the problem of some States continuously remaining in overdraft;

(c) the status of WMA over the past three years, State-wise and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with the problem alongwith remedial action plan; and

(d) the revenue deficit for the last three years and emerging trends, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The overdraft of States with the Reserve Bank of India is a matter regulated by agreement between

the RBI and the State Govts. However, Government of India provides ways and means advance to the State Governments to cover temporary mismatches in receipts and disbursements. The advance is recoverable during the same financial year. There is no change in this system.

(d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Revenue Deficit of State Governments (compiled from RBI Bulletin)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2416.8	3199.1	761.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	39.8	—	—
3.	Assam	652.2	—	38.0
4.	Bihar	1570.6	216.0	1562.8
5.	Goa	97.3	—	53.8
6.	Gujarat	1745.6	—	638.1
7.	Haryana	986.0	718.7	631.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	521.4	154.9	280.1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	96.6	—	—
10.	Karnataka	1456.8	578.9	415.9

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Kerala	1302.7	643.0	1574.9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1633.4	1447.8	756.1
13.	Maharashtra	4150.8	1590.6	669.6
14.	Manipur	104.7	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	51.9	—	—
16.	Mizoram	70.7	—	—
17.	Nagaland	231.0	—	10.9
18.	Orissa	1395.9	830.5	776.4
19.	Punjab	1364.6	1357.1	1121.4
20.	Rajasthan	2574.3	866.0	495.9
21.	Sikkim	40.1	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	1255.9	1103.6	1475.2
23.	Tripura	33.9	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4380.6	3179.1	7618.4
25.	West Bengal	2696.3	2135.2	2934.7
Total		30869.9	18020.5	21815.0

Note: Where no deficit is shown, the States were in surplus.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

817. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Khadi and village industries/institutions are functioning under Khadi and Village Industries Commission as on 31st December, 1998;

(b) the value of total production of Khadi and village industries during each of the last three years;

(c) the funds allocated and provided to KVIC for administrative expenditure and for various programmes and projects run and sponsored by it during each of the last two years and also during the current financial year; and

(d) the number of persons involved/employed in the field of Khadi and Village Industry, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) A list of industries and State-wise number of institutions functioning under KVIC as on 31.12.98 is given in the statements I and II.

(b) The value of total production of Khadi and Village Industries for the last three years is as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Khadi	522.23	626.40	624.10
V.I.	3504.22	3889.86	3895.21
Total	4026.45	4516.26	4519.31

(c) Funds allocated/released to KVIC for administrative expenditure for the last 2 years and for current year are as given below:

	(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Allocation	Releases
1996-97	13.86	13.86
1997-98	24.00	24.00
1998-99	25.60	25.60

Further details of Government allocation and releases to KVIC for various programmes for the last two years and current financial year are enclosed given in the statement-III.

(d) Statement IV is enclosed.

Statement-I**Industries Under the Purview of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission**

I. Khadi (Cotton, silk and Woollen) and Dann Carpet (Exclusively for Sikkim & N.E. States)

II. Village Industries

Group-I Mineral Based Industry: (1) Cottage Pottery Industry (2) Lime Stone, Lime Shell and Lime product Industry (3) Stone cutting, crashing, Carving and Engraving for Temples and Buildings (4) Utility articles made out of stone (5) Slate and Slate Pencil making (6) Manufacture of Plaster of paris (7) Utensil washing powder (8) Fuel Briqueting (9) Jewellery out of Gold, Silver, Stone, Shell and synthetic materials (10) Manufacture of Gulal Rangoli (11) Manufacture of Bengals (12) Manufacture of Paints, Pigments, Varnishes and Distemper (13) Manufacture of Glass toys (14) Glass Decoration—Cutting, Designing and polishing (15) Gem cutting.

Group-II Forest based Industry: (16) Handmade Paper (17) Manufacture of Katha (18) Manufacture of Gums and Resins (19) Manufacture of Shellac (20) Cottage Match Industry, Manufacture of fire works and Agarbattis (21) Bamboo and Cane work (22) Manufacture of Paper cups, Plates, Bags and other Paper containers (23) Manufacture of Exercise Book Binding, Envelop making, Register making including all other stationery items made out of paper (24) Khus tattis and Broom making (25) Collection, Processing and Packing of forests products (26) Photo Framing (27) Manufacture of Jute products (under fibre industry).

Group-III Agro Based and Food Industry: (28) Processing, Packing and Marketing of Cereals, Pulses, Spices, Condiments, Masala etc. (29) Noodles making (30) Power Atta Chakki (31) Daliya making (32) Mini Rice Shelling unit (33) Palmgur making and other palm products industry (34) Manufacture of Cane gur and Khandsari (35) Indian sweets making (36) Basmati sugar cane, juice catering unit (37) Bee Keeping (38) Fruits and Vegetable Processing, Preservation and canning including pickles (39) Ghani Oil Industry (40) Menthol Oil (41) Fibre other than Coir (42) Collection of forest plants and fruits for medicinal purpose (43) Processing of Maize and Ragi (44) Pith work, manufacture of pith mats and garlands

etc. (45) Cashew processing (46) Leaf Cup making (47) Milk Products making unit (48) Cattle feed, Poultry feed making.

Group-IV Polymer and Chemical Based Industry: (49) Flaying Curing and tanning of hides and skins and ancillary industries connected with the same and Cottage leather industry (50) Cottage Shop Industry (51) Manufacture of Rubber goods (Dipped latex products) (52) Products out of Rexin PVC etc. (53) Horn and Bone including ivory products (54) Candle camphor and sealing wax making (55) Manufacture of packing items of plastics (56) Manufacture of shampoos (60) Manufacture of Hair Oil (61) Detergents and washing powder making (non-toxic).

Group-V Engineering and Non-conventional Energy: (62) Carpentry (63) Blacksmithy (64) Manufacture of Household Aluminium utensils (65) Manufacture and use of manure and methane (Gobar) Gas from cow dung and other waste products (such as flesh of dead animals, right soils etc.) (66) Manufacture of paper pins, clips, safety pins, stove pins etc. (67) Manufacture of decorative bulbs, bottles, glass etc. (68) Umbrella assembling (69) Solar and wind energy implements (70) Manufacture of Handmade utensil out of Brass (71) Manufacture of handmade utensil out of Copper (72) Manufacture of Handmade utensil out of Bell Metal (73) Other articles made out of Brass, Copper and bell metal (74) production of Radios (75) production of cassette recorder whether or not fitted with Radio (76) production of cassette Player whether or not fitted with Radio (77) Production of voltage stabilizer (78) Manufacture of electronic clocks and alarm time pieces (79) Carved wood and Artistic furniture making

(80) Tin smithy (81) Motor winding (82) Wire net making (83) Iron grill making (84) Manufacture of Rural transport vehicles such as hand-carts, bullock carts, small boats, assembly of bicycles, cycle rickshaw, motorised carts etc. (85) Manufacture of musical instruments.

Group-VI Textile Industry (Excluding Khadi): (86) Polyvastra which means any cloth woven on handloom in India from yarn handspun in India from a mixture of manmade fibre with either cotton, silk, or wool or with any two or all of them or from a mixture of man made fibre yarn handspun in India with either cotton, Silk Woollen Yarn handspun in India or with any two or all of such yarn. (87) Manufacture of Lok Vastra cloth (88) Hosiery (89) Tailoring and Preparation of Readymade garments (90) Batick work (91) Toys and doll making (92) Thread balls and Woollen Balling, Lacchi making (93) Embroidery (94) Manufacture of surgical bandages (95) Stove wicks.

Group-VII Service Industry: (96) Laundry (97) barber (98) Plumbing (99) Servicing of Electronics wiring and electronics domestic appliances and equipments (100) Repairs of diesel engines pump sets etc. (101) Tyre vulcanising unit (102) Agriculture servicing for sprayers, insecticide, pump sets etc. (103) Hiring of sound system like loud speaker, amplifier, mike etc. (104) Battery charging (105) Art Board painting (106) Cycle repair shops (107) masonry (108) Band troupe (109) Motorised local boat (fibre glass) for Goa only (110) Motor cycle to Fly as taxi (for Goa only) (111) Musical instruments (for Goa only) (112) Vermiculture & Waste disposal (113) Motor cycle Taxi (114) Dhabas (not serving Liquor) (115) Tea stall (116) Iodized salt.

Statement-II

Number of Institutions Functioning Under KVIC as on 31.12.98

S.No.	State & Union Territories	Regd. Inst.	Coop.	Incl.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
I.	STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	277	2427	112680	115384
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	71	74

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	35	298	7252	7585
4.	Bihar	85	3065	41786	44936
5.	Goa	20	1	4146	4167
6.	Gujarat	33	897	4080	5010
7.	Haryana	315	433	28610	29358
8.	Himachal Pradesh	55	2	17193	17250
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22	3822	21800	25644
10.	Karnataka	275	1264	13950	15489
11.	Kerala	35	1880	12297	14212
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135	886	17415	18436
13.	Maharashtra	19	2136	37222	39377
14.	Manipur	963	293	13470	14726
15.	Meghalaya	1	13	6773	6787
16.	Mizoram	—	98	4145	4243
17.	Nagaland	5	—	10527	10532
18.	Orissa	74	3531		3605

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Punjab	115	794	39408	40317
20.	Rajasthan	117	1586	106413	108116
21.	Sikkim	—	1	1667	1668
22.	Tamil Nadu	127	3218	36946	40291
23.	Tripura	5	—	20131	20136
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2060	3174	140155	145389
25.	West Bengal	183	260	81283	81726
II. UNION TERRITORIES					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	41	41
2.	Chandigarh	—	15	404	419
3.	Delhi	10	24	5369	5403
4.	Lakshdweep	—	8	—	8
5.	Pondicherry	1	2	44	47
Total		4969	30129	785278	820376

Statement-III
Funds Released to KVIC

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Sub-Head	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99		Fund released 1998-99
		Actual	Actual	B.E.	R.E.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Plan					
1.	Khadi Grant	11000	19655	8460	15960	8460
2.	Khadi Loan	2100	2098	2098	2098	2098
3.	V.I. Grant	7400	8400	8400	8400	5600
4.	V.I. Loan	400	900	900	900	900
5.	S&T (Khadi)	30	30	30	30	—
6.	S&T (V.I.)	70	95	170	170	—
7.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)*	1900	1900	1900	1900	—
8.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)*	500	500	500	500	—
9.	Special Employment Generation Programme	—	—	—	—	—
10.	R.E.G.P.	7420	10500	14000	4665	4665
	Sub-total	30820	44078	36458	34623	21723

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Non-Plan						
11.	Khadi Grant	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
12.	Admn. Exp.	1386	2400	2410	2560	2560
13.	HBA Loan	30	30	30	30	30
14.	Interest Subsidy (Khadi)*	2300	2300	2300	2300	—
15.	Interest Subsidy (V.I.)*	1100	1100	1100	1100	—
16.	Renewal of past loans*	23694	23586	23616	23616	—
Sub-total		30910	31816	31856	32006	4990
Grant-total		61730	75894	68314	66629	26713

* The amount need not be released but book adjustment has to be made.

Statement-IV

State-wise Employment—1997-98

(Persons in lakhs)

S.No.	State & Union Territories	Khadi	V.I.	Total
1	2	3	4	5
I. STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.36	3.24	3.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	0.01	0.01
3.	Assam	0.16	0.95	1.11
4.	Bihar	2.51	1.24	3.75

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	—	0.05	0.05
6.	Gujarat	0.53	0.54	1.07
7.	Haryana	0.52	0.40	0.92
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13	0.66	0.79
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.26	0.70	0.96
10.	Karnataka	0.45	1.88	2.33
11.	Kerala	0.14	2.18	2.32
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.21	0.95	1.16
13.	Maharashtra	0.17	3.83	4.00
14.	Manipur	*	0.42	0.42
15.	Meghalaya	*	0.13	0.13
16.	Mizoram	*	0.12	0.12
17.	Nagaland	*	0.19	0.19
18.	Orissa	0.03	2.07	2.10
19.	Punjab	0.89	0.95	1.84
20.	Rajasthan	1.26	3.15	4.41

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Sikkim	*	0.05	0.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.62	10.29	10.91
23.	Tripura	*	0.27	0.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5.17	5.04	10.21
25.	West Bengal	0.56	2.95	3.51
II.	UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	*	*
2.	Chandigarh	—	0.04	0.04
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
4.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	0.03	0.15	0.18
6.	Lakshdweep	—	*	*
7.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.04	0.05
Total		14.01	42.49	56.50

* Less than 500.

Trade with Pakistan

818. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the Pakistan have agreed for the promotion of trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of trade being carried out as on date; and

(d) the extent to which the bilateral trade is likely to be increased thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) During the Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan held in November, 1998 in New Delhi, the two delegations exchanged ideas on issues affecting bilateral trade and discussed a series of steps aimed at enhancing the scope of bilateral economic cooperation further.

(c) and (d) Bilateral trade between India and Pakistan during April-November, 1998 amounted to Rs. 892.09 crores as compared to Rs. 381.29 crores during the same period in the previous year. As the trade depends on a variety of factors, the extent of possible increase would be difficult to estimate.

[*Translation*]

Black Money in the Country

819. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total amount of black money in the country;

(b) whether there is an increase in prices due to black money;

(c) the action taken by the Government to eliminate or reduce black money; and

(d) the extent to which black money has been checked by V.D.I.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) There was a study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84 which estimated undisclosed money between Rs. 31584 crores to Rs. 36786 crores. No estimate is available on the amount of black money in the country at present.

(b) The increase in prices takes place because of various complex factors and it may not be correct to say that the same is only because of the black money.

(c) The Government have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures from time to time to unearth the undisclosed money. Rates of taxation have been progressively rationalised. Besides, the Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at unearthing the undisclosed money. These include, *inter alia*, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under Section 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under Section 40A(3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters.

(d) A total of Rs. 33,339.03 crores was declared as undisclosed income under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997.

Import of Raw Silk from China

820. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to import raw silk from China;

(b) if so, the rate at which this import is likely to be made alongwith the market price of raw silk in the country;

(c) whether indigenous raw silk producers have opposed the move; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) No, Sir, the Central Government has

not decided to import raw silk from China. As per present policy, in order to meet the demand of exporters, the Government has permitted the import of raw silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free raw silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition, in October 1998 it has also been decided to allow import of Grade 2A and above mulberry raw silk under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the stipulation that the value of the surrendered SIL would be three times the value of the imported item. There have been representations from a section of silk growers especially from Karnataka against the decision to allow the import of high grade silk, as they feel that it will have an adverse impact on the price of domestic silk. Till date there has been no such adverse impact. The situation is under close watch by the Ministry.

Gold and Precious Stones Mines

821. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of mines in the country from which gold and other precious stones are being mined, State-wise; and

(b) the amount of gold and other precious stones mined during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The names of mines in the country from which Gold, Diamond, Ruby, Agate and Garnet are produced State-wise, are as follows:—

State	District	Mine
GOLD		
Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	1. Yeppamana
	Chittoor	1. Chigargunta 2. Old Bisanatham
Karnataka	Kolar	1. Nyndydroog
		2. Mysore Champion Amalgated
	Raichur	1. Hutti 2. UTI
DIAMOND		
Madhya Pradesh	Panna	1. Majhgawan
		2. Shallow mines of Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Madhya Pradesh
RUBY		
Orissa	Kalahandi	1. Jillingdhar
AGATE		
Gujarat	Bharuch	1. Bhimpur
GARNET (GEM)		
Rajasthan	Tonk	1. Deokhera 2. Gaunri 3. Rajmahal

(b) The State-wise production of Gold, Diamod, etc. during 1996-97 to 1998-99 (upto December, 1998) was as follows:—

State	Production		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (upto Dec. '98)
GOLD (In kg)			
Andhra Pradesh	258	193	169
Karnataka	2028	1969	1260
DIAMOND (In Carats)			
Madhya Pradesh	31836	31018	26683
RUBY (In kg.)			
Orissa	168	399	Not available
AGATE (In tonnes)			
Gujarat	400	234	125
GARNET (GEM) (In kg.)			
Rajasthan	654	749	589

[English]

Fraud Cases in Banks

822. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fraud cases in public and private sector banks that have been taken place during the last three years and the amount involved therein, bank-wise;

(b) the number of persons against whom vigilance cases are pending/under investigation in public sector banks, bank-wise;

(c) the number of cases in which CBI has filed chargesheets, bank-wise;

(d) since when these cases are pending; and

(e) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploration of Diamond and Alexandrite

823. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL & MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Madhya Pradesh where there is a possibility of discovering diamond and alexandrite.

(b) the names of companies which have sent their proposals for mining;

(c) the present status of these proposals; and

(d) the name of the Company which has been granted permission for mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per information furnished by GSI, the following areas were investigated for possible occurrences of diamond:—

- (i) Search for Kimberlite which are host rocks for diamond continued in Bagicha-Batrolia area, Takapara and Pathalgaon and Dhamajoy-garh area, Raigarh district. The Kunukuri-Kansabel area and the area between Talda and Utial stream is also being investigated for possible diamond occurrence.
- (ii) The Indravati and Sabari basinal areas in Bastar district have shown occurrence of Kimberlite in Dunganpal, Parakot Karatong. The incidence of diamond is yet to be reported.
- (iii) The Singhora Basinal area, Saraipalli, Raipur district is also considered to be suitable for diamond occurrence.
- (iv) Deobhog area (Payalikhhand-Behradih Sector) Mainpur Tehsil, Raipur district exposes Kimberlite, the host rock for diamonds. The Deobhog area also reported occurrence of Alexandrite.
- (v) The work for search of diamonds is continuing in (a) Saraipalli area, Raipur district (b) Lamproite/Kimberlite rock occurrences in Maini and Mand stream areas, Raigarh and Surguja districts (M.P.).
- (vi) Occurrence of semi-precious/precious stones like Garnet, Alexandrite has been reported from Deobhog, Raipur district (M.P.).

(b) to (d) No proposal has been received from the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for grant of Mining Lease for diamond or alexandrite and hence the question of granting of permission does not arise.

A proposal has, however, been received from Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for grant of prospecting licence in favour of M/s. B. Vijayakumar Chhattisgarh Pvt. Ltd., Raipur (M.P.) for survey, exploration and evaluation of diamond deposits in Behradih Block of Raipur district. As

the proposal was not in conformity with the provisions of MM (R&D) Act, 1957 and Rules framed there under, the State Govt. has been requested to furnish information/clarifications on certain points. On receipt of information/clarification from the State Govt., the proposal will be processed further.

Fire in Coal Mines in Bihar

824. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fire in Syal Mor Sauthadeeh Colliery in the Hazaribagh district of Bihar for the last six months and the life of the people residing in surrounding areas has become unsafe;

(b) if so, whether no action has so far been taken by Director General, Mines Safety and the officers of CCL; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take against the guilty officials alongwith the measures proposed to be taken to extinguish the fire and to save their life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that a small fire, which occurred due to spontaneous heating, had been noticed in an abandoned quarry near Sayal More. There is no danger to the life of any person residing there. The Central Coalfields Limited has already taken action to extinguish the fire by blanketing it with incombustible materials. The advice and guidance of Director General, Mines Safety is taken wherever necessary.

(c) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the question.

Use of Jute Bags by Cement Manufacturers

825. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Govt. have requested the Union Government to exempt the cement manufacturers from using jute bags compulsorily for packing cement to avoid seepage adulteration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Requests of the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat to exempt the cement from using jute bags compulsorily for packing cement on various grounds like seepage loss, adulteration, consumer preference etc. were received by the Union Government.

(c) The requests of these State Governments alongwith others were considered by the Standing Advisory Committee and on the basis of its recommendations cement has been exempted from using jute bags.

I.T. Arrears in J&K

826. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Income Tax arrears pending in Jammu and Kashmir, till date;

(b) the details of cases, region-wise *i.e.* Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh; and

(c) the measures taken to reduce these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The total amount of income tax arrears in Jammu and Kashmir till date is to the tune of Rs. 20.50 crores. The details of cases region-wise is as follows:

Kashmir	Jammu	Ladakh
4111	6342	102

(c) Recovery proceedings have been initiated in all the cases. Coercive measures, wherever necessary, have already been taken and efforts are being made to trace out whereabouts of defaulters who have migrated from Kashmir.

Bad-Debt of Nationalised Banks

827. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the sector-wise details of bad debt in each of the Nationalised banks:

(b) whether any study has been made on the causes of the increasing bad-debt in the banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMEUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) A statement giving the sector-wise Gross Non-performing assets (NPAs) of Nationalised Banks as on 31.3.98 as furnished by RBI is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government had appointed a three member Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Indian Bank's Association to study the causes for Non-Performing Assets and to suggest remedial measures for effective recovery. The main reasons for incidence of NPAs include, *inter-alia*, diversion of funds by the borrower, wilful default in repayment, inefficient management of the unit financed, non-availability of raw material, non-viability or sickness of the unit due to change in technology, demand pattern, cost/time overruns, labour problems, natural calamities, relocation of unit on account of pollution etc.

The recommendations of the Committee, *inter-alia*, include changes in legislation, revival of capital market, setting up of Assets Reconstruction Fund, honouring of guarantees by the Central/State Governments, review of doubtful and loss assets, improvement in the functioning of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFF) etc. These recommendations constitute an input in the ongoing efforts at containment and reduction of NPAs.

(d) An NPA is a credit facility in respect of which interest/instalment has remained past due (*i.e.* one month after the due date) for a period of two quarters during the year. All NPAs cannot, therefore, be considered as bad debt or as unrecoverable. RBI/Government of India have initiated a number of steps to check the incidence of fresh NPAs and also to ensure the recovery of all existing NPAs of banks. NPAs in percentage terms have shown a declining trend in the past 5 years.

Banks have formulated documents of loan recovery policy prescribing, *inter alia*, the manner of recovery of dues and the norms for sacrifices/waiver. Banks have also initiated measures for reduction of NPAs through compromise, write off, through negotiated settlement to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expenses on basis of a transparent, and well laid out policy. Some banks

have set up independent Settlement Advisory Committee to scrutinise and recommend compromise proposals. Banks have also set up recovery Cells at their Head Quarters to monitor recovery performance. Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) have also been set up in places to assist speedy recovery of banks dues. The improvement

of credit appraisal skills has also received attention. As a result of these and other measures the percentage of Gross NPAs of public sector banks came down from 18.01% during 1995-96 to 16.02% as on 31st March, 1998 and the net NPAs from 8.90% as on 31.3.96 to 8.13% as on 31st March, 1998.

Statement

Nationalised banks Sector wise Gross NPAs as on 31.03.1998

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Bank	Gross NPAs as on 31.03.1998	Public Sector Units		Non-Priority Sector		Priority Sector			Total NPAs of	
		Amount	% to total NPAs	Amount	% to total NPAs	Agriculture	SSIs	Others	priority sector Advances	% to total NPAs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Allahabad Bank	1458.93	29.89	2.05	756.02	51.82	226.75	270.60	175.67	673.02	46.13
Andhra Bank	341.30	10.20	2.99	143.20	41.96	38.65	97.62	51.63	187.90	55.05
Bank of Baroda	3129.28	27.00	0.86	1833.28	58.58	393.00	621.00	255.00	1269.00	40.55
Bank of India	2669.00	6.00	0.22	1666.00	62.42	424.00	322.00	251.00	997.00	37.35
Bank of Maharashtra	709.09	10.67	1.50	308.90	43.56	121.31	133.18	135.03	389.52	54.93
Canara Bank (*)	3580.81	15.53	0.43	2247.58	62.77	399.56	649.80	268.34	1317.70	36.80
Central Bank of India	2414.53	—	0.00	984.78	40.79	381.92	589.55	458.28	1429.75	59.21
Corporation Bank	341.86	5.05	1.48	178.09	52.09	54.33	67.56	36.83	158.72	46.43
Dena Bank	774.79	285.00	36.78	125.79	16.24	94.00	123.00	147.00	364.00	46.98
Indian Bank	3428.39	21.38	0.62	2241.72	65.39	322.70	534.66	307.93	1165.29	33.99
Indian Overseas Bank	1255.00	42.00	3.35	653.00	52.03	175.00	258.00	127.00	560.00	44.62
Oriental Bank of Commerce	397.23	6.62	1.67	194.06	48.85	60.64	85.48	50.43	196.55	49.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Punjab & Sind Bank	1038.90	0.00	0.00	566.32	54.51	95.93	262.52	114.13	472.58	45.49
Punjab National Bank	2447.00	34.00	1.39	1123.00	45.89	484.00	536.00	270.00	1290.00	52.72
Syndicate Bank	1185.29	24.44	2.06	652.72	55.07	149.79	229.23	129.11	508.13	42.87
UCO Bank	1780.30	98.00	5.50	857.30	48.15	250.00	254.00	321.00	825.00	46.34
Union Bank of India	1194.73		0.00	376.41	31.51	253.24	332.59	232.49	818.32	68.49
United Bank of India	1451.00	78.00	5.38	501.00	34.53	136.00	348.00	388.00	872.00	60.10
Vijaya Bank	532.95	5.59	1.05	307.72	57.74	76.52	76.78	66.34	219.64	41.21
Total for Natl. Banks	30130.38	699.37	2.32	15716.89	52.16	4137.34	5791.57	3785.21	13714.12	45.12

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification Under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and Patents Act, 1970 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 71(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 1999 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 477(E) dated the 25th July, 1991, under sub-section (2H) of section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2428/99]

- (2) A copy of the Patents (Amendments) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1029(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 1998, under section 160 of the Patents Act, 1970.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2429/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2430/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cement, and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2431/99]

(7) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government (Public Enterprises Survey) for the year 1997-98 (Volumes I to III).

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2432/99]

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and copy of review of working of Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2433/99]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2434/99]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2435/99]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2436/99]

Notification under leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

a copy of the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised parties and Groups in Parliament (Telephone and Secretarial Facilities) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 66(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 1999, under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 117(E) dated the 17th February, 1999.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2437/99]

Notification Under Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): I beg to lay on the Table—

a copy of the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 9(E) Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1999, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of

the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2438/99]

[*Translation*]

Notification Under Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 396(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 23/98-Cus., dated the 2nd June, 1998.
- (ii) G.S.R. 397(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 12/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997 so as to fully exempt certain items mentioned therein from Special Customs duty leviable thereon.
- (iii) G.S.R. 398(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 36/97-Cus., dated the 11th April, 1997.
- (iv) G.S.R. 615(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/98-Cus., dated the 2nd June, 1998.
- (v) G.S.R. 691(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 12/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.
- (vi) G.S.R. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/98-Cus., dated the 2nd June, 1998.

(vii) G.S.R. 21(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the Notification when imported into India from Pakistan, from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.

(viii) G.S.R. 705(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to fully exempt polyester subbed Base imported for use in the manufacture of X-ray films for medical and Industrial and graphic art films, from special Additional duty.

(ix) G.S.R. 706(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 23/98-Cus., dated the 2nd June, 1998.

(x) G.S.R. 707(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997 so as to exempt the Special Custom duty on microprocessors for automatic data processing machines, other than motherboard.

(xi) G.S.R. 708(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996 so as to extend the validity of exemption upto the 31st October, 1999.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2439/99]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 409(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 7/98-Cus., dated the 16th April, 1998.
- (ii) G.S.R. 496(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Bisphenol A imported into India when originating in or exported from Japan at the rate of Rs. 8434/-MT.
- (iii) G.S.R. 497(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 102/94-Cus., dated the 11th March, 1994.

- (iv) G.S.R. 636(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 2nd October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on magnesium originating in or exported from People's Republic of China.
- (v) G.S.R. 637(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 2nd October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 19/98-Cus., dated the 4th May, 1998.
- (vi) G.S.R. 681(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 17th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duties on imports of GPPS and HIPS types of Polyestylene originating in or exported from Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan and Republic of Korea.
- (vii) G.S.R. 682(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 17th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 43/98-Cus., dated the 30th June, 1998.
- (viii) G.S.R. 683(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 17th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duties on acrylic fibre when originating in or exported from Japan, Spain, Portugal and Italy.
- (ix) G.S.R. 698(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 24th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on Lovasatin originating in or exported from China PR.
- (x) G.S.R. 699(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 24th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on Citric acid originating in or exported from China PR.
- (xi) G.S.R. 700(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 24th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on Ortho Chloro Benzaldehyde originating in or exported from China PR.
- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—
- (i) G.S.R. 399(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce the rate of duty from Rs. 60 per metre length to Rs. 45 per metre length of the machines per shift for embroidery machines utilised for manufacturing specified type of embroidery.
- (ii) G.S.R. 400(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iii) G.S.R. 401(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/98-CE, dated the 2nd June, 1998 so as to prescribe effective rates of duty on specified goods.
- (iv) G.S.R. 402(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification Nos. 8/98-CE and 9/98-CE, dated the 2nd June, 1998.
- (v) G.S.R. 403(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 22/96-CE, dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (vi) G.S.R. 404(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 18th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide concessional rate of excise duty on specified fabrics.
- (vii) G.S.R. 701(E) published in *Gazette of India* dated the 24th November, 1998 together with an Explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/98-CE, dated the 2nd June, 1998 so as to reduce excise duty on betel nut powder known as supari.
- (viii) The Central Excise (First Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 22(E) in *Gazette of India* dated the 11th January, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ix) G.S.R. 109(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to waive payment of excise duty on casting cleared for manufacture of sewing machine for the period commencing from the 1st March, 1994 to the 8th October, 1997.
- (x) G.S.R. 10(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/97-CE, dated the 11th April, 1997 so as to increase the rate of Central Excise duty.
- (xi) The Adhoc Exemption order No. 74/12/98-CX dated the 4th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to M/s Indian Rare Earths Limited from payment of Central Excise duty chargeable on clearance of goods in domestic Tariff Area for the period between 15 September, 1987 to 28 February, 1997 on account of restrictions imposed on export of final products manufactured by the company.
- (xii) The Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 78(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 2441/99]
- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 597(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to bring into force the provisions of section 116 of the Finance Act (No. 2) of 1998 with effect from the 16th October, 1998 including the levy of service tax on services specified in section 66 of the Finance Act, 1994, issued under section 116 of the Finance Act, 1998.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 2442/99]
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—
- (i) The Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 598(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 599(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the whole of service tax, the taxable service rendered in India to a client in respect of Overseas projects for which payment is made in convertible foreign exchange.
- (iii) G.S.R. 600(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the whole of service tax, the taxable service provided by a Security Agency to a client in relation to the services of providing safe deposit lockers or Security or safe vaults for security of movable property.
- (iv) G.S.R. 601(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption from the whole of service tax the taxable services, other than of auditing and accounting, provided by a practising chartered Accountant to a client in his professional capacity.
- (v) G.S.R. 602(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the service tax the taxable services provided by a mechanised slaughter house in relation to the slaughtering of bovine animals.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 2443/99]
- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—
- (i) The Income-tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 13(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 1999.
- (ii) The Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 23(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 1999.

(iii) The Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 33(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 1999.

(iv) The Income-tax (28th Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 1113(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 1998.

(v) The Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 20(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1999.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2444/99]

(7) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Income-tax Act, 1961:—

(i) S.O. 89(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 919(E) dated the 22nd October, 1998.

(ii) S.O. 90(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 920(E) dated the 22nd October, 1998.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2445/99]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2446/99]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Forum of Financial Writers and Institute of Economic Journalism, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Forum of Financial Writers and Institute of Economic Journalism, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2447/99]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2448/99]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharyakul, Paunar, Wardha, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharyakul, Paunar, Wardha, for the year 1996-97.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2449/99]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 2450/99]

- (14) A copy of the Twenty-Eighth valuation Report as at 31st March, 1998 of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2451/99]

[English]

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review of the Working of Cement Corporation of India for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2452/99]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Fifth Report

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur): I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on the 'Army Cantonments'.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Action-taken Reports

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development:

- (1) Thirteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment).
- (2) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment).
- (3) Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Department of Wastelands Development (Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment).

12.03 1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Eighty First Report

[Translation]

ER. SHANKAR PANNU (Sri Ganganagar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions)

of Eighty-First Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Value Based Education.

12.04 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 1st March, 1999 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following items may please be included in the next weeks business:—

1. Entrance tests should be conducted in the Navodya Vidyalayas to admit brilliant students to improve the standard of education in Bundi (Rajasthan).
2. The workers engaged on ordinary monthly wages on contract basis by Primary and Secondary Schools in various States should be brought under minimum regular wage system.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, the members of the Scheduled Caste (Passi) belonging to the Northern Indian States i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. have an historical background. Therefore father belonged to royal family, to which history bears the testimony. From the very beginning this caste is renowned as a brave caste. But efforts were being made to totally destroy the history of this caste. Now by declaring the members belonging to this castes as Criminals they have been morally and characteristically downgraded.

I demand from the Government that "passi" regiment should be constituted in the military and armed forces of the country, so that the person belonging to this caste can regain their past glory.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, air services between Delhi Gorakhpur, which were plying upto the year 1992 should be restored.

I therefore request the honourable Minister of Civil Aviation that keeping in view the demand and importance of Gorakhpur, air services between Delhi Gorakhpur may be restored.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): I would like to make a submission on the next week's business on the following points:

1. Revamping IDPL in the interest of the country.
2. Need to give Railway pass and PTOs to the Railway Commission vendors on the pattern of licence porters.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, additional funds should be provided by the Union Government to the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh and a time bound programme should be formulated under the special scheme for construction of bridge and W.V.M. road.

Thousands of person die during the rainy season due to gastroenteritis, vomiting and diarrhoea caused by drinking unsafe water in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. Besides making arrangements for safe water in these areas the Union Government in order to check these diseases, should also bear the expenses of the need of mobile dispensaries and construction of tube-wells.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I would like to make the following submission on the next week's business:

1. Bank employees strike throughout the country. Steps should be taken to resolve the issue.
2. Government's decision to close down eight public sector undertakings, namely, MAMC, BOGL, Cycle Corporation of India Ltd., etc., most of them are located in West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): Sir the following subjects may be included in the next week's business:

1. More than 50 lakh pilgrims are coming to the holy shrine of Vaishno Devi every year, these pilgrims want that before they go back to their home, they should take bath in Haridwar. As such a direct train service be introduced between Jammu and Haridwar.
2. Rajdhani Express, which is a weekly train for Jammu be made a daily train and Pooja Express be provided a stoppage at Kathuwa.

DR. SUSHIL INDORA (Sirsa): Sir, the following subject may be included in the next week business:—

With the recent increase in the prices of wheat and rice under the Public Distribution System, the prices in the open market have also started rising. As such for the poor people, the role of P.D.S. has become not only important but essential but different States are following the different criteria to assess the people under poverty since. In Haryana a house made of bricks and electric connection therein is being considered to be a sign of the people living above poverty line.

My request is that income should be the sole criteria to assess the poverty. As such income of the family should be the criteria for issue of Yellow Ration Cards to the States.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I would like to suggest the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include the following in the next week's business.

1. The surplus land of the railway at Dal Singh Sarai Station in Hazipur Samastipur Barouni Section of the North Eastern Railway in district Samastipur, Bihar, which is not likely to be utilized by railway in the near future, be allotted to the small shopkeepers on lease and the station be constructed at old railway godown site to clear the congestion on the way to the railway station.
2. There is no industry in Samastipur except two sugar mills and a jute mill. One sugar mill is on the verge of collapse. Government should consider to modernise it.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, kindly include the following after the statement of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs after item No. 11 of today's list of business *i.e.* 26.2.99:—

1. To reconsider the opium production policy in view of the problem of renewal of licence of thousands of opium growers and loss of foreign currency worth crores of rupees because of destroying of opium crops due to cold wave and hailstorm.
2. To reconsider the policy decision in regard to chemical factories keeping in view the problem of pollution and crisis of environment to the mankind due to releasing of polluted water in the rivers by the chemical factories in various States mainly in the State of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

12.10 hrs.

[*English*]

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

Committee on Estimates

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

12.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha"

The motion was adopted.

12.11 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI MANBENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule(1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MANBENDRA SHAH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.12 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (khunti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members

from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1999 and ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.12 1/2 hrs.

TEA BOARD

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-
CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R.
KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(3) (f) of the Tea Act, 1953 read with rules 4(1) (b) and 5(1) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board to be reconstituted for a period of three years w.e.f. 1 April, 1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(3) (f) of the Tea Act, 1953 read with rules 4(1) (b) and 5(1) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board to be reconstituted for a period of three years w.e.f. 1 April, 1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

12.13 hrs.

SPICES BOARD

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 3(3)(b) of the Spices Board Act, 1986 read with rules 4(1)(b) and 5(1) of

the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Spices Board to be reconstituted for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 29.3.1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 3(3)(b) of the Spices Board Act, 1986 read with rules 4(1)(b) and 5(1) of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Spices Board to be reconstituted for a period of 3 years w.e.f. 29.3.1999, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, time allotted for the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri L.K. Advani is five hours. We have already taken five hours and eight minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have given privilege motion. I was allotted 170, South Avenue but my luggage was thrown out from that place. (Interruptions) Shri G.L. Bhargava, who is Chairman of the House Committee, is in possession of a bungalow and he has also got a guest accommodation wherein he himself stays but he has let out the bungalow... (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have been insulted. I am a member of Parliament for the third time. It is a question of my self respect... (Interruptions) I have given a privilege motion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, your Privilege Motion is there with the hon. Speaker and he may consider it. Please do not talk further.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, it is an insult to him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, your Privilege Motion is already there. Hon. Speaker may consider it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make an announcement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, Shri Rawale has made a serious allegation against a Member of this House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I have already conveyed to Shri Rawale that his Privilege Motion is already there before the hon. Speaker and he may consider that. There will be no further discussion on that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, kindly resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are a member of the Panel of Chairmen.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, I told you that your Privilege Motion is there.

Today, as per Business Advisory Committee's decision, we are even postponing the Private Members' Business to the 4th of March. So, we can straightway take up the matter.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): What about the 'zero hour', Sir?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no 'zero hour' today. The hon. Speaker has already dispensed with the 'zero hour' today. Yesterday, only a few hon. Members could participate in the debate. Senior Members from major parties want to participate in the debate today. Therefore, the hon. Speaker rightly said that. There will be only one exception. Shri Chidambaram came and raised a matter.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): I have raised a question of national security. I am not on the question of the dismissal of Admiral Bhagwat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swamy, you have given a notice on that and the hon. Speaker has not given permission. I am not allowing you to raise this matter here.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will I get permission later?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not be in a position to say anything on that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The Defence Minister is accused of harbouring terrorists by an Admiral. It is very serious.

12.24 hrs.

RE: ISSUE OF SIGNING CTBT AGREEMENT

[English]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH (Bharatpur): Sir, we are in the same position as Dr. Subramanian Swamy with regard to the statement made by the External Affairs Minister in reply to Dr. Kurien's question as to whether India will sign the CTBT or not. Today, we see in the papers that the US Secretary of State has said that they are going to sign it. We seek a clarification on this. Let the Government come forward and clarify this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, this is a serious matter. Only two days back the Minister makes a statement and today his American counterpart says something totally different. All sorts of confabulations are going on between them and the country is taken for a ride. We demand that it must be clarified here.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): Is this why the talks are being held in secrecy? We want to know what the gist of the talks is. We want to know what the minutes are. Let the minutes be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Ms. Albright has made a statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is extremely a serious matter, and we seek clarification from the Government.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Sir, this House has been told only once through a very ambiguous statement about the status of talks between Mr. Strobe Talbott and Shri Jaswant Singh. Even when Shri Jaswant Singh was saying that 'matters are confidential', Mr. Talbott was delivering a lecture to an institution in America, and he was granting in interview to *The Times of India*. When we confronted Shri Jaswant Singh, then he very reluctantly came forward with a very ambiguous statement. Just at the same time when we was telling the Parliament that India has decided not to sign the CTBT, his counterpart in America was telling in American Parliament that 'India has agreed to sign the CTBT.'... (Interruptions)

The question is, will Shri Jaswant Singh come and tell us, what did he talk to Mr. Strobe Talbott. Will he share with us, will he share with this House the gist or the summary of his talks? He cannot tell us one thing, and while Madeleine Albright is saying completely a different thing.

Sir, I have no doubt in my mind that this Government is making a secret deal behind the back of the Parliament... (Interruptions)... Unless they come forward, we will not believe them, we will not accept their *bona fides*. (Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar): Sir, I get up with a degree of regret. The hon. House will recall that for the last three years, our policy regarding the CTBT was a product of consensus in this House and backing of the national will. We have been following that policy. That policy has rejected the signing of the CTBT.

Then, the Government suddenly changes the policy and enters into a sort of negotiations with Mr. Talbott. Mr. Talbott comes here seven or eight times. Mr. Talbott takes the trouble of talking to some of us but the Government never bothers to tell us anything neither in the House nor in private, nor in the Committee, nor to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The end result, Sir, is that there is not only confusion but a great deal of suspicion about the intentions of the Government. So, I think, it is very important for us, in view of the facts and what has been said in America, that the Government should tell us about the exact position. I urge that let there be a full debate on this issue.

* Not recorded.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it that the hon. Finance Minister has misled the House? Now, I am quoting from the proceedings. I had asked the other day in the House. It says:

"It has been the consensus stand of this country that the CTBT in the present form is discriminatory, and we will not agree to sign it in the present form. I would like to know whether the Government has agreed to sign the CTBT.

In the answer, the Minister says:

"The answer is clear, explicit and unambiguous, 'no'. The Government has not agreed to sign it."

This is the specific answer, the hon. Minister had given ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Foreign Minister should be called here...*(Interruptions)*... He should come here and clarify the position immediately...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am not more inclined to believe Mr. Talbott than the hon. Minister. I am ready to believe our hon. Minister more. But here is a question of contention. It is for the hon. Minister to come here and clarify the position.

Sir, you should call the hon. Minister now itself. He could come here and clarify the position...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak one by one.

(Translation)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a day before yesterday I had asked this question from the Minister of External Affairs, honourable Shri Jaswant Singh ji. None of us has got my confusion on that question because the Deputy Secretary of State of U.S.A. has already clarified that whatever discussions are held between the two persons that should be publically experienced by India. He has already clarified that point. I had asked this question from honourable Jaswant Singh ji that now the time does not permit otherwise we wanted to clarify all these things on that very day. He quoted me and said that no such question arises. Whatever is discussed between the two persons that is made public but now it has become clear and therefore please call him to speak out what has been transpired between them. There is some confusion from our side, there is no confusion on the part of U.S.A.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, It is evident and it has come to our notice that they have agreed to sign C.T.B.T. If our information is wrong. Then the Prime Minister or the Minister of External Affairs should immediately come here and explain the whole position.

(English)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this categorical statement without having any ambiguity was made by Shri Jaswant Singh on the floor of this House. Whatever has been stated, we will have to have faith in that rather than in what Mr. Strobe Talbott has said. That simply may also be the problem. That is my contention.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): Sir, the issue is whether Shri Jaswant Singh has misled our Parliament or he has misled Mr. Strobe Talbott...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a serious matter. Order please.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I do not know whether the Foreign Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh has misled the House or misled Mr. Strobe Talbott or misled himself. We do not know whether records are maintained. For such discussions, normally records are maintained and minutes are kept. I do not know whether it has been done and the summary of discussions has been kept. But the US officials have been speaking in all world capitals and then an assurance has been given by this Government that after the Budget session of Parliament, they will sign the CTBT. That is what they are saying. We necessarily believe it. But why this confusion there? Why would Mr. Strobe Talbott stick to his prestige before the US Congress would say India would sign, if they have not misled them? Therefore, let him say what was also said in the Consultative Committee of External Affairs that there is no question of signing CTBT. There is no harm in saying it again and place it on the Table of the House the proceedings and the summary of discussions that have taken place so far.

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir you mentioned in the beginning that a ruling has been given by the Hon. Speaker that there will be no zero hour today and that the zero hour has been dispensed with today. Has that the ruling of the Hon. Speaker?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the day before yesterday when I had asked a specific question whether Mr. Strobe Talbott has said that the lifting of sanctions is directly related to India agreeing to sign CTBT, in answer it has been said that the core issue to be taken will be only in the next talks in March. But only yesterday the Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has testified before the Senate Committee that India had pledged, not agreed, that they will sign CTBT and not only CTBT, along with that, the NPT, the COPU and others, that is, control regime and also the last one of the four things and within the CTBT, the export control, the defence procedure and everything.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is a total surrender. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the hon. Minister will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I will take just one minute. ...(*Interruptions*) This is a very serious matter. Shri Natwar Singh has raised a very serious matter. I will make only one point that I want to get clarified from the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

There are two versions: one given by the hon. Minister of External Affairs of India and the other by the U.S. Secretary of State. May I request the hon. Minister to assure this House even if he has agreed to sign the CTBT that he will not do so without taking Parliament into confidence. I want that assurance. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I regret that I have got only the latter part of what is quite rightfully agitating some hon. Members of the House. But if I have got the sense correctly, hon. Members have raised an issue concerning what I stated in the House the day before yesterday and what has appeared in some newspapers on the very same subject. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): That is your counterpart's statement.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am not aware of it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Give him that newspaper. Let him study it for two minutes and then answer.

SHRI P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Minister, you said in this House to my question that India has not agreed to sign the CTBT. You gave a very specific answer. (*Interruptions*) But your counterpart has reported to the American Senate that India has pledged to sign the CTBT. We are not inclined to believe her more; we are ready to believe you more. (*Interruptions*) You have to clarify the correct position. Or, have you misled the House? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I would like to seek a clarification from the Minister of External Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is already over now.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: The Minister is here and he has to clarify the position.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is already over. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am merely making a request to the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to answer?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I have only one point to get clarified. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. He is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is wrong if he asks a question? He has raised the matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Have you received any telegram from our Embassy in Washington with regard to the alleged statement made by Ms. Albright before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee? If not, will you ask them to send you the correct account? (*Interruptions*)

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Sir, is this a debate?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

...(*Interruptions*)

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY: But hon. Members are repeatedly raising questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a question of pride and self respect of the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I am on my legs now.

...(Interruptions)

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY: The House has rules and the House is run by the rules.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you are breaking the rules. Please do not do that for Heaven's sake. What I said initially was, the Zero Hour was not to be there but only one matter has been allowed by the hon. Speaker and that is the matter that we have taken up. You should understand this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am still on my legs. You hear me completely and then take the floor. You are a senior Member. When a matter is raised in the Zero Hour and if the Minister is there - he is here now - if he wants to react, he can do it or if he wants to clarify, he can clarify. Please do not mistake me. Allow me to conduct the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand very well the concern of the hon. Member. The gist of the matter is that the hon. Members want me to clarify whether what I stated in the House is the correct position or what is reported in the newspapers as an account of a testimony before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee is the correct position.

My reply is exactly what it was the day before yesterday. How can I possibly come to Parliament and say what I stated in the House is incorrect? It passes my imagination. This is the fact of the matter. I do not have any difficulty in repeating it because some queries have been raised. There will naturally be a debate on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Buta Singh, please do not interrupt. Let him complete.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sir, now the question is that of CTBT. ...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question of CTBT will also come during the discussion of the External Affairs Ministry. *...(Interruptions)* Shri Buta Singh, please let him complete.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When the discussion or a debate takes places, naturally this issue and the other issues of concern to the House and to the hon. members shall get taken up. Nevertheless, as the issue has agitated the minds of the hon. Members, I have no difficulty at all in again stating what I said in the House, simply because I am duty bound to state. Moreover, it is the correct position.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): Will you counter the statement of Ms. Madeleine Albright?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He stands by the statement that he made here. Why do you want that to be done?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When I am doing it here, what does it amount to? I really do not understand what the hon. Member is attempting to do. The position of the Government is explicitly, clear and unambiguous. It has been stated in the House. It constitutes a part of the Prime Minister's statement to this House. The very position has been reiterated by the Government through the hon. Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly. *...(Interruptions)* I would be happy to yield.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The position which the Prime Minister articulated in the United Nations is certainly not the same position that he took here. There is a dilution of the position.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He categorically stated in his answer day before yesterday here; and he is sticking to the same position.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The position has been stated both in this House and in the other House. In the other House where a discussion took place on the same subject, it was stated. The position has been repeated in the UN General Assembly. That is explicit; it is unambiguous; and it is categorical.

Secondly, some hon. Members are raising a new point on the testimony to the US Senate. Surely, I can

hardly be held to account for what happens in the US Senate. I am stating in the Indian Parliament as to what we have to do.

Thirdly, some hon. Members raised the question of Fissile Material cutoff Treaty. The Fissile Material cutoff Treaty is still under negotiation. The position of the Government of India is again categorical and clear - that we shall engage in negotiations about the Fissile Material cutoff Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, for an early verifiable and a comprehensive treaty on the control of fissile materials.

The hon. Member raised the issue of export controls. On export controls, India's record is impeccable. Indeed, it is better than that of some of the P-5 countries. It is a point that we have made here and we make it repeatedly.

So far as export control or export of either technology or weapons of mass destruction or related aspects to it are concerned, we are ready to engage with any one in the world so as to improve our systems.

On the defence posture, I have already stated our position. I have said that the defence posture comprises of minimum deterrence, no first use, non-use against non-nuclear weapon states, not engaging in an arms race, that we shall determine what the minimum deterrence is, that we shall not accept what others tell us what our minimum deterrence is, and that we shall decide the minimum deterrence because it is not a fixity in time or a physicality. We shall determine it in accordance with the alternating security environment.

This is the position that the Government has repeatedly and clearly said in both the Houses of Parliament and outside also. This is all that I have to say in the matter.

12.46 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL
OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT
IN RELATION TO THE STATE
OF BIHAR—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further discussion on the Statutory Resolution. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad was on his legs; he may continue.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Madurai): Sir, may I know when the voting on this would take place, so that I can be present?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will let you know after some time.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday honourable Home Minister had stated the discussion ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Please bring the House in order, thereafter I will start my speech...*(Interruptions)*

12.47 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday the topic of our discussion was the President rule imposed in Bihar and we were expressing our views or to whether it is a right step or wrong one. The motion of the Home Minister is on this very subject and we were discussing the same. It is a fact that these have been two major incidents of killings of dalits in Bihar. These incidents are condemnable. It is the responsibility of the State Government and the Government of India to protect the life and property of not only of dalits but of every section of the society and if there is any lackness, it is the duty of every person to condemn such incidents. But one should not take any political mileage out of such incidents and this has happened in Bihar. I would like to tell you that this is not an isolated example of the killings or massacre of dalits in Bihar. There are not any Government any party in Bihar since 1971 which not have witness some or the other big massacre. It also happened during the Congress regime in 1977, there was Govt. of Janta Party in Bihar at that time also incidents of massacre of harijans, dalits took place. Thereafter it also happened during the rule of Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav and Smt. Rabri Devi. These incidents are condemnable. These should be condemned. But I would reiterate that we should not take any political mileage out of these incidents.

There has been some slackness in regard to land reforms in Madhya Bihar. Land distribution has also not been done properly. So far as self respect is concerned, in earlier day dalits use to keep quiet but now they resort to agitation and as such they are aggressive ready to do and die, it is the history of Bihar. It is alleged that in Dalal Chakbawera the dalits killed 54 Rajpoots belonging to upper castes. Now Dalits fight for their rights. Some time may kill others and some time they are killed.

[Dr. Shakeel Ahmad]

Violence is not a good thing. But when we live in the society, these things happen. But we should not take political mileage out of these incidents. What happened in Bihar? What is Ranvir Sena, we must look on these things. It is not hidden. Whenever there is a question of farm, land or self respect then Ranvir Sena fights in the name of Ranvir Sena but when there are elections the some Ranvir Sena people cast their votes in favour of Bhartiya Janta Party and its supporters. There is no difference of opinion on it.

Once what happened in Bihar. There was a suicide case of a young forest officer. I was M.L.A. at that time. His Colleagues from office paid due respect to him after his suicide. They became the guardian of the dead body and took the same to his home, provided every possible help to his family members. But his wife told that her husband had met her only two days before he left for duty. There was no confusion in his mind and he could not commit the suicide. When the matter was raised in Vidhan Sabha, then they appointed a Committee to look into the matter. I was also a member of that Committee. When we reached there to inquire into the matter then we found that forest officer had not committed suicide but he was killed and that too by the people of his own department and then they became the guardian of his dead body and now they are shedding tears here. This is what the people of Bhartiya Janta Party had done. Yesterday also I demanded to the Home Minister who is present here that there have been more incidents of killings, more incidents of killings of dalits but so far as the last two incidents of killings of dalits and two massacre of dalits are concerned, a C.B.I. inquiry should be conducted as to who provoked and offered Supari to Ranvir Sena to commit such killings. Certainly, it should be enquired I still demand the same thing.

Yesterday the Home Minister had told that there is no financial discipline in Bihar. Our leader has quoted from the documentary evidence of the Government of India that the position of Bihar in regard to financial matters is far better than Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Be it a matter of injustice towards women, injustice towards Scheduled Caste, scheduled tribe, the performance of Bihar is far better than Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where BJP or its alliances are in Power. *(Interruptions)* Yesterday this date was given. There is no justification in what you are saying. The data of Government of India have been given and you have not contradicted them. When two days before the Home Minister was replying to my question then I had asked that you have constituted a Committee, set up a judicial commission to inquire into the incidents of attack on the Christians in Orissa. I had also asked to extend the area of investigation of the committee and

bring the whole country under its purview as the charges are being levelled against BJP, Bajrang Dal, R.S.S. and Vishva Hindu Parishad, as such it should be inquired whether these organisations have got any rule in the attack on the Christians. Those people who had their hands behind the killings in Bihar, became the guardian of the dead bodies yesterday the Home Minister was telling in his speech that the team of the officials of the Home Ministry, that had gone to Bihar, have submitted a very terrible report. It is no where hidden what types of reports the teams of home ministry can submit. They submitted a report in regard to Bihar after a detailed examination and when the team went to Gujarat, they stayed at Gandhi Nagar and did not visit Dang the spot where the riots had taken place. They did not go anywhere also.

Yesterday the Home Minister was telling that Ami Dass Commission was not provided with any office, any staff, any assistance in Bihar but the Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee ji during his 13 days' regime wrote a letter to start the stopped work of the Commission. In Maharashtra when Sri Krishna Commission submitted its report, they proved some persons as criminal and now they are running the Government in coalition with those people. The commission's report points out the name of Bala Sahib Thackrey. Home Minister often goes to see him. What happened to that report? I would like to say that when the Home Minister replies...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North West): Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: It is correct. You are raising the point of order, I am not yielding.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Since Dr. Shakeel Ahmad has mentioned the name of Bala Sahib Thackrey, who is not present in the House and has said that Srikrishna Commission has fixed responsibility upon him and said that he was a criminal, he has to authenticate it. Then only, it should go on record, otherwise he cannot make such a reference here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not take the help of such rules to raise an issue. He was referring to a Commission Report.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: He has not gone through the Report. Let him go through it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are going to argue like this, I cannot give my ruling. Please listen to what I am saying.

He was referring to a Commission Report. There is no rule saying that the name should not be mentioned. The only thing is, there should not be any derogatory reference to a person who is not present in the House. He is making a reference to the Report. So, he is allowed to do that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: But he has described him as criminal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has raised an issue and I am giving the ruling. Why are you talking like this?

There is nothing objectionable.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Nothing like that has been mentioned in the Report. He is not supposed to make a reference here.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: He has mentioned the Word Criminal.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed, Shri Rawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has raised a point of order and that is why I am replying to him. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: The Honourable Home Minister has said time and again that the office of the Governor is a non-political office. But it has become the practice that the persons associated with the political parties appoint their own partymen as Governors. When they were in opposition they used to oppose such practice, but today, when they are in power, they are also following the same practice. I would like to ask the honourable Home Minister that suddenly how did he come

to realise that the person sent to Bihar as Governor is a political person. While he was being appointed we apposed his appointment, but as he was a R.S.S. man he was sent there to dismiss the Rabri Government. As soon as he did his job you realised in a overnight that Mr. Governor was a political person and therefore, you decided to call him back from Bihar. But on being pressurized by R.S.S. and B.J.P. you reversed the decision to call him back.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Parliament session was scheduled to commence on the 22nd day of the month. On 21st, I reached the Patna Airport to depart for here to attend the session. Here I would also mention that there is only one flight between Patna and Delhi and that flight reaches Patna in the morning. At the Airport I saw a large number of BJP people had gathered there with their party flags to receive some one. I thought he could be Mr. Advani whom they had come to receive. Since he had dismissed the Government in the State. His party man might have come to welcome him or might be senior leader of BJP in his place. I was very much anxious to see the arriving of BJP leader, but I saw he was Mr. Bhandari, the honourable Governor who had returned from Delhi. Earlier I had neither seen nor heard of welcoming a Governor with a party flag.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Bettiah): I was also present there, but I did not see any party flag there. Honourable Member is telling a lie.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): You should speak the truth, say with confidence that there were flags.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak when your turn comes

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. This is not good.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman Sir, I would remind you of the incident of riots in Bhagalpur is Bihar when about 1200 persons were killed. Then it was decided that the then D.M. and S.P. would not be posted in any other district, they would not be given independent charge of the district. The then D.M. Shri Arun Jha is presently posted in the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Dr. Shakeel Ahmad]

13.00 hrs.

Whereas the S.P. Shri K.S. Dwidvedi was posted some times in the Ministry of Railways and some times in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies but what happened in Bihar? The President rule was imposed in the State on 13th and this House would be surprised to know that they had no other important business to consider. The first thing which was undertaken was the appointment of S.P., in Muzaffarpur who was waiting for posting in district for 10 years. He was posted there on the 14th. What is happening there? Not only this but the minorities, who have been provided with the rights under Article 30 of the constitution to run their teaching institutions, are running some Teacher Training Colleges in Bihar and their examinations were scheduled to be conducted before the dismissal of the Government, since the matter is related with education. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, do you want to finish before we adjourn for lunch? I think you can finish it in two minutes.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: I am concluding my speech within five minutes. In the teaching institutions under the Governor such as Minority institutions conducting B.Ed. courses etc. have not been allowed to conduct the examinations for the last six months. Not only this, the Governor of Bihar, during his visit to Delhi asks the Secretary, Dental Council of India how you have allowed so much dental colleges for the minorities in Bihar would you tell me why is it so. I can say all this with full authority. Therefore, I would say whatever is happening in Bihar is wrong.

I.S.I. is not being taken seriously and it is often dragged into. If I.S.I. has created any disturbance the Home Minister should own the responsibility and resign. Even the person who has lost the election from me has filed an election petition against me and has alleged that as I am an Muslim so am I.S.I. agent had extended assistance in booth capturing. he and his party man have played with the I.S.I. issue and it is not that people are unaware of this story.

These people talk of love and affection towards Schedule Castes and Dalits. Have they forgotten the incident? It is rather easy to safeguard the sentiments of someone than to protect one's life. Nobody's sentiments should be hurt. Have you forgotten the incident of the

statue of Sampooranandji? When honourable late Babu Jagjeevan Ram ji had unveiled the statue of Sampooranandji latter the statue was purified the by holy water of Ganges. Today you are remembering the Harijans and dalits and even Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkarji. Sister Mayavati is also sitting here, Mr. Dalit Ezhimalai wears a blue shirt as it is the favourite colour of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. One day I asked him as to why did he wear a blue shirt always?...*(Interruptions)* He replied since Ambedkar liked this colour very much. Therefore, he used to wear a shirt of that colour. Mr. Dalit Ezhimalai is not present here, but I would say that he is supporting a party of such ideals which has made Mr. Arun Shourie, who has wrote a book titled workshoping the false Gods' and insulted Baba Saheb Ambedkar a Rajya Sabha Member but Mr. Dalit Ezhimalai, who is a staunch follower of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and even wears blue shirt as Baba Saheb liked the colour very much, is supporting the same Government. It reflects dual characters and it should not be allowed to continue...*(Interruptions)*

Advani ji and Bhandari ji are the same people who have insulted Dalits or backward or minority people...*(Interruptions)* You have made Arun Shourie a Rajya Sabha member...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. You please take your seat. If he is yielding I have no objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I would like to ask a question...*(Interruptions)* I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)* I want to give an information...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. You please take your seat. If he is yielding I have no objection.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED: I am concluding within two minutes...*(Interruptions)* It is a fact that they have made Mr. Arun Shourie a Member...*(Interruptions)* Shri Dalit

Ezhimalai is not sitting here but his friends who are sitting there...(Interruptions)

13.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

Finally, I would like to say two things. The first one is they are talking about corruption in Himachal Pradesh and the other is the C.B.I. and Income tax officials did not get anything on the raids conducted by them on the house of Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav. I am not giving a certificate to CBI that they did not get anything. But on the other hand you have allowed such a person Shri Sukhram, to join your party who was charged with having an amount of rupees four crores under the pillow which was recovered when his house was raided and thereafter he was dismissed from the Congress party. He was only a member of the House and his son was accommodated in Rajya Sabha and finally he was made a Deputy Chief Minister. In spite of all these they are talking about corruption.

1407 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Seven Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Jaswant Singh to make statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Prime Minister's Recent Visit to Pakistan

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister visited Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service on February 20-21, 1999. This historic visit was the most significant engagement between India and Pakistan in over a quarter of a century. It was also the first visit undertaken by the Prime Minister of India to Pakistan in a decade.

Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee conveyed to the people of Pakistan India's abiding desire for peace and amity with them. A group of eminent Indians from all walks of life, who accompanied the Prime Minister to Pakistan, conveyed by their very presence in Lahore that in the pursuit of its policy of promoting peace and friendship with Pakistan, the Government of India was acting in accord with the wishes of its people.

This visit also provided the Prime Minister with an opportunity to emphasise that India and Pakistan must together work to build a comprehensive structure of cooperation, resolve all outstanding issues through peaceful and direct bilateral discussions and negotiations, and, that the path of violence was futile and senseless. Let me emphasise the Government's resolve to uphold the Constitution. The unity and territorial integrity of India will never be compromised. The perpetrators of violence must understand this simple truth.

I would like to say something to sister Mayawati and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan. Kindly do not make the Dalits your soft target. Do not make the Dalits the scape goat. When any political party or any wrong person want to oppose the Government, they convey it by committing murder of some four or ten Dalits. Do not make this a tradition. Would you like to do injustice to them whom you are representing as a leader. I would request the party of Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, who are sitting here, to stop such things. Such wrong practice should not be made, but unfortunately it is happening. I mean to say that injustice has been done in Bihar. That injustice happened to be so that the person who was responsible for committing murder became the guardian of the dead body and he was advocating democracy. There was a motive behind this incident therefore I can say with authority that an enquiry should be ordered about these two murders to find out the persons involved in it. The Governor was sent under a specific decision and after its execution Honourable Home Minister in a overnight realised that Mr. Bhandari is a political person and he should not continue in Bihar. Therefore I would strongly request all the members of my Party and the House, perhaps you may not have the will power to oppose it but there may be other members who are working for the Dalits and have a soft corner for them to stop making Dalits the scape goat making their life difficult. Therefore, I oppose the resolution moved by the Honourable Home Minister in the House regarding imposing President Rule in Bihar in every possible manner.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Dr. Shakeel Ahmad. The House Stands adjourned to meet again at 1405 hours.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

The Prime Minister's bus journey captured the imagination of the people of India, of Pakistan, indeed, of the world. I wish to state here that seldom has a leader embarked on a journey with such support from his people and such goodwill for his success. His arrival at Wagah, with the Indian delegation, to be warmly received by the Pakistan Prime Minister was a defining moment in India-Pakistan relations.

During his stay in Pakistan, Prime Minister held discussions with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; was accorded a civic reception by the people of Lahore; visited Gurudwara Dera Sahib; the Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh; the Mausoleum of Allama Iqbal and Minar-e-Pakistan. From the Minar-e-Pakistan he assured the Pakistani people that a secure, stable and prosperous Pakistan was in India's interest.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif hosted a banquet for our Prime Minister at the historic Lahore Fort. The Prime Minister's discussions with the Pakistan Prime Minister were wide-ranging, covering the entire ranging of bilateral relations, regional cooperation within SAARC and issues of international concern. Prime Minister Vajpayee emphasised that the peoples of the two countries desire lasting peace and an environment where their security, progress and prosperity can be assured. For this purpose, he conveyed that it was essential that the forces of violence and terrorism were combated and the hands of the advocate of harmony, balance and realism strengthened for the development of good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Vajpayee and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed the Lahore Declaration. This declaration is a landmark for the peace and security of the two nations. The two Prime Ministers have in the Lahore Declaration agreed that the two countries would intensify efforts to resolve all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through the composite dialogue process; refrain from intervention and interference in each other's internal affairs; combat the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; protect human rights; take immediate steps to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons and to discuss security concepts and doctrines with a view to elaborating measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields aimed at prevention of conflict. The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed in the Lahore Declaration their commitment to the objectives of SAARC and to work towards the realisation of the SAARC vision for the year 2000 and beyond with a view to promoting the welfare of the peoples of their countries.

Pursuant to directives issued by the two Prime Ministers to identify measures aimed at promoting an environment of peace and security between the two countries, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 21 February, 1999. Under this Memorandum, the two countries have agreed to abide by their respective unilateral moratorium on conducting further nuclear test explosions unless either side in exercise of its national sovereignty decides that extraordinary events have jeopardized its supreme national interest.

The Foreign Secretaries agreed that the two countries would remain firmly committed to undertaking measures to reduce the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons under their respective controls; India and Pakistan would provide each other with advance notification in respect of ballistic missile flight tests and conclude a bilateral agreement in this regard. Similarly, the two countries will engage in discussions to conclude an agreement on the prevention of incidents at sea in order to ensure safety of navigation by naval vessels and by aircraft belonging to the two sides. The two countries would also periodically review the implementation of existing Confidence Building Measures as well as the existing communication links at operational levels like the hotline between the Directors-General of Military Operations, with a view to making these links fail-safe and secure. Further, the two countries would hold bilateral discussions on security, disarmament and non-proliferation issues, within the context of negotiations on the issues in multilateral fora. In order to reach bilateral agreements, experts of the two countries would meet on mutually agreed dates before mid-1999.

The Prime Ministers also explored avenues and areas for meaningful cooperation. They agreed on the need to enhance people-to-people contact, address humanitarian issues and cooperate in technological as well as in the economic matters. They agreed that the two sides should undertake consultations on WTO issues with a view to coordinating respective positions, determine areas of cooperation in information technology, particularly for tackling problems Y2K and also to hold discussions on the liberalisation of visa and travel regime. Prime Minister Vajpayee proposed the re-opening of the check post on the Rajasthan-Sindh border.

Given the urgent need to address humanitarian issues, the Prime Ministers agreed to appoint a two-member committee at the ministerial level to examine matters relating to civilian detainees and missing Prisoners of War. An official level delegation would hold prior consultations and would meet very soon in this regard.

In order to undertake an overall review of the bilateral relationship, the Prime Ministers directed me and my

Pakistan counterpart to meet periodically to discuss all issues of mutual concern, including nuclear issues. We would like this meeting to be held soon.

Government's approaches to Pakistan are rooted in our national consensus. They derive their strength from our confidence as a mature nation dedicated to peace, democracy and freedom. To those that preach, practise and foment violence I would reiterate our Prime Minister's message: "Understand the simple truth of the path of peace and amity."

It is our earnest hope to build on the opportunities that are now available on account of the Prime Minister's historic initiative and his commitment to put behind past contentions and think of the welfare of our children and their children. We trust Pakistan will walk with us down this path.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH (Bharatpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would only request the Foreign Minister to kindly distribute copies of his statement so that we can have a look at it. This is a substantial statement on a major issue of foreign policy and we would like to see it in detail. My only comment is, I wish he had referred to the Shimla Agreement also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the Shimla Agreement is very much part of the text of the Lahore declaration if the hon. Member wants a copy of this statement, this text has already been made available to the Table. The Notice Office has already got the text of it, both in Hindi and in English, and it is accessible to any Member.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Godda): Mr. Speaker Sir, the House congratulate the Prime Minister of India Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his efforts made for improving the relationship with Pakistan and also undertaking a good will visit to Pakistan. He should be honoured by Bharat Ratana and awarded a Nobel Prize.

1421 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF BIHAR—*contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Statutory Resolution for approval of proclamation of President in relation to the State of Bihar.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with you kind permission I want to say one thing. During the debate yesterday, some Members while actually speaking on the issue of the Resolution for approval of President's Rule in the State of Bihar had quite inadvertently used the name of the President. According to me because of the thin line that exists when one talks of a President's Proclamation between using the name of the President for influencing the debate and referring to the President's steps when influencing the debate, I believe there have been some small transgressions by many Members. And because of strict interpretation that might come, may I, therefore, request you to look into the debate and decide which are the portions which might amount to transgression of Rule 352 (v) and decide to remove those portions so that we would be within the Rules so far this debate is concerned? This is a fine line but one has to observe it, to the extent possible. So, the Members cannot refer to his name in the proceedings.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Are you saying this in an advisory capacity?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: No. I am saying this in the capacity of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: In this regard, the Chair also wants to make some observations. Rule 352(vi) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha regarding the Rules to be observed by the Members while speaking is clear and categorical.

It is to the effect that a Member while speaking shall not *inter alia* use the President's name for the purpose of influencing the debate.

"352. A member while speaking shall not—

(vi) use the President's name for the purpose of influencing the debate."

Therefore, the proceedings relating to the Resolution for approval of the imposition of President's Rule in Bihar and discussion thereon will be scrutinised thoroughly and those parts of the proceedings which are violative of Rule 352 (vi) will be removed therefrom and shall not form part of the same.

Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, this Bihar episode relating to article 356 has, in my opinion, thrown open once again the whole debate or discussion on this article - why exactly it was framed for, how it should be interpreted, what should be the parameters within which this article is to be exercised or implemented, and so on.

Sir, naturally, different Parties, different State Governments have got different views.

There is an article — Article 263 — in the Constitution which has created or provides for the creation of a constitutional institution known as the Inter-State Council. This Inter-State Council has been devised by the framers of the Constitution as a constitutional device by which differences or differing opinions about the relationship between the Centre and the States can be discussed and perhaps can lead to some agreed conclusions or at least to some common perception and guidelines.

Sir, there was a time, long ago, of course, when practically one can say that there was one party ruling, both at the Centre and in the States. That was many many years ago. At that time this Article 263 was never made use of. It was never resorted to because, although the State and the Central Governments were different the party which was ruling was the same. But now we are in a totally different era. We have got different parties ruling in different States and we have got, at the Centre, a stage into which we have entered, it seems, of coalitions of several parties coming together and constituting a Government at the Centre. Therefore, in my opinion, the use of Article 263 has become very very important and urgent now to discuss inter-State issues and inter-State disputes.

The Congress Government, while it was exercising power at the Centre, for close to fifty years, never utilised this Article. So far as I am aware, this Inter-State Council was allowed to remain dormant. It was never called into action. Its meetings were never convened and no attempt was made to see that it grappled with serious problems which affect the Centre and the States. The party may have been the same, but the States are not the same and they have their differences, they have their disputes.

So, I am only reminding you and reminding the House that it was only after a long long time and after the United Front Government came to power that this institution of Inter-State Council was revived, was called into action. It held three-four meetings on important questions which affect the Centre and the States.

One, for example, was the question of how the Central finances should be distributed between the different States; how the Central finances should be devolved to the State Governments. This was a matter

in which the Inter-State Council sat there with all the members present. The members of the Inter-State Council happened to be the Chief Ministers, so that all the different political ideologies and views were represented adequately through the Chief Ministers. They did reach of a consensus regarding the devolution of Central finances to the States. Three or four meetings were held and there was, I should say, quite healthy exchange of views.

These meetings were convened by the Ministry of Home Affairs, at a time, when I happened to be In-charge. Then we also discussed at great length this question of Article 356, which is a controversial matter, of course.

An attempt was being made and the Chief Ministers there all expressed a desire that we should try to reach some sort of a consensus on how this article should be used, when it would be used, when it should not be used and so on. I may say — I am cutting short, Sir, of course — that ultimately a broad consensus was reached and that consensus was that this article 356 should be retained in the Constitution but with some adequate safeguards put in, which would prevent the misuse of this article by the party which happens to be in power at the Centre. Only one State Government, as far as I recall, one State Chief Minister, that is of Punjab representing the Akali Party held a different view and their view was that this article 356 should be deleted from the Constitution; it should not be kept at all. They said that Punjab had been the victim of this article; several times they have had a very bitter experience and they want this article to go. Of course, latterly, recently, if Press reports are correct, I find that there has been a slight shift again in their stand. Well, that is up to them to explain.

But the other Chief Ministers, whether they belong to Congress or BJP or Shiv Sena or Left or TDP they were all there, they were unanimously of the view that this article is not to be deleted; it is necessary to retain it but at the same time they were all of the view that in view of the past experience and history of this article, which has been misused so many times for political purposes, some safeguards will have to be introduced into this article to see if it is possible to prevent, at least to minimise the possibilities of its being misused to suit the interests of the Party in power. We were engaged in this discussion.

I think, it was quite an interesting and quite a fruitful discussion from which something might have emerged. Many suggestions and many proposals were being made by different Chief Ministers. But fortunately or unfortunately — it depends on what view one takes — our United

Front Government was pulled down before we could complete this exercise. Therefore, now we are back again to this controversial question which has arisen in this case on the concrete instance of Bihar.

I would remind the House, Sir, if you look at the Constitution, article 356 is an article, a provision which occurs in the Chapter on Emergency provisions. The heading is 'Emergency provisions', and within that Chapter there is this article 356. This by itself indicates that this is meant to operate in a very very unusual and very critical kind of situations; it is not a normal thing which can be used lightly or at any time; and failure of the constitutional machinery in any State, putting it briefly, is the main cause, the main argument which is put forward; the failure of any State to comply with the constitutional requirements or provision and then the question has to be decided whether it is a fit case for intervention under this article or not. I am saying this because there so many arguments have been put forward; most of them, I should say are relating to the question of law and order. The Constitution does not say anything about this.

Law and order can be defined in many ways, the incidence of crime, the growth in the rate of crime, the character of these crimes which are being committed, and which are being committed with impunity, I should say, not only in Bihar but in so many States. If it was only in Bihar, then the situation in our country as a whole would perhaps not be so serious. I do not want to go into all these because some friends may start protesting but then some statistics, Government statistics relating to different types of crime year by year in different States were also read out by the Leader of the Opposition. That shows a horrifying picture. But that picture is not confined to Bihar by any means. This is not what is meant by the failure of constitutional machinery. Law and order whether we like it or not, according to the Constitution, is the function of the State Government, to uphold or not to uphold. There can be other remedies for that. There have to be. Nobody can just sit back and watch the law and order situation deteriorating in so many States. I do not want to name all those States because again there will be some protests and uproar here which I do not want to create. For example, I do not think my friends here, sitting next to me, will object if I simply say that in the city of Mumbai an organised gang warfare is going on. Everybody knows it. It may be that *dalits* are not killed every day, but they have also been killed and shot down. There are organised gangs, armed gangs which are fighting each other, which are busy killing those people whom they do not like. These gangs reminds, when you read the accounts, something like that used to happen in the United States of America in the city of Chicago at one time, which was very notorious for these

gang wars. These organised gangs are operating in Mumbai for a long time now, killing each other and also killing certain businessmen, industrialists and such type of people, leaders of big smuggling gangs and all that. I do not know what one should say about this. Should one say that because of this, there should be intervention through President's Rule? We have never said that. I do not say it even now. So, what I am saying is that there is a list of crimes like murder, rape, kidnapping or extortion. Extortion of money is certainly a criminal offence and that is very widespread in the country. There is a forcible extortion of money on the threat of your life. This is not really relevant in this context of Article 356. I do not wish to name certain other States. For example, in the North East there are some States, I do not want to name them. (*Interruptions*). As the Minister of Home Affairs, I had the occasion to visit many of these places and interact with the people, with the State Governments, with different parties and all that. There are a number of States in the North East where so many people are being killed. The armed groups are operating there. You can call them militant groups or whatever you like. Sometimes, transport is held up on the National Highways for weeks together, months together and forcible extortion is going on. Everybody knows it. There were reports that some Ministers, in one or two cases, the Chief Minister of some particular State was supposed to be having secret collusions with some of these militant groups, helping them, giving them money and shelter and so on. It is a serious matter. But we did not, at any time, suggest that the Government should be dismissed and we should have President's Rule.

So, what I am saying in the beginning is that all these instances of crimes and also rampant corruptions—of course, there is no need to go into corruption—cannot be solved or put down by resorting to President's Rule.

What is the guarantee that President's rule, if it is brought in will improve matters in these respects? Is there any guarantee? Those who are advocating the President's rule so strenuously should also give the House some confidence, some feeling, that they are in a position or in a condition where they could tackle these problems successfully.

When I was the Minister of Home Affairs for a short while I paid three or four visits to Bihar, and not only to these places where people have been butchered. It is a horrible thing. I will not forget it for the rest of my life. But in some of the villages we saw the bodies of the people, 15, 20 or 30, 60 in one case, in one village, including a number of women and small children who had been butchered.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

But I would say that it is the primary duty in which my government failed. I admit it. That the State Government, the affected State should be helped by the Centre above all, not by introducing the President's rule but by helping that State Government to suppress those criminals and to strengthen the law and order machinery in that State.

We thought of many things, we tried to do some things. We issued some instructions, directions, set up task forces, did this and did that, but nothing much came out of it. Above all, the State Police, there can never be any kind of reasonable law and order in a State, if the State Police, the Police of that State is not rendered capable of dealing with these matters. One cannot deal by sending the Army there or sending only the Central police Force which sometimes have to go of course when the State asks for help. But normally if the Police of that State is so much weakened or so much — what shall I say — inefficient or demoralised that they are not able to cope with the situation at all, then one cannot do anything. One has to help the state Police with training, with funds, with equipment, with communication equipment, with transport and above all with effective officers to lead them and of course in the case of Bihar the whole question of land reforms to which so many friends have referred to, quite rightly which is so urgent, it is actually a class war — what is going on is a class war — between the haves and the have nots. Those who were landless have been landless for years and those who have managed to grab the lion's share of the land, of course, do not want to part with it. This struggle is going on there.

If I may just give one small instance about the kind of things that were happening, in one of those places where large scale killings had taken place, I found shortly before the killers had arrived on the scene and started their action, there were some Police pickets which had been posted there. Because there was information that something might happen there. Some police pickets were there round about that area within a very short distance. But when the firing went on, the killings went on, shoutings and screamings of the victims could be heard, nobody came, nobody interfered, nobody did anything.

I personally spoke to some of those Policemen manning those pickets. I asked him, "Look, you were posted here, here is this village which is within eye sight and while all this was going on what are you doing? Why did you not try to go to their help?" I must tell you the reply that one Policeman gave me. He said, "Our job is to pick up the bodies." (*Interruptions*) It is all right but there is a police. Do not tell me that Shri Lalu Prasad or somebody in the Government had instructed them that your only job is —

[Translation]

"To pick up the dead body and nothing else".

[English]

But this is the state of utter demoralization to which the police there have come to. I was told by the senior officers of the State Government there, the IGP, the DGP and the Home Secretary — they were always used to sit with us in Conferences — that there were numerous examples of policemen who had been provided with ammunition, certain rounds of ammunitions, so many cartridges for their use. They were given cartridges. And, it was found later than that a substantial part of this ammunition was being sold in the market by them. In stead of being used for any security purposes, these cartridges were being sold in the market. We gave a lot of directives and instructions to the senior officers but I am afraid that nothing much came out of it. We also asked them whether they could compile, block by block, a list of all the land which is available in that block for distribution to the landless people. They said, "Yes, we can." Then, if you can do that, why can steps not be taken to distribute that land? So, decisions were taken that within one month or two months, all this would be done. Later on, we found that nothing was done. This reign of terror which was being perpetrated by the Ranabir Sena on behalf of the landlords, on behalf of the vested interests, was continuing. It is mainly on account of the collapse of the police force. I submit that President's Rule will not solve this kind of state of affairs. The RJD Government was also ineffective. Maybe, it was incompetent. But you do not dismiss Governments only because of incompetence. Then, you have to go round dismissing so many Governments.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Including the Central Government.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But my point is that from the very first day, as has been stated here earlier yesterday I think, the BJP Government, since it came to power at the Centre, was out to overthrow this State Government in Bihar. I think this is one aspect of the class war which is going on. These poor landless Dalits, Scheduled Caste people and others who are agricultural labourers by profession, most of them, are locked in this kind of battle. You can say, they also kill people. Well, whether they kill or somebody, on their behalf, kills is a different matter because there are some parties, some political groups operating in that area. I am sure the Prime Minister knows it. Who had taken up arms on behalf of these poor people? They also preach there that

we should take revenge. If you are going to be killed, somebody is killed, you should kill 10 people on the other side. Then alone something will happen. This has been going on.

So, I say that when the BJP Government at the Centre decided to change the Governor in Bihar and to install in his place an RSS Hard core man, why did it decide? It should tell us that. This was done in defiance. I hope Mr. Home Minister is listening because he is supposed to know that there is a clear direction by the Sarkaria Commission that in choosing Governors for States, every care should be taken to see that first of all it should be somebody preferably from outside the State not involved in the State politics; secondly, it should be somebody who is not a very active political figure; and thirdly, of course, the Chief Minister of the State should be consulted. That does not mean that he must agree. He may or may not agree, but he should be consulted. But the appointment of Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari, in my opinion, was a clear violation of this Sarkaria directive. Some people here were very surprised that why we were objecting to the fact that Shri Bhandari had said in an interview or somewhere that he was proud to be an RSS man. He can be proud, I do not mind. Let him be as proud as he likes. The point is, once he has become a Governor, he is occupying a high constitutional office. Shri Sarkaria has said that it should be a person who is not involved actively in politics. It is not his job to sit there and say that he is an RSS man and he is proud to be and he will continue to be.

Then, I would say that in between when Shri Bhandari was suddenly removed temporarily - he was temporarily removed and then later brought back again - the Press reported him as saying, when he was asked by some journalist, — if he feels that he has been quoted wrongly, he should say so - that "In my opinion, it would be preferable in such places to have a Governor who is apolitical" - apolitical means above politics. He said that an apolitical man should be the Governor. Well, the hint was quite obvious that he was considering Shri Bhandari to be a political person and that is why he was being shifted from Patna. Then, after a few days he was brought back again. I do not know how and why that happened; I would like to hear an explanation from the Home Minister. Was it due to the pressure of the RSS? Is it not a fact that the RSS is dictating who should be or should not be the Governor in a State like Bihar? I do not know, but this is what happened. Everybody knows that. Whether the Bihar Chief Minister was consulted or not before this appointment, I do not know; they can tell us.

What I am saying is that at the Centre whichever party or maybe group of parties in a coalition happen to be in power, I can understand that there is always a political temptation. You have got this weapon of article 356 in your hands. If there is some State Government whom you do not like, who is giving you trouble, who is opposing you on many things, you have always got this weapon available to get rid of that Government. It is a temptation. If you can get the use of this article approved, well the easiest thing is to go ahead and get rid of the State Government which may belong to a party, which may be run by a party which is opposed to you. I think the test of statesmanship is to see that you do not fall prey to this temptation so easily. I am reminded of the example of Uttar Pradesh during the regime of our United Front Government. When we came very near to the brink of using article 356 against Shri Kalyan Singh, do our BJP friends not remember that? Such a proposal was sent to the *Rashtrapati*. The *Rashtrapati* sent it back. Shri Kalyan Singh had managed just a few days earlier to get a substantial majority in the U.P. Assembly, which was also one of the factor that weighed in his favour. There were also protests from the BJP side.

But our Cabinet felt that since it had been returned by the President, the only option was to send it back to him again if we felt so strongly about it. Sir, there was some difference of opinion amongst us also. I do not think that Shri Advani will deny it now that he did later on, should I say, congratulated me for the stand I had taken. Some other Members of the BJP here in the Parliament also came to me and said that I had taken a very bold and honest stand. But Sir, my friend Shri Mulayam Singh was very angry with me. He made no bones about it.

[Translation]

He said "It is a great opportunity and you have lost it. It was the right opportunity to topple the Kalyan Government"

[English]

"Anyway, I do not know whether I was right or wrong", but such situations arise.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): These were our views I will have to say something.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Who can stop you from speaking?

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

15.00 hrs.

[English]

So, we did not apply Article 356 in that case. Though the U.P. Government was a BJP Government and though many of us would not have shed any tears if that Government had been removed, but we withheld ourselves, we did not exercise that power. You can exercise it at any time you want if you do not have any degree of political wisdom and political neutrality and if you are interested in the politics of the parties involved or what is going to be the outcome as far as the Centre-State relations are concerned, but that is a dangerous thing.

The moment the new Government comes, will they be able to control prices and bring them down? Will they be able to control unemployment? Huge monsters of inflation and unemployment are stalking the country and nobody is prepared to put forward any concrete programme except talking in terms of money - "we will give so many crores for this and that" - but nothing happens on the ground. So, Sir, I will say that in the present case, this resort to article 356 in the case of Bihar is clearly politically motivated by the BJP at the Centre. All this talk that it has nothing to do with people's interests, it has nothing to do with the interests of the poor and all that which is being talked about, in my opinion, is all hypocrisy and deception. Therefore, we cannot support such a thing because it means fooling the people. We have to oppose it and we do not wish to have again a Government there under this kind of a palpably political and partisan Governance which itself is a contradiction. In terms of Sarkaria Commission, they have no businesses to be there but they are being used. Therefore, we oppose this proclamation and we hope the Parliament will reject it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKAR (Balia) (U.P.): Mr. Speaker Sir, we all are hearing and the entire country is watching about the circumstances under which the President Rule was imposed in Bihar. I would not go into the facts mentioned by both the sides. They have blamed each other. It was told that the Government was corrupt and the Government machinery was a failure but the Government was especially sacked due to the incidents of killings happened there it was sacked on the pretext of killings.

So, Sir, in the present case, there have been, of course, all kinds of crimes committed in Bihar and I am not talking about the other side of this, the alleged defalcation of money and the Central funds being diverted. This is going on in some other States also. I can quote some North-Eastern States where people complain to us bitterly that so much money which is being sanctioned by the Centre for development work, for construction work in those States is not being spent for that at all. That is going into the pockets of some other people. Some Ministers, some contractors and some bureaucrats are pocketing this money. This is going on. Maybe in Bihar also, such things happen. I am quite sure that they happen there.

Now, what is the way out? Is the way out to impose President's rule and take over the Government of that State? Another set of people will come there who will be equally interested in lining their pockets. That is all that will happen. I regret to say but that has become the condition of our society now. Whoever can make money by fair means or foul means cannot resist the temptation to make money. This is what is going on in the country. Let us be frank about it because we are now thinking in terms of changing of Governments. Maybe, this Government will go, some other Government will come. Maybe, one Prime Minister will go, another Prime Minister will come. But what about these problems which are not the problems of a party but which are the problems of the country as a whole? Who can come before the people with some policy, some programme on which they are prepared to rule and act and see that these things are not allowed to go on? Nobody speaks about programmes. They speak about personalities. That is all right. They can compare Atalji with Sonajji and somebody else with somebody else, but I do not feel convinced by these things at all. What is going to be their economic programme? What are they going to do about it? Are they going to bring down prices?

My friend Mr. Sharad pawar deserved yesterday and today. Somnath dada also narrated the story of predetermination of the Government to back the State Government. I am not much hurt by these things. But I am concerned about the ideas that have been occupied in the mind, the expressions, ideas expressed indicate the dangerous era. My friend Mr. Indrajit Gupta had also told that such situation also prevailed in Uttar Pradesh and he mentioned some commission there. Nowadays that commission has become a topic of discussion and my friend might agree with me to a great extent. Each and every sentence of that commission has become an axiom. In my opinion the political problems cannot be solved through these commissions. Some time a peculiar situation crept up in politics which a commission can not visualise while considering a matter in a particular

situation. My able friend Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has just now rightly said about the President. I think there is another institution of the same kind and that is the office of the Governor. Whenever discussion about that office takes place in the House we hardly take note of it. May it be Romesh Bhandari or Sunder Singh Bhandari, the main aim of a part of our politics is to criticise them. On both the occasion I did not agree to it. I am of the opinion that we can criticise, disagree with any person may it be a President or a Governor, we may have difference of opinion. We may not agree to his views. We can criticise it, but to deplore them should not become a part of Parliamentary politics. It is unfortunate that the Home Minister, may be anybody, Mr. Indrajeet Gupta and Mr. Advani, may please excuse me, but the people who appoints these Governors when they are abused they keep mum and it may be considered a good gesture. It is a foul play with the constitution. It is a matter of great concern. I would rather say that it is a matter of grave injustice I am saying all this because in the name of ideals some thing is said here which are without taking into account the realities. I do not know what transpired between Mr. Mulayam Singh and Mr. Indrajeet Gupta nor I am interested in it. But if the then hon'ble Governor had told anything the then Home Minister said that he had not told that thing seriously. It was sent earlier and not later. The same thing was repeated when Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari sent once but not again. Our Prime Minister told that we did not find it proper to send again because our high regard to the President.

Sir, we have high regards for Honourable President and honourable Governor but with all humility I would like to say that the constitution is above both these offices and when a President or a Governor does not accept the Cabinet decision it creates a critical situation which is harmful for the future. Therefore it was decided in this very House that whenever the cabinet will make an recommendation the President will certainly accept it. If he does accept it for the first time he may give reasons therefor. If the Cabinet was not serious about its recommendations I would humbly submit that they should have not sent such recommendation to the President. There is basic need to understand all these things. Until we understand all these things we would not be able to decide the circumstances under which Article 356 could be used properly. As my able friend Mr. Somnath Chatterji has called it an emergency Article and it is invoked only in such circumstances when use of this article becomes unavoidable and at the some time when a Government or a Cabinet recommend for this, it should be in a position to explain to the nation and the people of the country about the circumstances under which it was compelled to make such recommendations.

Sir, we all know about the prevailing situation in Bihar, but can we say that other States are exception of it? Could the Home Minister say that murders are not committed everyday in Delhi, can we say that such a situation is not prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. I was in Uttar Pradesh a day before yesterday. A rikshaw-wala was shot dead in front of the Secretariat at half past ten. A day before that some persons shot at a Sub-Inspector and ran away with his carbine in the presence of Govt. officials at half past eleven. In the meantime a number of killings have taken place in Uttar Pradesh and Assam. A number of killings are taking place in Kashmir and other States even today.

15.08 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, our hon'ble friend Shri Inderjit Guptaji has indicated towards Mumbai. Are we not familiar with the situation in Mumbai. Should the State Governments be dismissed on this basis. I can't understand it. I must say one thing when the Govt. of Bihar was going, Lalu Ji was with me in Jai Prakash Nagar, the village of Jai Prakash ji. In a public meeting, I openly said to Laluji that a big responsibility has come on your shoulders. It seems that some more killings may take place in your State and a dangerous situation may arise you should not act in a way which might add fuel to the fire. I have criticised Laluji and Rabri's Government several times. When Laluji gave a statement against Sunder Singh Bhandariji, I not only gave a statement but said to Laluji that it was against all the norms and it undermines all Parliamentary decorum. He felt hurt but later on he admitted that he said it in the heat of the situation and will never say it again. But I must say one thing. I know people will criticise me for this, because when I met him in jail. There was a wide spread criticism. Lalu Yadav might have committed large scale crimes and you might be aware of crimes. A number of persons have been charge-sheeted for such crimes and we see that they got free from that. Such a gentleman is sitting with me. What is the charge against him. The people who hold the reins of morality in Parliament said that how dare you meet such people. When he was proved innocent by the Supreme Court, nobody praised me that I went in jail to meet an innocent person. Whether it is not a fact that Lalu Yadav has created a feeling of self respect among the poor people of Bihar? Is it not a fact that he united them. Many people opposed it, newspapers opposed it...*(Interruptions)* you please speak first, I would speak later on. If others want to speak first I can wait.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Sir, I submit that he talked of dignity. We people opposed him, Somnath Chatterji opposed him, other friends also opposed him. I want to say that Lalu Yadav has been receiving public support in Bihar for the past nine years. At that time also, I said to the press men that whatever reason might the Govt. of India had told, it would be difficult to make the poor people believe that Lalu or the Rabri Govt. was responsible for the massacre of Dalits. Because even today Dalits acknowledge Rabri's Govt. as their own Govt. We will have to accept this fact. The minority people accept this fact. If some one does not agree with this fact let it not be, I am speaking my mind because I have some knowledge about Bihar. It seems to me that if we remove the Government under such misconceptions, it will create a sense of disbelief among Dalits and poor people and the result will be the same as indicated by Shri Inderjit Guptaji. There is no problem of law and order in Bihar. There is an agitation in Bihar. A situation of terrorism has evolved there. Neither any individual nor any Govt. is responsible for this situation. This problem did not arise in Lalu's time. Today a class war is going on. When the elections come, we say to the poor that you will mould the society and history of Hindustan. We create this awareness among them and on the basis of awareness the poor is not ready to pocket injustice. It is against this feeling that some political elements are growing up, forming different parties based on violence and people are being killed by them. We call them the elite, capitalist or feudal classes. Bihar is pressed in between these two classes. Whether there is Rabri Government, Jagannath Misra Government or of our elder Ghafoor Saheb, there have always been incidents of violence in Bihar. Would the State Governments be sacked for such incidents. How many Governments would be sacked for such incidents of violence? All the North Eastern States are violence infested. Police and Army personnel are being killed in Assam. Such incidents are also happening in Nagaland. Whether Government have ever thought of taking any step to check such incidents? Where we are helpless, we accept our helplessness and keep silent, but where we have arms in our hands, we do not hesitate to use them on innocent people. I am not opposed to Article 356. I want to clear one thing that if we want to keep the nation unite, Article 356 must exist. Shri Inderjit Gupta has rightly said that all the Chief Ministers' and Finance Ministers except one have accepted it. But it should be kept in mind at the time of application of Article 356 that it may not create any doubt in the minds of the people. We and Advaniji in particular have repeatedly said that majority should be proved in the Assembly or in the Parliament. When Rabri Government won the majority in the Legislative Assembly, I felt hurt to listen the statement of hon'ble Atalji. He said that though the Government is in majority yet we should dismiss it. I do not blame other parties. I have not

read the statement of the Home Minister. But when Prime Minister gives such a statement, the Governor gives such a statement and the people doubt them there is no wonder in it. I would be grateful if you reconsider the matter. If any wrong step has been taken, please take it back. Say, yesterday I committed a mistake. Pramod Mahajan is not here. Incidentally I indulged in altercation with him but with peaceful mind he gave me a good suggestion. I kept thinking over it. I was speaking in English and he was saying in Hindi. He said that if in my opinion he is not fit to be a Minister, he could say I am not fit to be a Prime Minister. I kept thinking over it. Pramod Mahajan is not here. I would like to say to Atalji that the moment I found myself unfit to be a Prime Minister, I immediately resigned. I do not know whether I can suggest you to follow the suit or not. With this request I conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Home Minister was expressing his view in support of Article 356, he started with a good point. He had admitted in the very beginning, that the main problem in Bihar is that of land reforms but I don't want to go in details because our other leaders have already said many things. Therefore, I would not repeat all these things but would like to make a reference. Land Reforms are a basic necessity in Bihar. He pointed out two three things in this regard but he immediately changed the subject. There is no problem of law and order in Bihar Hon'ble Guptaji and Chandra Shekharji have categorically stated that there is no problem of law and order there, the main problem there is the problem of poverty. There are majority of the poor, landless and houseless they are backward and illiterate. They are neglected, humiliated and have no employment. They are forced labour and as you said, get much less wages.

It is said that in 1953, there was a good Governance in Bihar. In this regard I want to say that a professor of Harvard University wrote something about it. He had no knowledge of land reforms in Bihar, Perhaps the Home Minister was mentioning about his writings you are very diligent about this. We will read him. You have mentioned about the good Governance in 1953. You have enhanced my knowledge because I was not so mature at that time. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was concerned about the casteism prevalent in Bihar and this caste system started in 1953. Perhaps the High Caste Administrative officers were divided into two groups at that time. All those officers were powerful, resourceful big landlords, farmers and were on the higher posts. I would like to mention here that the Dalits, backwards, all minority people and poor people of every caste were disciplined at that time. But appointments and jobs were depended on the attitude of these high caste administrative officers and they started neglecting

and humiliating the poor who become landless today they are awakened. They know their rights. When they started understanding their rights, they started demanding their rights they started asking for their rights. The hon'ble Home Minister terms this right as casteism. Our opinion differ on this struggle. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, this is the root cause of their fight. How many times you would impose Article 356? This fight would continue unless and until they get equal status, land employment and honour. The main thing is that you do not know what to say. You call 'Lalua' to Lalooji and your supporters call me Mulla or Maulana Mulayam Singh. There is nothing wrong in it. Sometimes you call me 'Maulavi'. Perhaps you don't know that 'Maulavi' means a learned person otherwise you would have never called me 'Maulavi'.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, today they call upon all the political parties to support Article 356. When Advaniji become Home Minister, hon'ble Prime Minister visited Lahore and the very same day what happened in Kashmir. You have spoiled the whole matter and still you are the Home Minister. You have somewhere adhered to the policy, programme and election manifesto of our party because Samajwadi Party to have good relations with Pakistan. Therefore, you have agreed to our party's ideology. When the Home Minister was making an appeal to all the political parties to rise above the party lines and to support article 356, you should make an appeal that what is happening in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh as has been said by Shri Chandra Shekharji or Shri Inderjitji we will not allow this to happen in Kashmir, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Manipur.

There are some problems in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Leaders of all the parties should sit together and think how these problems can be solved. The Home Minister should have called small party meet to seriously solve the problems of landless and to restore their rights then you might not achieved the status of the Iron man Patel but you might have reached near to it. You should accept this truth. This Government is temporary don't get intoxicated after coming to power, you should be humble somewhere. I am submitting this because we know you very well, but the Home Minister donot know very well and I want to bring this truth through the House before the country. We know the hon'ble Home Minister very well but he could not know us very well. The reason is that we become liberal somewhere but I never saw you becoming liberal in any case. Whatever inhuman act your colleagues commit, first of all you would come to their rescue. Today I am a little bitter in my speech but I am presenting the truth before you because our people may not become proudy. You are prone to anger and your anger is very dangerous. Our anger can not do any harm to you. But if you are blayed up, it would be difficult for

us to go outside the gate I do not know whether we would reach home or not...*(Interruptions)* It is a matter of self restraint. The ruling members should remain patient and restraint. The opposition has to be stimulated...*(Interruptions)* Now if hon'ble Advaniji wishes only then I would speak otherwise I will sit down. Therefore, I have said that with a signal of my hand not even a single member of my party will speak. If Laluji will wave his hand, no member of his party will speak the Home Minister is looking here and there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the problem in Bihar is very senous. So while giving reply to the debate, the issues of land distribution and the dignity of poor people of Bihar has to be kept in mind. I don't want to repeat these things. You may call it violence but it is justified. This problem is not the problem of today, it started in 1970. It is true, as told by Lalooji yesterday, that not only the backwards and Dalits have been killed but people from upper classes have also been killed, but they were killed in police firing, be it the ground of junior high school, many persons were killed in the police firing.

You have framed some grounds and out of those grounds five main grounds are law order and killings, second is I.S.I., third is killings of officers, fourth is kidnapping and killings of Industrialists and fifth is Panchayat. I have read these five main grounds from the report of Governor. There is no justification in the report of the Governor because the Hon'ble President had rejected the recommendation of the Governor to sack the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have tried to bring dishonour to the President by sending the same five month old recommendation without making any change in it because the President had not signed it at that time and they thought that he should be forced to sign it now on constitutional grounds otherwise, how it is possible that they could not add a single new point in the five month old report. Therefore, I want to say that they have tried to bring dishonour to the President by sending the same five month old report. No new ground was made in that report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as law and order situation is concerned. I would not like to go in detail and I also don't want to make a mention about Gujarat where Christian Community was attacked, Churches were demolished, their institution were ransacked and many people were murdered ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singh ji is misleading the House by giving misconceived information...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singhji is giving false statement in the House. Nothing has happened with christians in Gujarat...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has insulted the country in the world by saying this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. Do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say that C.B.I. inquiry should be conducted regarding what hon'ble Mulayam Singhji is saying, then a clear picture come before you. He is misleading the nation. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Home Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singhji's statement is baseless. He does not love his country and he is spoiling the image of his country abroad. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not stand up and interrupt like this.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I will mention Orissa also. Sir, see their mentality. That is why I am saying that everybody make a mention of Gujarat, Bombay, Maharashtra and Delhi; foreigners also did so and America too mentioned these names but nothing happened. But when I mention Gujarat they are really pained. Some people think that Gujarat is their monopoly. Gujarat is also a part of this country. As far as Gujarat belongs to you, so to me. It is not a question of U.P. or Gujarat...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singhji is spoiling the image of our country in the entire world...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of Gujarat, Bombay is concerned, it has been said many a times that the situation prevailing in Bombay is the most dangerous situation in the country. People are being discriminated on the basis of States i.e. who belongs to West Bengal, who belongs to Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and so on and industrialists and people are being turned out from there on this basis.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): He is making a wrong statement...(Interruptions) Who has been turned out, you tell me a single name...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I can give several names...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is misleading us...(Interruptions) He is misleading the House...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: While replying, the Home Minister will rebute it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people from film industry and other industrialists are leaving Bombay. No one is willing to marry the boys in Bombay despite their being handsome and well settled. This is the state of affairs there...(Interruptions) The situation is rather grave there. Shiv Sena dug up the cricket pitch and declared that no player from Pakistan could enter Bombay. The same challenge was thrown in Delhi also. I would like to ask

who was controlling Delhi Police who was ruling Delhi afcourse the Union Government which had Shri Lal Krishna Advani as its Home Minister. This is the situation in Bombay. There are so many examples. I would like to give one more example. If a person buys a Fiat or a Maruti car in Bombay they come to know of it, by the evening a telephone call comes to the car buyer asking for their commission worth Rs. 20-25 thousand. This is a fact. This is the grave situation prevailing in Bombay.

Now, I would like to come to Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. About Uttar Pradesh, I would just like to say something about law and order situation in Lucknow. As such there are many things to mention but I do not want to go in details. I want to speak about Lucknow because our Hon. Prime Minister represents Lucknow in Lok Sabha. You are attached to Lucknow and in view of this attachment we put our whole strength and could manage to get 2 lakh, 77 thousand votes only, we could not get more than this figure. You are very popular in Lucknow and that is why we want to discuss about Lucknow. I just want to talk about the month of January. There are many things to tell but we have got a report. the Government will of course not give this report but we have found out that 32 murders have been committed in Lucknow from 1 January to 31 January. I am speaking about Lucknow only. *...(Interruptions)* Apart from these 32 murders, many more murders have also been committed. If the Hon. Prime Minister and Home Minister give me some more time then I can go in detail. I want to discuss many things but time is short and many other members have to speak and then we have to give vote also. That is why I am being very precise that from 21 September, 1997 till last month, 204 murders have been committed in the whole province. These 204 people the leaders and workers of Samajwadi Party. I have a districtwise and namewise list also. I would not tell more than 2-4 names from Lucknow but that is essential. If the Hon. Prime Minister gives me time, I can present the complete list. If I am not given time, I will go to President with the members of Parliament from all the parties. Out of these 204 murders one was that of Ramesh who was an active member and committee member of Samajwadi Party. He belonged to washermen community. He was the Gram Pradhan and he hailed from Paharigarhi Police Station Raat, District Hamirpur. The list is too long.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): People whom you are mentioning belong to rival gangs. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is also there. But if the Home Minister and the Prime Minister say that my report is false, I would accept my mistake in a Press Conference. If it is right, I will give it to you. I am not

taking more names because it will cause inconvenience to them...*(Interruptions)* Similar is the case of former Bilhaur SP President and Block Pramukh and Block President, Kunda, Pratapgarh Jagannath Yadav. He is the General Secretary of Samajwadi Party Yuvajan Samaj and belongs to village Saraichandi, district Jaunpur Uttar Pradesh. The General Secretary of Samajwadi Yuvajan Sabha, Shri Lalita Paswan, village Kuthali, Police Station Hathgaon, District Fatehpur also appears on the list...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Businessmen were being kidnapped during his regime...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: He opened an office in Mathura. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government will Speak against any thing objectionable.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Samajwadi Party's candidate from Nainital and President of Samajwadi Yuvajan Sabha Nainital. Shri Abdul Raood Siddiqui was murdered in 1998 Lok Sabha elections. All the newspapers in the country published the photo of the murderer. When the Hon. Governor of Uttar Pradesh landed at the airport, three were just there persons to receive him which included the Chief Minister, one of his colleagues and the murderer of Shri Abdul Raood Siddiqui. If this statement proves to be wrong, I will resign from Lok Sabha. It is published in Newspaper. *...(Interruptions)* Would you always guess like this? How are you related to Fatehpur, why are you shouting. Do you know where the blok is situated. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: An enquiry has been conducted in this case and he has been punished...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Similarly, the member of Jaunpur District Panchayat and General Secretary of Lohia Vahini was murdered. Would you like me to name the conspirator behind these murders. The murder was done in the protection of former candidate of Legislative Assembly. Similar is the case of Seespal Singh the block President of Lohia Vahini, Village Haiderpur, district Jalaun. I can name the murderers of Shri Brahmdudd Dwivedi, Ramesh Yadav, Block President, Bhectargaon (Akbarpur) was also murdered...*(Interruptions)* but they do not want to listen. The person about whom I have already said that he went to receive the Governor,

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

a furore rose and news items published, none listened to us, but later on he was sent to jail. He goes to receive the Governor, 15-20 days after committing the crime, he was sent to jail thereafter it was published in all the newspapers and the Governor came to know of the situation. I would thank the Governor I have been told that he gave it a thought that he was received by such a person and then he was arrested. I again thank the Hon. Governor for this. This is the situation in Uttar Pradesh.

Now, let us come to Lucknow where 32 murders were committed. A constable named Jagannath Patel was murdered in daylight in the highly crowded area of Nishatganj on 10th November and the murderer took his carbine. Now I come to the last point. I said all this for your kind knowledge. These are some of the examples in Uttar Pradesh. I would give you the complete file. I want to emphasize on my point that if they are right, I will express my regret that we have given you a wrong report, if it is otherwise, what punishment would you give to them...(Interruptions) That is why I have said that I become liberal at times but you always remain tough and rigid. That is why you will have to change yourselves. You tried your best to hide the facts but now it will not be possible for you to do that. Similarly on 4th February in front of Rajbhawan all the JPS officers of Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should be given full opportunity to speak and to present the whole list, we should be given opportunity to bring to light whatever had happened during his time. We will also present the cases which took place during his regime we should be given full opportunity without keeping on eye on time.(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: There is a limit to interference. If this is your mentality and intention, I should now come straight forward to Lalooji's point. It is very simple. On 4th February at 8 o'clock in the evening when all the I.P.S. officers of U.P., DG(P), Chief Minister, Honourable Governor, Senior Officers of I.A.S. were dining together, in front of the gate of the Governor House Shri R.K. Tiwari Superintendent Jails, Lucknow circle was murdered brutally.(Interruptions). It is concerning Bihar only that why the Government in Bihar is dismissed. That is what I am saying...(Interruptions). This incident happened on 23rd February at quarter to ten. It did not happen long ago but only recently, I am merely giving a few examples. In Sikander Bagh, from where I was elected M.L.A. and become the Chief Minister, in front of the residence of DG(P), at a distance of around 150-175 metre. you can measure the distance, Darshan Lal Yadav was murdered.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: It is a debate on Bihar, for how long will it go on like this.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Dismiss the Government of Bihar, now, you can not bear to listen. Mr. Goel, I will not interfere. They took away his carbine. Similarly, as Mr. Chandrashekhar has told just now, a debate was going on in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on law and order situation on 24th February and at Gate no. 9 of the Assembly building a rickshaw walla named Mohammed Beg and an employee of animal Husbandry Department were shot at. The rickshaw walla died on the spot and the other is seriously injured. He is fighting with death. This incident took place on 24th February at Gate number 9 of U.P. Legislative Assembly. Similarly two constables of Faridpur Police Station, of Raebareli district were shot at when they were eating at Kosi Dhaba, one was killed day before yesterday and another was injured. I have given just an example. I have details of many other incidents with me.

I just want to know what action have been taken in this regard. I want to say to the Hon'ble Home Minister that no action has been taken against murders. The Police arms were robbed, people were killed at Gate no. 9 and Police Superintendent, Shri R.K. Tiwari was murdered in the presence of all the officers where all the senior officers of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister and Governor had assembled to celebrate IPS week. I want to ask the Home Minister what action has been taken in this regard have any arrests been made, has the carbine been found? You keep on harping on Bihar but before that see the situation in U.P. and Lucknow also.

I want to make one more request. I will come to Delhi now. The situation in Delhi is worst. The Home Minister holds the reins of Delhi Police. Delhi Police and Para Military Forces have been deployed in Delhi, we ask you to compare the situation in Bihar with Delhi itself. The population of Delhi is around 80 lakhs to 1 crore and that of Bihar is around 9-10 crores. In Bihar, he has been ruling for the last nine years. Sir, you please constitute a committee of House and Hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister should compare the situation of two States and see where the situation is worse. Chief Minister of Bihar, Rabri Devi has demanded for Para military forces so many times but it was not accepted to. Now when Bihar is under President's rule you are sending forces in large numbers through trains and planes. The public of Bihar are seeing this phenomenon for the first time. When the people agitated they were crushed. The public of Uttar Pradesh has been this phenomenon many times. I think that the public of Bihar will come out to streets to protect their interests. Businessman was kidnapped in Muzaffarnagar, a reputed doctor was

kidnapped in Hardwar, businessmen were kidnapped from many other places. These people have not yet returned to their homes. We have seen the show of their rule. You can compare Bihar with Delhi as to how many murders have been committed and how many kidnappings have taken place. You compare and find out as to how much ISI is active in Delhi and how much in Bihar. Central Government and Ministry of Home is fully responsible for this. If its activities are more in Bihar, we will leave the issue of imposition of article 356 in Bihar immediately. If it is not so, Home Minister, should resign first.

The police of Delhi is under Central Govt. whose Prime Minister is hon'ble Atalji and you are the Home Minister this Govt. should go. *...(Interruptions)* For us, Govt. of Delhi means Govt. of Atalji and Advaniji. If you compare these two States you'll know the truth therefore if you feel morally responsible then the Home Minister should resign. You can't impose Article 356 of your own wish.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: If you do not allow Mulayam Singh then who will speak. Who can expose them? Most of my time was wasted during *...(Interruptions)*.

As far as economy is concerned, Uttar Pradesh has a debt of 50 thousand crore rupees, therefore would you sack that Govt.? In comparison to it Bihar is far behind in economy, and also in killing of officers, Police Officers and people. The manner in which Police is killing the people in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Deputy Speaker you can visit Bhadohi and Muzaffarnagar which are not far from here. These are only two places. A boy went to Muzaffarnagar along with his friends. They were killed there and no action has been taken against the Inspector and he was given a good Kotwali. All of them were celebrating Deepawali there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say something. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Shri Virender, leave it. It is between you and me, we will decide it later.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: This pertains to my Parliamentary Constituency, hence I am speaking. All of them were punished. *...(Interruptions)* The chief minister has punished all these people...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He was elected President of Samajwadi Party twenty days before, and was killed on Deepawali. Now the question is how the situation in Bihar deteriorated? Who was the leader of Marxist Communist Party that visited Uttar Pradesh? I don't want to disclose his name? We all know him and the other person who was arrested and from who's house he was arrested the Home Minister should know about it. I leave it to him, officers are beaten in the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh. A brother of a member of Legislative Assembly of U.P. is involved in massacre in Bihar. Whether Prakash Shukla and Rajan Tiwari of U.P. have been arrested? The inspector from Ghaziabad who was murdered, had told the names. Whether any action has been taken? Whether the Home Minister will take any action in this regard? Their names and addresses were published in Newspapers, what have you told C.B.I.? C.B.I. is aware of this. Raids are being conducted in Bihar, what is happening at other places? All the murderers are being sent from U.P. Who are the killers of officers? Who is manhandling the officers? What can I say? You may say they belong to Mulayam Singh. What to do? *...(Interruptions)*. The person who was responsible for manhandling the I.A.S. officer of Pratapgarh was an M.L.A. of Bhartiya Janta Party, and when the I.A.S. officer complained a report was lodged against him and he was transferred. The person responsible for manhandling the S.P. of Hathras was candidate of Bhartiya Janta Party and when the candidate lodged complaint against the S.P. he was also transferred. The person who manhandled the B.D.O. and two officers of Gonda was an M.L.A. of Bhartiya Janta Party. The person who manhandled the D.S.O. of Etawah was a State Minister. Can you say that I am wrong? The person who manhandled officer in Raebareli was a State Minister and today the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister, both, have admitted that about six ministers of our cabinet were safeguarding Sri Prakash Shukla. An inquiry is being conducted against them. Enquiry report of some Ministers have come. No action has been taken against any of them till now. How can you compare it with Bihar? Leader like Braham Dutt Tiwari are murdered, whether the Home Minister does not know who has murdered and you are talking about Bihar? To manhandle the officers and to kills the workers of Samajwadi Party, whether they do not know who is doing all this in Uttar Pradesh? How many peoples are in jail, one lakh bogus cases were filed against the supporters of the Samajwadi

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Party. I want to say that these are all baseless concepts. Some apprehension has arisen when the constitution makers had said that when there will be separate Governments in centre and states this Article might be misused and you have proved it. In December 98 Justice Katju of Allahabad High Court had given a verdict against the Government of Uttar Pradesh that there is anarchy in Uttar Pradesh. There are 17000 contempt cases against Government of Uttar Pradesh whereas there are 5000 contempt cases against Government of Bihar. Then why the Government of Uttar Pradesh have not been dismissed?

16.00 hrs.

Bharatiya Janata Party had given a memorandum before Sarkaria Commission that whenever a Governor is appointed, it should be done in consultation with the State Chief Minister and the State Government. You yourself are a good example, you have given a memorandum before Sarkaria Commission and contrary to this you are appointing Governors without consulting any one. No respect is being shown towards constitution. There is no question of morality. We don't know, what is going on Hon'ble Prime Minister, you are sitting like Lord Shankar and are taking venom silently. Will you remain so till the country is ruined and the situation becomes critical, I know that you are in a piquent situation. Hon'ble Home Minister Sir, we know that Sangh Parivar would have taken away the Home Portfolio from you, that is why you apologised to Bhandariji and reinstated him as Governor. Can the Home Minister of a country do it publically. This could have been done in camera. But you apologised before the people of the country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): In writing.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: In writing or by any means but it was published in all the newspapers. You apologised before the country and you are still holding the post of Home Minister. This Govt. is shameless, they should resign. I had resigned from the of post of Chief Minister over a minor issue. ...*(Interruptions)* You must be sleeping at that time. It is a question of morality. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): You admitted and apologised but did not resign...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Prime Minister, you should withdraw Article 356 and call all the leaders then we will look about the country. ...*(Interruptions)*. You are looking for something to incite communal feelings and when nobody was forthcoming then you asked

Salman Rushdie to come to India. It is not easy to play with anybody's feelings. You can get votes. But when your votebank slipped from your hands, you have started to arouse the feelings of Hindutva. People have understood your feelings of Hindutva, and you have slowly started to realize it. Therefore you went to Pakistan unwillingly...*(Interruptions)*. You have made friendship in the interest of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*. We have united in the interest of the nation. We have not united for power. Me and Lalooji have united in the interest of the poor. We have united to stop atrocities on the Muslims and Christians of the country and to crush the communal forces. Right now only two of us me and Laloo Prasad ji have united. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is published in the Newspapers that a 37 year old Muslim girl have offered to marry our 74 year old Prime Minister. How much of it is right or wrong, I don't know. It was published in the newspapers. Neither Pakistan nor India have denied this news till now. We requested you not to give Kashmir in dowry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam ji please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We have been told that Home Minister does not like it. But we like it, if Kashmir is not given in Dowry and if Pakistan, India and Bangladesh unite a strong India will emerge in the World. This will fulfil the dream of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi. Friends, after becoming a strong and united India. America can't pressurise us to sign C.T.B.T. You say that Lalooji or Rabriji has violated the constitution of the country, but you have violated the constitution and worked against the interests of the country. Our Home Minister has by giving warning to China made China our enemy. You have challenged Pakistan that our country has become a nuclear power, so be careful so now this has made Pakistan a nuclear power. Is this insignificant? Not only have you worked contrary to the constitution, but have created a dangerous situation for the country therefore you should resign immediately.

You talk about Bihar, you have created a dangerous situation for Hindustan from all sides. You have spoiled the image of Hindustan, and also spoiled the image of the post of Home Minister. The Home Minister behaved pathetically to please him this insignificant? Advaniji you are the President of Bhartiya Janta Party but you are also the Home Minister of our country and being a Home Minister you went there. You went to meet that person who was found guilty by Srikrishna Commission. You went to the house of that person who indulged in killing of youths and robbery. You have soiled the prestige of the post. You went there at the instance of Defence Minister. We can force the Defence Minister to tow our line...*(Interruptions)*. You have relied on him...*(Interruptions)*

Everybody knows that we are friends...*(Interruptions)*. We can leave you whenever we wish...*(Interruptions)* Kalpnathji is here. ...*(Interruptions)* I don't want to repeat what happened, but we know he can do anything at the instance of George Sahib...*(Interruptions)* George Sahib, you can't harm him anyway, I am saying now that you can not do anything. Article 356, has awakened not only the poor, labourers, Christians and Muslims of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh but the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, We respect Jai Prakashji. He was with me in the jail. Lalooji wanted to tell about it but I have stopped him. If you have the list of Home Ministry then you will know that who were those who apologised. When D.M. of Patna tried to beat J.P. with a stick to curb the agitation then Nanaji Deshmukh saved him. There is a picture of that incident. The Home Ministry said that he was not beaten by stick and when the picture of that incident was published in Statesman, Govt. apologised in the House that J.P. was beaten by stick. That same D.M. of Patna is now the Chief Secretary of Bihar. He is taking the name of Jai Prakash. You have conferred Bharat Ratna to Jai Prakash and the person who has manhandled him is the Chief Secretary. They are leading double standard life. Therefore we want to say that Central Govt. should go and Bihar Govt. need not go.

We are saying that if they have any sense of shame left they should not remain in power and should express regret and withdraw the imposition of Article 356 against Government of Bihar.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call upon Shri R. Muthiah to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): Sir, kindly inform us at what time there will be voting today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Still there are more than 30 speakers in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: But there should be some time fixed for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know when we are going to complete this discussion.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will it be before dinner or after dinner?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That again depends on how lengthy each speech would be.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while I am rising here to support the Resolution on behalf of our Party, AIADMK, I have to mention that we are feeling sorry because the Government concerned in this case is headed by a Party whose leader, Shri Laluji is upholding the pathway of our great Dravidian Movements mentor, E.V.R. Periyar in the Northern States too. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a lot of noise in the House. Those Members who want to go to the Lobby may please go out quietly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Sir, he had taken all the steps to uphold the social justice in that State. But even after all those things, we are unable to support his stance because of the recent incidents in the State of Bihar particularly after the massacre of *dalits* in that State.

Sir, not only we, the AIADMK or the parties supporting the Government condemn the incident but also even the main Opposition, the Congress-I Party was of the view that after the mass killings in Bihar, the Government at Bihar has no moral right even to sit in the Office for a moment. After condemning it like this, if that Party is not coming forward to support when the Central Government is taking some action in this regard, is it not a betrayal on their part? They have to tell us.

We are not a party of betraying anybody at any point of time. That is why, we are coming forward to support this Resolution at this juncture. When all the political parties have condemned that incident, in such a situation is it not the duty of the Government at the Centre to take some action? Can a Government at the Centre be a silent spectator at this juncture? That is why, this Government has acted, promulgated the President's Rule in Bihar and came forward before this House for the ratification of the promulgation of the President's Rule in Bihar.

After hearing Shri Laluji's argument yesterday, I even thought why he is not taking a moral responsibility for those incidents and he has not asked his Government to step down and face a fresh election in the State. Not only Laluj Prasad, there were many eminent speakers

[Shri R. Muthiah]

before me including Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Indrajit Gupta who had gone in depth in discussing the *bona fide* of the Article 356 and its misuse on so many occasions. We are also not in favour of Article 356 being misused at any point of time. Of course, we are also victims of Article 356 and its misuse against our leader, the great MGR in 1980. Even in those days when the proclamation came before the Parliament during March, 1980, there were so many leaders who have criticised the action of the then Government for misusing Article 356 in nine States and particularly against that of MGR's Government.

1616 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

But Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Advani have spoken in those days against the misuse of Article 356.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please remind him.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: I am coming to that point. But defending that action of the then Government, Shri Murasoli Maran, the Leader of the DMK Group, now, had been there in the Rajya Sabha in those days had spoken in Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 1980. What had he spoken? You Mr. Somnathji had spoken against the imposition of President's Rule in Tamil Nadu. Your friend, Shri Maran had said in the Rajya Sabha and described you, when you had opposed the imposition of President's Rule in nine States and particularly against MGR's Government in Tamil Nadu, as shedding crocodile tears. This is what your friend Shri Maran had told in those days against you Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Even, now, you have opposed this move. I would like to know whether he is going to say that you are shedding crocodile tears even now. In those days he had said that you were shedding crocodile tears. Moreover, he had told that our Constitution is not federal in character. We have all along been emphasising that the entire Constitution should be redrafted to suit the federal character. Up to that time, this Article 356 shall be there and it shall be sued against States in future also. This is what Shri Maran, my brother, told the other House in those days. He had told that you had been shedding crocodile tears. Even, now, you have spoken against this move.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He was wrong then, you are wrong now.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Even now is he going to say so? That is what I am asking. (*Interruptions*). He had told the other House in those days that the Constitution has not been redrafted and Article 356 is there. Since,

at this juncture, there is no other go for this Government, as all the political parties have condemned the incidents of Bihar. They have come forward by using Article 356 and restoring law and order there in Bihar. As long as Article 356 is there, it has to be used, but it should not be misused as they have done in 1980 against MGR.

They did it without even giving any reason in those days. But in my view and in the view of my party, the most deserving State and the most fittest State, for the imposition of the President's Rule is the State of Tamil Nadu rather than Bihar.

The situation in Tamil Nadu is more worsening than in the State of Bihar. I can quote so many instances about the State of Tamil Nadu comparing the Report of the Governor of Bihar, itself.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have a very strong case because you have 18 votes.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: I can quote so many incidents comparing the report of the Governor of Bihar itself. In his report, he has mentioned so many things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Whatever it is, there should be no discrimination.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Shri Somanth Chatterjee has already told this House yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In view of the long list please be brief.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: We have to tell them about our case. We are not pressuring or threatening this Government. On a democratic basis we are demanding the Central Government to dismiss the most inefficient State Government of Tamil Nadu. For that I have to quote some instances. The report of the Governor of Bihar has classified them into different headlines. In those headlines some are, extremist violence, killings of political officials — that is, political killings — ISI activities, financial losses, killing of traders and businessmen, rape and molestation of fair sex, carnage and mass killings.

In the Second Report he had classified his report into the headlines of large scale breakdown of law and order. Kidnapping for ransom, dacoity of banks, political killings, uncontrolled extremist activities — all have been mentioned.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: You can mention blackmailing also.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Next come governance by proxy and abuse of power. The phrase, "Governance by proxy" can be utilised in none other State of this country than in the State of Tamil Nadu. I am referring even to the Leader of the DMK party here, I am not sparing even the Leader of DMK Party here. He is spending most of his time there in Tamil Nadu. *(Interruptions)*

He is attending all the high level meetings there in the Secretariat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: There are so many instances and I am having records with me. All these phrases can be applied to the happenings and incidents in Tamil Nadu. The proxy governance can well be defined only in Tamil Nadu rather than in Bihar.

The poor Shri Lalu Prasad, after he had stepped down from the Chief Ministership, had been there in the jail or on the road most of the times. But in Tamil Nadu. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Shri Muthiah should not forget that Shrimati Sasikala was treated like a President. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: The entire State have been divided into three regions. Each one of these regions are being governed by one of the sons of the Chief Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam Sasikala had been permitted to enter the Indian Airlines and Air India planes. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I need your protection.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Western region is governed by one son. The Southern region is governed by another son and our South region by another son. The entire State has been divided into three regions and they are crowned to one of his sons there in Tamil Nadu. Like that, the proxy matter can well be fixed to the state of affairs of Tamil Nadu. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there is a point of order. Our CM's son has been brought into the proceedings of the House. It should be expunged. The sons of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu have been brought into the record. It should be expunged. I need your protection.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will look at the records and then decide.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Why? Am I misleading the House? Is it not a fact?...*(Interruptions)* There is an increasing role of anti-national forces. Shri L.K. Advani knows from the incident of Combatore blast rather than anybody. Even on a single day, we have lost more than 100 lives in that blast in Coimbatore.

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagappattinam): What about Mahamaham?

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Mahamaham is there. It was an accident. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is because of Jayalalitha and Sasikala. It is because of the two ladies, a number of people have been killed. More than 40 people have been killed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Baaluji don't interrupt the proceedings order please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Yes, it was an accident. There are so many accidents. Is it like this? Is it like Coimbatore blast? In Coimbatore blast, we have lost so many lives because of the extremist activities being very freely allowed by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: People have been arrested and proper action has been taken. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Sir, he should not interfere like this. In that Coimbatore blast, the main accused, one

[Shri R. Muthiah]

lady by name Aizha, has now been left out from the accused list today. Why?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)* I have requested you several times that the sitting arrangement of D.M.K. and AIADMK is so close that any incident can happen anytime. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: I am comparing the incidents of Bihar with Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)* Shri Somnath Chatterjee has told this House that tomorrow we are going to urge the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has narrated all the stories of Uttar Pradesh here. Sir, like that, in all other States and particularly in Tamil Nadu there is an increasing role of anti-national forces. There may be some anti-national forces in Bihar. But, on the other hand, in Tamil Nadu the anti-national forces are encouraged by the Government itself. That is our accusation against the Government of Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, conclude now.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: I am coming to an end. The Governor of Bihar has listed a case of the wife of a Dalit IAS officer being intimidated by the son of a prominent RJD leader.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: What happened to Shrimati Chandralekha, IAS? Acid was thrown on her during your period...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: But in your case, one poor Dalit lady had been raped in Aminjikral Police Station in Chennai city, itself. The police officers themselves raped one Chitra who happens to be a *dalit* lady.

Again, Sir, mass killings of *dalits* have been reported by the Governor of Bihar. In Tamil Nadu, only ten days back, in a town near Chennai, by name Thiruvallur, due to some spurious liquor, we have lost 22 *dalits* and other poor people there. Even then the main accused behind that incident, one Selvam, could not be traced by the police. Some ten days before this incident, the Police

Superintendent of that district had arrested him under the Goondas Act, but because of the intervention of the ruling party bigwigs he had been released, and after his release, this spurious liquor incident took place. So, such large scale breakdown of law and order is there. It is mentioned in the report that even some officers are being killed in the State.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude now.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: When the Chief Minister was there in Madurai, one of the jail officers was killed on that day in front of the jail itself. If we go by these reports, we can come to the conclusion that Tamil Nadu is the fittest State for action to be taken under article 356...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, we request the Home Minister not to be misled by this sort of blackmailing...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Sir, ISI activities have been quoted as one of the reason for the dismissal of the Bihar Government, but in Tamil Nadu, the Special Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ashok Kumar himself has stated that there was enough evidence available of ISI complicity in funding insurgency in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere in the country. This is the report of the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Give a chance to other members, you please conclude.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, keep in mind the number of their members and ours, I am just reminding you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All hon'ble members speak according to the time allotted to their party. No time is left in the agenda, I have.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: I am concluding, Sir.

Sir, more than that, there is a report in a major Tamil daily *Dina Malar*. It says that the ISI people are training the extremists of Tamil Nadu in an island near Rameshwaram, by name Nedun Theivu.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is finished, now I call upon another member. Please, conclude.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and others have narrated so many things about their States. All those things can ruin only one State. But the incidents and the extremist activities in Tamil Nadu will ruin the entire country. That is why we are saying that Tamil Nadu is the fittest State for action to be taken under article 356.

They should have first applied it to the State of Tamil Nadu. But since they have applied Article 356 to Bihar first and Bihar has taken precedence, Tamil Nadu is the fittest State where it can be applied next. The Union Government has to take action under Article 356 and dismiss the Government of Tamil Nadu to save this country.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura): What about Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)* So, they are supporting the Central Government for having dismissed the Government of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* He has not spoken a single word about social justice rendered by the Government there, and communal forces ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: I spoke about it earlier when he was not there and appreciated his efforts. But we cannot support him on incident of massacre of Dalits. That is why we are supporting this resolution.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman Sir our party has decided to support the motion moved by the Government for imposition of President Rule in Bihar. Sir, through you I would like to inform the members of the opposition, especially to Congressmen and those who have been weaving dreams to form a third front, as to why we have taken the decision that our party has decided to support imposition of President Rule in Bihar keeping in view the killings of Dalits in Bihar and not for strengthening the communal forces.

Mr. Chairman Sir, these have been two incidents of massacre of Dalits in Bihar for which our hearts are full of sorrow but the Congressmen and those interested in forming third front are of the view that there is some political conspiracy behind these killings. I may agree with them that there may be some conspiracy. And then

they say that dalits killed in Bihar, have been killed by the people of Ranvir Sena who are encouraged by Bharatiya Janta party. The Congressmen and third front supporters are also not less in any way. If B.J.P. people are ahead, the Congressmen and third front supporters are more ahead because neither the B.J.P. Government nor the Government of any other party is in power in Bihar but it all has happened during the regime of the Government of Rashtriya Janta Dal. If they were bring Ranvir Sena to grind the motives and dalits were being killed through this sena, then what role Government of Rashtriya Janta Dal was playing? What role the Government of Smt. Rabri Devi was playing. If the people belonging to Ranvir Sena were killing our people, who have been killed on two occasions and in large number then was it not the responsibility of the Government of Rashtriya Janta Dal that they should have taken stern action against such types of elements and uprooted Ranvir Sena there. The Sena people should not be allowed to move here and there. They should be put behind the bars. But the Government of Rashtriya Janta Dal have failed miserably to protect the interest of dalits. A number of people were killed in the first incident, then again a number of people were killed in the second incident. I would like to ask the people belonging to Rashtriya Janta Party that if people of any other political party provoked Ranvir Sena to kill dalits for their political interests, then what you were doing there? Was it not your responsibility that they should not have succeed in their conspiracy? Is it not your responsibility to take stern action against the people who are found involved in killings of dalits? Your Government have also failed there. I understand that since your Government have not been able to protect the interests of dalits, they have been killed frequently. Such Government of Rashtriya Janta Dal has got no right to continue. I would like to hint at the Congressmen especially who change their colours just in seconds. I consider them of having double faces. As they have got double faces, they roll on two sides at the same moment. They take case of manuwadi people but those who play dirty politics in the name of dalits, be they Congressmen or supporters of the third front, Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to expose them through you. Be it their face or faces of people belonging to other parties people of Congress party and other parties have met me in regard to our decision about Bihar.

They told that I am strengthening the hands of the communal forces. I told them and the same thing I would like to tell this House also today that we had even not bothered about our Government when there was a question of atrocities on dalits came in between. You can see the history. I would also like to tell you that when we contested the elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party in 1993 and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav

[Kumari Mayawati]

was appointed as Chief Minister as per our agreement. But after he became the Chief Minister, we saw a lot of incidents of atrocities on dalits in Uttar Pradesh under his leadership. The people of not only our party but of other parties also were very much agrieved. The people from Congress Party, who are sitting that side may ask from their partymen in Uttar Pradesh they were also agrieved at that time. People of all the parties were agrieved. It is no where hidden as to what extent the mafiaism and hoodliganism flourished during his regime. Dalits, the exploited lot of the society, were killed in large number. We had got a Coalition Government. We tried to convince Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav time and again to show improvement because we cannot compromise when there is a question of dalits. We gave him 18 months time. But when we saw no change in Samajwadi Party, in the attitude of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, then we kicked his Government for the sake of dalits on 1st June, 1995 and though it is better to sit in opposition after withdrawing the support. And when we withdrew our support then the people not only from Bhartiya Janta Party but also from Congress Party, Janta Dal, C.P.M., C.P.I. and other parties came to us. They told that they were also equally agrieved with the style of functioning of Mulayam Singh Yadav Government, they also suggested us to come forward to form the Government by saying that they would support from outside. We formed the Government in Uttar Pradesh with the support of all these parties and our Government could run only for four and a half months and that is all open to you. I would also like to tell our Muslim brothers who are Members of this Parliament that as we did not compromise in the interest of dalits in case of Mulayam Singh Yadav's Government, likewise we would not compromise with Bhartiya Janta Party in the interest of the Muslims.

You might be knowing that when I had become the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and people from Bhartiya Janta Party, Congress Party and other parties had supported me from outside to run my Government, then a matter of construction of a temple in place of Id-gah Mosque in Mathura was raised. At that time also we had clearly stated to the Bhartiya Janta Party and their allies that we do not bother about our Government but we will not allow the Id-gah mosque to be demolished. Besides, caring for the interests of dalits and backward sections, we equally cared for the interests of the akiyats and never bothered about continuance of our Government. They withdrew their support and we cheerfully resigned taking care of the interests of our society. But I would like to inform you that there are certain principles of politics. The people of Samajwadi Party should learn from our example. When we withdrew support from Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav's Government on 1st June, 1995 and his party had lost the majority, he should have

resigned on moral grounds but he did not do so? He talks of dalits. The murderous attack on me in the guest house of Lucknow the Capital of Uttar Pradesh on 2nd June, 1995 would appear on the black paper of history. At that time there was Congress Party Government at the Centre...*(Interruptions)* Kindly do not ring the bell. I request you for the same. Please give a patient hearing to what I say. There was Congress Party Government at the Centre on 2nd June, 1995. At that time, Shri Motilal Vora was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, now he is Member of Parliament, I want to know from the people of Congress Party that when we had withdrawn our support on 1st June, 1995 and Samajwadi Party had lost majority then why Shri Moti Lal Vora did not call me to form the Government when I had got support from all the parties except Samajwadi Party? There was Congress Party Government at the Centre, but they did not support my stand. Where had their constitutional machinery gone at that time? Not only this, when a murder attempt was made on me and at that time on 3rd June when the Congress party was surrounded by all the opposition parties at the Centre, then they changed their stand and again I became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 3rd June, 1995. But despite all that I would like to tell the people belonging to the Congress party, that we have also tried you besides trying the people belonging to B.J.P. and Samajwadi Party. We contested the election in alliance with your partymen in 1996, but when some of the party got absolute majority at that time there was National Front Government at the centre supported by Congress Party. Then we had spoken to the people belonging to the Congress Party that the Congress is supporting the National Front Government from outside to bar the Bhartiya Janta Party to form the Government and as such the Congress should pressurise the National Front to support the Bahujan Samaj Party from outside to form a Government in Uttar Pradesh, But Congress Party is also team "B" of Manuwad alike Bhartiya Janta Party. If B.J.P. is team "A" Congress is team "B". You did not want a dalit daughter to be the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second time. You went on saying for six months that you are mounting pressure on them but they are not yielding. We told Congress Partymen that if they are not going to agree with you you should withdraw your support, we are ready to sit in the opposition. But you did not mount the pressure and withdrew the support to help the son of a Brahmin. You withdrew your support in the name of the report on Rajiv Gandhi murder but you did not like to withdraw the support from National Front Government so that a dalit daughter could become the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second time. At that time, Uttar Pradesh was under President's Rule and Shri Romesh Bhandari was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. People from every political party except that of Samajwadi Party were saying that

Uttar Pradesh is not being governed by President's Rule, but being Governed indirectly by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Our party workers were being killed. People from every party were being killed. This we not only cared for the interests of the dalits and the Akaliyats but also we cared for the interests of the entire public of Uttar Pradesh State and as such we formed a Government in the State with the support of the Bhartiya Janta Party. But I would like to tell the people belonging to the third front and the Congress Party that when I was the Chief Minister, for six months we gave a very good Government. But when the Government was transferred to Bhartiya Janta Party, then they started changing the decisions, one-by-one, that we had taken in the interests of Bahujan Samaj, in the interest of the dalits, backward classes and the Akliyats and that is why we did not like to share with them. Then we withdrew our support from Bhartiya Janta Party to protect the interests of the dalits, backward classes and the Akliyats. Therefore, I would like to tell you our decision to support the implementation of President's Rule in Bihar is not aimed at weakening or strengthening any political party, but we have taken this decision to protect the interests of the dalits. If you see the history of the Bahujan Samaj Party, you will find that there have been chances that we did not bother about our Government then there is no question of Bihar where we have not been in power. Be it Bihar or any part of the country, if atrocities would be cast on dalits, the backward classes and the Akliyats then Bahujan Samaj Party would not compromise with such forces.

Besides, I would also like to tell you that yesterday the Congressmen and third front supporters were saying that when the President Rule would be implemented in Bihar, the R.S.S. would dominate there. I would like to ask them if R.S.S. would dominate there, then who are the people that have strengthened R.S.S.? Who have strengthened Bhartiya Janta Party? Ask your conscience. On 6th December, Babri Masjid of Muslims of Uttar Pradesh was demolished. Who is responsible for that? Do you think only BJP was responsible for that? Congress Party had got their full involvement in that demolition and the Muslims and other people from all nooks and corners of the country were saying that President Rule should be imposed in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* But there was Congress Party Government at the Centre at that time. Had the Congress Party imposed President Rule in Uttar Pradesh before 6th December, the Babri Masjid would not have been demolished. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude your speech.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Then what happened thereafter. I am requesting to give me two minutes only.

Third Front supporters are also sitting here. They say that they are against the communal forces. How do you say so. If you look at the history of Bhartiya Janta Party upto the year 1988, you will find that there have been hardly two members of Parliament from Bhartiya Janta Party upto 1988. In 1989, those third front supporters contested the elections in alliance with Bhartiya Janta Party. B.S.P. has never contested the elections in alliance with the communal forces. But you did so. These third front supporters, Janta Dal and their allies contested the elections in alliance with Bhartiya Janta Party and the result was that their number reached to 88 from 2. Therefore this number was raised to as many as 117 Members of Parliament of some of the States, they form their Governments. Now they are in power at the Centre. Now you say that R.S.S. would dominate in Bihar. Who have encouraged them. It is all because of you. As such I would like to tell you that we would not compromise with anyone if the interests of the dalits stand affected. We have nothing to do with the power, we are not going to support any party, nothing to give and nothing to take. But what we have decided about Bihar, that we have decided after taking due case of the interests of our society. There is no scope of doubt in it.

Like Bihar, situation is equally worse in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and other States. The House should also think about those States. But whosoever Manuwadi Parties are protecting those people who have killed our people, action should be taken against them, C.B.I. inquiry should be conducted. If such things continue to happen then I think, the dalits, backward classes and Akliyats people not only from Bihar but from the whole country would come together and fight against these Manuwadi people. One of our Muslim brother, Member of Parliament had just spoken...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude your speech. Everybody would get an equal chance.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: I request you to allow me for one minute only. Today when the Bihar issue came up for discussion, the members from Congress Party, who have expressed their views, come from Bihar. They said that people belonging to Bhartiya Janta Party had shown disregard to Babu Jagjivan Ram as after he had unveiled the statue of Sampurnanand it was purified with holy water of Ganga and milk. The people belonging to Congress Party did think of Babu Jagjivan Ram but the idea of Baba Sahib Ambedkar did not strike to their minds. When Baba Sahib Ambedkar stood up for the cause of dalits, then Gandhi-Nehru and Congress people had caused obstacals in his way. History is here to witness. I would like to tell, my Muslim brother who is member of

[Kumari Mayawati]

Parliament from Bihar that perhaps you have not read history, but you see it neither the Congressman, nor third front supporters nor B.J.P. would get votes in the name of Baba Sahib Ambedkar as the dalit society has read out the faces of all the political parties.

Our constitution was introduced on 26th January, 1950 and the elections for first Lok Sabha were held in 1952 I would like to tell the Congressmen that Baba Sahib had desired as the interests of the poor while framing the constitution of the country had been given due consideration was equally essential to provide rights to them. He filed his nomination papers for reserve seat of Lok Sabha from Bombay in 1952. Then the people of Congress Party played a dirty politics against him for which the history and the people of dalit society will never forgive them. At that time there was one Mr. Kajorkar, the private secretary to Baba Sahib Ambedkar. The Congress Party created a split between them and Mr. Kajorkar as a candidate in the election against Baba Sahib. When the elections were held Kajorkar won and Baba Sahib lost the election. At that time Baba Sahib had remarked—people of my dalit society, do not join the Congress Party not only till I am alive but even after my death. As such be it B.J.P., third front or the Congress Party, if the people of dalit society would be killed wherever they are killed and whatever party is in power there Bahujan Samaj Party would not tolerate that thing. In such a case we would take a fair decision. In case of Bihar we have decided to welcome the President Rule there. I would like to tell the third front supporters and the Congress Party people that we have taken this decision not to strengthen any political party but we have decided it in view of the interests of the dalit society. We support the President Rule in that State and we wish that President Rule be implemented in Bihar so that people belonging to dalit society could live a safe life.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Mr. Chairman Sir, whatever we have been debating and the motion that has been put here for decision in regard to Bihar, these things are not going to result in something very simple.

17.00 hrs.

Whatever the decision we are going to take here involves the future of as many as ten crore people of Bihar. It is not the issue as to which Government survives in Bihar, the issue was that ten percent population of the country live in Bihar, how they will live their life, how long they will have to face the things that they have

experienced for almost a decade or how they will get rid of that. The leader of the opposition is not present here at the moment. Yesterday he argued in favour of that Government in Bihar to which Union Government had decided to sack. During his speech he had said that in their election manifesto the Samta Party had promised that they would take no time to sack Bihar Government if they get the chance to form the Government I would like to inform the House that Samta Party had never mentioned such a thing in its election manifesto. Regarding Bihar, we had only mentioned that the farmers in Bihar who are the worst sufferers during floods, what steps the Union Government should take to provide relief to them. Only this was there. There was no stipulation about anything more in respect of Bihar though there were many things to be mentioned but the elections were for Parliament, not for Bihar Assembly.

It is a fact that we have certainly said in our speeches that if a Government at the centre is formed under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, then since before going for election we had decided that we will coordinate and if we get the majority, then we will contribute in the formation of the Government at the centre and if such a Government comes into existence, then problems of the people of Bihar would be solved on top priority basis. For solving the problems what is required to do first is to get rid of the Government in Bihar whom we preferred to call by various names and the most popular name was "terrorist Government" and as such it would be our foremost duty to get rid of such type of Government.

I believe that there has been some delay in doing that thing but I will not go in controversy but since the leader of the opposition has argued in favour of the Government in Bihar, and strongly pleaded the political developments took place there during the last nine years, and he has not only made a reference of the monthly report on criminalisation of the Government of India but also produced necessary data as to how Bihar is the best State. Yesterday, he quoted the name of some 5-7 big states and compared and supported or to how Bihar is the best state and produced necessary data in this House that incidents of crimes against women, children, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people were the least in Bihar as compared to any other State. I was very happy when prof. Rita Verma, an honourable member from this side told the leader of opposition about the experiences of her own life and her family members. She also told about the types of cases filed against her. A few other speakers also told as to how police registers report or it is even not registered these. Yesterday when the debate was going on, I spent much of my time in the House. I heard the rest of the debate from inside.

I never knew whether any discussion was held about her.. The wife of IAS officer...

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): It was held.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: If it has been held there is no need to repeat that. But I am mentioning and I do want to mention the name because in Bihar even an I.A.S. family, that too from a dalit family, can not dare to lodge a complaint. As such their difficulty is that they cannot register their complaint. Under the circumstances you can well imagine what types of datas from Bihar can appear in the report of the Union Government.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to read out a few lines from a document and it had been better if the leader of opposition would have been present here to listen it the first and foremost duty of any civilised Government is that there should be such law and order situation in the State that the common man may feel himself safe. But the law and order situation has so deteriorated in Bihar during the five years regime of Janta Dal that even the founders of the law and order situation find themselves as unsafe and request the Government to provide safety cover to them. The District Collector of Gopalganj had also been killed during the tenure of this Government. This incident came as an example in Bihar. Complete indifference of the Government towards law and order situation means encouraging the crimes by the Government. The Janta Dal Government in Bihar has become a symbol thereof the horror of gun rule is Looming Terge in the entire Bihar.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): From which report you are recording it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will tell you. During the last five years ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: It is to be mentioned first as to which report you are quoting ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Yesterday when Shri Lalu Prasad ji went on reading the paper then you never asked about the source thereof...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want your protection, this is what I have to request you. I know that you are fully conversant with the rules. I need your protection...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH: It is to be mentioned as to which source you are quoting whatever paper is read out its title is mentioned first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Honourable members let you complete me first and then you would be knowing about it. About 36 to 38 thousand people have been killed in various incidents of individual murder, mass killings, firing, violent disputes and violent politics during the last five years. Dacoity and looting are the routine incidents that occur during the light of the day. Kidnapping and demand for ransom has become a common and acceptable profession. The incidents of atrocities on women especially on tribal women and rape have become very easy and common things under the present status of law and order situation. People rule there at the print of their gun. Out of the 54 districts, as many as 17 districts and 132 Police Stations of the 13 Districts have become very sensitive. 20,13,19,15 and 21 Police Station of Patna, Jahanabad, Gaya, Aurangabad and Palamu districts respectively have become the headquarters of the violent blocks. The violent blocks in Bhagalpur, Sahisganj and Banka districts are challenging the Police Department. Two blocks have been fighting in Chapa and Giridih districts. The Chief Minister of Bihar has added fuel to fire in the state of lawlessness in his own political style. The people of Bihar are clamouring in the net of lawlessness made by Bihar Government. The five year history of the Government elected by the people in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)* is the history of the Devastated Bihar truncated dreams of the public and the incidents of violence and bloodshed.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: We would like to know under which rule he is raising the point of order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to know the document from which the Minister is reading. That document must be made available to all of us.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I will make it available to them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: No, Sir, he must let the House know about the nature of the document.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Yes, I will let the House know about it. I will present it to the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the rules demand that he should first mention the document from which he is reading...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): If, the hon. Minister is quoting something from a document, before quoting he must mention what the document is.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will lay it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaipal Reddy had raised the point of order he wanted to know about the document. The honourable Minister has replied about the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: What an irony it is. It is democracy so to speak but in practice what type of polity it is whose structure is built of the incidents of loot, kidnap and rape etc.

Sir, I am laying this document on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*. During the last election for Bihar Assembly, Congress Party had prepared their manifesto ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep silence.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honourable Minister has just read out the old manifesto of the Congress Party. Honourable Minister is saying that Bihar has been disturbed for the last ten years. I would like to ask the honourable Minister that he has associated the ruling party for a period of Eight years out of ten years...*(Interruptions)*. For eight years he has been a Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Chairman Sir, I need your protection...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is a fake document. Let him read it out. The judgement has been delivered by Lucknow Highcourt. In fact it is a fake document...*(Interruptions)* The Congress Party and Laluji not to remain united...*(Interruptions)*. It is a fake document...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: From where you have got it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Congress Party and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav had jointly contested the last Lok Sabha election in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: What were the documents that Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav had read out, he should also place those documents on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is the report of the Congress Party on five years of regime upto 1995. During the elections held in 1995 this is your role what you had displayed before the public...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Where you had gone in 1995?

17.17 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I get your protection I would finish my speech soon. I have just started and things are coming in way...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me repeat it that this is the first chapter on law and order situation after introductory in the election manifesto, Assembly Election 1995 Bihar State, Congress Committee (I), Sadakat Ashram, Patna...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, since Congress and leftiest both have joined their hands to oppose our motion, they would certainly do so...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): You have just revealed what general knowledge you possess. We had separated on 21st June, 1994 and Samta Party came into existence...*(Interruptions)* This is the general knowledge you have got. The General Secretary of A.I.C.C. is sitting here. It is better that Sonia ji has sacked him.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka): You also give your opinion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): You are teaching us lessons today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, he is not yielding.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Till yesterday, you used to curse BJP and now you are sitting with BJP people...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We want to listen George Sahib. Let him speak ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Mulayam Singh ji, you have already spoken a lot. Now you listen to George Sahib...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, if this is the parliamentary system, then it is useless to sit here...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I beg to lay the document, which I have read were, on the Table of the House. I said that while opposing our resolution, the left Parties extended their support to Congress who were opposed to it and their viewpoint was presented by the leader of opposition. This document is four years old. It describes first five years history of Laluj's rule and the state of affairs in Bihar. Four years have gone since then. I do not want to lay the documents pertaining to these four years as I do not want to take more time of the House. I would like to read out one-two small resolutions of my leftist friends. A State level convention of A.I. T.U.C. was held on 18 and 20 December in Bhurkunda in Bihar. One of the resolutions passed there is as follows:

"According to a Government report, only 47,000 villages out of 67,000 villages of Bihar had been equipped with electricity in the Congress rule. But under Laloo-Rabri Government, half of those electrified villages have been disconnected from electricity and the rest are also kept in dark because there is dearth of electricity supply. As electricity theft is common added with problems of law and order which have crippled the electricity supply network, the small scale and cottage industries have been completely paralysed. The Government handed over important transport routes to private bus owners leaving State Roadways Corporation to die. Bihar State Sugar Corporation, Leather Development Corporation, Handloom Board and so many other State Government undertakings are facing lingering debts due to rampant corruption at all levels.

The Panchayat elections have not been conducted for the last twenty years and Bihar is losing Rs. 2000 crore every year on this single account."

[Translation]

In my opinion this is not a correct figure.

[English]

"The only industry which is thriving is of loot, rape and kidnapping. Bihar is now lying on a disastrous bed. The Government is pushing it to its lingering death. Backwardness is growing apace because of de-industrialisation. The position is deteriorating sharply day in and day out."

[Translation]

C.P.I. led this agitation of A.I.T.U. in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): What is the relevance of this to the use of Article 356 in Bihar?...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This resolution is published in the *New Age Weekly's* 10-16 January issue. Neither this resolution is written by any one of us nor it is our document. One more information is given in its 23 January issue.

[Shri George Fernandes]

[English]

"The State Council, that is, the State Council of the Communist Party of India (CPI) condemned the murder of the workers of the CPI, CPI(M) and other political parties, growing incidence of abductions for ransom, rapes and murders and deteriorating law and order situation. The State Council expressed its serious concern at the murder of the DSP of Saharasa and the threat to the life of the S.P., Dharbanga by criminals and smugglers in which ruling party leaders are alleged to be involved."

This is also of the 'New Age' of 17-23 January.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, that is why I am placing all these things before the House. Though I have a lot of documents with me but I would not like to mention them because I have already given two revealing examples. I have placed these documents before you as they answer and support the purpose of this resolution and the report of the Hon'ble Governor. The Congress and the left parties are in the mainstream to oppose this resolution and they also placed their views before the workers and farmers of Bihar. I would like to say that if they have a little bit faith in me, I request them to reconsider these facts.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Probably, you were not there while Shri Indrajit Gupta was speaking. We still stand by it. While speaking, Shri Indrajit Gupta made it clear that the law and order situation in Bihar is not what it should be. But he made it clear what are the constitutional provisions to impose Article 356.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This struggle, debate, argument and this resolution is not for the Government but for the future of the people of Bihar, about which you have made a mention in your election manifesto and resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would like to mention a part of the yesterday's speech of the leader of opposition. We had made a mention of the R.B.I. and said that economically Bihar is the most backward State. These may not be his words but, for a moment, the way of presentation seemed to be satirical. Since we are known to each other for the last 30-40 years and you are often satiric, I felt that you were talking in the same manner. But, referring to the Reserve Bank, when you compared Bihar with other States giving the figures, I thought you were serious about it. I was very much distressed, not because of what is to take place in the House but because of your thinking about the people of Bihar. As you quoted the leader of your party, Shrimati Indira Gandhi who visited the slum area of Narayanpur and shared the woes of the people and you referred Narayanpur in the same context. On the one hand you refer to such incidents and on the other by quoting the data of Reserve Bank you are trying to prove before the House and the country that there is no problem in Bihar these people do so deliberately. These people blame us that nowadays we are having a hidden agenda a Secret agenda. We have come here with a hidden agenda, such is your mentality. We want to change your mentality and we have one or two ways to do so.

[English]

Here is the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Volume-I Government of Bihar, for the year ended 31 March, 1996.

[Translation]

I would not like to read out this Report, but I would request to the leader of opposition to kindly go through this report after reading this report if he feels that according to R.B.I. recommendation the economic situation in Bihar is very pleasant, there could be some other dimension of our discussion. C.A.G. is a constitutional Authority. I know that C.A.G. is dishonoured in Bihar. He is given different names. He is criticized publically but C.A.G. is not only a Constitutional Authority. The same procedure is adopted to remove him from the office which is adopted in the case of a Supreme Court Judge. Such is the place and dignity of this post. I again refer to the Report.

[English]

The C & AG's Report, Volume-I. It says:

The assets comprising capital investments and loans advanced and the total liabilities of the State Government in the last five years were as follows:

I would not read out the report of all the years I quote only for the year 1995-96. It says:

1995-96	Assets	— Rs. 15,007 crore.
	Liabilities	— Rs. 18,770 crore.

Bihar is a bankrupt State and he is talking about the Reserve Bank of India giving a certificate.

It further says:

"While the assets have grown by 27 per cent during the five years, the liabilities have grown by 52 per cent."

...(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Fatmi is constantly giving a running commentary. That should be stopped. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, this is not good. This is too much. Please stop giving this kind of running commentary.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): We are asking them to sit down. It is too much from the other side...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It further says:

"The increasing gap between assets and liabilities was on account of having revenue deficit in all the years and miscellaneous adjustments and less outlay on assets."

Here is the final clincher. I quote:

"Between 1991 and 1996, capital expenditure remained almost static in rupee terms."

Between 1991-1996, the capital expenditure remained static in rupee terms whereas borrowed funds were used to finance steadily increasing revenue deficit as illustrated in the table below.

[Translation]

Secondly, it comprises of many chapters.

[English]

Now, I will come to irregular fraudulent travels under so and so head, and misappropriation of construction material and so on and so forth.

[Translation]

These are its chapters and I want that wherever this report is available, whether in the library or anywhere else, it must be seen. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not like to speak much about it. But it is volume 2 of that Report and it is essential to understand it a little bit. There are many references pertaining to withdraws of money and so on.

[English]

Various categories of animals in Animal Husbandry Department during 1993-94 to 1995-96 were on an average 9559 cattle, 5664 pigs, 40,800 poultry, 1577 goats as per approved scheme. Rs. 10.55 crore were required for food/fodder for these animals for three years as against this, Rs. 279.34 crore were drawn from six treasuries during these three years for purchase of food and fodder. This is only one of a whole 5-6 pages of similar defaultations or similar drawal of money with no sanction and direct loot of the treasury.

[Translation]

You are saying that everything is alright but the C.A.G. saying that there is misappropriation, nothing is alright. I would not read out this fulky report here, though I have brought it here to readout but there is no time to read it out. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the outcome of the C.A.G. Report. This document was prepared at that time when you were in power.

[English]

Now I will come to the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. 1997-2002 ...(Interruptions)

[Shri George Fernandes]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You are a very good orator. You should say something on your behalf also.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There are only a few years left for good oration.

[English]

This is a document produced by the Planning Commission of the Government of India in 1996 when you were supporting when they were in Government. What does it say? There is also Page 7, Paragraph No. 1.21 in the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan. There is also evidence of deterioration of inter-regional disparities in *per capita* incomes. Some of the populous and less developed States have experienced growth rates which are lower than the national average. In Bihar, the *per capita* income as measured by the State Domestic Product declined from Rs. 1204 in 1990-91 to Rs. 1067 in 1994-95 at 1980-81 prices which is a ten per cent decline in three years' time.

[Translation]

This fight is not for anything else but for Bihar. The Dalits, Adivasis, poor, who have lost their employment, are the most sufferers in Bihar, even A.I.T.U.C. has also said that unemployment is increasing, factories are being closed down. The figures they have given are false. This story is not going to end were itself. We did not right this story. It has been written by the Government over the last ten years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, we would like the leader of opposition, who is still determining the role of his party, should keep all these things in mind and take further step.

Now, I would like to dwell upon the economic scenario. It is said that the regional disparity is widening. Yesterday or the day before yesterday economic scenario of Bihar was discussed and last year's economic survey was presented here.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gathered the figures pertaining to six States from it. These States are Bihar,

Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Prior to the new weightage 1990-91, it was 1980-81. The per capita income of Bihar in 1990-91 was Rs. 2665 and it increased to Rs. 3835 in 1996-97, *i.e.* an increase of 44 percent. During the same period the per capita income in Maharashtra increased from Rs. 7444 to Rs. 17295, an increase of 130 percent. In Uttar Pradesh it increased from Rs. 3590 to Rs. 6733, *i.e.* an increase of 87 percent. In terrorist infested Assam there was an increase from Rs. 4281 to Rs. 6663, an increase of 58 percent. In Punjab it was from Rs. 8318 to Rs. 18213, *i.e.* 120 percent increase and in Andhra Pradesh it increased from Rs. 4728 to Rs. 9867, means 110 percent increase. Out of these six States, Bihar is the only State where the increase in per capita income stopped at 44 percent and now it is slowly declining. The per capita income of each State is given in the Economic Survey which is presented by the Government in the House. These figures have been taken from this report itself.

I am giving these figures in the House so that the people of the country could know the dilapidated condition of Bihar and the necessary steps to be taken to save Bihar from this situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now comes the question of Article 356 of the Constitution. There is a dispute over it and we have also been a party to this dispute. There has been an opposition to this article and we have also been opposing it. The article 356 are present here, whether they are on this side or that side. But there is one difference that even today there are some parties like Telugu Desam, National Conference in Jammu & Kashmir, Akali Dal, D.M.K and A.I.A.D.M.K. which are in favour of scrapping this article from the constitution. Some parties are in favour of amending it. Sarkaria Commission Report is there. I do not want to go into the details of it because Advaniji had a detailed discussion on it yesterday. On the basis of that Report there was a debate in the Inter State Council some years ago and after a prolonged discussion it was concluded to retain article 356 but it was proposed to amend the provisions related to the use of this article and most of the parties were in favour of this proposal but there is only one party which not only wants this article in its present form but is in favour of its use whenever and wherever it is necessary and that is Congress Party. In the recently held meeting of the Inter State Council Shri Ashok Gehlot was representing that party, he said:

[English]

"It is my Government's considered view that the demands of the nation's integrity and unity call for a strong Centre and—about which there are no disputes; if there is anyone among us who believes that we should not have a strong country but the Centre has a different connotation — therefore, the Central Government should be able to exercise its powers under article 356 whenever the situation so warrants.

While we make a plea for the retention of article 356 in its present form without any change, we trust it would be used sparingly and invoked only as a measure of last resort..."...(*Interruptions*) I have not completed the quotation. Please do not interrupt me. He says:

"In so far as the question of so-called safeguards against the misuse of this provision is concerned, I am of the view that in a Parliamentary democracy, the greatest safeguard is the Parliament itself.

It would detract from the concept and the fact of the sovereignty of the people of India as operationalised through the Parliament, which mandates the Union Government to work on its behalf if it is subjected to any review or scrutiny by an outside body. We hold that the hon. Supreme Court's verdict in the Bommai case needs to be reviewed. ..."

Finally he ends by saying:

"I would, therefore, strongly urge that this August Council should seriously consider the matter and resolve to call upon the Union Government to explore the possibilities of a review by the hon. Supreme Court of its 1994 verdict in the S.R. Bommai case."

[Translation]

It only means that when all the parties are in favour of implementing the Sarkaria Commission Report and are agreed to formulate a new structure on the lines of Supreme Court decision, Congress party is still adamant to its dictatorial conduct and wants to retain it in its present form. That is why the leader of opposition yesterday mentioned Baba Saheb Ambedkar and read out the dialogue held between Pandit Hyridaynath Kunjaroo and Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the making of the constitution. It is a part of the record. Pandit Hyridaynath said:

[English]

"Is this to be used only when there is misgovernance in the Province as endanger of the public peace?"

[Translation]

I think that there are some mistakes in writing it.

[English]

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has replied:

"Only when Government is not carried on in consonance with the provisions laid down for the Constitution Government of the Provinces, whether there is a good Governance or not in the Province, is not for the Centre to determine. I am quite clear on this point. Please understand the question. The question is:

"May I ask my hon. friend to make one point clear? Is it the purpose of article 356 to enable the Central Government to intervene in provincial affairs for the sake of the good governance of the Provinces?"

The answer of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is: "No, No. Centre is not given that authority."

Then the question is:

"Only when there is such misgovernance in the Province as endanger of the public peace?"

The answer is:

"Only when the Government is not carried on in consonance with the provisions laid down for the Constitution Government of the Provinces, whether there is a good Governance or not in the Province, is not for article 356 but if there is a breach of the Constitution, then article 356 comes."

This is what Dr. Ambedkar has said. Obviously, when the Reporter has recorded, there has been some typographical errors in this.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as to why have I mentioned it here? I have mentioned it here because the constitution of India does not only imply law and order situation. This House is a creation of constitution of India. The Legislative Assemblies of the country are under the Constitution. We work within the limits prescribed by the Constitution and the rules which we have are the rules which the constitution and ourselves have set.

[Shri George Fernandes.]

Budget will be presented tomorrow in this House. Then there will be discussion on it. There will be vote on account under this budget and money will be sanctioned, all the funds will come from the consolidated fund. All these things are mentioned in the Constitution. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards article 202...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: All the funds will not come from the consolidated fund.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I agree with you. It is true that all the money does not go to the consolidated fund. The money which the Government receives goes to the consolidated fund and for the budget which you will clear tomorrow, money will be taken out of the consolidated fund.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): The Consolidated Fund cannot be voted. Please understand that. Parliament does not vote on the Consolidated Funds. Please read the Constitution well.

Now, I am quoting Article 266 from the Consolidated Funds and public accounts of India.

"Subject to the provisions of Article 267 and to the provisions of this Chapter with respect to the assignment of the whole or part of the net proceeds of certain taxes and duties to States, all revenues received by the Government of India, all loans raised by that Government by the issue of treasury bills, loans or ways and means advances and all moneys received by that Government in repayment of loans shall form one consolidated fund to be entitled "the Consolidated Fund of India..."

This is the Constitution. If you have another copy of the Constitution, I shall be happy to have it.

[Translation]

This is about consolidated fund...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI: You have failed to impress.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It does not matter, you should be happy. If I fail to impress then you should be happy, why are you so worried?

[English]

"No moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of a State shall be appropriated except in accordance with law and for the purposes and in the manner provided in this Constitution."

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: My dear friend, you must know that appropriation is different from voting. Please understand this thing. Appropriation Bill is different. Voting on the Consolidated Fund does not take place. There is no provision in the Constitution.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Would the hon. Member tell me whether appropriation also means appropriating in your own pocket?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: No. (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am only trying to establish that point here. (Interruptions).

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: But you are not establishing. (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He is not diverting the point. Either he is not understanding it or he has some other agenda.

[Translation]

I want to draw your attention towards section 202.

[English]

"The Governor shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for that year, in this Part referred to as the "annual financial statement."

[Translation]

It reads:—

[English]

"the estimates of expenditure embodied in the annual financial statement shall show separately—

(a) the sums required to meet expenditure described by this Constitution as expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State."

[Translation]

It is a High Court judgement on whatever happened in Bihar on which the Supreme Court put its seal on 9th March, 1996. The judgement of the high court on which the Supreme Court has put its seal reads:—

[English]

"As per the Constitutional provisions, the Government should have submitted revised/supplementary statement of estimated expenditure in the Legislature and obtained additional grant for the service, or drawn money from the Contingency Fund of the State by way of advance."

I am not reading the whole judgement. However, I further quote:

"All these facts, *prime facie* constitute gross financial indiscipline verging on fraud on the Constitution and the people."

[Translation]

This verdict was given by two judges bench of Patna High Court and I will give you a copy of it. Then you will definitely comment how this judgement is totally wrong. What I say is this that firstly you took the money after getting it allotted then later on why did you draw the money from the treasury and at the district level without any allotment. When you are not coming up with a supplementary budget in the Assembly and not raising the question if excess funds then.

[English]

Article 203, 204 and 205 are transgressed. Is that not a breakdown of the Constitution? Or is it upholding the sanctity of the Constitution? That is the question one has to settle.

[Translation]

It has been said over here that the financial performance has been very good and how it is going. On in a very planned manner and the whole country has been told how every thing is fine over there so it is the duty of the Congress Party to allow these things to continue. We want to tell the people of Bihar how it is all wrong, the kind of policies you are adopting in the State and how you are letting misappropriation of funds go on unnoticed in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I want to ask a question. Are we going to base our judgement in Parliament on the verdict of the High Court, which can be changed by the Supreme Court? And in how many cases have the Judges given *dicta* statements? Is Parliament going to talk about it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not going to talk about it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I will ask one question. Have you imposed the Presidential rule on this basis? If so, place the Report here. If you have imposed the Presidential rule on this basis, on the basis of what you have said, then place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not discussing it here. I will not bring the President into this.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Do not digress from the subject. Do not digress. The question is straight, give a straight answer.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take more time. I am finishing. Hon. Speaker, I will present two three facts and then I will conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is concluding.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Right now you were not worried. You were worried about the way I was speaking, I am not correct...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you all should not be worried because today I have failed to impress. So you should not be worried. I do not want to take much time, I just want to say two three things. The examples which we have of the Congress policies as how that no values are attached to them and today I can give an example but when Mayawati was speaking I thought she would refer to this matter.

An incident occurred in Orissa where there people were killed and all of them were Christians. A father and two sons were killed. You did not leave any stone unturned within the party and outside the party in regard to the incident and gave statements against our

[Shri George Fernandes]

Government also. Today we are discussing about the Bihar where not only three but several people are being killed everyday. Three big incidents have happened there during the last one month. The first incident took place in Purnia and other two happened in Jehanabad but the Chief Minister just paid a single visit and thought it would suffice. When we are discussing this issue here, I would like to remind you that there is a writer & journalist from France who lives in Delhi. He is staying here in the capacity of a correspondent for the newspaper *La Phicaro*. He has written a very good article which is being sued by many people in Europe these days. He has written in the article that Indians are peculiar, if three Christians are killed then there is a countrywide agitation but when dalits are killed and poor people are killed, nobody is here to raise a fuore. Indians are really peculiar. This was the article written by the correspondent of *Phicaro* of France in the *Hindustan Times*.

18.00 hrs

This article is being discussed all over the world but I know you people are least bothered.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): I am sorry to interrupt at the moment. Since the House would normally rise at 6 o'clock, as it is my normal duty as a Parliamentary Affairs Minister, may I seek through you from the House that we sit up to 8 p.m. at least and we would have voting after that? (Interruptions) I also wish to announce that dinner will be available for Members of Parliament, members in the Press and the staff from 8 p.m. onwards. I know that there would be a little more extension. At the first instance, if we finish by 8 o'clock, there is no problem. But free dinner will be available. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it up to 7 o'clock? That means only one hour.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the sense of the House to extend the time of the House by one hour?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. It is up to 7 o'clock.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will conclude exactly in two minutes' time. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I have no problem from my side. But I must bring it to the notice of the House that we have no problem from the side of the BJP. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is because there are other Members also to speak.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): There may be hundreds of speakers. It is not possible. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, there are 10 speakers.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one has to think about the timings. If the Samta Party got the strength of 11, accordingly they should get time. If they are going to speak for hours, I do not think it is possible to finish. We will agree only for one hour. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I must point out this. What the hon. leader of the Opposition has forgotten, I think, is that Shri George Fernandes was not called in his capacity as Member of the Samta Party. He was a representative of the Government who was seeking to intervene. (Interruptions) If you ask the Leader of the Opposition to find out even for himself that how much time did his good colleagues, both Shri Lalu Prasad and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, take, he will have to answer that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Each took one-and-a-half hour.

MR. SPEAKER: First we will extend the time of the House by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We are 17 members, we are leaders and he is a Minister. A leader is superior than a Minister.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am about to finish my speech. I do not expect more from the Congress that it would express grief over the murder of three foreigners but it is not at all concerned over the murders which are taking place everyday in the country especially the attacks being made on the dalits.

There are reasons behind this. You are not worried for the life of human beings. How can we expect feeling of mercy for the poor people of Bihar from a party which during its tenure was responsible for the killings of large number of people on the streets of Delhi 15 years ago. I request the leaders of Telugu Desam, National Conference and I appeal to the leaders and Members of Legislatures from all the parties from Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil nadu that you have faced many problems due to article 356. We can not forget that this section was used for the first time in Kerala in 1956-57 because the Government of the Communists was to be dismissed.

Many things were not there. It was only that the Communists Government was to be dismissed and the people of Bengal are fully aware of the forces of suppression used in Bengal. The leaders of Communist Party (Marx) know very well since we stood by them on such occasions and we will again stand by them if such a situation arises in future. We know how the people of Punjab have suffered. You were committed to not to let the Akalis to form a Government there so whenever their party came to power they had to face lots of problems.

When Mr. Farooqi reminded me of my role on Article 356 and I told him that the people in the Government today are who stood by you and fought with you when Article 356 was applied in Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. Those people who are in power today, they can not do this at all. Those who have done it throughout their life time and have promised to do so in future are also sitting here. I would like everybody to give it a serious thought to arrive at a conclusion.

At last, I would like to say something about the Governor. It has been said in this House and outside also that he is from RSS and he has said that he is proud to be from RSS. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are from Telugu Desam and you are the Speaker of this House. The Dy. Speaker of this House belongs to Congress Party can there be any clash between the responsibility and accountability which you have to shoulder by holding this post and the relationship which you have with your party. We all are proud of our parties and if Mr. Somnath is appointed the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and on his arrival at the airport, if he is asked that you belong to the Communist Party and, so how can you be the Governor here. Then will he say that he is ashamed to be a part of Communist Party. He would say that he is proud to be a part of Communist Party (Marx) but I am the Governor of this State and I will discharge the duties of the Governor with full responsibility. So I request that responsible people should not say such things about the constitutional authority. With these words I conclude my speech and support the motion.

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would like to speak against the imposition of President's Rule in Bihar misusing article 356 of the Constitution and I speak on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam which has been ceaselessly endeavouring to scrap this article from our Constitution.

In the comity of Nations, not a single State that professes Federalism or Parliamentary Democracy has got this Constitutional provision to remove a Government from a State or a province. Only in India we find this article 356 that can remove a popular Government. This has come as a gift from our Constituent Assembly to the people of India who strived to win freedom for our country. The reasons for which the article was conceived are no longer alive. I am proud to point out that our party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam has always raised its voice against this proviso of the Constitution in this august forum.

Our esteemed colleague Mr. Sedapatti Muthiah in his intervention had quoted our Parliament Group Leader Hon. Murasoli Maran's speech made in the Upper House of Parliament as early as in 1980. Mr. Muthiah had merely quoted the first part of the point made to suit his ends while ignoring the relevant point made in the same speech. Our leader Hon. Murasoli Maran had stated that the party in power at the Centre shall always resort to the exercise of this article to dismiss Governments in the States. Even Gandhi may be tempted to make use of this provision. Hence there is a need to scrap once and for all this article from our Constitution. That is what our leader emphatically stated in the other House in 1980 reiterating our point to do away with this article 356. You must note that we have always been against the exercise of this article 356...(*Interruptions*)...

I would not like to go into the question of the resignation by our colleague Mr. Sedapatti Muthiah from the Union Council of Ministers as part of a purging process to ensure probity in public life. Was it renunciation of power for a pilgrimage? The people of Tamil Nadu are well aware of his character and antecedents. Let me come to the core question of this debate. This is for the 113th time this article 356 has been exercised. I think there is no State that has been spared from the ambit of this article. Several States have been put under the President's Rule one time or the other all these years in the free-India. What was the view held by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of our Constitution and the one who played a prominent role as a Member of the Constituent Assembly? He had accepted this provision with a heavy heart and he preferred to have it enshrined

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

in the Constitution merely as a dead letter. He emphasised that these emergency provisions should not be resorted to. But unfortunately this had been exercised 113 times so far. While participating in the discussion in the Constituent Assembly and during the adoption of this provision in our Constitution, Shri H.V. Kamath stated that that was a sad and shameful day. He also prayed that God alone could save the people of India. He pointed out that an article of this kind could not be found in the Constitution of any Federal or Democratic State. He dissociated himself from the incorporation of this article in our Constitution. He added that it nullified the minimum of State autonomy that was in the Constitutional scheme of things. He went on to pray that God alone could give the needed wisdom to the members of that Assembly to understand the deviousness and criminality of that step. Even Sardar Patel who brought all the princely States under one Nation-State expressed his considered opinion that article 356 do not fit into our Democratic Republic's Constitution.

When Gopichand Bhargava's Government in Punjab was dismissed for the first time in 1951, Prof. N.G. Ranga said that article 356 should not have been exercised to punish a State Government which had a justifiable difference of opinion with the Centre. While commenting on the same Shri P.S. Deshmukh observed that it would be setting a dangerous precedence to dismiss a Government which enjoyed majority support in the Legislative Assembly. While referring to it Pandit Thakur Das asked whether we fought for freedom if only to usher in a dictatorial regime.

In the year 1953 when the United Front of the opposition parties came forward to form a Government in the then State of PEPSU, article 356 was exercised to prevent them from providing a Government. Dr. Ambedkar who was then in the opposition stated, "It is the most violent kind of rape on the Constitution."

In Kerala, the undivided Communist Party won a majority in the 1957 General Elections. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India referred to it as a great test to our Indian Democracy. Only from then on the practice of showing law and order problem as a cause for dismissal began. With a view to pull down a democratically elected State Government they started singing the chorus that law and order was bad. What did the Governor's report say in its recommendation to the President of India who considered the formation of that Government a great experiment in Indian Democracy. The first reason the Governor cited was that the State Government had lost the support of the people. The second reasons attributed was that the people of the State had an attitudinal change towards that Government.

The third reason forwarded was that the sentiments of the people could not be ignored. Hence the report recommended the dissolution of Kerala Assembly and the dismissal of the Government in that State.

Ever since that, these very same reasons are referred to in almost all the Governor's report sent for dismissing Governments. This methodical or mechanical way of exercising article 356 have been done in the same fashion during all the 113 dismissals. The Governors have been signing on the dotted lines of the already available format.

18.13 hrs.

[SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Today we find that the Bihar Government has been dismissed on the ground that law and order failed miserably. They also say that it was a Government against the Dalits. But I would like to point out that the Bihar Government was dismissed because of the political vengeful attitude of the ruling party at the Centre held against the State Government.

In 1997, when the Centre initiated action to topple the Government in Uttar Pradesh, our leader Hon. Murasoli Maran who was in the Union Cabinet prevailed upon them to desist from dismissing that Government. Our Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani appreciated that stand saying that it was 'Constitutional uprighteousness'. For the first time a welcome trend of sending back such dismissal recommendations of a duly elected State Government was set in 1997. The BJP which welcomed the rejection of such recommendation has changed its stand now. It is unfortunate.

At the same time we find in this House a new dimension added to this ever continuing debate on exercising article 356. Many of the regional parties and smaller parties that have always stood against the imposition of President's rule in the States and sacrificed a lot to ensure the scrapping of article 356 are surprisingly supporting the move of the Centre today. Another quirk of event is that a major party which had always relied too heavily on article 356 is also opposing the move now. We have to welcome a healthy debate on these issues.

The Supreme Court's judgement in S.R. Bommai's case have changed our outlook and our interpretation of the Constitution. It is no more an easy thing to dismiss a Government. No Governor can easily take recourse to this method. Courts of law can now intervene. They must stand the scrutiny of the judiciary. If it is not ratified

within a time-frame by the Parliament, then the dissolved Legislative Assembly could resurrect on its own and the Government that was removed could be restored. Some who have pointed out this are contended with certain safeguards and few amendments to this draconian article 356.

As far as DMK is concerned we strongly feel that this is dangerous weapon that is most often misused. Whoever lay their hands on it are tempted to use it improperly. We want to emphasise that article 356 should go once and for all.

Inter-State Council's Sub-Committee comprising of Chief Ministers like Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat of Rajasthan, Hon. Mahanta of Assam, Hon. Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Manohar Joshi of Maharashtra and the then Union Industries Minister Hon. Murasoli Maran who sound-echoed the views of Tamil Nadu, collectively gave a clarion call to remove article 356. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that they all wanted to put an end to the misuse of this article.

When the electorate of any State cast their vote in any general election, they exercise their franchise on separate ballots one for the Lok Sabha and another one for the State Assembly. No voter gives a mandate to any member of Parliament to dismiss a duly elected State Government. They don't authorise the Central Government to subvert the Constitutional scheme of things. Central Government is not a master to lord over the States.

When there is an external aggression or an insurgency leading to an armed rebellion, the Central Government must rush the needed help to States that may face such problems. Redressal of grievances from the States should be the attitude. There cannot be a master-slave relationship and such attitude should be stemmed at least from now on. I wish the exercising of article 356 in Bihar should end as a last such move.

Reiterating again the need to scrap article 356 from our Constitution, I urge upon the Union Government to withdraw magnanimously the resolution it had moved in this august House about the imposition of President's Rule in Bihar.

I am expressing my stiff opposition to this resolution and I conclude my speech thanking the Chair for the opportunity.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though late, I have been called to participate in the discussion regarding imposition of Article 356 in the State of Bihar. Since yesterday, I have been quietly hearing the speeches of leaders of various parties. After listening to all the people, I fail to understand one thing. What are the allegations made for dislodging the Government and what is the discussion that we are having over here? That is very much important. Since this matter is pertaining to the State of Bihar, I thought, hon. Member, Shri Lalu Prasad, will, at least, try to answer the allegations levelled against the State of Bihar. But he has totally diverted the attention of Parliament and not even a single allegation has been replied by him. This is the most surprising thing, and yet what we are doing over here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there were occasions for me to visit Bihar. There are a number of occasions when I had been to Bihar. There I came across one or two incidents which I myself experienced. One such incident was also incorporated in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. When I visited that State, I enquired about whether the contents of the Committee Report have been taken into account or any corrective step has been taken by the State Government. But, I was informed that the State Government had not taken the cognizance of it.

I am reading the Standing Committee report. Shri Buta Singh is not there. Otherwise, he would ask me the citation.

"Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, April, 1995."

This is the 10th Lok Sabha 12th report.

"As regards misuse of hostel accommodation, the Committee have been informed by the Ministry that a hostel building at Sheohar in Bihar meant for SC students was being used by the Government of Bihar for housing their district headquarters."

This is the report. The building which was constructed for the SC students was occupied by the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Say District.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: It belongs to Patna.

[Shri Madhukar Sirpoddar]

[English]

I will give you the report. You go through that. There is nothing wrong. If you want to ask the question, you can go through the book and thereafter, you can say that it is a hostel.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You send it to Shri S.S. Bhandari Sahab.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Whatever you want to say, you can say.

[Translation]

When you delivered speech, I did not interrupt.

SHRI LALU PRASAD YADAV: You mentioned my name, therefore I spoke. I had asked about District. It has been wrongly told to you.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I have not said anything against anybody. What I am saying is regarding Bihar State. (*Interruptions*)

I quote from the report as follows:—

"The Committee are concerned to note the issue relating to misuse of Scheduled Caste Students Hostel by the Government of Bihar. They urge upon the Government to take up the issue at Minister's level and ensure that the hostel is allotted back to the Scheduled Caste students forthwith. The Committee would like to be informed of the progress made in this regard."

This is the report. Subsequently I visited that State. At that time also, the Chief Secretary of the State was Shri Verma. I asked him certain questions and he pleaded totally helpless. There were tears in his eyes when we examined him and he could not reply us satisfactorily. I was not alone. Along with me, there were other about 12 to 13 other MPs of various States and of various parties. This being the condition in the State, these people are claiming that they are supporting and protecting Dalits only.

My question is, the hostel which was built for SC students, why it was misused by the Government and why it was not allotted to the SC students. That is number one.

Number two is, I will ask the Congress Party now. When the Leader of the Opposition spoke in the House, I was not present at that time. I was busy in some other meeting. But when I came back, I have heard two or three sentences, passing reference at the fag end of his speech. Those references are very important because whenever those people are coming forward and saying something about the Dalits, it means common people of this country who are the most sufferers of this country and for whom we are working over here. That is a very important point. I have been listening to each and everyone. Everyone talks about the common people, but not a single person has got any regard for the common people. What they are telling here is dirty politics and nothing beyond that. That is the unfortunate situation which is prevailing in this House which I have been observing since the last three years now. I will just read out those references and I quote:—

[Translation]

It is not right to use Dalits for Politics.

[English]

This was the sentence uttered by Shri Sharad Pawar, Leader of the Opposition. Not only that. This step has been taken for political gain. That is, the proclamation of Section 356 in the State of Bihar is not proper. In order to achieve political mileage, this decision has been taken. This is how some allegations have been made by the Leader of the Opposition in this House.

Luckily, just now Shri George Fernandes has clarified a number of points about the Congress party. I wanted to point out just one or two aspects. On one of the points referred to by Shri George Fernandes, I also have a personal experience.

We talk of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar very highly. When he was contesting the elections in 1952, I was working with him. Shri Narayanrao Kazrorkar was the candidate representing the Congress party. In one of the meetings stones were pelted by the Congress party workers. I was also injured in that incident. They are now saying that they are the best friends of the Dalits. The Congress is telling the people that they are very close to the Dalits and that without the Congress, the Dalits cannot progress.

The Congress has changed its stand today. Otherwise, what was their role which was amply described by Shri George Fernandes? I need not throw more light on that. I would like to ask a question. Shri Sharad

Pawar said something about the Dalits. My question to him is this. In December, 1994, 115 Dalits were killed at Nagpur. I am sorry, Shri Shinde was not there at that time. But this Messiah of Dalits has never bothered to go and meet the people there. Today, they are posing as if they are the Messiah of the Dalits, they are the only supporters of Dalits.

They now want to support Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Lalu Prasad only because they also consider themselves as Messiahs of the Dalits, working for the poor people. If at all you are working for the Dalits and the poor people, then what is the condition prevailing in the State of Bihar? Who is answerable for that condition? One lady Member's husband had been killed and she was weeping yesterday. What is the condition of that family after the murder? Since the State was ruled by the RJD, was it not the responsibility of the RJD Government to investigate the matter thoroughly and arrest the persons who were concerned in that particular murder? Instead, the hon. Member of Parliament is weeping here, asking for help. I want to ask Shri Lalu Prasad and all his colleagues why necessary protection was not provided to the husband of that lady Member, who was himself a Minister in the State Government. What is the plight of her life today? What is the situation in which her family is placed? She was weeping yesterday, while leaving the House. It was really sad to see the tears of this Member of Parliament in this House itself. On top of that, they claim that they support the poor people.

Shrimati Rita Verma spoke here. She has cited a number of examples which Shri Lalu Prasad — he is not here — wanted to ridicule. I intend to ask Shri Lalu Prasad one question. When Shrimati Rita Verma approached him after the murder of her husband - yesterday, he has mentioned that she had been to his office - what help was rendered by the Government to Shrimati Rita Verma?

She was making all the allegations in the presence of Shri Lalu Prasad. Today the State Government of Bihar has become 'Lalu Prasad Yadav-Rabri Devi Private Limited'. If you have got so much sympathy, love and regard for the *dalits*, then, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: No, Sir. Then, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. You may continue.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: This is not proper. For the last two days, we have been sitting here.

Members were allowed to speak for more than one hour each; and when I just started making some statements, immediately the Chair is asking me to conclude. If that is your desire, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken for eleven minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, if you ask me to sit down, I will sit down. But my only request is that let me not be disturbed when I am making some arguments regarding this subject. Here, hon. members have taken more than one hour. We have tolerated everything. We never raised our voice in the House against them. When we listened to all those things quietly, why would I be obstructed? That is my question.

I must congratulate Shri Indrajit Gupta who made such valuable points. I must appreciate him. When he was the hon. Home Minister, he tried to do all those things; and his expectation was that the present Home Minister should also undertake that exercise. Shri Indrajit Gupta, I would like to ask one question to you: why was your Government toppled twice? What were the reasons? Those people were supporting you; on the assurance of the Congress Party alone, the United Front Government was formed. But what had happened to that? Initially, Shri Devegowda was sent out. Why? What was his mistake? His mistake was that he was not listening to the Congress Party and the agenda that was forwarded by the Congress Party was not implemented. Those were the allegations made at that time, in the House itself. Thereafter, Shri I.K. Gujral became the Prime Minister. We never tried to see that the Government collapsed. We always extended our cooperation. At that time, we were having 15 members; and at that time, either BJP or any of its allied parties never even attempted to see that the Government collapsed. Who was instrumental for that?

Everyone was asking me about the Justice Srikrishna Commission's Report. Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, who is not present here now, was repeatedly taking the name of Balasaheb Thackeray. He was telling that he has been named as a criminal in the Srikrishna Commission's Report. I do not know whether he has gone through that Report or not; maybe, he would have seen that Report. I was one of the witnesses who appeared before that Commission. I know what is there in that Report and what Justice Srikrishna has said in that Report. We never said anything, but they are making allegations. It is only because they are doing a wrong thing—supporting the RJD parties in Bihar now. This is not happening only today; but for years together, their history tells us.

[Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar]

I will not take much time of the House to explain on how many occasions they had proclaimed President's Rule, using the provisions of Article 356 of the Constitution. Shri Sharad Pawar is not here now. But in 1980, his Government was also thrown out. What was the reasons? The only reason was that they had lost the elections miserably. Shri Sharad Pawar has totally forgotten. But I am having all the speeches that he made at that time, when he was in the Opposition. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde must not have forgotten that. I think, he knows the history well—what he was saying about the Congress Party, about Rajiv Gandhi and a number of other people. If I go on repeating all those things, he will understand what he had done in the past.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): We know each other's history well.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I am proud. If you know my history, I am proud. If you want to point out anything on the floor of this House, you are welcome to do that. ...*(Interruptions)* Even about Shiv Sena, I am open to discussion; there is nothing wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: You have also called Shiv Sena Supreme Balasaheb Thakre as president. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, please sit down.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I am not going into all these things because there is no time. I thought the hon. Chairman would give me at least one hour to bring all these points as to what the Congress was doing when they were in the ruling party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. So many hon. Members would like to speak on this issue.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: What can I do for that? We cooperated with the Chair. We never interrupted. Many hon. Members were given a lot of time to speak on this issue. But when it is our turn to speak, we are not allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please understand the constraint of time. Let us accommodate all.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: We never interrupted. Certain allegations were made against us. Shri Lalu Prasad spoke about Bihar. I would like to ask him as to what he has done for the people of Bihar and for the State of Bihar? He should have told the ten years' history of the State of Bihar as to what their Government has done for the people of the State. He should have given the history of the State of Bihar. Instead he has given the history of Congress rule. You were listening to it without even raising your voice. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde is in-charge of Bihar.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, he has mentioned my name. So, give me time to speak.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Yesterday, Shri. Lalu Prasad gave a big list as to how many dalits were killed during the Congress rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

your are addressing to Shindeji, please address this side, we know that he is your friend.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: If he has objection then I withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair in the House.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Whenever we are given time we are not allowed to speak as openly as everyone else has done. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for more than fifteen minutes.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: A number of things have been discussed in this House.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): Sir, it is the duty of the Chair to give the hon. Member sufficient time so that he can express his views.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Kum. Mayawati was kind enough to explain in detail as to what the Congress and the RLM have done in the name of *dalits*. She has given the details. I am not going into the details. I do

not have much knowledge about Bihar. From the developments which have been taking place in that State and from what I have been reading about this State, I feel that this is the fit case for imposition of President's rule. In principle, we are against the imposition of President's rule. When the Government headed by the late Namboodiribad was dismissed, we agitated against it. We said that it was an improper action. A number of hon. Members spoke about that.

In the NDC meeting, Chaired by Shri Indrajit Gupta, we said that article 356 should be retained with some modifications and we said that it should not be done away with. Action should be taken under this article when it is absolutely necessary. Shri George Fernandes explained many things. I am not going into those things. My humble request to all the RJD Members is, if at all they want to say anything, they should reply to the queries raised by the Home Department and by the hon. Home Minister. Instead of diversifying the issue, they should come to the point. They should go before the people with open heart and establish that nobody else but they are the real messiahs of the poor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Shri Sirpotdar. The next Member is, Shri Premchandran.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: You are doing injustice to me. It is all right...*(Interruptions)* I would like to make only one point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have now called the next Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mohan Rawaleji: you can speak later on. There is no need to answer here.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I am requesting you to give me time to speak on only one point...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, they have unnecessarily attacked us. You have just now heard the figures given by Shri George Fernandes regarding the per capita output of the State of Maharashtra. Does it not show the performance of the State?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already replied. Please take your seat.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: They have said something about cricket also. I would like to mention that also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have already called Shri Premchandran.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, he wanted to make only one point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because of constraint of time, I would request Members to be very brief.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party.

I strongly oppose the Resolution moved by the hon Home Minister, seeking approval of this House regarding imposition of the President's Rule in Bihar.

Sir, the incident of imposition of the President's Rule in Bihar under Article 356, is an apt example of the blatant misuse of Article 356. This is well established in the House. This is the 101st time that the Article has been invoked and I would say that more than 90 times it had been misused. It is on record also. The recent proclamation, dated 12.2.1999, imposing the President's Rule in Bihar would show that it was only to wreck vengeance against the non-BJP ruled State. It is an unfettered and undemocratic provision in our Constitution.

The voting pattern of the last parliamentary elections in 1997 for the 12th Lok Sabha goes to show that while the BJP got 23.5 per cent of the votes, the Ministry headed by Lalu Ji, headed by the RJD, got 26.29 per cent votes which means they have got six per cent votes in excess. Shri George Fernandes has argued the case on behalf of the Government. He has quoted C&AG Report and many other reports stating that there was mismanagement in the financial affairs of the State. I would like to say that all these matters were placed before the public in the last election but what was the result of it? The result was that in the last elections, the ruling front, that is RJD bagged six per cent more votes. This was the will of the people. What has happened now? A Government which was having a dominant majority in the Legislative Assembly was dismissed without any base. It is quite undemocratic. On hearing the case of Shri George Fernandes one could easily come to know that it was done not at all on the basis of the grounds put forth in the Governor's Report but it was done either under his pressure or it can be described as some other practice, as Shri Fernandes was vehemently arguing for it. What were the grounds stated in the Report, I would come to them later.

[Shri N.K. Premchandran]

The first submission which I would like to make before the House is, it is the right time to discuss about the pertinence over the retention of Article 356 in our Constitution. Since it is an unfettered and undemocratic right or an extraordinary power conferred upon the Central Government which is against the federal principles of our Constitution, it is to be scrapped. This is my first submission.

Sir, secondly coming to Article 356, what are the main ingredients of Article 356? The Article 356 says:

"(1) If the President, on receipt of a report from the Governor of a State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the President may by Proclamation—

(a) assume to himself all or any of the functions of the Government of the State and all or any of the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor or any body or authority in the State other than the Legislature of the State;

(b) declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament..."

If the ingredient is that the Government cannot be moved or carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, no where it is stated in the report.

The ingredients have been again established in the Bommai case also. I would like to quote the observatory dictum of Justice Sawant in the Bommai case. Justice Sawant in his observation said:

"A situation of maladministration in a State where a duly constituted Ministry and enjoying majority support in the Assembly is in office, imposition of President's Rule in such a situation will be extraneous to the purpose for which the power under Article 356 has been conferred. It was made undoubtedly clear by the Constitution framers that this power is not meant to be exercised for the purpose of securing good governance."

What does it indicate? It indicates that Article 356 cannot be invoked to form an alternative or a better Government or for good governance of the State. It can be invoked only when there is a collapse of Constitutional machinery or insurgency or armed-rebellion. Considering the ingredients of Article 356 as also the elaborate

discussion in Bommai case let us analyse the political position or the political scenario in Bihar situation.

Sir, I am now coming to the report. There are two reports. The first one is principal report and another one is the supplementary report, according to the Governor. The first report can be classified generally in four grounds. The main grounds which are set forth are four. I am not going into the details. The first ground is the law and order situation; second is the governance by proxy and abuse of power; third is the mishandling of flood situation in the State; and fourth is the non-conducting the Panchayat elections thereby the Constitutional obligation had not been complied with. When we have heard the arguments of Shri George Fernandes, it is seen that the grounds under which the Government is dismissed are not the grounds which are stated in the report. The grounds which are stated are extraneous. Regarding the financial management, on the basis of C&AG Report and on some other basis the Government is dismissed.

As far as the law and order situation is concerned, the Sarkaria Commission recommendation is very clear. It says that a Government cannot be dismissed or Article 356 can never be invoked on the basis of the law and order situation because it is absolutely a State subject.

If law and order situation is a criterion for invoking Article 356, where it has to be first exercised? Sir, I am having statistics regarding law and order situation in various States. I am not going into the details. The names of States which have higher percentage of crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years are mentioned. This is an Unstarred Question No. 954 dated 2.6.1998. In the year 1995, the first three States which are having the highest number of crimes against Scheduled Castes are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In regard to crimes against Scheduled Tribes, the first three States are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. During 1996, they were Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. As regards crimes against Scheduled Tribes during 1996, they were Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. During 1997, they were Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and as far as crime against Scheduled Castes are concerned, they were Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. No where Bihar has come into the picture. So, if the law and order is the main criterion for invoking Article 356; then first it has to be invoked in the case of Gujarat.

Sir, we have seen brutal attacks on minorities. The yardstick which has been followed by the Government of India is different. It is different for the BJP ruled States

vis-a-vis non-BJP ruled States. It is because two Central Government official teams had visited Gujarat as well as Bihar. In Bihar, they had visited the affected places, they had interaction with the people there. But as far as Gujarat is concerned, they had to visit the affected districts where the places of worship of the Christians were attacked and minorities were brutally attacked. They did not go to these places. They just sat in Gandhi Nagar, the State Capital of Gujarat and had a discussion with the Chief Minister, the Police chief and the Chief Secretary and had submitted a report. But as far as the case of Bihar is concerned, it is a deliberate intention to invoke Article 356 and they have prepared a report and submitted it here on behalf of the Governor. As far as other States are concerned, I would not go into the details of their law and order situation. I am not going into the details of the Report of the Sri Krishna Commission which is mentioned here. I would not go into what is going on in Maharashtra. I would not go into its details. In cricket also, the constitutional propriety of the country and all ethics and norms of the country have been challenged by an unconstitutional extraneous authority in the State. What action has been taken in that regard? So, if the law and order situation is the criteria, then the Article has to be first invoked in some other States.

Regarding the other grounds, they failed to handle the flood the flood situation and non-conducting of elections has already been enunciated. The report of the Governor which has been submitted here is on flimsy grounds.

I would like to submit one point regarding the proxy administration which is mentioned in Clause 'D' of the principal report. Shrimati Rabri Devi was the Chief Minister of Bihar and as per article 163 of the Constitution, she, as the Head of the Council of Ministers, has to aid and advise the Governor in exercise of his functions. Practically, her husband, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is the person who indeed functions and behaves like a *de facto* Chief Minister. He makes official pronouncements and the officials also take directions from him. Meetings continue to take place in his house. But the Governor forgot that Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is also the President of the Rashtriya Janata Dal and political decisions are taken in political forum or in political party meetings. Sir, very flimsy grounds have been stated that Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is an accused in the fodder scam and that he stays in the residence of the Chief Minister. It is said that he is staying in the Chief Minister's residence. Is it an allegation or a ground for invoking Article 356? So, flimsy and non-justifiable grounds have been stated in the report so as to invoke Article 356.

I have another constitutional point to make. What are the change of circumstances from 18th September to 11th February? The first principal report was submitted on 18th September. What are the change of circumstances? Nothing is there except the massacre of dalits in a particular district. That alone is the change of circumstances in these two reports. So, the report cannot be accepted and this has been done on the basis of political pressure.

As far as the Governor is concerned, I would not like to go into the details. It is quite surprising to know the statements made by the hon. Home Minister after the proclamation that a non-political person, an independent person, justifiable person has to be appointed as the Governor of the State. That vindicates the case of the Opposition. He has been appointed on a political capacity for a particular purpose to dismiss this Government or to get a favourable report from him. That case has been vindicated by the Government itself.

Regarding the allies, the Telugu Desam Party may be expecting a hot line fax message just like that of confidence motion. I would like to speak on the statement of the TDP after the proclamation questioning the veracity of the Government decision regarding Bihar. Shri Yerrannaidu, Leader of the Telugu Desam Party said like this in Lok Sabha. He said that he failed to understand as to how the attacks on dalits and other weaker sections would stop and the law and order situation would improve after the removal of the Rabri Devi Government. He asked whether the Union Government can give a guarantee that by imposing President's rule, such incidents will not take place. He has asked this question. This is the statement made by Shri Yerrannaidu. Is he going to support or abstain from this Motion? So, all these things go to show that the grounds which are said or set forth in the report which has been submitted here cannot be relied upon. It is done under political pressure and on political grounds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: This is Samata package. Jayalalitha package has already been done. Hon. Defence Minister had flown to Chennai several times and the result has also come.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the time of the House has to be extended. Otherwise, he cannot speak and nothing will go on record. A number of small parties have not got the time to speak and they feel that they should participate in this important debate. Moreover, we also have to have a reply. We have withdrawn many of

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

the names of our speakers. I would request that the larger parties may also do so.

19.00 hrs.

Maybe, we could complete this within one hour and we could have the hon. Home Minister reply at about 7.40 p.m. so that we can close it by Eight of the Clock. I would be grateful if the House agrees to my proposal.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I agree to it provided all get a chance to speak. With this proviso, I agree to it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It is for you that I was pleading...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Minister, you mentioned about the small parties. Which are the small parties?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: All of you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the time of the House be extended up to 8 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the time is extended up to 8 p.m.

Shri Premachandran, now you please try to conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: So, to satisfy the allies, just to meet the political needs that this has been done. So, once again, I would urge upon this House to scrap Article 356 and also recall the Governor forthwith.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that I oppose the Resolution moved by the Government for imposing President's Rule in Bihar. I want to confine myself very strictly to the relevance of the subject. My speech will be very brief.

At the outset, I must say that we are lucky that we have legacy of Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar who is the founder President of the Republican Party of India and also the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. It is very much dear and near to be strictly committed to the constitutional philosophy of what he observed during the laborious work that he did in the framing of the Constitution of India.

Our hon. friend Shri George Fernandes is not here. Had he remained present, he would have corrected himself while quoting Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar. I am referring to the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly contained in page 168, para 6. I quote:

"Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, chairman of the Drafting Committee, explained the purpose and nature of these provisions. Emphasising the need for caution and restraint in their application, he observed:—

"I do not altogether deny that there is a possibility of these articles being abused or employed for political purposes. But that objection applies to every part of the Constitution which gives power to the Centre to override the Provinces. In fact, I share the sentiments...that such articles will never be called into operation and that they would remain a dead letter."

I quoted the observations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar made in the Constituent Assembly. While answering the debate on the rationale and purpose of Articles 355 and 356 he observed and I quote:

"The underlying principle and purpose of introducing Article 355 was explained by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly. It was stressed that our constitution, notwithstanding that many of its provisions bestow overriding powers on the Centre, nonetheless gives, on the federal principle, plenary authority to the Provinces to make laws and administer the same in the field assigned to them.

"That being so, if the Centre is to interfere in the administration of the provincial affairs, it must be, by and under some obligation which the Constitution imposes upon the Centre. It was emphasised that the 'invasion' by the Centre of the provincial field "must not be an invasion which is wanton, arbitrary and unauthorised by the law."

The next quotation says:

"The constitution framers recognised that the provision of Articles 355 and 356 were necessary to meet an exceptional situation where break-down of the constitutional machinery occurs in a State. At the same time, they hoped for the growth of healthy conventions which would help ensure that these extraordinary powers were used most sparingly."

These are the three orbits of Article 356 of the Constitution. I do not feel that any other quotation, either this way or that way, is in the purview of the Motion and in the purview of the subject under discussion here.

Sir, I would just like to bring to your notice as to how the Sarkaria Commission has defined regarding the breakdown of the constitutional machinery. Justice Sarkaria described constitutional breakdown under the heads of political crisis, internal subversion, physical breakdown and non-compliance of constitutional directions of the Union Executive. Does it meet the decision of the Central Government to impose the President's rule in Bihar? The reply would be 'no' and from the President's response, it appears Rabri Devi Government was not given adequate warning and opportunity. This is a lacuna in the Centre's case against Bihar.

Sir, I do not want to go into the merits of the questions made here, either from this side or that side. The atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are a routine phenomenon these days. All political parties condemn the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But when they come to power either in the States or at the Centre, the fate of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes remains the same.

Sir, we always condemn the atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. But are the political parties which have the opportunity to rule either in the States or at the Centre devoted to the spirit of the Constitution? The evil of untouchability remains even now, but there is a statute to remove untouchability. So, it is not a monopoly relating to the political parties. It shows that we have no desire to have social justice or social commitment. We, as the Republicans, very strongly condemn the atrocities that are committed in Bihar and wherever there is an atrocity on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, we condemn it.

Sir, there is a saying that the piece of ice, in a glass of water, remains one-fourth above the water and three-fourth down below. We should see as to what is the origin for atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. What is the perennial source? Who are behind them? Those victimised persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes follow Laluji in Bihar, because he has sympathy for them. But those who have committed the atrocities on the Scheduled Castes, the Ranvir Sena, are being supported by the reactionary forces.

Sir, how can we support this Resolution for imposition of President's rule? If we support it, that would mean we are encouraging such Governments. The Governor there is a committed RSS man. I have nothing to say against him. If we support the President's rule there, that means we are inviting more trouble, more atrocities. So, on both counts of the Constitutional philosophy, we are the sufferers. The rest of the things are immaterial for us.

We are here to safeguard the Constitutional obligations. I have been a politician representing a particular political party. Unfortunately or fortunately, I belong to a backward class. That is my fate. Ultimately for the sake of justice, I have to fight it out.

In this case, if I support the Resolution for imposition of President's rule, it does mean inviting more atrocities towards backward classes and the Scheduled Castes.

With these few words, I thank you very much.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must say that the Government should be given credit where it earns that credit and can have the credit genuinely. On behalf of me and on behalf of my Party, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee deserves appreciation for putting in strenuous efforts to organise harmony between India and Pakistan. I have convinced myself that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is very sincere in that effort. It is a very gigantic task. We all have been seeing what is being done in Kashmir from across the border through insurgency. In spite of that, he had put in a sizeable effort to start negotiations with Pakistan and he gave an impression that he is very serious in promoting that understanding.

There was another point of credit to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. When the celebrations were going on in Lahore, he expressed anguish on behalf of his country that India would not tolerate the kind of situations that were created through massacres in Rajouri and Udhampur. That line needs to be followed.

[Translation]

I would like to say to Mulayamji that Kashmir will not be given in dowry and with this I will use some Urdu words because the people of my Constituency know only Urdu. Perhaps they will be thinking in the same way as they thought earlier.

So far as Bihar is concerned, Rabri Deviji has not briefed me, but I would only say two or three points on it and not more than this. When I am speaking about Bihar, I am confident that I would tell the same what I have felt as a city resident of India. It seems to me that I should have right to say two three points which I consider wrong and can't say right. Out of these, I feel, one mistake is that the person who was appointed as the Governor of Bihar was perhaps not suitable. I would not go in to the depth. I have knowledge of Constitution and we are called in the last when no time is left for speaking. I am confident that he could not do justice to

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

that post. You would be able to understand this. The Govt. itself have replied with an Unstarred Question No. 957 last year regarding some States which ill administered. I have seen it. It is strange that it has been replied in an Unstarred Question in Lok Sabha on 2nd June 1998. The name of some States are included in it but the name of Bihar is not there. In 1995, the names of U.P., Rajasthan and M.P. are included. In 1996, the name of Uttar Pradesh is there. Regarding crimes and killing happened to 1995, 1996 and 1997 names of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh figure in the list but there is no mention of Bihar. I have already stated that Rabri Devi ji has not briefed me. Bihar is not the only State whose condition is very bad but the same condition is also in other States.

The third point which I want to mention in this August House is about our President, who is a great patriot. The people of India regard him as one of the greatest patriots. He has the power to speak truth. I accept Shri Narayanji

[English]

as one of the greatest patriot.

[Translation]

I know that they know the image of India very well. Therefore when we took a decision in cabinet regarding imposition of President Rule in U.P. I can't tell as to what has been said with cabinet about Uttar Pradesh and by whom some might have given their views by their heart and when the proposal for dissolution of U.P. Govt. was sent to President he returned it. Thereafter, the cabinet understood that the President knows better about the future, need and image of India. The Parliament of India have two powerful—ouses i.e. Lok Sabha—Rajya Sabha and President of India. This is the Constitution of India. Therefore we respected the intention of President, otherwise we would have sent it back again in a simple manner and the President was bound to accept it. But it is quite wrong to get accepted anything by compelling the President. Therefore we did not send it again. Today I say that we have committed a mistake. This House considers the use of Article 356 as unfair. I would like to say with responsibility that the President had given a signal at first and returned the recommendation. Therefore it should have been sent again. Sir, you don't ring the bell. I will say my point in brief. I wanted to oppose the motion on behalf of my party, but I am not happy.

[English]

Bhartiya Janata Party led coalition has its own right. It is a number game. As long as they have numbers

they will rule this country in their own right. I am not going to derive any vicarious pleasure if the Government falls.

[Translation]

My compulsion is that Article 356 was wrongly used in J&K. I would like to recall this House two-three points. Though I do not want to go in that matter that we had found a solution of the problem by abstaining. So far as this Govt. and State Govt. are concerned.

[English]

There is perfect Harmony, Mr. Chairman, and that Government will cooperate with the Central Government as long as it is there. That is the Constitution of India. That is within the parameters of Constitution of India.

[Translation]

The situation is difficult there is financial crisis, counter guarantee has not been given to generate power Development work has stopped. I do not want to degrade this debate by naming the projects but in spite of that I will not be biased in saying that employees are not getting their salaries. I do not want to insult this House. Members can understand here that I am taking revenge but I am talking about Article 356. Article 356 was to be used in rarest cases in the spirit of the speech of Ambedkarji but unfortunately it has been used in a wrong manner. Today I would like to tell this House that it is my compulsion that I do not want to go in the past because who looks towards past, they take support of the past. I want to make it torch to lead the future. What happened there in 1984. At that time B.K. Nehruji was the Governor and he rejected to dismiss Farooq Abdullah and Governor was sent there only to dismiss the Govt. of Abdullahji. I would like to recall you at that level that Pakistan had never succeed at that time. But when that Governor in 1984 within 13 months there...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): He is the Minister now...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): He is the Minister now in his own right. He is a member in his own right but I wanted to tell you ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Let me tell first, you can tell in your time...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED (Anantnag): You are misquoting the things...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I am not misquoting...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: We never imposed Governor rule. Shri Farooq was removed by his own party. Ghulam Mohammad Shah was in revolt. His party was in revolt. We did not remove anybody. Why are you misquoting. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: You do not understand, please sit down. Your roll was not less in those things, you were also fully involved in that conspiracy. Later when you sent him for the second time, he let loose a reign of terror. I would like to increase your knowledge...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I have already told you that I will be very brief.

19.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

I would like to recall you that you had been a worker of Congress. It does not honour you that your party had dismissed Farooq Abdullah. You had organised directions. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mufti Sahib would not have read this but I request this House that no book is comparable to this book which has been written by B.K. Nehru. The title of the book is "Nice guys finish second". Nehruji has told in it that why he had denied to dismiss the Government of Abdullahji and how a Governor was sent from here to dismiss him. When he was coming out from the residence of Chief Minister then he asked his heir who was going there whether he is going to dismiss Farooq of Kashmir, he answered it with a smile. After that you have seen what happened in Kashmir. In 1984, the youth of Kashmir got disappointed when they realised that democracy can not come in Kashmir. They had not taken arms till that time, when they got disappointed by that time 20-30 years from across the border that country

tried that Kashmir youth should accept Kalashnikov guns but they refused. One or two youth used to come now and then, Mufti Sahib knows it. After 1984 the disturbances in Kashmir were caused only due to use of Article 356. Therefore I would like to recall you that I have no hesitation in telling that Congress would have also realised it. On this occasion I would like to say that the institution of Governor, he has been rendered undemocratic. You can guess...(Interruptions). Governor does not come from election. He has no responsibility, he removes a representative of lakh and crores of people at the stroke of a pen and many offices on Governor have been misused therefore I wanted to say that Bhartiya Janata Party should not accepted. Atalji should have said here that I have no support in the House so I withdraw it. Because basically we are a democratic country. Lok Sabha has basic right. Both Houses are equal and our Lok Sabha has to decide this matter first, therefore he can say here that he did not have support so he withdraw it...(Interruptions) I want to say one thing regarding Article 356. I wanted to oppose it but National Conference is abstaining for collective gain. When you will press button here...(Interruptions) I go out of the House for the gain of Party. I conclude my speech with a "Sher" of Galib because it is a bitter decision but I have to keep in mind the game of the party "Rakhiyo Galib Mujhe Talkh Navai Mein Muaaf, Aaj Kuch Dard Mere Dil Mein Sawa Hota Hai". I also explain it.

[English]

If you sound bitter today, you seek forgiveness as the cup of agony is full to the brim.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak Professor Soz has ended his speech with a "Sher" and I would like to begin my speech with a "Sher". When Iqbal's mother died he said "Umar Bhar Teri Mohabat Meri Khidmatgaar Rahi, Jab Main Kabiley Khidmatgaar Hua to Tu Chal Basi". Even after 50 years of Independence, caste violence is occurring in our country. Atrocities are increasing against Dalits, minorities and weaker sections throughout the country. Our concern is of different type regarding Lalu Prasadji. Lalu Prasadji had tried but he was caught at one place. Chief Minister of many States have been trapped in corruptions but Laluji has been caught in such a corruption in which his mind did not work. When a person's mind works scientifically in a corruption, he escapes....*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: She is capable of saying anything. I do not mind. But let some standard be maintained in the debate in Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*. There should be some standard. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: ...*(Interruptions)*. What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): What happens at the name of Mamta Banerjee, do you become jealous?

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: When the members of other party spoke, I didn't interrupt. If somebody has the right to express his views, we also have the right to express our views. Parliament will not go like this. Nobody's Zamindari will go on. It will not function as per will. This should not go on. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not yet started my speech. He is interrupting without any reason. It is a fact that when a worker works he says "Jo Humse Takrayega, Choor, Choor Ho Jayega." He will also meet the same fate...*(Interruptions)*. Earlier, I honoured President rule. There is good and bad in everything. Anythings can be handled easily but some other thing can not be handled.

Article 356 has both plus as well as minus points, I am against minus points. There are some works for which we have to act in the interest of the nation and take risk. If Indiraji would not have taken the risk, she would not have declared emergency in 1975.

[English]

President's rule was imposed 99 times in this country, out of which 90 times when the Congress was in power. I was also in the Congress. Now also, I think I am the original Congress.

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): You are not.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Yes, I am. Nobody will give me a certificate as to who I am. When I was a party member, we were about to do this, sometimes to give justice to the people also. But we should not misuse it. When Shri Morarji Desai came to power also, President's rule was imposed in nine States. We should not forget.

[Translation]

Earlier, President did not sign to impose President rule in Bihar. When the President signed second time, thought that he would have been convinced definitely. President signed second time to impose President rule in Bihar. He wrote a strong note about which nobody has stated. He wrote that atrocities should be stopped on Dalits, Schedule Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: She has mentioned the name of President. In the morning Hon'ble Speaker had warned hon'ble members under rule 352(vi) that the name of the President should not be mentioned in discussion...*(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: I am not quoting the President.

SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN: The ruling has already been given in this House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am not quoting the note of the President. I have mentioned the report which appeared in the Press.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This was also referred to yesterday.

Rule 352(vi) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha says:

"A member while speaking shall not use the President's name for the purpose of influencing the debate;"

This is very important.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: I cent per cent appreciate what you said. I abide by your ruling. I have not taken the name of the President. I have not said what the President had said. I mentioned what had appeared in a newspaper. That is a public document.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You kindly proceed.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, the hon. Member is citing certain notes written by the Rashtrapatiji. We would like to know from which source she has got this information....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think so. Are you referring to some note?

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: No, Sir, there is nothing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She is not using.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, she has already referred. Mr. Advani was...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Wherefrom has she got this information?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has herself said she has not used it. How can one impose on her? She says she is not using any note. There ends the matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: As she did not show it yesterday, she has no right to say...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She says she has not used.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member herself has denied she is using any note. Why are you insisting on it? Now, you please continue.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have told you that if anything which is against the rules may be expunged. I am giving you the opinion to please expunge it. I maintain Parliament dignity. We know the ethics also. I do not know why the senior persons of the Congress are fighting with me. They should fight with me politically. they should not fight like this.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : They are afraid of you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : While we sat with the commoners, now we are the public representatives. Shall I mention the name? Will you agree?
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : With your permission, I say it is the President of the Congress Party. Sir, I was very happy to see her statement. Shall I mention it? It is from *The Hindustan Times*, dated 22nd February, "Congress Flip-flops". "No Government which is helpless in preventing such heinous acts forfeits its moral authority to govern". This is dated 22nd February. After that, there are other statements of Shri Arjun Singh and other people also. I do not want to mention it

because he is not a Member of the House. Why she said:

[Translation]

"The Government had sent a proposal of President Rule to the President for what is happening in Bihar, but the President returned it. If the Government of Bihar tried to take strong action it would not have happened. When President had returned in September, then the Bihar Government would have tried to improve the situation but what happened in Purnia, Jahanabad, we have seen statements in Newspapers and Star TV regarding what happened with Children and Women there."

[English]

They are not getting blood to save the lives. They are advertising on the TV saying if you have blood of this group, please come and give blood. They have mentioned only about Patna. So, I thought I would send my people from Calcutta to give blood because due to scarcity of blood, the people died there and also because of these atrocities. Let us forget politics. We are the political people. But first we are human beings. That is why, what is going on in Bihar is a fact.

[Translation]

I still believe that had Lalu ji continued to be in power, then he could tackle the situation or try for the same but when the Government of Rabri Devi came into power she could ponder over as to what she should do. I have got due regard for her as she is the Chief Minister. Politically she should have understood it and gone to the public and work with them and she could think what has to be done. But whatever has happened in Bihar overall that was beyond her control. As we were going in Rajdhani Express after passing through Patna or Dhanbad we heard the people saying that they would not go via Patna and they remarked that there are dacoits. They further said that would be spoiled and that there lives would be endangered. I would like to ask as to why should we not go? Everybody had started having such a feeling. Mrs. Champa Biswas, the wife of an I.A.S. officer was raped. When I saw it in the paper, then we thought that when things are happening to such an extent then we must like even the Minister of something on certain occasions. But such thing is required after some time gap.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I had not desired to speak and I do not justify rape, but when the topic of Mrs. Champa Biswas has been raised, I would like to inform the House that lady has got her own kids. She was raped four years back and that lady now tells the name of that person who had raped her. Why the wife and children of Mr. Biswas, whom we had appointed Collector of Arariya, did not dare to file a suit? This is what I want to know...(Interruptions).

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar lies on the border of West Bengal. As such we have got very good relations with Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. But every day a number of people come to us and say that their daughter has been kidnapped son has been kidnapped their child has been killed but they cannot go to the Police station to get the F.I.R. lodged because they also have got such a fear that they would be beaten and even killed. This is happening not only in Bihar, but also in West Bengal, Gujarat and Assam.

[English]

There is a proverb, 'a prophet is not honoured in his own country.'

[Translation]

We are discussing about Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you yielding?

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Yes, I am yielding. He is a senior leader.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would tell sister Mamta ji that she has got no stigma on her life but whether she knows as to how many criminals are there in the rally which you had gone to address? How many people have committed atrocities to send Shri Prakash Shukla to Bihar? When I was saying so in my speech, at that time my worthy sister was not available in the House. You had gone to address that very conference. You can find out the criminals.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, not like this.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Mayawati ji is not present in the House. But I would like to request Mayawati ji to give most appropriate reply to Mulayam Singh Yadavji. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now what Mulayam Singh ji would speak? If Mayawati would speak then her speech would make Shri Yadav to leave the House. But I do not want it. I respect all of you and let me continue to do so. (Interruptions)

[English]

Running commentary should be stopped, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No interruptions please.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: A number of days back a meeting of the V.D.C. was called. In that meeting even the Chief Ministers were not unanimous that article 356 should be detected.

[English]

There was no unanimity. Why there was no unanimity? Only BJP is not there. BJP is there, Congress is there, Left Front is there, Mulayam Singh Ji's party is there, Lalu ji's party is there. All Chief Ministers were there. They had their Chief Minister also.

[Translation]

But there was no unanimity. If Article 356 has been misused, then we are against that. If there was no use of article 356, then Dr. Ambedkar had not included it in the Constitution. If Article 356 had not been included in the Constitution, then Jammu and Kashmir would not have existed, Punjab would not have existed and a number of other states would not have existed. Because of article 356, the Central Government can intervene to look after the general public and to check the atrocities on the minorities there. Is it not a shame for us?

[English]

I am not talking about Bihar only. I condemn atrocities committed anywhere. Sometimes, it happens in Gujarat. Sometimes, it happens in Orissa. Sometimes, it happens in Assam. Sometimes, it happens in West Bengal. It happens everywhere. Why? It happens for political reasons. We should not murder so many people for political reasons. The situation is even worse in West Bengal than in Bihar, but we have not talked of using Article 356 because we want to give them a political fight. Please remember it. That is why, we were waiting.

[Translation]

It is a fact that I support the stand taken by the Governor but at the same time-I would like to say

[English]

that Governor as a Governor cannot say that he is an RSS man or he is a man of a particular political organisation. They say that RSS is not a political organisation. A Governor has to be impartial. He has to be apolitical. Governor has to perform his duty. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. Madam, we are very much constrained of time.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: The Home Minister is not present here. He was sitting here since morning. I want to request that whenever a Governor is appointed, it may please be seen that the Governor must not have a political background, he must have a pro-people

background so that he may know the problems of the people and may understand the reality. Only a good administrator can deliver the goods and no one else.

[Translation]

India has created a history but I was pained to see that.

[English]

We have been discussing about Bihar for two days, but we have forgotten about it...(Interruptions) We are proud that our Prime Minister and the Government of India started...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You have been repeatedly saying Bihar and thereby criticising Bihar State.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Lalu ji, please don't say like this.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sometimes you say that the trains did not reach, sometimes you say. ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Lalu ji I pay due regard to Bihar because that is our neighbour...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: He should not shout like that.

Sir, please tell me if I cannot speak in the House, where should I speak?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to speak here only.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Then, you tell them not to interrupt.

Sir, we are discussing about Bihar, but we are also proud today that India has opened a new chapter with Pakistan and our Prime Minister went to Lahore. This is a good message and we are not discussing it. We should congratulate the Government of India and specially the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan because after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, it is now that this process has started. Even the American President Clinton has congratulated both the Prime Ministers, but I do not know...(Interruptions) Are they nervous? That is why, they become nervous. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this running commentary?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not disturb.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: They should not forget that all these proposals are the proposals of the Congress Party. They should not forget that the Patents Bill is their proposal. I know this because I was a member of the Congress party. They should not forget that the Insurance Bill is their proposal. They should also not forget that the proposal regarding CTBT is also their proposal. Now, they should not say that all these proposals are babies of the BJP. Now, they have become 'A' team and 'B' team. They should not forget it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, kindly conclude.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Sir, I cannot speak even one line. ...(Interruptions) After 355 comes 356. Though we did not request the Government, the Government had sent two-three teams to different parts of the country based on article 355. We do not know what is actually there in the reports that were submitted. I request the Home Minister to table the reports that the Government had received from the Central teams that were sent to different States so that we can come to know as to what actually was stated in those reports. We strongly condemn what happened in Orissa and Gujarat. I demand two CBI investigations into the incidents that occurred in Orissa and Gujarat. What happened is shocking. Regarding Bengal, I will speak only two words because...(Interruptions)... Do not worry, I will not ask for 356 in your case...' ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, do not create disturbance. I have been watching you.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Regarding my State, I will say only one thing. Though it is not related, it is co-related. I do not know why we do not get justice. A woman named Sagiran Bibi was raped and murdered. It is a political case. The hair of Samdad Begum, a young girl, was totally cut. They could not get any justice. In my State, within this year, 150 of our workers have been brutally killed. Fifteen BJP workers, 5 RSP workers, 2 SUC workers and one CPU worker have been murdered. In one particular place, Howrah, within one month, thirty-five people have been brutally killed...(Interruptions)... There is physical assault, there is monetary corruption, there is blackmailing, there is smuggling going on in the State, but we do not get any justice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, she is making all false allegations. They should not be allowed to go on record. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Each and every point is true. A hundred and fifty Trinamul Congress workers have been brutally killed. Sir, they are murderers.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We can also list number of incidents as they are doing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kumari Mamta Banerjee, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: These are all baseless allegations. Sir, you cannot allow these things to go on record against a State Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through the record and remove all the objectionable remarks.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they have been totally rejected by the people of West Bengal in the last Municipal elections.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I am on my legs. Please resume your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, she should not be allowed to make such allegations. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Sir, how can I speak if anyone interferes like this?... (Interruptions)... Would you not allow me to speak? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: She cannot mislead the House... (Interruptions)... She is making allegations which are untrue... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Can anything be said here? What is the level of debate? ... (Interruptions) ... They are calling us... or something like that ... (Interruptions)... Is this the level of debate? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will expunge all those objectionable words and indecent expressions used by some Members, from whichever side they may be, from the records.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Sir, they have unnecessarily wasted my time... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will expunge all the objectionable words and indecent expressions from the records.

Madam, kindly proceed now.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: I am really sorry to say, Sir, that whenever these people speak, we listen to them carefully but when our chances come, they become so angry and disturb us ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Shri Somnath Chatterjee will never be allowed to speak... (Interruptions)... You take care of him (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kumari Mamta Banerjee, please proceed.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: What is this going on, Sir? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please. I seek cooperation from all the Whips.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Sir, if anybody is disturbed from my voice... (Interruptions)... I appreciate the

people who ask me to apologize to the people. Even I can say like this *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam. please wind up.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: Why are they disturbing me in every line?...*(Interruptions)*...I am not quoting or telling anything about the Trinamul Congress. With your kind permission, I would show you the Book, the Draft Report of the 15th National Conference of RSP. This is on the current national political situation. What have they written? I will ask them to please go through page 33, 34 and 35 of this Report. There you will see...*(Interruptions)*

AN. HON. MEMBER: You read it.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: There is no time. That is why I am not reading this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Promothese Mukherjee, this is not the way to react. Please take your seat.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: In these pages, they have mentioned that 'because of the atrocities, people of Bengal are not getting any justice. Because of corruption, people are not getting justice' It is not said by my party. It is said by their election partner...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: She is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: If people want, I can lay it on the Table of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri N.K. Premchandran, please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

20.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat?

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: You know I always maintain the time of the House. That is why, within five minutes I will finish my speech. But they disturb me like anything. I quoted not my book. I quoted their book. But after that also, because of the time constraint, I am not going to quote it also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need not quote. I want you to please wind up.

KUMARI .MAMTA BANERJEE: I have not spoken anything. They have not allowed me to speak. When we will get the opportunity, then we must speak about it in detail. But when Home Minister will reply about this President's rule in Bihar, I want to strengthen the hands of Shri Lalu Prasad. That is why, I am asking. At the same time, he should reply about the situations in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Orissa and Gujarat also. The Centre should have given the report. We have got the right to know from the Home Minister.

With these words, I support the Government's stand and in the interest of people, let me quote a poem before finishing my speech. Today I am not satisfied. They did not allow me to raise my voice in a proper manner. But one day, I will give them a befitting reply. I am waiting for that day.

AN HON. MEMBER: It will never come.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE: It will come. I quote the poem as follows.—

[Translation]

Whenever atrocities are cast on dalits, those should be looked at not from the point of view of politics but from the point of view of humanity, to look at from the point of view of humanity, if there are any obstructions, for that would like to say—

" Sar Faroshi ki Tamanna Ab Hamare Dil Mein Hai,
Dekhna Hai Jor Kitna Bazjwe Katil Mein Hai."

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I understand that speakers from four Parties only are left. May I request you to extend the time of the House? Home Minister may start reply at 8.30 p.m.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. We cannot afford to allow any more Members to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. I need your protection.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under which rule you are raising your point of order.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Chief Whip has given my name at Number Four. Why that has been deleted and where that has gone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under which rule. Please quote.

...(Interruptions)

English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are some two or three small Parties.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): No more members could be allowed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you not want to speak?

Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North Central): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Please give me two minutes to speak. Our party has still got ten minutes time at its credit. ...(Interruptions)

English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): We have to get the time. Akali Dal must be given the time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get your chance after Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time was extended up to eight o'clock. Shri Yerrannaidu is now on his legs. Is it the sense of the House that the time should be extended till this measure is voted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the sense of the House has been taken to extend the time of the House.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time.

The Telugu Desam Party, from the beginning, has a very firm, principled view on the use of Article 356 of the Constitution of India. In fact, the Telugu Desam Party has decided to annul Article 356 from the Constitution, from the very beginning. The Telugu Desam Party has been represented in several meetings of the Inter-State Council where all the Chief Ministers have expressed a majority opinion that it should be continued in the constitution with some safeguards. This is why, we have a consensus to give some safeguards in respect of Article 356 of the Constitution.

From the very beginning, we are demanding that the Sarkaria Commission recommendations should be implemented in letter and in true spirit by the Centre. This was why the Telugu Desam Party had chosen as Governor of the State of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. C. Rangarajan, who is not a politician but an economist.

Earlier, I was a Minister in the United Front Government. At that time, the Union Government wanted to invoke Article 356 in Uttar Pradesh. The Telugu Desam Party opposed that proposal. In the case of Bihar also, when for the first time the Union Government decided to invoke Article 356, the Telugu Desam Party reacted strongly and opposed that proposal.

The Telugu Desam Party is for the implementation of federalism in letter and spirit. This is why, from the very beginning, the Telugu Desam Party wanted more financial powers to the States. The Telugu Desam party, in the last eighteen years, convened several conclaves to grow the spirit of federalism in this country.

At this juncture, all of us are aware of the incidents that took place in Bihar against the Dalits. When the Government of India took a decision for the first time to invoke Article 356 in Bihar, the President sent back the proposal for reconsideration. At that time, the Central Government had issued a warning to the Government of Bihar. After that, many incidents have taken place. The Governor has already forwarded a report to the Centre.

A press report on the apparent situation in the State of Bihar lists the incidents of steep increase in the massacre of Dalits and STs as follows:

"(a) Massacre of 11 Dalits on 11.2.1999 at Narayanpur Village in Jehanabad District;

(b) Brutal killing of 23 Dalits at Sankarbheega Villages, Jehanabad District on 25.1.1999;

(c) Ghastly roasting alive of 6 santhals (STs) in Purnea District; and

(d) Hundreds of poor Dalits, STs and BCs killed by private armies (Ranvir Sena and others) funded by big landlords."

In these circumstances, the Telugu Desam Party has decided to support the Centre...*(Interruptions)* In this particular case, the Congress Party has come out with its true colours; it has no moral rights; since Independence, they imposed President's Rules using the provisions of Article 356 more than 60 times in India.

For political gains, to destabilise the Centre and to get power in this country, the Congress Party is playing dual role in this country. In the recent meeting of the National Development Council, the Rajasthan Chief Minister has said something and I would like to quote him. Newspapers have reported the divergent views expressed by the Rajasthan Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot. He wanted *status quo ante* to remain, before the judgement of Bommai's case. I would like to ask the Congress Members here as to what is their role regarding the provisions of Article 356. If they are interested and if they have any safeguards for this Constitutional provision, why should he make such a proposal in that National Development Council meeting? On the one hand, they support that and on the other hand, they are not supporting the Centre's action now. Why? It is because to get to power through back-door methods. That is their ultimate goal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please cooperate. Shri Yerrannaidu, please conclude.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Under these extraordinary circumstances, the Telugu Desam Party reluctantly and painfully agree to support the Union Government's stand. Taking into consideration the large scale massacre and killings of *dalits* that took place in Bihar, we support the stand of the Union Government.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Article 356 is under discussion in this House.

Let me at the outset make it extremely clear that we have consistently and persistently held the view that Article 356 is a source of legitimate and necessary power for exceptional and rare cases; and there can be no doubt about it. Of course, there is a need for the amendment of Article 356 to incorporate safeguards against its misuse or abuse. But then, it is a legitimate power for exceptional cases, for the rarest cases and for critical situations.

Dr Ambedkar, the father of the Constitution himself had said in the Constituent Assembly that he would like

that the power under Article 356 should remain a dead letter and only for the rarest occasions. That is true. But then, this is a power which is an action or a measure of last resort. Now, in a case where Article 356 is invoked, we are faced with only a limited question; and the limited question is the fair or impartial exercise of the power in the event of a breakdown of the Constitutional machinery.

There is no question of expounding the theory of a good Government and there is no question of expounding the theory that the Centre can provide a better Government to the State. Let it be known that in the name of good Government, self Government cannot be killed in the federal structure. Let there be no mistake about that. As I heard some of the speeches, I have felt that this House is being transformed into an electoral stage where appeal is being made to provide a better Government, so-called better Government, to the State of Bihar. As I said, self Government cannot be sacrificed at the altar of the excuse of a good Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Various factors were placed here as responsible for the dismissal of the Bihar Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I have not even opened my mouth. I will not misuse the time as they misuse article 356.

These very factors which are said to be responsible for the removal of Rabri Devi Government in Bihar are present in several other States, saffron States. They are present with reimposed vigour and manner in these States. Therefore, there is a partial and an unfair exercise of the power and that we reject. There are several other States where there is a break down of constitutional machinery. Take the case of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Look what had happened to Srikrishna Commission Report. The Report held that Shiv Sena and its *Pramukh* as responsible and accused of crimes against the minorities. The accused is in power. The accused abuses the power to reject the Chargesheet against him. The accused refuses to accept the Report and rejects it unceremoniously. The accused refuses to take action against himself. Here we see a gross breach of the rule of law.

Sir, I would not like to take the time of the House. The Sarkaria Commission said that there could be occasions of internal supervision. I would like to quote a few sentences from the Sarkaria Commission Report. It says,

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

"Were the State Government, although ostensibly, acting within the constitutional form, designedly flouts principles and conventions of responsible Government to substitute for them some sort of dictatorship."

Sir, such is the situation. There, we find the Government does not go. Here, I will concede...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want you to conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It is the last part that I would like to submit.

I will concede that killings and massacres are very serious. A Government that fails to protect human life is a Government that has failed in the matter of upholding the Constitution which values human life. In the case of Bihar, we had the massacre of the *dalits*. But I am sure, now the *dalit* of Bihar sphere do not want their destiny to be surrendered to the saffron forces, the fascist forces over here. Let there be no mistake about that. Our sympathy for *dalits*, our sentiments of justice for *dalits* demand that their destiny cannot be handed over on a platter to the fascist saffron forces. Therefore, let our sympathy not be misdirected towards strengthening the saffron hands of fasism which are strangling the secular democracy over here. The saffron fascist forces are strangling the secular democracy here. It cannot be tolerated. Therefore, we strongly oppose the motion that has been brought before the House by the Home Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonipat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, for the last two days this house has been discussing over the President Rule imposed in Bihar. Leaders of all the political parties have put forth their views. Bihar has been brought under President Rule by using the Article 356. This country has used the article at 90 occasions but this article has been misused on a number of occasions. Our party is in favour of the article. This article was included in the Constitution to keep the country united and to make the centre strong but it is a matter of sorrow that almost all the parties have misused it. Especially the Congress party has misused it because they have been in power for a long time. But in the present case, the report of the Governor in regard to Bihar issue has been placed on the table of the House. From the datas given in the report it is clear that the situation in other States is more worse than Bihar. From the datas given in respect of Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar

Pradesh and Delhi it can be seem that the situation in these States is also not good keeping in view the size of population there.

Our Haryana State is a very small State but the law and order situation is very bad there. Haryana is topping in the including of crimes and Delhi is also not an exception to it. A big mafia is spread over in Haryana state...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani): You are taking of the law and order situation in Haryana...(Interruptions). The people can not forget Meham incident there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not Interrupt. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sangwan.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: There in Haryana even the girls of the age of four years have been raped... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Surender Singh, will you please resume your seat?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, after the Lok Sabha election first of all our party had supported the BJP Government but I am very sorry to say that again our party is the first to withdraw support from them due to being helpless. The whole country had expecting that this Government would do something worth while. We had also desired to support

Vajpayeeji to keep the Congress away who has spoiled this country but what this Government have done during the one year regime people are not satisfied with them. As Mayawati has putforth her plea that whenever and wherever atrocities are cast on dalits she never compromise...(Interruptions) Chaudhary Devi Lal ji had fought for the cause of farmers and labourers. This Government have by passed the interests of the farmers...(Interruptions). This is an anti farmer and anti labourer Government and as such we were forced to sit here. My party always stick to the decision that if the interests of the farmers and labourers are affected, we never support such Government. Therefore our party has decided to vote against this motion.

Sir, it should not be misconstrued that we are in favour of the Congress party. Our party has always been against Congress Party and even now we will not allow the Congress to form the Government, it is our promise...(Interruptions) Our party has taken this decision that we will vote against this motion...(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole country knows that Shiromani Akali Dal has not only opposed article 356 but this party has worked very hard and given sacrifices to scrap this article. Today the Home Minister has moved a motion in this House under article 356 to impose President Rule in Bihar. Shiromani Akali Dal has decided to vote for the motion according to its heart and conscious. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everybody would be surprised and disturbed over it and we are also not an exception to it but the Great Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib made the supreme sacrifice at Chandani Chowk, Delhi and gave an idea, a philosophy to the people of this world and this country. Our country may agree or disagree but Shiromani Akali Dal believes in that philosophy and that is "Banha Jinhon ki Pakriye Sir Dijiye Banha na Choriye" ... It you get hold of anybody's arm, do not leave that even in the face of death. Therefore when we are tending towards article 356, our hearts are overburdened and it is something averse to our conscious...(Interruptions). Our condition can be compared with these lines of some poet — "Yeh Kesi Juban Bandi Hai Teri Mehfil Mein, Jahan Bolne ko Tarapti hai Juban Meri". It is very difficult to speak and to hear the truth. Here people have said that Shiromani Akali Dal have changed its stand. Here there is no party except regional parties who have not changed its stand on Article 356. Every party have done in the same way and when their own houses were set on fire, they called it fire but when other houses were set on fire then they never called it fire but looked it as spring season. About truth poet has written something which tells our position. "Such Kahein Bura Mante Hein Log, Ro Ro Kar Baat Kehne ki Adat Nahin Mujhe" I would like to say that in this country

article 356 has been used on 113 occasions. The Congress Party alone has used this article on as many as 100 occasions. Shiromani Akali Dal was the first party to suffer from the usage of article 356. In 1951 article 356 was used in case of Government of Shri Giyan Singh Rane in Punjab Akali Dal has been the hit sufferer from the usage of article 356. It is no good to dismiss any Government if 20 people are killed to otherwise it would open a path for the elements because we know that only the sufferer knows its suffering and nobody knows other's suffering. As the Government of Smt. Rabri ji has been dismissed that there has been incidents of killings in Bihar such baseless changes were also levelled against our Government.

Once the Congressmen had used knives at their own neck. Once the Government of Barnalaji was fallen to win the election of Haryana. The Government of Sardar Barnalaji was admired in this very House his government was rated a good Government but the Government was dismissed by levelling false allegation of its has nexus with the militants it was also said in this House that Sardar Barnala fights against the militants. I have been charged in false cases C.B.I. enquiry was conducted but charges could not be proved and no case was filed. But I would like to say that we were also charged in false cases in the same manner as President rule has been imposed in Bihar by levelling false allegations. When the Government of Sardar Darbara Singh was fallen, they used knives at their own neck. The reason was that two leaders opposed each other. They are no more now I do not want to take their names. Such a situation was created in Punjab as incidents of killings were happening there. They were the same people who engineered the killings but Shiromani Akali Dal was blamed. A senior leader of Shrimonai Akalidal Jatthedar Gurucharan Singh Tohra was alleged for this though he was shot bullets by militants. His colleague M.L.A. and driver were killed. 80 bullets were fired on his car. He was linked with militants. More than two dozens members of Shiromani Akalidal lost their lives but a slier was cast on Shiromani Akalidal. If such a work is required to be done it is done on the pretext of killings. We do not accept that path which the BJP have adopted. This is the stand of Shiromani Akalidal and I want that all the parties of the country unanimously bring a resolution to remove Article 356 from the Constitution it would be better but I am sorry to say that State Governments are not relied upon for Article 356. Many people argue that country would be divided, so centre should be made strong. People elect central state Government, but why are they not relied upon? It is undemocratic and against the decentralisation of power and is also against the policy of the national agenda accepted by BJP and its allies. States can strong only when Article 356 is abolished.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Sholapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had been listening the speech of honble leaders very carefully since yesterday. I have heard the speech of those leaders who have been in the power since 1977. Dalits have been made focal point of the debate. They have talked about upliftment of Dalits. Their welfare is discussed all the time but they are being murdered. We have never bothered to have a discussion as to how the Land Reform Act, Land Labour Act would be implemented and how land would be leased out? Everybody has said about the 50 years of Independence but Congress have done nothing for the Dalits. The Congress was in power prior to 1977 and it had brought Land Reform Act. It should not be forgotten.

Class war is its bone of contention. There is one class which has power and property and the other class is without it. When conflict begins for power and property then where should the poor who do not have property and power go. In such circumstances, capitalists and land owners exploits these people. The same thing happened in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I was listening the speech of former Home Minister and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar very carefully. Whether they have considered it that they have been in power since 9-10 years. How much have you worked for Dalits? Sister Mayawati, please excuse me, I do not know how have you fallen in their trap? How have you fallen in the trap of these manuvadi people? You have worked for constructing the memorial of Baba Saheb Ambedkar but after the fall of your Government, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not giving a single paise for the memorial and you rise to support such a kind of Government. We felt hurt at this.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Your Government had proposed to construct a University after the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar. It was your Government in the Centre, why didn't you send money for it? Your performance was similar to B.J.P.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: There was a time when you were trying to come in power with the help of Congress. This is a strategy of manuvadi who believes in four varnas.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: You tried hard to get more seats in Uttar Pradesh. We had given you 125 seats out of 425 seats and we contested election on 300 seats. You talking about land reforms...(Interruptions) all of you kept us as well as our society in the dark.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mayawati, unless he yields, you cannot speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I was saying that you should never go with Congress after the death of Baba Saheb Ambedkar but you took the support of Congress to come in power. This is a strategy of capitalists, Communalist, frenzied and manuvadi forces and we should know it. They want to divide the country in the name of Babu Jagjivan Ram, Baba Saheb Ambedkar who worked for the upliftment of dalits with the strength of Mahatma Gandhi.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Baba Saheb has done everything for the Dalits and you may recall Pune Pact, Mahatma Gandhi has kept fast unto death in Yavada jail. Mahatma Gandhi was against Dalits.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: You are going to join the hands with the assassin of Gandhiji.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mayawati, only when Shri Shinde yields to you. Then you can speak.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I am not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, he is mentioning our party's name.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: When was saying why did you feel bad? I have not mentioned your's party's name.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: You have mentioned. You said that Mayawati is joining hand with the assassins of Gandhiji. You withdraw these words.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Whether I mentioned ,your name or not how are you concerned with it?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sharmaji, you are a senior member. Unless he yields to you, you cannot take the floor on your own.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has said that Mayawatiji has joined hands with the assassins of Gandhiji. either he withdraws these words or prove it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt him. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken neither his name nor B.J.P. Why are you taking it at your own? It means that you are assassin.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: For whom have you said this?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I had not taken you name?

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: You should either prove it or withdraw your words.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Have you so much doubt about it in your minds when I called her as sitting with the assassins of Gandhiji then you rose and started saying that I have taken your name. I have neither mentioned the name of R.S.S. nor B.J.P.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: This is to be proved that who is the assassin of Gandhiji...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he should tell the name of assassin of Gandhiji with whom BJP has joined hands. ...(Interruptions). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a direction should come from you indicating that this is wrong and this should be expunged from the proceedings otherwise hon'ble member should regret because he is making wrong allegations...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If any objectionable remarks is there, I will expunge it.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our National President Sonia Gandhi when on 12 ... (Interruptions) Whether people become nervous by taking our name... (Interruptions). Mr. Dy. Speaker Sir, our national president Sonia Gandhi gave a statement in the night of date 12, because Dalits were killed in Narayanpur in Bihar on 10th before this 30 persons were killed in Sankerbigha on 25th. Dalits were being killed in Bihar for the last two-three years and they were being killed one by one. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir then we would not allow their Minister to speak. ... (Interruptions) This is manuwadi tendency and therefore in the whole belt of Bihar Consisting of Bhojpur, Sivan, Jahanabad atrocities were committed on Dalits. What are the reasons therefor? The daily wage what they got and 2 Kg. rice and wheat where they got were very less because according to land labour Act they were entitled to receive Rs. 30-32, but instead of this they were getting Rs. 10/- as daily wages. This has been happening for many years. But the incidents of massacre were happening there for the last four years and whether it was not the duty of Government to look that once the concentration centre was established in Bhojpur why it was shifted to Jahanabad with one and half year. What were your intelligence and police department doing? Dalits were being killed in large scale and you were sitting comfortably. That is why our national leader Sonaji said that she has no moral right to run the Government. These were reasons behind this... (Interruptions). I tell you. But in respect of killings of Dalits I say that when the Government can't care the Dalits can't look after, them they are being killed then it has been always foremost duty of the Congress that whether we are in power or out of power, we would stand by Dalits, Tribals and poor people. You should not be under the impression that we are speaking in favour of Laluji. A statement has come and you went on guessing that you would get the support of Congress, and for that you are speaking that. Go ahead. You have forgotten, I would like to recall you that when you were in power in Rajasthan, Dalits and Jatav's

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

were killed in Kumher in Bharatpur District in June, 1992 in which twelve houses of Jatav's were burnt, and they were burnt alive. Their houses were burnt even in the presence of police and influential people. At that time Bharatiya Janta party was in power in Rajasthan. Why didn't you do this that time...*(Interruptions)* You sit down, please I am asking this because you are showing great concern for Dalits.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: When Gandhiji was assassinated who was in power in Rajasthan and in centre...*(Interruptions)* You are General Secretary, please speak correctly.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I am telling you that when twelve Dalits were burnt in Kumher, influential persons and police officers were standing there. We all went to see that. Then you didn't feel sorry. What have you done in Bihar, your aim was to dismiss Lalu's Government. Article 74 of the Constitution of India provides that you have to send the report of Council of Ministers. I would like to ask Home Minister whether there was any mention regarding incidents of killings of Dalits in the first report which was sent to the President under Article 74. Please tell us all these things. Did you recommend President Rule after the incident of Shankarbiga which took place on 25th, or whether you did so after the killings happened on 10th. ...*(Interruptions)* Laluji. I am going to ask them and also from you regarding Ranvir Sena, because you were also involved in the killings of Dalits, therefore I would also ask you...*(Interruptions)* this would no go like this. We were in power with you for some days...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY (Sultanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, his time may be fixed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to withdraw that word. You are casting aspersions on the Chair.

[Translation]

You know they have 22 minutes in their account. Then why are you saying like this?

[English]

Please withdraw your words. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY: I have not said anything I had just submitted regarding time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not fair on your part. I am conducting the House. They have 22 minutes in their account.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY: Sir, you had given upto 8 o'clock time for this, I had submitted the same.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: The Government should tell us when this recommendation was made and when it was re-submitted and whether the same thing should be in the resubmission. But when the recommendation was resubmitted then how a new thing substantial and substantive had come? As first thing was fully substantive then how supplementary come in it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the President likes to impose the recommendation it can be decided on second time only on substantial recommendation. The Government should tell us from where the supplementary things have come?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask Laluji that he has spoken a lot on Ranvir Sena and said that B.J.P. is helping Ranvir Sena. If it is so then why do you fear, why don't you conduct C.B.I. enquiry? I would like to ask Laluji would he conducted C.B.I. enquiry. Sir, he is reacting in affirmative he is ready to conduct a C.B.I. enquiry. We want that you should conduct a C.B.I. enquiry to find out who is behind Ranvir Sena, so that the incidents of killings of Dalits which have taken place repeatedly not to recur in future...*(Interruptions)*. They may come in power tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)* This question belongs to them. We would not go in that. Our party President has expressed our feelings...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. Just now hon'ble Member Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde has asked a question to hon'ble Member Shri Lalu Prasadji whether he is ready to conduct a C.B.I. enquiry and he replied in affirmative. My submission is that this is a rule of the House that a member cannot ask question to another member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, under which rule you are raising point of order?

SHRI LALU MUNI CHAUBEY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you allow him today then a member would ask question to another member tomorrow and you have to allow him then what will be the situation of the House. Therefore, I would like to request you that such things should not be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now Laluji has said that he would conduct a C.B.I. enquiry and these people have started shivering.

My another request to Laluji is that one more commission should be constituted in Bihar so that poor, backward and schedule castes and schedule tribes people can get an opportunity to earn their livelihood. Second point is that barring the disputed land, the pending cases related to law reforms should be disposed of, and you should distribute the land, you have, to the poor people. You have quoted the name of Bapu, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Jay Prakash Narayan but if you do not do the Sarvodaya work in the interest of dalits how these people would come with you?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: After happened so much, he felt hurt and we are confident that he would work for the poor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been said here that the whole unit of Bihar Congress has resigned on the question of giving support to Laluji by the Congress...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is going on. They are interrupting continuously. An hon'ble Member of ours would like to speak regarding Dalits and backwards and they are not allowing him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sultanpuriji, please sit down.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Our Congress working Committee unit has not resigned in Bihar, it was their decision. No other Congress unit of Bihar has resigned. We have taken a very hard decision. Because they are with R.S.S. and believing in four varnas in the society. We and our Dalits do not want this as we have not forgotten the incident of Kumher. Thousands of Officers of schedule castes and schedule tribes are still waiting for their promotion. If we give them power, it will go straight in the hands of Governor because of President Rule and the person who is Governor of the State says

that "I am proud that I am R.S.S." How could we support that R.S.S. man who believes in four varnas. Do you agree with the ideology of Vir Savarkar, the freedom fighter. You just adopt the ideology of freedom fighter Vir Savarkar. Please find out what are the ideas of Vir Savarkar, what he had said. I do not want to quote him and go in details.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express our sorrow over the massacre of Dalits in Bihar, but we have supported the motion because we do not want to let our rule slip in to the hands of R.S.S., Bhartiya Janta Party.

21.00 hrs.

Therefore, we have done this. We have neither any political alliance with Laluji nor want to grab the power. We contest election on own but wherever any atrocities are committed against Dalits, we would spare neither you nor them. We would always be extended our assistance to Dalits. With these words I strongly oppose to use the Article 356. This Government is working as an anti Dalit force, therefore, I oppose this motion.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the provision of imposing President rule under Article 356 in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Here is S.P. of Faizabad, sitting as an M.P....*(Interruptions)*. he is S.P. of Faizabad. ...*(Interruptions)* He got the mosque demolished. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY: I have not been charged of embezzlement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion on behalf of my party All India Forum. In the Constitution of India Article 356 provides that President rule can be imposed by dissolving any State Government, but this provision is for emergency. This is for extra ordinary situation. To impose it in ordinary situation is not a good thing. The maker of Constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said in the Constitution Assembly that there would be no occasion to implement it. It will even remains as dead letter. But the present Government at the centre of this Party has exercised this Article to dismiss Bihar Government under one pretext or the other. Since when the Government of Vajpayeeji and his alliance came in power at the centre, we had been listening that they would implement Article 356 in Bihar. When the President rule in Bihar was not imposed even after ten months, 500 workers of Samta Party had left the party. To save this Government they appointed a

[Shri Bir Singh Mahato]

big leader of R.S.S. as the Governor of the State. We have heard that B.J.P. had told earlier that Governor in that State should be a political person. The Sarkaria Commission report says that no political person should be appointed a Governor but they acted against it. Our Home Minister had requested the President to impose President rule in Bihar but his party may be against it, people are not against it. He had also quoted the survey of outlook. Earlier to this we had seen the survey in Newspapers. When election of Legislative Assemblies were held in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, Survey was conducted and it indicated that BJP would make its Government in Madhya Pradesh but it proved wrong. Therefore whatever survey has conducted is not right.

After the imposition of Article 356, hon'ble Home Minister had reported to Rashtrapati Bhavan that they would transfer the Governor and make a non-political person the Governor of the State, but yielding under the pressure of R.S.S. they had to reinstate him, as has been reported in the Newspaper. This is a matter of shame. Therefore, I rise to oppose the President rule in Bihar on behalf of my party. The President rule in Bihar has been imposed to fulfil the aspiration of a political Governor. I oppose it.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been listening the discussion since yesterday and after listening it, I am perturbed with these two points—First is nobody has told the complete story...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Rongpi, do not tell full story.

[English]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Everybody has spoken the half truth. Nobody has spoken the full truth. The only reason is that everybody has skipped the main incident. There was an incident in Laxmanpur-Bahe, there was a second incident in Shankarbiga and then the third one took place in Narainpur. The main culprit was the Ranbir Sena.

[Translation]

Ranbir Sena is responsible for that massacre but nobody highlighted the political nexus of Ranvir Sena. Second, nobody gave a concrete suggestion to check recurrence of incidents of killings of Dalits and atrocities committed against them.

[English]

Everybody was interested in making political scores and I have met the families of the people who were killed by the Ranbir Sena people. I have met the people who were there during that night.

[Translation]

No party has spoken about their sufferings and agony. That is why I am perturbed.

[English]

They were saying that Ranbir Sena was parented by both the Congress and the BJP and at present adopted by Samata Party and the RJD. That is why probably nobody is interested in finding out the actual political nexus of the Ranbir Sena and the other political parties. And that is why when this debate was going on I was very much perturbed.

That is why I cannot support this Resolution of approving President's rule in Bihar. It is not that I am admirer of the RJD Government.

[Translation]

I am not one of their admirers but my comrades of Communist, Marxist and Leninist parties are continuing their mass movement against the atrocities being committed on Dalits by RJD, Ranvir Sena. I anybody amongst all these parties has faced the dictatorship of R.J.D. Government, it is my friend who has faced it. You know I have lost my own close friend Chandra Shekhar, the President of Jawaharlal Nehru University, he was killed in the day light in Siwan. He was a promising leader of not only of Bihar but of India.

[English]

He was the most promising youth leader of Jawaharlal Nehru University? He was killed in the broad day light in Siwan. Shri Lalu Prasad, you know who the killers are. Have you taken any action? No.

[Translation]

You have not taken any step similarly I have lost my hundreds of friends. I am not an admirer of R.J.D. My agitation against them is continue and will go on. But I doubt the intention of the Central Government. I had expected that Defence Minister George Fernandes would tell the whole story but he did not do that.

[English]

He has spoken about the election. He has read eloquently the election manifesto of the Congress but that was only half story. He has not spoken the full story. What was the full story? Ranbir Sena published leaflets. Ranbir Sena gave diktat to support your party, Samata Party and BJP in the last elections. That is the

story. That is why, I have said that everybody has spoken half truth to make political score over others. I can only say.

[Translation]

A Minister of Narsimha Rao Government, who belongs to Bihar, had relations with Ranbir Sena. It is known to all people of Bihar, even R.J.D. has helped him on time to time. I will conclude after saying about two concrete points. Therefore the public of Bihar have to say.

[English]

The Ranbir Sena has got strategic alliance with BJP and Congress. They have tactical alliance with both Samata and RJD. So, what concrete steps have been suggested by this highest forum of this country to break this nexus? That is why, nobody has spoken in concrete terms. Nobody has spoken in terms of concrete steps to protect the Dalits in the killing fields of Bihar. If it is a very emergency case, then that immediately you want promulgation of President's Rule so that you can protect the Dalits, it is all right. Now several weeks have passed. Have you taken any concrete steps? I have seen in North-East because I belong to North-East. When an organisation is banned, when President's Rule is proclaimed, then immediately the State machinery is put into action against those law breakers. For the last few weeks I have seen that no such concrete action has been taken to protect the Dalits in the field, in the ground level. We have seen bickering over political Governor, apolitical Governor. Governor is coming by train and returning by flight. That is going on.

Now, there is no concrete step at ground level to contain the menace of the Ranbir Sena. I have not seen it. Are you ready? Is the Government or any other political party ready? You have practised it. You have experimented in Jammu and Kashmir the concept of Village Defence Committee. In the Village Defence Committee, you have given arms to the people and even the Army people are engaged to train them so that they can fight against terrorism across the border that is part of Kashmir. I have heard eloquent speeches from the Congress people. I have heard eloquent speeches from the Treasury Benches but I have not seen this type of proposal to concretely fight the Ranbir Sena people. Are you prepared to form Village Defence Committee in each village of Jehanabhad, in each village of Bhojpur and in each village of the central Bihar? You give them arms so that they can fight Ranbir Sena. Is there any proposal? Without this proposal you want me to support the President's Rule. How can I support? Yes, I have my

own fight with the RJD. I will fight it out. I will give my blood, if necessary. My comrades have been giving their blood to finish the autocratic forces of RJD or any other people who allow this Ranbir Sena. But that does not mean that I should support this Resolution approving the promulgation of President's rule in Bihar where you have not taken any concrete steps to fight the feudal forces.

[Translation]

The nexus of Ranvir Sena and Political Parties is an important issue.

[English]

Particularly to expose the Ranbir Sena's links with political people, there should be a CBI inquiry. Will this be done?

[Translation]

I hope when centre rule would come into action, you would get it enquired from C.B.I. as to which political parties have nexus with Ranbir Sena.

[Translation]

Thirdly, Ranbir Sena was functioning from the Police Lines of Patna city. That probably Lalu Prasad Ji will not deny. Their headquarter was functioning from the Police Lines of Patna. They were organising Press Conferences. They were openly declaring that they will again kill people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Everybody knows who are the Ranbir Sena people. Is the Government prepared to declare them as proclaimed offenders? Are they prepared to confiscate the gun licences given to the Ranbir Sena people? Are they prepared to confiscate the property of the Ranbir Sena people?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now nothing will go on record. Shri S.S. Owaisi.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: That is why I oppose this Resolution approving President's rule in Bihar. I cannot support it.

[Translation]

SHRI S.S. OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, the ground on which Article 356 has been invoked does not appear to be a solid one. It does not appear to be solid because if Article 356 can be used on the basis of killings, what would you like to say about Kashmir,

[Shri S.S. Owaisi]

where incidents were taking place when our Prime Minister was going to Pakistan. If this for implementing Article 356, then I would like to ask what Government thinks about Shri Krishna Commission and what they think about incidents took place in Andhra Pradesh. Ranvir Sena is a outfit of land lords and whatever it has done to the Dalits we have full sympathy towards them. But here a question arises that the manner in which you have made a basis for implementing Article 356 is not a strong basis rather it seems to be a politics of casteism. Because it is a fact that the moment B.J.P. came in power it was apparent that Mr. Lalu Prasad would not be continued as Chief Minister now. On the basis of it, people are feeling and you also can think over what hon'ble Governor had said he had said that he was a R.S.S. man. The matter of R.S.S. is above casteism. He belongs not to a superior caste. Therefore, what was to be happened to him, has come before us. Besides, we find a statement has been given in connection with Shri Krishna Commission that he does not accept the then recommendations of the commission. When a cricket match is held our Home Minister takes permission and a order is issued that permission for one year is granted. I would like to ask whether you would ask the terrorists of Kashmir on the same basis that you should be given one year's extra time. Would you ask the same thing to Dawood Ibrahim for not exploding here and giving an extra time of one year? Hindustan is a big country of the world and you are going to it. We are sorry to say this. At the same time I would like to say that injustice has been done to Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav only. Whatever has been done to him is against the conventions and the ground for imposing the President rule is too weak. By making it a base if we go anywhere in India we will find that it is nothing except the politics of casteism and Laluji has been made a victim of it. With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards two three issues. Our leader and national president of Samata Party has presented a report on Bihar four years ago. And that too was a report of Congress Party but now I want to tell you about the present situation in Bihar. 53000 murder have been committed in Bihar. 16000 people have been abducted and more than 680 people have been killed in the incidents of mass killings and the most disturbing act is that thousands of incidents of rape and molestation of women have taken place in Bihar.

History shows that Sita's abduction led to the destruction of Ravana's family. Kaurav's family was destroyed after an attempt was made to molest Draupadi. I would like you to believe that Rajad family will get

destroyed in the coming elections. Nobody can save them. The Leader of Opposition has supplied data which shows that minimum crime was committed in Bihar but I would like to tell him two incidents about which perhaps, he does not know. Geeta Murmar was raped by a B.D.O. and then it could not be decided whether a case should be filed against him or not. Geeta Murmar appealed to the Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav but the case was not filed. When she gave birth to a baby then an enquiry was conducted. After the examination of the blood of the child it was clear that he was the son of that B.D.O. This is the situation in Bihar. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav has said about Champa Biswas that she was raped four years ago but she could not file a case. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is well aware of the case and the character of the boy who raped her. If Champa Biswas had filed the case, her family would have suffered bodily that is why she could not file the case and, so she appealed to the leaders and came to Delhi to narrate her plight. I have just one grievance against Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. You become the messiah of poor, backward and dalits in Bihar because people thought that you are the son of a poor man so you will think about the interest of the poor but today why are the dalits, backward people and minority community against you? You are like a minor equation. You do not have any backing during last elections you said that Samata Party has been reduced to pieces, but now you know very well that Samata has found the answer of the minor equation by setting up a major equation and captured 30 seats while you have just 17 seats. What a situation has been created! We challenge you openly. Today, he is worried about the President rule because if the elections are conducted during President rule, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav will not get any seats. Congress is against the President rule because the five seats which the Congress have won are because of Lalu Prasad's influence. The CPI and CPM did not extend support and they were finished. I would recommend conducting elections during Presidents's rule. Then Congress and Lalu Prasad will be finished even if Congress has the support of Lalu Prasad Yadav. Nobody can stop this.

Sir, I want to tell the House how the culture of Bihar has changed. How has it changed? We should give it a thought. We want to tell the House that the cult of 'loot' has developed in Bihar, work culture has finished. The reason is that when the person at the topmost rung is steeped in corruption then the people under him also get corrupted. This is the reason that when Lalu Prasad Yadav got himself involved in corruption then all his ministers, commissioner and all departments were corrupted. Nobody works over there without receiving money right from the collector and B.D.O. level to juniormost employees, public servants to gram sewaks.

I want to tell you some thing about elections held in 1995. I had just joined Samata Party. Lalu Prasad was very angry with me on my joining Samata Party. Because I was in Congress and even then we were at loggerheads since 1990...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: I want to narrate a personal story...(Interruptions). I was present at the counting booth during the elections of 1995 when shooting started. Many people were killed. One of the Ministers informed Lalu Prasad Yadav about the incident of shoot-out and he gave shoot at sight orders to the D.M. and S.P.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satpathy...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Satpathy's speech.

...(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the past two days the House, and I would say the whole nation which has been watching the proceedings of the House, has been educated.

The use of article 356 in Bihar has been agitating the nation and has been agitating the hon. Members of this House for the past more than two days. It is difficult to say whether article 356 has been used or misused in Bihar because the difference between these two words is only a 'mis'. The article, nobody will be in two minds, is essentially extremely dangerous, unethical, authoritarian and is anti-democracy.

Although the Constitution of India has created a federation with a bias in favour of the Centre, within the sphere allotted to the States, they are supreme. Yet what guarantee does the common voter, the common citizen have that the Centre will be impartial? Because history has consistently shown it to be otherwise.

Today, I would like to draw your attention to the many speeches that have been delivered by the leaders of the Congress party and the parties that have been supporting them. Many crocodile tears have been shed,

and I think, the floor of the House is wet with their crocodile tears. But let them not forget that when they were in power, they had consistently, as a policy, misutilised article 356 of the Indian Constitution thereby morally abrogating their rights today, to speak a single word against the misutilisation or utilisation of the same article by another party that is in power today.

Sir, we have got this opportunity to discuss this issue because of the ruling of the Supreme Court in the S.R. Bommai case. Thanks to the Supreme Court that these matters can be raised in the House and can be discussed. It is indeed a pity that a clean and good Government that we have at the Centre today, because of certain fumbling or certain knee jerk reactions, all the good work that the Government has been doing, has somehow or the other willy-nilly, due to some bad luck, may be, has come to naught.

Let us go back to the time when the nuclear explosion took place. The intelligence of the country failed completely for which, within three days, Pakistan exploded another bomb, and the Western powers had imposed an economic sanction which affected our economy, and the people did not realise the achievements that this Government and the scientists of this country made. And, the efforts went completely to naught.

Again, let us come back to the historic and the immense step that the hon. Prime Minister took by going to Pakistan by taking such a huge risk which probably, as the newspaper reports say, people within his party or people within the core group of his party also opposed. Yet, that great step has been marred today because of some bungling as the use of article 356 in Bihar. It is not that any Government can certify that if we remove 'x' from 'y' in power, we can bring law and order under control. That is not the situation in India today. Today, the common man in India has lost his faith on all of us sitting here. There is no colour, no name, no symbol that differentiates us. All politicians have been dumped in the heap of people who are corrupt, who are inefficient and who have done nothing for this country in the past fifty years. And, this epithet is more applicable to the people who are sitting in the Opposition today because they had been ruling this country for the past 47 to 48 years. Today when they speak about the Governor's office, about the Governor being politically motivated, let them not forget what they did when they were in power, when Dhamveera was used in West Bengal to subvert the Constitution for the interest of the Congress party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Satpathy, please conclude now.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I am concluding within two minutes. Sir, we have the Kansa Mama of Mathura and the Jarasandh of...*(Interruptions)*...You know where. Whenever you tear Jarasandh apart, it always tends to come back. And even Bhimsen could not tear Jarasandh apart unless and until—those who have read the *Mahabharata* know it—that crucial line was drawn.

Sir, this Government today has taken up the responsibility of Bhimsen and has torn a Jarasandh apart. But now the question is, we have to see whether that delicate line is being drawn or not.

Sir, I would just end my speech with one last thing. The Congress today speaks about the atrocities on *Dalits*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please conclude now?

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I am concluding Sir.

Sir, everybody knows that the fight of whether it is the Ranveer Sena or whether it is the *Dalits*, basically, it boils down to what Marx would have said between 'the haves' and the 'have nots'. The Congress has only used the *Dalits* as an item to get votes and as something which suits their convenience. They have never in their whole history bothered about the true benefit that goes down to the *Dalits*. In any Congress-ruled State, whether it is in my State of Orissa or any Congress-ruled State today, if you go to the villages you find that the *Dalits*, the Harijans and the OBCs are in the worst economic situation. It is due to the fault of the Congress. Today when the Congress says that they oppose Article 356, I feel like laughing over it because their hypocrisy is exposed. But I would also request the party that is in power today that let us not emulate those people because they have destroyed this country in the past half a century. Let us create a new history. Let us be judicious and proper. People vote a Government for five years. We have been voted for five years. If our Government has been voted for five years. Shri Lalu Prasad's Government has also been voted for five years. Let the people take a decision when the time comes whether they will again vote for Shri Lalu Prasad's Government or they will discard it.

Finally as a Member of the Biju Janata Dal, I on behalf of my party—I have the permission of my party President to say so—wholeheartedly support the resolution approving the imposition of Article 356 in Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister will now speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There were three speakers from Samata Party. But our second Member has not been allowed to speak. Is this justice? Kindly allow five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have the reply now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, This debate started today morning at 12 o'clock and I express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who participated in this 8½ hours long debate. I accept that there were three main points of today's debate on which the debate was focussed. First issue was that of the benefits, requirement and proper use of Article 356 of the Constitution. This was the main issue. I would like to inform the House that the interstate council which Shri Indrajit has mentioned in his speech and rightly said that during the long period of Congress regime, it was not created for a long time and when it was created, it remained inert. But when United Front came to power, it became active. Our Government reconstituted it and constituted a Committee whose Chairman is our Defence Minister.

21.37 hrs.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

That committee has started a meaningful discussion on article 356 and article 355. Discussions had started earlier also when Mr. Indra Kumar Gujral was the Prime Minister. He came up with the conclusion that we have not yet reached a consensus. At one point it appeared that we have reached a consensus but then there were some dissenting voices. To evolve the consensus there are committees or there is an inter-state council in which all the Chief-Ministers of the country and many important Union Ministers participate in discussions through, I believe that a national consensus will definitely evolve on article 356. This discussion of today will also help. This would help because today's discussion was not abstract. But in reference to a particular state. The second issue of today's discussion is whether the situation in Bihar is normal? Whether it is slightly disturbed or has it deteriorated to an extent which calls for the implementation of article 356. Several leaders of the opposition have said that if article 356 is to be used due to the deteriorated situation of law and order then we will have to use it in many other States of India. I agree with it completely. If the Union Government uses article 356 due to the deteriorated law and order situation then it is a misuse of it. I agree with this. In this regard, I would like to say that many of

the people who have spoken here are those who have decided that they will not support our proposal or abstain from voting or oppose the proposal. Even then I respect their views. Shri Indrajit Gupta is present here. I think I do not disagree with whatever he has said. He has not discussed the situation of Bihar in detail but he has mentioned that once the United Front Government had received a proposal with reference to U.P. from the Governor that article 356 should be used, to dismiss the U.P. Government and legislative assembly should also be dissolved, then Advaniji had called me up to congratulate me. This is his own statement. I respect him. Even today whatever he has said is different from all others who are opposing the proposal. His statement is correct ideologically. He has not mentioned Bihar except that the Government there is incompetent and ineffective.

[English]

Can incompetence and ineffectivity be the basis of invoking Article 356? I entirely agree that they can not be the basis. Even an incompetent Government has to be suffered.

[Translation]

Narrating his own experience he has said that I went to Laxmanpur Baghe and after assessing the situation there we took several steps, we made a task force and did many other things but the result came out to be zero. Maybe it is ineffective. I respect the feelings of Indrajitji and Sozji the third member whom I am going to mention is Mr. Yerannaidu who said after expressing disapproval towards article 356 that looking at the situation today, our party has decided to support the proposal. I respect him also...(*Interruptions*) Akali Dal was mentioned by Mr. George and other people but I agree with what Mr. Indrajit has said about article 356 that the consensus was evolving in inter-state council that abolishing article 356 will not be in the interest of the country's integrity and safety and apart from that Mr. Somnath has not mentioned it while discussing article 355.

[English]

It is not merely external aggression and internal disturbance. It also says: "It is the duty of the Union to see that the Government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

[Translation]

Thirdly he said it is not nearly external aggression and internal disturbance. I noticed in the House yesterday

that when Ritaji was speaking and mentioning facts then a member said that these things should be said in the legislative assembly while those things are not related to legislative assembly she was trying to say that whether we agree or not but the fact responsible for the present situation of Bihar is that there has been no land reforms and on the other hand if a nexus exists between the leaders and the criminals then crime can not be stopped. If this is the reason for inefficiency and what Ritaji was saying ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have my right to say.

[Translation]

Laluji was unable to say anything when Rita ji was speaking.

[English]

I was watching the Congress Members here, they were squirming in their seats when Prof. Rita Verma and later on Shri Prabhunath Singh and today, Shri Shakuni Choudhary were speaking.

[Translation]

Three hon. Members have said in the House that attempts have been made to assassinate them, incidents of rape, theft and robbery have taken place and all because of the fact that the criminals are under the protection of the rulers. Theft, robbery or rape, these incidents are happening in every State and when dalits are murdered then naturally there would be some reaction. That is why I want to say that there might be a clash of opinion but I respect their views and even if somebody opposes our proposal, I still respect his views.

AN HON. MEMBER: Many things were said about Mayawatiji.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I would like to say something about Mayawatiji. I was very much disappointed after listening to the speech of the leader of the opposition. Since he belongs to Congress Party and it is a record of Congress party that they have evoked article 356 for 111 times. This article was used in 1977 when we were in power and Morarji Desai was the head of the Government. It was used once during the regime of Shri Chandrashekhar and it must have been used during the time of Mr. V.P. Singh's Government also. Out of all these it was used 100 times during the Congress

[Shri L.K. Advani]

regime...*(Interruptions)* The basis of imposing it has always been the deterioration of law and order situation....*(Interruptions)* I am under an obligation that I can not take the name of the President otherwise I would have told you in detail but I can not do that, so let us forget about it because you are also under an obligation. President's rule was used for the first time in Bihar in 1968 and even then article 356 was invoked. I am looking at an old report which has all the details about the number of times article 356 has been invoked to impose President's rule and in which places?

[English]

President's Rule had to be imposed in Bihar because the Administration was 'practically' at a standstill; Services had completely lost their morale; some reasonable grievances above the law and order situation; things were so bad that the number of cases of student-police clashes touched the monthly average of about 30 incidents, etc. They were reasons for extension also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So, you are inspired by that!

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am not inspired by this. I would tell you that we were conscious of the fact that we do not have a majority. But they had an absolute majority; they could do anything.

They used to do it. We have not done it. But we felt that Article 355 imposes on us a responsibility which we cannot shelve. Shri George Fernandes has read out what the Congress party has stated in its manifesto. The Congress Party has said that the RJD Government in Bihar has no moral right to continue. Is supporting that Government and defending it against the wishes of the majority in the House, moral? What is this? I would say that the Congress Party's stand on this issue and its hypocrisy on this issue has been exposed today. Kum. Mayawati has thoroughly exposed the hypocrisy of the Congress Party insofar as the *dalits* are concerned. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: As far as article 356 is concerned, the hypocritical attitude of the Congress party

is evident from these documents. In what conditions have you used article 356, in which States, how many times and I do not remember how many times it has been invoked till today. Somnathji and Indrajit ji have rightly said that when we used to sit in opposition, me and Vajpayeeji used to oppose the misuse of article 356. I remember, Sozji has reminded me that he is unhappy that his Government has been dismissed. At present there is a good relationship between the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Government, there is friendship between the National Conference of Jammu and Kashmir and our Bharatiya Janata Party because we are in the Government here and we trust each other when article 356 was invoked to dismiss the Government under Farookh Abdullah, we were his severe critics but still we stood by him and fought with him. We said that the Union Government does not have the right to misuse it. In this kind of a situation we will never support the misuse of article 356. Although it is true that we have not mentioned it at any stage. The parties which are present here have said this at different levels that it should be repeated but even if it is repeated it seems that the BJP Government is about to go, so let it be so. We have never done this. If we do not favour the Government even then we would say that article 356 should not be used if there is no case for it. I agree that during last one year whatever information, we have received on Bihar, it came to us officially, before that we used to get it unofficially by going there and listening to the details about how crime being protected over there. It is not that only crime is increasing but it is growing strong under the benevolence of the Government. Shri George has mentioned that kidnapping, rape and murder have become occupations. What is written there—routine. And due to such a situation...*(Interruptions)* and despite knowing the uncertain fate of this proclamation, we had expected that Congress will support it by rising above the party politics and it will be passed. Even now I am hopeful. Even now I think that they will realize where their own interests lie. I accept that normally opportunism is for one's own selfish reasons but I am amazed that this time opportunism is suicidal, what are you doing? That is why I said yesterday and I did not speak inadvertently, I have analysed the political incidents of India and I believe that of Congress Party had not resorted to opportunism in the case of Shah Bano then it would not have reached where it is today. At times I feel and I said it yesterday also and I request you that forget about the interests of the nation and the interests of Bihar but think of your own interests and reconsider your decision...*(Interruptions)* If you will not do so, it will not harm us in any way but it will be a great loss to Bihar.

[English]

What do you want to do? Do you want to bring back a Government of this kind.

[Translation]

Due to which all those things are happening there which have been mentioned here today? Yes, I have been amazed that both these sides have not given any reply to even a single question? He will talk about Maharashtra and other States but no reply has been given to refute the allegations directed against the Bihar Government...(Interruptions) You do not have any answer except mentioning the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the incident which took place on 6th December. Logically, I accept that normally article 356 should not be used not for mal-administration and not for deterioration of law and order. But if there is a Government which says that we do not accept the authority of judiciary, I am gathering information on what you have said but according to the information I have.

[English]

About hundred cases are there in various High Courts of Maharashtra where the issue of contempt is involved. In this case my latest information is.

[Translation]

I said yesterday that there are 3,300 cases, today our lawyer has returned from there. He said that there are more than 5,000 thousand contempt cases ... (Interruptions) We will speak about it also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, Somnathji mentioned a fact and I thought on the face it, there is some logic behind it. He said that you have mentioned a verdict of High Court involving the issue of removal of encroachment. Somnathji will appreciate it.

[English]

Removal of encroachments may be a small thing but that judgement has also mentioned that there is a design behind disregard of the judiciary.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No material is given.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have a number of judgements in which very serious allegations have been made but

there is no such phraseology like, 'failure of the Constitution' or the 'break-down of the Constitution'. I used it because of that.

I have with me another judgement delivered in December 1998, which says, "This court is frequently coming across allegations of fraudulent appointments in schools. The standard and level of school education in the States is in a state of sordiness and Government money spent for education is not properly utilised. These are undisputed facts in almost all the cases relating to school education. Since this matter relates to a purported attempt to gag an inquiry into fraudulent appointments, promotion of primary teachers in the State from the year 1980 till date, and there is a flourishing caucus in the Education Department. This court feels it necessary to entrust the investigation to the CBI. the Party has also invited a CBI probe in the matter."

There are a number of such judgements delivered one after the other.

[Translation]

I do not know that Supreme Court has given this kind of indictment day after day to any other State of India. There is no such other example in India...(Interruptions).

22.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of opposition has given many certificates including that of Reserve Bank just to support Bihar to which Shri George Fernandes has replied in the morning. I just want to read out a paragraph from the judgement of High Court which describes in completely the situation in Bihar.

[English]

"All these facts *prima facie* constitute gross financial indiscipline verging on fraud on the Constitution and the people. It is an irony of situation that while employees are not getting their salary on time in this State, writ petitions have been filed for payment of pension contractor bills, lawyers fees bills, for construction and repair of roads and bridges, hundreds of crores of rupees were allowed to be swindled. The usual plea of the State in all such matters is, 'paucity of funds'. Where all this money in the Animal Husbandry Department came from? That reminds me of the famous quote: 'Nero fiddled while Rome burnt'.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[Translation]

There are dozens of cases like this. I will not say thousands. I will not exaggerate. Many murders have been committed over there but it is not right to exaggerate. There are dozens of such examples. Due to this reason only, it was decided to invoke article 356. I believe that the Government has taken this decision by putting aside all political interests. We were aware of it that there are many of our allies and supporters who are ideologically against article 356 and have recommended to repeal it. As Shri Indrajit has mentioned in the morning that in Inter State Council meeting there was a time when everybody was ready to support it except the Shiromani Akali Dal. They said it goes against them, it clashes with their viewpoint. These obstacles were there but we still invoked the President's rule because we only did our duty and we said that we have decided to impose President's rule in Bihar because it is a matter of our accountability and duty towards the people of Bihar, the people of this country and the Constitution. We thought that we should not base our decision on our own political convenience or inconvenience, instead we thought that we should take the right decision even if it is politically inconvenient. That is why I believe that the Government have taken the right decision. Once again I request the Congress party particularly that they should reconsider their decision and support the proposal by taking the right decision.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approve the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th February, 1999 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Bihar."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: 'Aye'

MR. SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'No'

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The 'Noes' have it.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall put the question again.

Let the Lobbies be cleared—

MR. SPEAKER: Now the lobbies are cleared.

22.08 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) RE: Operation of Automatic Vote Recording Machine

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there are two observations from the Chair. One is regarding the operation of the automatic vote recording machine.

Before a division starts, every member should occupy his/her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.

A Member has to press two buttons simultaneously for casting his/her vote.

One of the buttons to be pressed is on the railing of the bench in front of the Member. It is called the vote initiation switch.

A Member has also to press one of the three push buttons in front of his/her seat [green ('A') for 'Ayes', red ('N') for 'Noes' and yellow ('O') for 'Abstain'] according to his/her choice.

The vote initiation switch and one of the three push buttons are to be pressed simultaneously for a duration of ten seconds which is indicated in two ways. First, by a countdown on the total result display board, that is, 10, 9, 8...0 and second, the period between sounding of two audio alarms.

The actual process of division starts with the first audio alarm. A member should press the buttons only after the first audio alarm is heard. After the expiry of ten seconds, the audio alarm sounds for the second time, when the two buttons being pressed should be released.

(ii) RE: Permission to Vote from Inner Lobby

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have to make the second announcement. Hon. Members, I have received a request from Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that Shrimati Vijaya Raje Scindia, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vaidya Vishnu Datt may be permitted to vote from the Inner Lobby as they are very sick and not in a position to come to the House to

cast their votes. I feel that in view of the serious condition of the Members, they may be permitted to exercise their votes by filling up slips from the Inner Lobby. I hope the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I put the Statutory Resolution to vote. The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th February, 1999 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Bihar."

The Lok Sabha divided.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there is a substantial difference between the total figure on the display board and the number of Members obviously present in the House. This is apparently due to electronic voting not having been done as per instructions. Slips have been distributed to those hon. Members whose voting has not been reflected on the display board of division numbers. The final tally with reference to voting by slips should also help us to know the correct result of the voting.

Let us wait for some more time.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if the House agrees, the sick persons in the Inner Lobby may be allowed to leave.

23.00 hrs.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there is a vote by slip made by hon. Member, Shri Ghani Khan Chowdhury. Our staff are not able to locate him in the House. I am making an enquiry to verify the correct position whether he is present in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): No doubt, he came here earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the division is completed, he cannot leave the House.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): No. He was not present.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given permission to only three hon. Members to vote from the Inner Lobby.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, if you do not want to count his vote, I do not have any objection. But he was very much here. He is a sick person. If you do not want to count his vote, you do not count.

Sir, I have accepted your proposal. If you are not ready to count his vote, I have no objection. But he was here.

Ayes

Division No. 1 23.11 hrs.

1. Acharya, Shri Prasanna
2. Adityanath, Shri
3. Advani, Shri L.K.
4. Agarwal, Shri Dharendra
5. Agnihotri, Shri Rajendra
- *6. Ahmad, Shri Akbar
- *7. Ajmeera, Shri Chandu Lal
- *8. Aliwal, Shri Amrik Singh
9. Ananth Kumar, Shri
10. Apang, Shri Omak
11. Argal, Shri Ashok
- *12. Ayanur, Shri Marjunath
- *13. Bachda, Shri Bachhi Singh Rawat
- *14. Badal, Shri Sukhbir Singh
15. Baidya, Shri Ramchandra
16. Bais, Shri Ramesh
- *17. Baitha, Shri Mahendra
- *18. Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip
19. Banerjee, Kumari Mamata
20. Barnala, Sardar Surjit Singh
- *21. Behera, Shri Padma Nava

*Recorded/corrected through the Division Clerks.

22. Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
- *23. Bhargava, Shri Ram Shankar
24. Bisen, Shri Gauri Shanker Chaturbhuj
- *25. Bose, Shrimati Krishna
26. Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur
- *27. Chandel, Shri Suresh
28. Chandumajra, Prof. Prem Singh
29. Chaplot, Shri Shanti Lal
30. Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
- *31. Chaudhari, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
32. Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
33. Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
34. Chaudhry, Sqn. Ldr. Kamal
35. Chauhan, Shri Chetan
36. Chauhan, Shri Jaysinhji
37. Chauhan, Shri Nand Kumar Singh
38. Chauhan, Shri Sriram
- *39. Chellamella, Dr. Suguna Kumari
40. Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavna Devrajibhai
- *41. Chinnasamy, Shri V.K.
- *42. Choudhary, Shri Krishna Kumar
- *43. Choudhary, Shri Shakuni
44. Choudhry, Shri Pankaj
- *45. Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh
46. D'Souza, Dr. Beatrix
47. Dalit Ezhilmalai, Shri
- *48. Dutt, Vaidya Vishnu
49. Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru
50. Dave, Shrimati Bhavna Kardam
- *51. Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
52. Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
53. Dhaliwal, Shrimati Satwinder Kaur
- *54. Dhamotharan, Shri M.C.
55. Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
56. Drona, Shri Jagat Vir Singh
- *57. Durai, Shri M.
58. Dwivedi, Shri Ramesh Chandra
59. Fernandes, Shri George
60. Foley, General Neville
61. Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
62. Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
63. Ganeshamurthi, Shri A.
- *64. Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
65. Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
66. Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
67. Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
68. Ghafoor, Shri Abdul
69. Goel, Shri Vijay
- *70. Gopal, Shri C.
71. Gupta, Shri Chaman Lal
- *72. Hegde, Shri Anant Kumar
73. Jag Mohan, Shri
74. Jain, Shri Satya Pal
75. Jaiswal, Dr. Madan Prasad
76. Jaiswal, Shri Shanker Prasad
77. Janarthanan, Shri Kadambur M.R.
78. Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

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| *79. Javiya, Shri Gordhanbhai Jadavbhai | 106. Mallikarjuniah, Shri S. |
| 80. Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C. | 107. Mandal, Shri Jai Krishan |
| 81. Joshi, Dr. Murli Manohar | *108. Mann, Shri Zora Singh |
| 82. Kainth, Shri Satnam Singh | *109. Marandi, Shri Babu Lal |
| 83. Kamal Rani, Shrimati | 110. Marandi, Shri Som |
| 84. Kanodia, Shri Mahesh | 111. Maurya, Shri Anand Ratna |
| *85. Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram | 112. Mayawati, Kumari |
| 86. Katheria, Shri Prabhu Dayal | *113. Mensinkai, Shri B.M. |
| 87. Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbhai | 114. Mishra, Shri Indrajeet |
| 88. Khan, Shri Arif Mohammed | 115. Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina |
| 89. Khandelwal, Shri V.K. | 116. Mishra, Shri Shyam Bihari |
| *90. Khandoker, Shri Akbar Ali | 117. Misra, Shri Janardan Prasad |
| 91. Khanduri, Major General Bhuvan Chandra, AVSM | 118. Misra, Shrimati Sukhda |
| 92. Khanna, Shri Vinod | *119. Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal |
| 93. Khurana, Shri Madan Lal | 120. Munda, Shri Kariya |
| 94. Koli, Shri Ganga Ram | *121. Muni Lal, Shri |
| 95. Krishnamraju, Shri U.V. | 122. Munusamy, Shri K.P. |
| 96. Kuleste Shri Faggan Singh | 123. Murmu, Shri Salkhan |
| 97. Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya | *124. Murugesan, Shri S. |
| 98. Kumaramangalam, Shri P.R. | *125. Muthiah, Shri R. |
| 99. Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna | 126. Nagra, Shri Aman Kumar |
| *100. Lallungmuana, Shri H. | *127. Naidu, Shri Girajala Venkat Swamy |
| *101. M. Master Mathan, Shri | 128. Naidu, Shri K.P. |
| 102. Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra | 129. Naik, Shri Ram |
| 103. Maharia, Shri Subhash | *130. Naqvi, Shri Mukhtar |
| 104. Mahtab, Shri Bhartrahari | *131. Nayak, Shri Upendra Nath |
| 105. Mahto, Shrimati Abha | 132. Nitish Kumar, Shri |

133. Oram, Shri Jugal
134. Palaniswami, Shri K.
135. Pandey, Dr. Laxminarayan
136. Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar
- *137. Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
138. Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar
- *139. Panneerselvam, Shri Kanchi
140. Pant, Shrimati Ila
- *141. Paramasivam Raja, Shri
142. Paranjpe, Shri Dada Baburao
143. Paranjpe, Shri Prakash Vishwanath
- *144. Pary Mohan, Shri K.
145. Passi, Shri Raj Narain
146. Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
147. Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
148. Patel, Dr. A.K.
- *149. Patel, Dr. Ashok
150. Patel, Shri Chandresh
151. Pathak, Shri Harin
152. Patidar, Shri Rameshwar
153. Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.
- *154. Patil, Shri Babagouda
- *155. Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
- *156. Patil, Shri Jaisingrao Gaikwad
157. Patnaik, Shri Naveen
158. Pawar, Shri Uttamsingh
159. Potai, Shri Sohan
160. Prabhu, Shri Suresh
161. Pradhan, Dr. Debendra
162. Pradhan, Shri Ashok
163. Prasad, Shri Hari Kewal
164. Purkayastha, Shri Kabindra
- *165. Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.
166. Rai, Shri Kalpnath
167. Rajaiah, Shri M.
- *168. Rajanethinam, Shri P.
- *169. Raje, Shrimati Vasundhra
170. Rajput, Shri Ganga Charan
171. Raju, Shri S. Vijaya Rama
172. Ram, Shri Braj Mohan
- *173. Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.
174. Ramamurthy, Shri Vazhapady K.
- *175. Ramarajan, Shri
176. Ramshakal, Shri
177. Rana, Shri Kashiram
178. Rana, Shri Raju
179. Rao, Shri Ch. Vidyasagar
180. Rawale, Shri Mohan
181. Rawat, Shri Baijnath
182. Rawat, Shri Bhagwan Shankar
183. Reddy, Shri Bhuma Nagi
- *184. Reddy, Shri Chada Suresh
185. Reddy, Shri G. Ganga
186. Reddy, Shri N.R.K.
187. Rishidev, Shri Ramjidas
188. Roy, Shri Devendra Bahadur

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| *189. Sahu, Shri Chandrashekhar | 216. Singh, Shri Arnar Pal |
| *190. Sahu, Shri Tarachand | 217. Singh, Shri Ashok |
| 191. Sai, Shri Larang | *218. Singh, Shri Bashist Narayan |
| 192. Sakshi, Dr. Swami Sachchida Nand Hari | 219. Singh, Shri Chhatra Pal |
| 193. Samantaray, Shri Prabhat Kumar | 220. Singh, Shri Devi Bux |
| 194. Samaon, Shri Chaitin Singh | 221. Singh, Shri Digvijay |
| 195. Sanghani, Shri Dileep | 222. Singh, Shri Gyan |
| *196. Sankeshwar, Shri Vijay | *223. Singh, Shri H.P. |
| 197. Sarkar, Dr. Bikram | 224. Singh, Shri Jagannath |
| 198. Sarnaik, Shri Ajay Kumar S. | 225. Singh, Shri maheshwar |
| *199. Saroja V., Dr. | 226. Singh, Shri Naktif |
| 200. Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh | *227. Singh, Shri Prabhunath |
| *201. Sathiamoorthy, Shri V. | 228. Singh, Shri Raghvendra |
| *202. Satpathy, Shri Tathagata | 229. Singh, Shri Rajveer |
| *203. Scindia, Shrimati Vijaya Raje | 230. Singh, Shri Rama Nand |
| *204. Sedam, Shri Baswaraj Patil | 231. Singh, Shri Rampal |
| 205. Sethi, Shri Arjun | 232. Singh, Shri Sartaj |
| 206. Shah, Shri Manbendra | *233. Singh, Shri Sohanveer |
| 207. Shakya, Dr. Mahadeepak Singh | 234. Singh, Shri Surender |
| 208. Shanmugam, Shri N.T. | *235. Singh, Shri Sushil Kumar |
| *209. Shanta Kumar, Shri | 236. Singh, Shri Tejveer |
| *210. Sharma, Shri Krishan Lal | *237. Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba |
| 211. Shastri, Dr. Bizay Sonkar | 238. Singh, Shri Virendra |
| *212. Shetty, Shri Jayarama I.M. | 239. Sinh, Dr. Sanjay |
| 213. Sikdar, Shri Tapan | 240. Sinha, Shri Yashwant |
| 214. Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari | *241. Sirpotdar, Shri Madhukar |
| *215. Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhian | *242. Sodhi, Shri Daya Singh |

243. Sompal, Shri
- *244. Sreenivasan, Shri C.
- *245. Srikantappa, Shri D.C.
246. Srinivas, Shri M.
- *247. Swain, Shri Kharabela
248. Swami, Shri Chinmayanand
249. Swaraj, Shrimati Sushma
250. Tandel, Shri Devji Bhai J.
251. Thakkar, Shrimati Jayaben Bharatkumar
252. Thakur, Dr. C.P.
253. Thambi Durai, Dr. M.
- *254. Thyagarajan, Shri M.
255. Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
256. Tiwari, Shri Prabhash Chandra
257. Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
- *258. Tripathi, Shri Chandramani
259. Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
260. Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh
261. Uma Bharati, Kumari
262. Vaiko, Shri
- *263. Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
264. Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas
- *265. Varma, Shri Sushil Chandra
266. Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai
267. Vedanti, Dr. Ramvilas
- *268. Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra
- *269. Venugopal, Shri K.
270. Venugopalachary, Dr. S.
271. Verma, Prof. Rita
272. Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh
273. Verma, Shri R.L.P.
- *274. Verma, Shri Virendra
- *275. Vijayashankar, Shri
- *276. Virendra Kumar, Shri
277. Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad
278. Yadav, Shri Satya Pal Singh
279. Yerrannaidu, Shri K.
- Noes**
1. Acharia, Shri Basudeb
2. Ahamed, Shri E.
3. Ahamed, Shri Moinul Hassan
- *4. Ahire, Shri D.S.
5. Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel
6. Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.
7. Ajna, Shri Udai Lal
8. Ambareesh, Shri
9. Ambedkar, Shri Prakash Yashwant
10. Annayagari, Shri Sai Prathap
11. Anwar, Shri Tariq
12. Arumugham, Shri S.
- *13. Athawale, Shri Ramdas
- *14. Awade, Shri Kallappa
15. Baalu, Shri T.R.
16. Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh

*17. Bairwa, Shri Dowarka Parshad

*18. Bala, Dr. Asim

19. Banatwalla, Shri G.M.

20. Bapiraju, Shri K.

*21. Barman, Shri Ranen

*22. Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman

23. Barwala, Shri Surender Singh

24. Basu, Shri Anil

*25. Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya

26. Baxla, Shri Joachim

*27. Bhagat, Shri Indra Nath

28. Bhajan Lal, Shri

29. Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan

30. Bhardwaj, Shri Parasram

31. Bhonsle, Shri Abhaysinh S.

32. Bhonsle, Shrimati Rani Chitralekha

33. Bhuria, Shri Kantilal

34. Bijoy, Shri Bijoy Kumar

35. Biswal, Shri Ranjib

36. Budania, Shri Narendra

37. Chacko, Shri P.C.

38. Chakraborty, Shri Ajay

39. Chandra Shekhar, Shri

40. Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

41. Chaudhari, Shrimati Nisha A.

*42. Chaudhary, Shri Ram Raghunath

43. Chavan, Shri Prithviraj D.

*44. Chengara Surendran, Shri

45. Chidambaram, Shri P.

46. Chinta Mohan, Dr.

47. Choudhary, Col. Sona Ram

*48. Choudhary, Shrimati Reena

49. Choudhury, Shri Samar

*50. Chowdhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan

*51. Chowdhury, Shri Bikash

52. Damor, Shri Somjibhai

53. Das, Shri Nepal Chandra

*54. Dennis, Shri N.

55. Deora, Shri Murl

*56. Devegowda, Shri H.D.

*57. Devi, Shrimati Kailasho

58. Devi, Shrimati Omvati

*59. Devi, Shrimati Rama

60. Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

*61. Eden, Shri George

62. Fatmi, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf

63. Gamit, Shri C.D.

*64. Gangadhar, Shri S.

*65. Gangte, Kumari Kim

66. Gavai, Shri R.S.

67. Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya

68. Ghatowar, Shri P.S.

69. Giri, Shri Sudhir

70. Giryappa, Shri C.P.M

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| 71. Gogoi, Shri Tarun | 98. Kumar, Shri Shalendra |
| 72. Goswami, Shri Nripen | 99. Kumar, Shrimati Meera |
| 73. Govindan, Shri T. Govindan | 100. Kuppusami, Shri C. |
| 74. Gujaral, Shri I.K. | *101. Kurien, Prof. P.J. |
| 75. Gupta, Shri Indrajit | *102. Kurup, Shri Suresh |
| *76. Hamid, Shri Abdul | 103. Kyndiah, Shri P.R. |
| 77. Handique, Shri Bijoy | 104. Lahiri, Shri Samik |
| 78. Hooda, Shri Bhupinder Singh | *105. Lalu Prasad, Shri |
| 79. Indora, Dr. Suahil | *106. Maganti Babu, Shri |
| *80. Jain, Shri Mitha Lal | 107. Mahant Charan Das, Dr. |
| 81. Jakhar, Shri Balram | 108. Mahato, Shri Bir Singh |
| *82. Jalappa, Shri R.L. | *109. Mahato, Shri Raj Banshi |
| 83. Jogi, Shri Ajit | 110. Mallick, Shri Ram Chandra |
| 84. Jos, Shri A.C. | 111. Mallu, Dr. Ravi |
| 85. Kahandole, Shri Z.M. | *112. Malviya, Shri Mahendrajeet Singh |
| *86. Kalita, Shri Bhubaneswar | 113. Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar |
| 87. Kamal Nath, Shri | *114. Mandlik, Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba |
| 88. Kamat, Shri Gurudas | *115. Maran, Shri Murasoli |
| 89. Kamble, Shri Arvind | 116. Meena, Shri Bheru Lal |
| 90. Karunakaran, Shri K. | *117. Meena, Shri Rami Narain |
| 91. Kawade, Prof. Jogendra | 118. Meena, Shrimati Usha |
| *92. Khan, Shri Abul Haemat | *119. Meghe, Shri Datta |
| *93. Khan, Shri Rizwan Zaheer | 120. Mehta, Prof. Ajit Kumar |
| 94. Khan, Shri Sunil | 121. Mohol, Shri Ashok Namdeo Rao |
| 95. Kondaiah, Shri K.C. | 122. Mollah, Shri Harman |
| 96. Krishnadas, Shri N.N. | 123. Mukherjee, Shri Pramotes |
| 97. Krishnamoorthy, Shri K. | 124. Mukherjee, Shri Subrata |

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 125. Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta | 152. Patil, Shri Madan |
| 126. Mukhopadhyay, Shri Ajoy | *153. Patil, Shri Madhav Rao |
| *127. Muniyappa, Shri K.H. | 154. Patil, Shri Ramkrishna Baba |
| *128. Murmu, Shri Rupchand | 155. Patil, Shri Shivraj V. |
| 129. Mutterwar, Shri Vilas | 156. Patil, Shri Uttamrao Deorao |
| 130. Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh | 157. Patil, Shrimati Suryakanta |
| *131. Naik, Shri Ravi Sitaram | 158. Patnaik, Shrimati Jayanti |
| 132. Naik, Shri Sudhakrao Rajusing | *159. Pawar, Shri Sharad |
| 133. Nam, Shri Shankar Sakharam | 160. Pilot, Shri Rajesh |
| *134. Narah, Shrimati Ranee | *161. Pradhani, Shri Khagapati |
| 135. Nishad, Capt. Jai Narayan Prasad | *162. Pramanik, Prof. R.R. |
| *136. Ola, Shri Sis Ram | 163. Premajam, Prof. A.K. |
| *137. Om Prakash, Shri | 164. Premchandran, Shri N.K. |
| 138. Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam | *165. Puglia, Shri Naresh |
| 139. Owaisi, Shri S.S. | *166. Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala |
| 140. Pal, Shri Rup Chand | 167. Raghavan, Shri V.V. |
| 141. Palanimanickam, Shri S.S. | 168. Rajbanshi, Shri Madhab |
| 142. Panbaka, Shrimati Lakshmi | 169. Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh |
| *143. Pannu, Er Shankar | 170. Ramachandran, Shri Mullapally |
| 144. Paswan, Shri Pitambar | *171. Ramaiah, Shri Sode |
| *145. Patel, Shri Dinshaw | *172. Ramulu, Shri H. G. |
| *146. Patel, Shri Jang Bahadur Singh | *173. Rao, Shri Gurunadha |
| 147. Patel, Shri Praful | 174. Rao, Shri K.S. |
| 148. Pathak, Shri Anand | 175. Rao, Shri Nadendla Bhaskara |
| *149. Patil, Shri Bhaskar Rao | *176. Rao, Shri R. Sambasiva |
| 150. Patil, Dr. Ulhas Vasudeo | 177. Rathwa, Shri N.J. |
| 151. Patil, Shri M.B. | 178. Reddy, Shri Venkatarami Anantha |

- *179. Reddy, Dr. B.N.
 180. Reddy, Dr. T. Subbarami
 181. Reddy, Dr. Y.S. Raja Sekara
 *182. Reddy, Shri K. Vijayabhaskara
 183. Reddy, Shri M. Baga
 184. Reddy, Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu
 *185. Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
 186. Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
 187. Reddy, Shri S. Sudhakar
 188. Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
 189. Rongpi, Dr. Jayanta
 190. Rosaiah, Shri Konijeti
 191. Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar
 *192. Roy, Shri Hira Lal
 193. Sangma, Shri Purno A.
 *194. Sangtam, Shri K.A.
 195. Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
 *196. Sankaran, Shri P.
 197. Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
 *198. Sardinha, Shri Francisco
 199. Saroj, Shri Daroga Prasad
 *200. Sayeed, Shri Mufti Mohammed
 201. Sayeed, Shri P.M.
 202. Scindia, Shri Madhavrao
 203. Selvarasu, Shri M.
 *204. Sen, Shrimati Minati
 205. Seth, Shri Lakshman Chandra
 *206. Shahabuddin, Mohammad
 207. Shamanur, Shri Shivashankarappa
 208. Shervani, Shri Saleem Iqbal
 209. Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar
 210. Shiv Shanker, Shri P.
 211. Siddaraju, Shri A.
 212. Singh, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad
 213. Singh, Rao Indrajeet
 214. Singh, Shri Buta
 215. Singh, Shri K. Natwar
 216. Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan
 217. Singh, Shri Mohan
 *218. Singh, Shri Rajo
 219. Soy, Shri Vijay singh
 220. Subba, Shri M.K.
 *221. Sudheeran, Shri V.M.
 222. Sultanpuri, Shri K.D.
 *223. Tanpure, Shri Prasad Baburao
 224. Taslimuddin, Shri
 *225. Thakur, Dr. Prabha
 *226. Thakur, Shri Ramsheth
 227. Thomas, Shri P.C.
 228. Thorat, Shri Sandipan
 *229. Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
 230. Tupe, Shri Vithal
 *231. Upadhaya, Shri Rampal
 232. Upendra, Shri P.

233. Venugopal, Shri D.
234. Verma, Kumari Vimla
235. Verma, Shri Beni Prasad
236. Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
- *237. Verma, Shrimati Usha
238. Vora, Shri Motilal
239. Warpudkar, Shri Suresh
240. Wasnik, Shri Mukul
241. Yadav, Shri Anup Lal
242. Yadav, Shri Balram Singh
- *243. Yadav, Shri Mitrasen
- *244. Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh
245. Yadav, Shri Parasnath
- *246. Yadav, Shri Pradeep Kumar
247. Yadav, Shri Sita Ram
248. Yadav, Shri Surendra Prasad (Jahanabad)
249. Yadav, Shri Surendra Prasad (Jhanjharpur)
250. Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, after counting the vote of Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, the result of the division is:

Ayes : 279

Noes: 250

The Statutory Resolution is adopted.

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

23.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, February 27, 1999/
Phalguna 8, 1920 (Saka)*