

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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SUBJECT

COLUMNS

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 12, 1999/Phalguna 21, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, 34 thousand Haz Pilgrimmas are not able to undertake Haj Pilgrimage. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. I have given a notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, you had given notice and I disallowed it. You can raise it in Zero Hour or at any other time.

[Translation]

11.02 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and so all other Hon'ble Members came and stood near the Table

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. What is this? Every time, you are doing like this. This is not good. Please go to your seat. You are disturbing the House everyday.

11.02½ hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, we have given the notice. 34 thousand Haz Pilgrimmes are roaming on the roads of Delhi.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, I have told you that you had given notice and I have disallowed it. You can raise it in Zero Hour or at the time of discussion.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loss due to fire in Coal Washeries of BCCL

*242. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases of fire in the coal washeries of BCCL during the last three years;

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

(c) the loss caused due to fire in the Madhuban Coal Washery of BCCL;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the incident;

(e) if so, the level at which the enquiry is being conducted;

(f) whether the Madhuban Coal Washery was to be started in March 1995 on the basis of initial assessment but the construction of Washery could not be completed within the scheduled period;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether any action has been taken against the contractor in accordance with the contract;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the time likely to be taken to complete the said Coal Washery and the cost likely to be increased thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (j) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) During the last 3 years there have been two instances of fire in coal washeries of BCCL. Details and causes of these fires are as under :

(i) At Bhojudih washery, on 6-5-98 there was fire in starter board in electrical control room. The cause of fire was short circuit in the control panel of the starter board.

(ii) At Madhuban washery, fire broke out after 10.30 PM on 10.12.1998 in the main raw coal feed conveyors (902 A & B). As a result of this fire, the belt conveyors 902 A & B were completely burnt and major portion of the conveyor gantry

collapsed. A committee which enquired into the cases of the fire has found that the most probable reason for the fire was the heat generated due to the friction between rollers and conveyor belting on account of jamming of rollers.

(c) The estimated loss involving rebuilding the gantries including civil, structural, mechanical and electrical equipment is estimated at Rs. 166 Lakhs.

(d) and (e) Enquiry has been conducted at the company level through a high power committee comprising of the following members constituted on 11.12.1998 by the CMD, BCCL :

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (i) Shri S.P. Singh, Director
(Tech. P & P, BCCL) | Chairman |
| (ii) Shri R. Khanna, Chief of Washery, BCCL | Member |
| (iii) Shri S. Chattopadhyay, CGM (CP/WC/C), BCCL | Member Secy. |
| (iv) Shri S.C. Trehan, CGM (MM), BCCL | Member |
| (v) Shri B.K. Bhattacharjee, GM (Fin), BCCL | Member |
| (vi) Shri A.P. Singh, Reg. Director, R.I - II, CMPDIL | Member |
| (vii) Shri S. Ghosh, GM (Safety), BCCL
(Co-opted on 25.12.1998) | Co-opted Member |

(f) and (g) The work for construction of Madhuban washery on turn key basis was awarded to M/s Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd., a public sector undertaking in December, 1985 and MAMC was supposed to complete the washery by Dec., 1998. As per RCE (93) this was to be completed by March'95 but the work could not be completed within the revised stipulated time due to following reasons.

- (1) Delay in placement of orders for imported and indigenous equipment by MAMC;
- (2) Delay in submission of GA drawing by MAMC
- (3) Delay in completion of construction and commissioning of plant by MAMC.
- (4) Delay in availability of forest land, which affected the works at cross country conveyors.
- (5) Inadequate resource mobilisation by M/s. MAMC and its sub-contractors.

(6) Precarious financial condition of MAMC and Non-Engagement of sufficient agencies with required manpower by MAMC.

(7) Some individuals claimed ownership of the land handed over to BCCL by Forest Department, Govt. of Bihar in Oct., 85. The matter is sub-judice in the court of law.

(h) to (j) MAMC a sick public sector undertaking and the turn-key contractor started facing financial problems quite sometimes back. Since they had done substantial work on the washery, change of contractor in the mid-stream would have involved even further delay and was persuaded time and again to complete the project and finally Madhuban washery was put on load by BCCL for processing coal from February, 1998 and processed about 1.10 lakh tonnes of raw coal till 10th December 1998. The washery will again process coal after rebuilding of the damaged conveyors. As per terms of the contract, only liquidated damage for late delivery can be recovered from the contractor and the same will be recovered from the withheld money with BCCL after acceptance of the plant as per stipulation of the contract. The project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 71.90 crores in February 1984. Due to the delay, cost of project was revised at Rs. 194.18 crores in Oct.'1993. The project is expected to be completed within the revised estimate.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister is sufficient enough to open everyone's eyes. Such unviable Public Sector undertakings put the existence of other Public Sector undertakings in danger due to their bungling and misdeeds. Specially our colleagues from CPM support every Public Sector undertakings, no matters it may be unviable such as MAMC. You just listen as to how much losses BCCL suffered on account of it. They got a contract in Dec. 1985, which was to be completed by Dec. 1988, but they could not complete it by that time. The time was extended till 1995, but even it could not be completed till March, 1995. The people managed to get it completed through their constant efforts and it was commissioned in Feb. 1998, after 13 years of its inception. After its commissioning the washery could not function properly for eight months as sub-standard and second hand spare parts were used in it. They somehow completed this project by using the sub-standard and second hand spare parts and sub-contracting the contract to shady contractor. The original estimated cost of BCCL was Rs. 71.90 crore, which reached to Rs. 194.18 crore by the completion. Though the washery could not function for one year. Hon'ble Minister has given a reason that rollers had got jammed therefore friction increased between the rollers conveyor belt. As a result of it, fire brake out and the work of Rupees

194.18 crore became a futile exercise. Washery is still not functioning due to the burning of the conveyer belt. I don't know how much money would be needed to get it repaired. So much men-days were losed, so much production has been lossed, and inspite of at all our CPM colleagues always support them . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you can ask question to the Minister and not to the Members.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : My question is that whether the Hon'ble Minister has made any effort to blacklist such the unviable Public Sector undertakings? If not, when he is going to blacklist it and when he is going to issue the orders in this regard so that such unviable Public Sector Undertakings may not get work in the coal companies . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Who is responsible for that? The Government is not running it. You give the money to them. Why do you blame the CPI (M)? We are in favour of the public sector . . . (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Have you understood the question?

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, which is known as MAMC, is a Government of India undertaking. What the hon-Member mentioned is correct. The work was awarded to MAMC in 1985 and it took almost 13 years to complete it.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Even that also has not been completed.

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : As per the contract, we can levy a liquidated damage on the company, which we have already done. We have decided not to give them any work either in BCCL or in any of the subsidiaries of CIL.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, besides MAMC there are also many other such Public sector and private companies, which have exploited coal companies right from the very beginning. Many such sharks were brought by the Congress during their regime in their fifty years rule and they have been safeguarding them. Now the Congress and CPM have joined their hands. Congress has brought up the Shark and they safeguarding them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you have to put the question to the Minister and not to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am raising a question that all such contractors, be they in private or public sector, if they are doing anything wrong and they are supplying sub-standard or second hand parts or cables . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Then why are you going in for the disinvestment?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : It is a question of the government's policy. Your Government is a total failure in reviving the Public Sector. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sunil Khan, Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Are you preparing any list of such private and public sector companies which are involved in shady deals and which have supplied sub-standard old spare parts or cable or have done the sub-standard work, and which have been debarred to undertake any work in the coal companies. Are you preparing any comprehensive list of public and private companies which are to be black-listed and debarred from under taking any work in coal companies. By when will the work of these coal washeries be completed?

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, we have got about two or three public sector undertakings which are working for us, that is, MAMC, HCL and HSCL. We are having slight problems with them. We are reviewing the functioning of the private contractors also who are working with us. We are taking very strict measures to see that the work is completed in time.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Are you black listing these companies or not?

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : We have not given them any work either in BCCL or any of the CIL units. There was a fire

*Not Recorded.

in this Madhuban washery. We are going to start it by September 1999.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : This matter relates to the Bihar State. If we ignore Bihar, how can we solve the problem?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There has been delay in the commissioning of the Madhuban washery. For this delay, besides MAMC, which is responsible, there are a number of factors which the Minister has stated in his statement like payment of compensation and handing over the land etc. When the fire took place, I personally went to Madhuban washery unit. I do not agree with the statement that the losses were only to the extent of Rs. 1.10 lakh. It is much more than that. The losses would not be less than Rs. 20 crore if you include the loss due to non-production. The production has been stopped after this incident. Now, a committee has been constituted.

I have my doubts regarding this Committee which comprises mainly of officers from the subsidiary BCCL. This matter should be inquired into by an independent body. When the washery was not handed over by MAMC to BBCL, why was the production started? Who was responsible for that? Has the responsibility been fixed on anybody? This was a new washery in which a fire accident took place because of which there has been production loss and damage to the extent of not less than Rs. 20 crore. Who took the decision to start production without MAMC handing over the washery to the BCCL? I want to know from the Minister whether this will be inquired into by an independent body, like CBI.

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, first of all I must say that this was on a trial production, not on regular production. I have already mentioned that while MAMC was primarily responsible for this fire, we also had some problems.

MR. SPEAKER : The specific question of the hon. Member was whether an independent inquiry will be ordered into it.

SHRI DILIP RAY : I am coming to that, Sir. That was one part of the question.

On our part we have already suspended the officers responsible and are taking action against them. Regarding the cost, it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 1,66,00,000 is required for the repair of this unit without taking into account the man-days lost and the production loss. Regarding the suggestion for inquiry by an independent body, we will examine it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government have stated in their reply that the determined amount of compensation can be recovered and it would be recovered from the money deposited with BCCL after acquiring plants as per the terms of the contract and the project involving Rs. 71.90 was approved in February 1984. Through you, I would like to know from the government as to who is responsible for the escalation of the cost to the extent of Rs. 194.18 approved in 1993 compared to Rs. 71.90 approved in 1984, and the action proposed to be taken by the government against the persons responsible for this . . . (Interruptions) I want to know the time by which the said amount will be recovered and the date from which the work will be started and the action proposed to be taken by the government against the guilty persons.

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, when this work was awarded to MAMC in 1985, the total cost of the project was Rs. 72 crore. It was later revised to Rs. 190 crore by 1998. The Rs. 40 crore amount was only the additional load of interest on this plus there was a cost over run. I have already mentioned that we have fixed the responsibility. Officers have been suspended and MAMC has been almost blacklisted. We are going to start this unit by September, 1999.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Sir, Questions 242 and 243 are interlinked. Question 242 relates to Madhuban Coal Washery and Question 243 is regarding the establishment of coal washeries. We have Singareni Collieries in Andhra Pradesh. There are no coal washeries there. It is a very low grade quality coal that we get in some pits. Is there any proposal with the Government to establish coal washeries there? If not, why does the Government not think of establishing them now?

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, the Singareni coalfield is primarily being run by the State Government. The ratio of its share is 51:49 in respect of the State and the Centre. We are looking at it. If there is any proposal from that side, we will look into it.

[Translation]

Time Bound Programme for setting up of Quality Silk Centres

*245. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have been directed to launch time-bound programme for setting up of Quality Silk Centres in the areas predominant in silk products and silk weavers:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise number of units which have been modernised, especially in Bihar, so far;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House :

Statement

(a) to (d) No such directions have been given by the Central Government to any of the State Government to launch time bound programme for quality silk centres. However, support is provided by the Central Government through the Central Silk Board (CSB) to the State Governments to take up schemes for development of sericulture including quality improvement. During IXth Plan Government has approved 36 Catalytic Development Scheme to improve production, productivity and quality. Till date 206 proposals have been approved at a cost of about Rs. 82.47 crores out of which CSB contribution is Rs. 42.32 crores. In respect of Bihar State on the basis of proposals received from the State Government 7 schemes have been approved at a cost of Rs. 0.46 crores out of which CSB's contribution is Rs. 0.26 crores. Abstract of Statewise proposals approved under the Catalytic Developmental Schemes is given in enclosed Annexure. In addition, through its network of research and extension units CSB provides R & D support to the State Governments.

Annexure

Abstract of Catalytic Developmental Schemes so far Approved by CSB for Implementation in States during IX Plan

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Schemes approved		
		Nos.	Total Cost	CSB Share
1	2	3	4	5
A. Traditional States				
1.	Karnataka	12	2859.66	1239.73
2.	Tamil Nadu	11	557.24	324.44
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	730.10	310.96
4.	Andhra Pradesh	14	872.00	570.34
5.	West Bengal	12	238.09	136.19
Sub Total - A		57	5257.09	2581.66

1	2	3	4	5
B. Non-Traditional States				
6.	Maharashtra	4	62.45	57.45
7.	Madhya Pradesh	16	300.80	185.22
8.	Orissa	19	362.15	220.83
9.	Bihar	7	46.25	26.20
10.	Uttar Pradesh	10	495.86	154.36
11.	Kerala	6	335.19	107.65
12.	Gujarat	1	3.00	3.00
13.	Punjab	2	4.05	4.05
14.	Haryana	5	8.38	6.88
15.	Sikkim	10	166.68	85.21
Sub Total - B		80	1784.81	850.85
C. North Eastern States				
16.	Assam	17	607.65	407.27
17.	Arunachal Pr.	9	40.37	28.82
18.	Manipur	5	61.46	38.27
19.	Meghalaya	7	100.71	84.97
20.	Mizoram	13	163.56	100.06
21.	Nagaland	10	174.75	105.46
22.	Tripura	8	56.20	34.42
Sub Total - C		69	1204.70	799.27
Grand Total A+B+C		206	8246.60	4231.78

Note : Out of the total 24 States to whom the schemes were offered, micro projects were received from 22 States and approval conveyed. Proposals from 2 States viz. Rajasthan and H.P. are awaited.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that, "Central Government has not given any such directions to any of the State Governments to launch time bound - programme for the Quality Silk Centres." I want to ask as to why the Government is not paying heed to modernisation of silk-centres and installation of centres equipped with modern-facilities although India has second place in World in the production of silk and despite this fact it imports five thousand tonnes of silk. Although 60 lakhs of poor families are engaged in this industry in India, silk-centres equipped with modernised technology are not being set up in weaver-dominated areas of the country as a result thereof valuable foreign-exchanges of the country is going to waste in huge-quantity due to imports of ten lakh tonnes of silk through legal and illegal means. Thus, I would like to know from the hon'ble

Minister as to whether the Government would set up modernised-silk-centres by launching any time-bound-programme in near future so as to save the valuable foreign-exchange?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the hon'ble Member has said, is quite right. Production of silk in our country is very much less than our requirement. Our requirement is about 24-25 tonnes of silk and our production is about 15 thousand tonnes. Lot of effort is done by the Government to raise production of silk through central silk board. This includes so many schemes. For example, we have introduced country wide research net work under C.S.B. as well as silk-conditioning and testing houses, we have launched national-sericulture project throughout the country and made efforts to establish a technical service centres for Cocoon technology and Reeling. Our Raw-Silk-Conditioning and Testing-Centres are also adopting several measures to increase the production of silk in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has told that we are spending a lot of foreign-exchange on imports I think, we try to fulfill our requirement to meet the shortage through legal imports. The figures, which have been given, are correct. Now, Government have permitted to make imports under S.L.L. We have done all these things just to meet the shortage.

SHRI PHABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to part "b" of my question, given by the hon'ble Minister, does not seem to be satisfactorily. As per the reply, the funds provided to Bihar are very less. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many units are there in Bihar which are being modernised. I want to state that 25 thousand families in distt. Bhagalpur are engaged in this industry. Silk worth Rs. 1000-1200 crore is exported from Bhagalpur. About 4-6 tonnes of cotton silk is smuggled through China, Korea, Nepal and Bangladesh from Bhagalpur. Though 3000 tonnes of silk is produced. In Bhagalpur district, no efforts have been made to create an export house or licencing zone there so far. So, I would like to know from the Government as to whether Government intend to establish modernised silk centre in Bhagalpur district of Bihar?

A testing centre - a testing laboratory of the Union Government for silk conditioning and to ensure improved quality of silk is functioning in Bangalore. In addition to that, such testing laboratories for Varanasi, Bhagalpur and Jammu are under consideration of the Government. I would like to know as to by what time such testing laboratories are likely to be set up in Bhagalpur?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Tusser silk is produced in Bihar and we have tried to increase its production. As far as the activities of Bhagalpur are concerned as asked by the hon'ble Member, A certification centre is located there. Where from goods are exported. We give a certificate to this effect also. We have also set-up a sub-depot of raw-material bank. Technical service and training centre is also functioning there. Not only this, we have also set-up Eco testing laboratories there.

Already a project is being run in Bhagalpur by CSB so as to run reeling-activities and to raise the production of tusser silk.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : As per the Annexure, it is seen that there are six schemes so far approved by the Central Silk Board in Kerala. I have to inform the hon. Minister that in our State, sericulture industry has been developed and it is still flourishing on a large scale. But the difficulty is, nobody is taking its finished product. Can you make arrangements for spinning it so that silk cloth can be produced in Kerala? Why don't you formulate a scheme for using sericulture in Kerala itself? Can you make any suggestion or will you please direct the Central Silk Board to take up schemes submitted by the Kerala Government aimed at taking all the sericulture produced in Kerala?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The suggestion made by the hon. Member will be kept in mind. Government will be giving instruction to Central Silk Board.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he is aware that the land from Varanasi to foothill area in Uttar Pradesh is quite fertile for sericulture and whether the government are contemplating to formulate any scheme to promote sericulture in this area of the State? The Minister just told in his reply that the government had decided to setup test laboratories in Bhagalpur and Varanasi and whether he would tell that by which time these laboratories would be functional?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as of now a total of 106 projects have been implemented in this regard and out of these 10 projects were implemented in Uttar Pradesh involving the cost of 495.86 lakhs of rupees and out of this cost, the share of CSB is 154.36 lakhs of rupees. As far as Varanasi is concerned, it is a big silk consuming centre therefore, we are concentrating on the production activities of silk there. We shall certainly consider the suggestion made by the hon'ble Member in this regard.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government have approved eight schemes for Jammu & Kashmir. I would like to know the break-up of schemes for Laddakh and Kashmir separately. I would also like to draw the attention of the government that small sericulture farmer is exploited by the big contractor who never allows the small sericulture farmers to get the remunerative price and I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps are being taken to check it and setup a modern silk centre in Jammu.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated by Hon'ble Member eight proposals have been implemented in the state so far. Jammu is also included in CSB programme in view of its good climate for sericulture.

As regards the break-up of projects in the State, I would lay on the table of the House the desired information.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : The contractors do not allow the small sericulture farmers to get remunerative price for their produce. Tell something about it also.
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Sir, a large number of poor families in the North-Eastern region, especially in Assam are connected with the silk industry. There are difficulties in the marketing of their silk products and also in the development of the silk industry in the North-Eastern region. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider taking up a pilot project, considering the logistic and geographical difficulties of the North-Eastern region, to help the poor farmers there and for the development of the silk industry in the North-Eastern region?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : So far as the North-Eastern region is concerned, the Government is also concentrating on silk production activities through some difficulties are there. But despite these difficulties, the Government will certainly look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question does not relate to silk production, however if you kindly allow I would like to ask a question on N.T.C.

The government does not supply cotton, raw material and also does not provide financial assistance to the N.T.C. mills of Mumbai and in other parts of the country due to which these mills are closing down. I would like to ask whether the government have any package to revive the N.T.C. mills and if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to say something?

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Textiles have prepared a revival package for the N.T.C. mills in the entire country and we have sent it for approval of the Cabinet.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, the question is on Quality Silk Centres. Quality Silk Centres will require quality personnel and the Government is also going to expend the number of centres in different parts of the country.

The scientists who are working in the Central Silk Board are treated differently. They are, by name, 'scientists' but they are not getting their due honour in respect of their scales of pay and grade as compared to the scientists who are working in the ICAR or the CSIR. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether our hon. Minister and the Government is going to give the same scales of pay and grade to these scientists which are given to the other scientists working in our country.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : The scientists' association has submitted its representation to the Government and the Ministry of Textiles has also scrutinised the suggestions made by the association. We have also made a recommendation to the Ministry of Finance to settle and to resolve this problem.

Restructuring of Patent System

*246. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to establish, promote, rationalise and strengthen the institutional and organisational reforms on global standards to deal with matters relating to process and product patents, copy right and trade marks in the wake of globalisation;

(b) if so, the details of the preparatory arrangements made to meet the provisions of WTO, particularly in regard to international standards, computerisation of operations, human resource and infrastructure development and clearance of backlog of patent applications;

(c) the number of applications received in the Indian Patent Office for various products during 1998-99 and the number out of these are pending;

(d) the details of courses structured for training manpower to deal with increasing and specialised nature and volume of work; and

(e) the details of the action taken on the signing of Paris Convention on Intellectual Property Rights?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government has sanctioned a project for modernisation of Patent Office at a cost of Rs. 75.59 crores, to be implemented during 9th Five Year Plan. The major components of the project include setting up of a National Patent Office by upgrading the existing office in New Delhi, strengthening branch offices, providing trained and qualified personnel, in the existing and emerging fields of technologies, computerisation and infrastructural support, financial and operational autonomy, creation of awareness by organising training programmes/awareness seminars, etc.

A project was completed recently to strengthen the Trademarks Registry. Further, steps are being taken to upgrade its capabilities in 9th Five Year Plan.

The Copyright Act, 1957 is broadly compatible with major conventions/treaties and its administration is formality-free.

In order to fulfil India's obligations contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation, inter-Ministerial consultations are being held to consider necessary measures to meet our obligations.

(c) During the period April 1998 to February 1999, 8427 applications were received by the Patent Office for grant of process and product patents. These applications are pending examination.

(d) The project for modernisation of the Patent Office includes provision for training of Patent Office officials and creation of awareness. Appropriate programmes would be structured depending upon the requirements. Apart from this, training facilities in the field of intellectual property rights offered by international agencies are also availed of.

(e) After India's accession to the Paris Convention for the protection of Industrial Property Rights and the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT), awareness programmes were organised in November - December, 1998 in Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai for the benefit of its users. Further, notifications were issued declaring member countries of Paris Convention and PCT as Convention countries under relevant provisions of the Patents Act, 1970; provisions were made in the Patent Rules, 1972 to enable Patent Office to receive and process patent applications filed under PCT: Patent Offices of USA, Sweden, Australia, Austria, China and European Patent Office were declared as International Search and International preliminary examining authorities for PCT applications filed in India. The staff of the Patent Office has also been trained to handle the work.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply which I wanted to my question is still incomplete and it has not been fully replied to, however will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state as to whether some of the applications received from 1998 to 1999 have been settled and the reasons for not settling them so far. Since you have also told that there is shortage of staff also and whether these cases have not been settled due to shortage of staff or is there any other reasons following which you could not settle them.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT : Hon'ble Speaker Sir the reply has been given very clearly that 8427 applications were received from April, 1998 to February, 1999 and [English] These applications are pending examination. [Translation] And there are many reasons for their not being examined. We have four patent offices at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta and modern gadgets are not available there. So that they could work efficiently. Therefore, it takes three to five-years in the clearance of a single application.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : This is what I had said that one of reasons for pendency for since a long period was the shortage of staff as you have told under the modernisation project of the patent office there is a provision of providing training to the officers of the patent office and creating awareness among them. It has also been mentioned in the reply that the Government has sanctioned a project for modernisation of patent office at a cost of Rs. 75.59 crore. Could you not clear those applications due to those shortcomings following which those who are seeking product on patents have been facing lot of problems and as a result of which new products which could have been launched are not being launched.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT : I am fully agreed to the complaint of the Hon. Member which is quite right. Unfortunately proper attention has not been given towards it. Patent office should be a very efficient organisation. We are now trying for that. One hand patent office is also being set up in Delhi. And a little more than Rs. 75 crore has been earmarked for that purpose and even competent and proposing educated workers are being sent abroad for awareness programme and training. When they will come back, the patent offices in our major cities would also be upgraded. Thus, I think that in future this work would gather momentum.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Patent Bill was passed in the Parliament day before yesterday. Two sections viz 37 and 90 are contained in that. As per my knowledge these two sections have been excluded from that Bill. Due to exclusion of these sections . . . (Interruptions) It is a subject related to the question. So far as I know due to exclusion of these sections the dominance of multinational companies would increase in the realm of agriculture and medicine.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main reason behind increasing the dominance of the multinational companies is that officers who gave advice to the Government in the matter of the Patents, they and their relatives are serving in the multinational companies, the I.M.P. and the international institutions. I want to know from the Government through you that by inclusion of above mentioned sections such officers whether these are from the army judiciary or the administrative service after taking voluntary retirement or getting training with the public money. World facilitate their entry into foreign multinational companies. Whether the Government of India is going to enact any such carv so as to ban their entry into the multinational companies who get hatly amount from these companies.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, the question relates to restructuring of patent system. What is, this that you are asking?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question which has increased danger to internal and external security of the country and that should be stopped.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would you like to respond?

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT : The supplementary question is absolutely unrelated to the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Patent law was enacted in 1970. The Government have amended the law so as to suit the requirement of the Multinational companies. We have certain reservations in this regard. The law commission of India very recently had given certain

suggestions with regard to the amendment in the larger interest of the country, which were never revealed to the Parliament and were never brought before the House. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether the Government would contemplate to make amendments in this Patent Act incorporating the suggestions given by the Law Commission and the present World Trade Organisation?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : The question is basically related to the functioning of the Patent Offices, and is not at all related to the Patent Law.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, you can get a chance if you sit in your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : You do not look to that side, that is why I have come in the front row. Anyway, I abide by your ruling.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : A number of things were told at the time of passing of the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998. I do not wish to enter into details of these things. I would like to know from the Minister whether in the restructuring of the patent system, the Government would be able to develop an indigenous and independent system of research and development.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Yes, Sir, it is intended that our patent offices are absolutely modern and they function on the basis of the modern techniques available.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I beg to differ with the Minister. It cannot be so . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : If you call my name like this, I will always sit in my seat.

MR. SPEAKER : It is always better to sit in your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Now, I will also prefer to sit in my seat. I am thankful to you for having allowed me to ask this supplementary.

A very serious situation has arisen in the country. With all our differences, we have passed the Patents (Amendment) Bill. There is a spate of patent applications in this country. The hon. Minister, in his written reply has stated that he is planning for Rs. 75 crore in the Ninth Plan for modification and strengthening of the patent offices. It is a very vague answer. I do not know whether we have only one office in Delhi or we have branch offices in various States. It is not clear from the reply which is given. Even the lawyers do not know exactly which are the places where its branch offices are there. Would the Minister be kind enough to tell us the different places in India where we have the patent branch offices? If there are not enough branches, in each State at least zonal offices are to be sanctioned by the Minister. In his reply the Minister himself has stated that about 8000 patent applications are pending, leave alone trademark applications. I know cases where these applications are pending for four years or six years together. This is a matter wherein the Minister has to address very urgently and with all seriousness. So, my question is, will the

Government be pleased to open zonal patent offices in different States. My requirement is to have at least one zonal office in Kerala. The Government should give enough publicity to these offices.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, the Patent Offices as it is today are located in Calcutta, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : What about Bihar?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I am giving an information as it is. When I have not taken the name of Bihar, it means that there is no Patent Office in Bihar. We have planned to have a very modern office in Delhi. Land has been identified and enough finance has already been allocated for this purpose. A number of steps have been taken up for awareness and training of the proper staff. This modernisation project includes a component for clearance of backlog of patent applications at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crore. For this purpose, special technical investigating teams comprising of around 200 examiner with necessary supervisory staff will be set up to deal with this work in a time bound manner. The team will be provided all the necessary facilities, search tools and computer equipments, etc.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government have approved a project relating to modernisation of the Patent office involving a cost of Rs. 75 crore approximately and that would be completed within the Ninth Five Year Plan period. The Minister has further stated that Inter Ministerial consultations are going on so as to contemplate upon the contractual obligators part of India in the World Trade Organisation on the trade related aspects mentioned in the agreement relating to the intellectual Property Rights. I had raised this matter earlier also in the House but I did not get any satisfactory reply even at that stage.

There is an Indian scripture called the 'Veda' which is a source of all knowledge, science technology Ayurveda and Ayurvedic products. It is a great work which belong to India. However, the place where it was written does not fall under the Indian territory but the people there still call it Indian, they owe it to India. Recently, the manner in which our products have been patented, everybody knows this. Germany got Neem patented likewise America got Basmati Patented in their name it is a very serious matter. I am raising this question for the second time that is why I would like to explain its background a little I would like to ask from the Government as to whether it is contemplating any scheme so as to get the compyright of the scriptures like 'Veda' so that all the patent problems related are solved and the world may seek India's permission in this regard. The 'Veda' has 1153 branches in total. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Sonkar Shastri, I will disallow your supplementary.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : I would like to ask whether the Government is contemplating with regard to its copyright?

MR. SPEAKER : Are you asking a supplementary.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked earlier also as to why the matter had not been contemplated upon so far?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I appreciate the sentiments of the honourable Member.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Sir, even last time my question was appreciated but no action was taken thereon. I would like the hon'ble Minister to give some reply stating likely action to be taken in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, so far we have not been able to reach a national consensus about the Patent (Amendment) Bill. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any step is being taken to arrive at a national consensus about the amendment of Patent Act which we have passed two days back.

Sir, from April 1998 to February 1999, 8427 cases are pending in Patent Offices for grant of process patent and product patent.

How much time will you take to process and finalise these applications? Is there any norm to finalise the applications?

[Translation]

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : In the present day scenario it is pertinent for the patent offices here to clear the patent applications very efficiently and expeditiously. Various steps have been taken in this regard. The first step is to set up a new patent office. And the second step is that the patent offices in the four cities . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, our patent office is the most inefficient office but he is saying that we are having an efficient system. We do not have an efficient system.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I am sorry. I am not responding to your point.

[Translation]

I want to say only this much that various steps are being taken. We are imparting training to new people, awareness programmes are undergoing, efforts are being made to modernise them. I admit that there is problem . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : What is the scheduled time for finalising the applications?

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Under the modernised system, there is a proposal to reduce the average time from

51 months to 33 months. We are doing our best to get this time limit reduced.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Just now hon'ble Minister told that they are preparing but several applications are pending in old offices such as office in Mumbai. Sir, Patent Bill has been passed. Foreign Companies are coming to India. Large scale corruption is taking place at lower level in it. Will you fix any time-limit for earliest disposal of applications so that corruption could be checked? Are the Government intend to take action against those who are corrupt?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I respect the sentiments of the hon'ble Member. We know that at present, we have longstanding backlogs with us. I am also aware that there is the need to upgrade the Patent Office in Mumbai. At present, private offices are there in all four metro cities. Which are to be upgraded. The Government have formulated a programme for it. In addition a new Patent Office is going to be opened. In this regard we are following the model of Japan.

[English]

In six months, more than a thousand patent applications were cleared by Japan and since we have the same efficiency, in our view, that is what we are trying to do.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Sir, Mr. Minister is not saying anything about corruption. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Sir, the Patent Act has been amended. So, the apprehension of intrusion of intellectual rights is looming large. In this position, we need restructuring of the patent offices to promote indigenous talent and intellectualism. But I am sorry to say that instead of restructuring the patent offices, the patent office at Calcutta is going to be shifted. In that case, how will our indigenous activities develop in Calcutta when Calcutta is the gateway of North-Eastern India? I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the office at Calcutta is being shifted from there.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : The patent office at Calcutta is not at all being shifted.

MR. SPEAKER : Qn. No. 247 - Dr. S. Venugopalachary - not present.

Qn. No. 248 - Shri Vijay Goel - not present.

Qn. No. 249 - Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde - not present.

Qn. No. 250 - Shri Chandu Lal Ajmeera - not present.

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy - not present.

Qn. No. 251 - Dr. Chinta Mohan - not present.

Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat - not present.

Performance of HMT

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*252. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWASI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Divisions of Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. which are incurring losses;

(b) the number of Divisions so far closed down by the Government due to continuous losses, Division-wise and location-wise;

(c) the number of employees rehabilitated of these units or given retirement benefits during 1997-98, particularly in Hyderabad;

(d) whether Tractor and Machine Tools Division of HMT Ltd. has submitted a proposal for revival which involves Rs. 420 crores.

(e) if so, the main points of the restructuring plan alongwith the manner in which the cost of the restructuring plan is likely to be met;

(f) the decision taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the total number of employees who opted for VRS during 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date, from this Division?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) HMT Ltd. has 5 business groups, viz, Machine Tools, Industrial Machinery, Engineering Components, Watches and Tractors. During the year 1997-98, the Industrial Machinery, Engineering Components and Watch Business Groups incurred losses.

(b) and (c) Operations of the Lamp Unit and the Central Metal Forming Institute (CMFI) at Hyderabad have been discontinued. 425 employees from the Lamp Unit and 3 employees from CMFI have been rehabilitated by way of transfer to other units of the company. 307 employees from the Lamp Unit and 15 employees from CMFI have availed voluntary retirement benefit during 1997-98.

(d) to (f) HMT has prepared a turnaround plan for the company as a whole, which includes the Tractor and Machine Tool Divisions also. This plan is likely to cost around Rs. 400 crores. The main points of the turnaround plan are; (i) Organization restructuring with the formation of three new subsidiary companies for Machine Tools, Watches and Tractors; (ii) Manpower restructuring through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and (iii) Financial restructuring. The restructuring will involve fresh infusion of funds including funds for VRS, conversion of loans into equity by Government of India, waivers and concessions from debt holders and sale of surplus assets and holdings by the company. The

turnaround plan is being updated and revised by the company for further submission to Government.

(g) During 1997-98, 829 employees of the company have availed voluntary retirement and during 1998-99 (upto February 1999) 545 employees of the company have availed themselves of voluntary retirement scheme.

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Sir, in the answer, they have said that during 1997-98, 829 employees of the company have availed themselves of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and during 1998-99, 545 employees of the company have availed themselves of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. I just want to know from the hon. Minister what is the total number of workers who are working there and how many of them are still to be retired under the VRS.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : There are some difficulties with regard to the Machine Tools, Industrial Machinery groups. We are trying to reorganise them and revive them wherever there is some difficulty.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited was once called by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as a jewel in the crown of our industrial map. It was flourishing like anything. It was making huge profits. Then came the liberalisation. From 1991 onwards, cheaper machinery has been allowed to be imported. Our very quality HMT machinery had to be kept idle. Once the customs duty was 85 per cent and now it is 13 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghavan, what is your supplementary question?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : By all these things, the HMT is now in a very bad shape and it is in crisis. Once 26,000 employees were engaged in various units of the HMT. Now, they are being given VRS and they are out of job. Keeping the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in mind, would the Government do something to revive the HMT units?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : The one simple thing is that I quite agree that we are not going to allow the HMT to go down the drain. There are some difficulties. We are definitely looking after it. We are definitely going to revolve it.

SHRI K.S. RAO : It is a very sad affair that the HMT which was supposed to be one of the best units in the country earlier has come to the stage of almost getting wound up throughout the country. The HMT has got units in Hyderabad also which had got great reputation earlier. Now, unfortunately, all those people who have raised hopes on HMT are becoming beggars because they do not have employment. They are now being sent to very far off places like Chandigarh and other places out of the State. There are no funds made available. Only a proposal is being asked for and nothing is being approved by the Ministry. Mr. Minister, in your own reply, you said that this turnaround plan is requiring about Rs. 400 crore. Still the proposal is lying as a proposal only. You have not informed the House whether you are prepared to give that money or not. So, I just wish to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry or the Government has got the capacity to fund this unit to revive its glory

or not. At least, is he prepared to say that this cannot be revived and let it be totally given away to a private party?

Either of the decision must be taken at the earliest because time is very essential.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : We really have no intentions of giving it up also. We have no intentions of giving up the question of revival of HMT. HMT is one of our best units. We are going to do everything to ensure. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO : What about time?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : That is not possible for me because there are various aspects which have got to be done and necessary steps have to be taken.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon'ble Minister through you whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the rehabilitation of those employees who are being retired or becoming jobless due to closure of other industries in the country like HMT Ltd.?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned this in reply given to the first question that those workers who are sitting idle can be redeployed by imparting training to them for other trades under the M.R.F. scheme. This is a part of sick unit's revival.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : Time should be fixed. Say six months or one year or two years. Otherwise, It will be of no use.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : My question is regarding HMT. While replying this question, alternatives have been given, namely, organisation restructuring with the formation of three new subsidiary companies for Machine Tools, Watches and Tractors. This is one of the aspects for restructuring the company.

My question is, just offering them VRS is only an alternative. I would like to know as to why these companies have gone sick. If at all you intend to restructure it, what positive and effective efforts are you going to make and how much money are you going to invest and when?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Unfortunately, let us not mix up the question of VRS and MRF. All attempts which are required to be undertaken . . .

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : By offering VRS we are adding to the unemployment.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : It is a different thing. Let us not mix them up. That is what I am saying for the revival of a particular unit. Overstaffed unit has also got to be taken note of. If overstaffing is to be reduced, then this will be one of the steps for revival of that particular unit. But VRS and MRF, especially MRF, is only the means of redeployment of workers. That we are doing. We are not going to send the

workers out. We would be going to VRS only in the case where a worker is not prepared to undertake and accept the MRF note.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : My first part of the question is answered. What about the second part?

MR. SPEAKER : You are entitled for one part, not two parts.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : We need a reply.

[Translation]

SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, H.L.M. Ltd., has played a vital role in industrial development of the country. Today, there is the problem of its revival. Are the Government going to take any concrete step for the revival of H.M.T. Ltd.?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated that we are looking beyond concrete step.

[English]

We are not prepared to see HMT go down under.

[Translation]

Thus we are putting our best so that HMT could have it's last glory.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas. Ask very pointed supplementary. Otherwise, you will not get an answer.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : HMT tools are also pointed.

Unless the tools in HMT are modernised, it will not be possible to get better results.

12.00 hrs.

What are the plans that the Minister has got to modernise and make ultra-modern type of products in H.M.T.?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, modernisation is also one of the parts of restructuring plan of H.M.T. As I have said earlier, we are aware of the present situation. We are doing everything, and everything will have to be done, to see that H.M.T. does not go under.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am entitled to ask only one supplementary. But we are also entitled for proper reply from the Minister. The Minister is evading a proper reply for most of the questions. But it is a very serious and important matter. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is prepared for a full-fledged discussion in the House on H.M.T. and other loss making public sector units.

MR. SPEAKER : This matter relates to the Business Advisory Committee, not to the Ministry.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, I thank you very much. It is you who have to decide on this matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Indian Currency Notes

*241. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Currency notes and coins depicting Gandhiji, Pt. Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose were issued in recognition of their services in the freedom struggle of India;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue similar currency note/coins depicting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in recognition of his services to the freedom struggle and also his contribution after Independence; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Government have issued commemorative coins on Gandhiji (in 1969); Pt. Nehru (in 1964 and again in 1989); Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (in 1996) and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose (in 1997).

Government has, however, taken a decision not to issue any currency note with portraits of personalities other than Mahatma Gandhi. Note designing is an intricate job requiring a lead time of one to two years and hence it is not possible to have frequent changes of design. The design has also to incorporate security features against counterfeiting and hence cannot be changed frequently. Having portraits of several individuals will lead to a variety of notes in circulation and confusion in the minds of the public. As such in all the denominations of the currency notes the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi will be used.

[Translation]

Committee to Examine the Performance of Coal Washeries

*243. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee named Integrated Coal Policy has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri K.S.R. Chari, former Coal Secretary to review the performance of the coal washeries under the Central Coal Washery Organisation;

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

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the basis of report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Department of Mines and Metals under the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Minerals had constituted a Committee on Coal Washeries in May, 1970 under the chairmanship of Shri K.S.R. Chari, the then Coal Mining Advisor, Department of Mines and Metals. For studying the operation of coal washeries in a comprehensive manner.

The Constitution and terms of reference of this Committee constituted in 1970 are given below :

(i) Composition of the Committee :

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Shri K.S.R. Chari, Coal Mining Advisor Deptt. of Mines and Metals | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Hari Bhushan, Sr. Industrial Advisor Ministry of Steel and Heavy Engineering | Member |
| 3. Shri K.K. Ray, Coal Controller | Member |
| 4. Shri C.S.N. Raju, General Manager Central Coal Washeries Organisations, Ranchi | Member |
| 5. Shri C. Balram, Director (Tech.), NCDC | Member |
| 6. Shri G. Rama Rao, Director (TPC) CW&PC | Member |
| 7. Shri G.G. Sarkar | Member Secretary |

The terms of reference were as under :

- (a) to determine the operable capacities of the washeries in operation or are ready for operation, identify the deficiencies in their working and suggest remedial measures.
- (b) to study the possibility of using the Gidi washery
- (c) to study the possibility of operating Chasnala Washery as a Central Washery with coals obtained from outside until the linked mines are in production.
- (d) to suggest measures for the economic utilisation of washing capacity, consistent with the demand for washed coals.
- (e) to study and recommend the levels to which coals are to be washed.
- (f) to suggest measures for the use and linkage of washery midlines with the Thermal Power Stations.

However another committee under the chairmanship of Shri K.S.R. Chari was appointed in 1995 by the Planning

Commission for integrated coal policy. The 1970 committee was commissioned specially for coal washeries only.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

The main recommendations made by this Committee are in Statement-I

(e) The action taken by the coal companies on the recommendations of the Committee in respect of different washeries is detailed in Statement-II.

Statement-I

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To fulfil washed coal target for 1973-74, early steps have to be taken to rectify the design deficiencies of the existing washeries and incorporate slurry beneficiation units wherever they are not provided.
2. Commercial tests should be undertaken to confirm the suitability of the Argada-Sirka washed coal in blends for steel plants. Otherwise, the idle washery at Gidi will have to be effectively used either by reprogramming its feed coal or by relocating the washery in or around areas producing coking coal.
3. Joint steps may be initiated at the higher levels to ensure that none of the washeries is allowed to remain idle or suffer losses in effective operating hours due to the nonavailability of wagons in time (daily basis) for the regular despatch of its feed coal and/or washed products.
4. To the extent possible, the Railways should be relieved from the burden of short-distance haulage of coals from the mines to the central washeries located in the same coalfield so that they may concentrate more on long distance haulage of raw materials and/or products.
5. To achieve the above and effect economy in washed cost production, larger mining units should be developed in areas adjoining the central washeries and some integrated haulage system for the delivery of raw coals to the central washeries and for the supply of stowing materials (sand, washery rejects and/or power station ash) to the mines should be built up.
6. With the nationalisation of coking coal mines, there should be better coordination in the functioning of the coal production and coal washing units.
7. In so far as the existing washeries are concerned, top-most priority should be given to the procurement of essential spares of proprietary nature, directly from their manufacturers even by liberalising import restrictions, wherever so warranted.
8. To locate potential sources of supply of spares within the country and to encourage import substitution with indigenous manufacture a cell may be set up under the concerned organisation. This cell should not only collect and publicize from time to time the list of essential spares along with their correct specifications and quantum of demand but also help and guide any production unit, which apprehends loss in production due to the dearth of such spares.
9. Each washery organisation must have some experienced Instrument Engineers to properly maintain the sophisticated instruments of automatic devices and guide the operators in their careful handling. Alternatively, some expert firm or firms of this country should be entrusted with the responsibility of regular servicing of such instruments and gadgets and issuing required instructions for their operation.
10. All existing two-product washeries (except where the middlings are not acceptable to power stations) should be converted to three-product washeries according to a time bound programme with minimum delay and all future washeries will be three-product ones.
11. The ash content of middlings shall not exceed 35% and the amount of heavier materials above sp. Gr. 1.80 should not be allowed to go beyond the permissible limit as mutually agreed upon by the Power Station Authorities and the Washeries. It should also be substantially free from materials which can lead to slugging problems.
12. All thermal power stations are required to consume middlings in preference to raw coals as per linkages established in consultation with C.W.P.C./C.E.A.
13. Any power station using coal and/or middling from more than one source should provide for reasonable blending of the composite feed.
14. Middlings should be exempted from excise duty as recommended by the Tariff Commission and the Energy Survey Committee of India.
15. The Coal Board should grant suitable incentives to those mines, which use washery rejects for underground stowing in admixture with sand and/or power station ash. The rejects should be made available free of cost.
16. All raw coking coals of Group A and Group B now fed directly to steel plants should be

- processed through washeries, so long as the washeries are in a position to treat them. This step is necessary to improve economics of washing, help conservation of coking coals, ensure consistency in supply and streamline the movement of coals for steel plants.
17. Presently about 3 million tonnes of raw coking coal are used for the manufacture of soft coke for domestic consumption. Efforts should be made to manufacture the required quantity of domestic coke from middlings/sinks, as may be feasible, thereby ensuring that every tonne of raw coking coal produced is used for metallurgical purpose. This is in furtherance of the objectives of conservation of the scarce resources of metallurgical coal.
 18. In the supplies of coal to washeries located in any particular field or area, the production pattern of the upper and lower horizons from the potential sources should generally follow the proportion of their workable reserves.
 19. In replanning of coking coal mines, provision should be made for blending of component coals within each group (Group A or Group B) before they are treated in the washeries.
 20. In order to avoid stream pollution and to minimise losses of fine coal and water from washeries in the form of effluent, necessary regulations should be enacted for the running of all washeries in closed water circuit.
 21. Each washery may be subjected to periodic performance study by a competent team of experts.
 22. Samples from each source supplying coal to any washery should be tested at least once a month to assess the probable clean coal yield at any desired specific gravity level (say 1.50) and to record proximate analysis as well as caking index of the clean coal so recovered. The daily feed sample to the washery should also be analysed similarly.
 23. At least once every six months, the average clean coal sample collected over a week or a fortnight should be submitted to carbonisation tests. Detailed quality assessment of middlings or rejects should be conducted atleast once a month.
 24. Effective steps should be taken to enforce normal quality control measures in the washeries, steel plants and power stations. Through this measures, not only proper consistency can be guaranteed but also considerable economics may be achieved.
 25. Proper work - study should be instituted to formulate a national standard on the working personnel required for various jobs in a washery
 26. For each large washery organisation, a coordination group should be set up, including the representatives of the B.C.C., Railways, the Coal Controllers Organisation, the concerned steel plants and power stations as well as the representatives of the washery organisation and C.F.R.I. This group will make periodical reviews of problems and recommend measures for their solution.
 27. As the performance of washeries is also closely linked with the ready off - take of washed products consumed by the steel plants and power stations, either the same coordination group should also be authorised to visit the respective consumers to analyse their problems or similar coordination groups should be set up independently by the individual consumers and their report of findings should be exchanged periodically.
 28. Timely steps will have to be taken to ensure that by 1978-79 (or at least a couple of years later) the total production of raw coking coal and the total washing capacity in this country reach the level of about 45 and 37 million tonnes respectively, if the two Southern Steel Plants are to be entirely dependent on indigenous coals.
 29. Steel Plants should ensure that selective crushing and blending facilities as recommended by the Committee on Rational and Equitable Distribution of Coking Coal (1969) are immediately installed so that dependance on prime coking Group A coals is gradually brought down to the recommended levels. If this is not done, the Steel Plants are likely to face shortage of Group A coals much before 1978-79.
 30. The Railways should provide flexibility in the movements of raw and washed coals within the Jharia Coal field in order that proper blends are possible in supplies to steel plants.
 31. In order to select the suitable location for the new washeries as proposed above, necessary investigations will have to be initiated or sponsored timely by the Ministry of Steel and Mines in consultation with G.S.I., Coal Board, C.F.R.I., B.C.C. and N.C.D.C.
 32. Equipment for the new washeries should be of standard capacity and design, and should be manufactured indigenously. This standardisation will go a long way in solving the recurring need for large quantities of spares.

Statement-II

*Action Taken Report in respect of CCWO Washeries
Schemes for modification in the washeries suggested in the Chari Committee
are given below and the action taken is also indicated*

(i) DUGDA COAL WASHERY

Sl.No.	Schemes	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	To modify small coal circuit of Dugda-I for clearing (-) 6 mm coal	Completed in Oct'83
2.	Installation of Box wagon tippler at Dugda Washery	Completed in June'75
3.	Second stage car haul for hauling raw coal wagons for smooth feeding to tipplers	Completed in June'75
4.	To improve the capacity of raw coal storage of bunkers of Dugda-I and rate of discharge, lining of bottom portion of the bunkers	Completed
5.	Recording-cum-control of specific gravity of H.M. Baths	Completed
6.	Installation of filters at Patherdih & Dugda-II washeries	Completed in May'76
7.	Storage provision of clean coal to handle atleast one day production of clean coal and to ensure free flow from clean coal bunkers	Electro magnetic vibrator provided in the bunkers.
8.	Plant should be set to run on a closed water circuit	Completed
9.	CTPS authorities should ensure that the entire quantity of middling not exceeding 35 % ash should regularly be conveyed and consumed at their plant	Being done regularly
10.	All automatic weighers at different points of the washery shall be operated, maintained and serviced properly	Being done regularly
11.	Arrangement should be made at suitable places and properly maintained for the removal of tramp iron to avoid consequential damage	Being done regularly
12.	Railway to ensure supply of Box wagons both for raw coal and clean coal	Being done
13.	The loading section of the plant should be suitably modified to cope with full production of clean coal at the rated load of the plant, if required, additional bunkers should be built.	Completed
14.	Since the slurry ash is now showing a tendency to rise due to progressive deterioration in the quality of raw feed to the washery and increasingly higher contamination with sand from underground storing it will be advantageous to make necessary provisions to the beneficiation of raw slurry and mix only the upgraded slurry with middlings or rejects depending upon its actual ash content. A feasibility study on the aspect should be conducted by HSL in consultation with CERI.	Flotation Plant for upgration of slurry completed in 86.

(ii) PATHERDIH COAL WASHERY

1.	A check screen is needed to arrest oversize coal (+ 0.5 mm) escaping to the thickener	Done
2.	Installation of filters	Completed in 1976
3.	Installation of tipplers	Completed
4.	As the scraper discharging sinks from H.M. Bath is often getting jammed due to overloading steps should be taken by HSL to change the bottom size of H.M. Bath feed from 13 to 18 mm.	Done

1	2	3
5.	As the regular off-take of middlings cannot always be ensured due to obvious bottleneck in railway transport, some additional bunkering or dumping space should be provided at the Washery to ensure its smooth operation.	Done
6.	Steps should be taken to streamline the loading section for clean coal and decrease the dead stock inside the storage bunkers	Done
(iii) BHOJUDIH COAL WASHERY		
1.	Railways should increase the number of 4 Wheelers Wagons open type instead of covered	4-wheelers have since been replaced by BOBR wagons and arrangements have been completed
2.	HSL should instal Box wagon tippler for raw coal	-do-
3.	Ensure supply of Box wagons in regular basis for loading clean coal	Being done regularly
4.	Connect the washery from two product to three product	Completed
5.	Feasibility study of Upgradation of fines by CFRI	Completed

*Action taken Report on Chari Committee Recommendations in respect of
NCDC Washeries (Now CCL, Washeries)*

Sl. No.	Recommendation No. Ref. Part D of QN.	Recommendation	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	1	Incorporation of slurry beneficiation unit	Provided in the existing washery.
2.	2	Suitability of Argada, Sirka washed coal in Blend for steel plant	Gidi washery was commissioned in the year 1970 and remained idle upto 1973 as Railways refused to accept washed Non Coking Coal with the commencement of medium coking coal production in nearby areas, in 1973 Gidi washery was put on operation for its gainful utilisation again keeping in view the market demand for washed Non Coking Coal and techno economic considerations, CCL has switched over to washing Non Coking Coal at Gidi washery w.e.f. June'98
3.	3	Washeries not to remain idle due to non-availability of wagons in time.	Regular coordination with Railways for supply of wagons in time.
4.	5	Development of larger mining units in areas near washeries	New washeries have been planned almost integrated with the mining projects like Rajrappa, Piparwar etc.
5.	6	Better co-ordination in functioning of coal production and coal washing units	There is regular Inter-Action between incharge of the washery and of the coal producing unit.
6.	7	Top most priority to procurement of essential spares of proprietary nature	Spares are generally procured from OEM parties.

1	2	3	4
7.	9	Washery Organisation to have experienced instrument engineers.	Service contract have been entered with the equipment supplying firms as well as qualified engineers posted in the washeries.
8.	10	Conversion of two product washeries to three product washeries	All washeries are three product washeries
9.	11	Ash content of middling not to achieve 35% and heavier material above S.P.G.R. of 1.8 not to be allowed to go beyond permissible limit	With three product separation into washeries, amount of heavier material and SPGR of 1.8 from the middlings has been totally eliminated.
10.	12	Thermal Power stations to consume middling	Thermal power stations are consuming middlings.
11.	14	Middlings to be exempted from excise duties	Currently only stowing excise duty is levied on despatch of raw coal.
12.	15	Washery rejects for underground stowing in admixture with sand & or ash.	Technical suitability of washery rejects as stowing materials are yet to be established.

(English)

Negotiations with WTO

*244. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- whether India is joining the Millennium Round of negotiations at WTO;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps taken by the Government to put their views before WTO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) There is no decision in the WTO about a "Millennium Round" of negotiations.

(c) Government has throughout been proactively projecting India's own priorities before the WTO. India has, *inter alia*, highlighted its concerns regarding implementation of the existing WTO Agreements in their proper spirit and the operationalisation of the Special and Differential Treatment provisions for developing countries in the WTO Agreements, with the objective of raising standards of living and securing to developing countries a share in the growth of international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.

Reduction in Excise and Increase in Import Duty on Steel

*247. DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- whether the Steel Industry has requested the Union Government to reduce excise duty and hike import duty on steel items to end sluggishness in the steel sector.

(b) whether the above demands would help the steel industry to increase their output capacity; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to fully utilise the installed production capacity of steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Several measures have been taken to improve capacity utilisation in the integrated steel plants. They are :

- modernisation and technical upgradation of the plants;
- improving techno-economic factors, i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption; and
- effective maintenance of plant and machinery.

Government has also taken several measures recently to make Indian steel competitive which is expected to result in better capacity utilisation. These include launching of a National Campaign to boost demand and consumption of steel, reduction in import duty on certain raw materials, levy of anti dumping duty and fixing of floor prices on import of certain flat products, rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates to enhance steel exports etc.

Investment by Non-Resident Indians

*248. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the details of total investment (in rupee terms) made by non-resident Indians (NRIs) during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost NRI investment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The details of total investments made by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in Indian Companies in the last three years through various investment Schemes as reported by the Reserve Bank of India are as follows :

Rs. in crores				
	1996	1997	1998	1999 (upto Feb.)
Inflows	2062	1039.61	359.65	21.59

, In addition to the above, in the year 1998 the Resurgent India Bonds floated by the State Bank of India garnered an amount of approximately US \$ 4.2 Billion (equivalent to Rs. 18,051 crores) from NRIs.

(b) Government, on an ongoing basis, have taken several measures to improve and present an investment friendly environment in the country. Some of the recent initiatives include :

- (1) Increase in portfolio investment ceiling :
 - (i) The individual portfolio investment by NRIs in a company through the secondary market increased from 1% to 5%;
 - (ii) The aggregate portfolio investments through secondary market by all NRIs/PIOs/OCBs increased from 5% to 10% in a company; and
 - (iii) The aggregate portfolio investment limit of 10% by all NRIs/PIOs/OCBs will be exclusive and separate from FIIs to avoid crowding out of NRIs by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).
- (2) The two stage RBI approval mechanism has been substituted with a one stage general permission.
- (3) Simplification of procedure for extension of validity of approval in the case of portfolio investment by NRIs/PIOs/OCBs :

The following initiatives have been announced in the Budget for the financial year 1999-2000.

- (i) Extension of the facility of automatic approval route of the RBI to investments upto 100% by NRIs/OCBs for all items, except :
 - those which attract notified FDI equity caps;
 - items requiring compulsory licencing; and
 - items reserved for public sector

- items reserved for small-scale sector.

- (ii) Permission to opening of trading terminals of major stock exchanges abroad to facilitate participation of NRIs in the Indian capital markets.
- (iii) Simplification of the existing RBI approval mechanism for NRI investment in Indian mutual funds to a post-facto reporting mechanism.
- (iv) Creation of a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority within the Ministry of Industry to ensure the quick translation of FDI approvals into actual inflows.
- (v) Wherever FIPB clearance is required, decision to be given within 30 days.

Shares of IDBI

*249. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IDBI shares of Rs. 10/- each were issued initially at a premium of Rs. 120/- per share, making a total of Rs. 130/- per share;

(b) if so, whether their market price crashed almost immediately after the first issue;

(c) if so, the factors taken into account and the criteria followed while fixing their issue price, and the reasons for the crash in their market price;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the failure of IDBI shares to fetch a reasonable market prices: and

(e) if so, the results 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) Yes, Sir. IDBI made an initial public offering (IPO) of equity shares in July, 1995 at a price of Rs. 130 per share.

(b) and (c) IDBI has reported that the share price was fixed in consultation with the lead managers to the public issue. The valuation of the share was based on IDBI's track record, fundamentals such as Earning Per Share (EPS) and Book Value Per Share (BVPS), prevailing price-earnings (P/E) multiples and valuations of similar institutions and banks. IDBI shares were listed on stock exchanges in September, 1995 and opened at Rs. 125/- per share. There was no crash in market price immediately after the listing and the market price of IDBI shares continued at around Rs. 111/- till end March, 1996. The subsequent movement in market price has been a

result of the depressed conditions of the capital market and has not been in line with the strong fundamentals and performance of IDBI.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Anti-Dumping Duty by European Union on Bed Linen

*250. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of bed linen exported to European Union during the last year;

(b) whether India has lodged its protest to the World Trade Organisation against the European Union for anti-dumping duty imposed on its bed linen exports;

(c) if so, whether any settlement/understanding has been offered by the European Union;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the latest position in regard to the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) (a) During the year 1998, exports of Bed Linen to European Union Members States amounted to 20,144 tonnes valued at Rs. 529.87 crore.

(b) to (e) India has entered into consultations with the European Commission (EC) pursuant to Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes, Article XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and Article 17 of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994 regarding imposition of anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton type bed linen from India. However, the European Commission has not so far offered any settlement/understanding in the matter.

[Translation]

Revival of Sick Public Sector Undertakings

*251. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick Public Sector Undertakings in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the revival of these Undertakings;

(c) the total number of employees employed therein;

(d) whether Centre for Industrial and Economic Research has submitted study report on sickness of the PSUs;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with findings; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to check the increasing industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) As on 31.12.98, 65 CPSUs were registered with the BIFR. BIFR have so far approved revival package for 22 CPSUs, of which 5 CPSUs are no more sick. Besides, 2 CPSUs namely, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) have been dropped on account of their networth being positive. Statewise list of BIFR referred CPSUs indicating number of employees therein is at statement attached. For sick industrial CPSUs, revival/rehabilitation plans are drawn in accordance with the sanctioned schemes of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). As per Public Enterprises Survey Report 1997-98, there were 5,33,700 employees working in the BIFR referred sick PSUs.

(d) and (e) Centre for Industrial and Economic Research (CIER), commissioned by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), have conducted a study on "Strategies for Action on Sick Central Public Enterprises". The report suggests some specific and some general measures for addressing the problems attached with sick PSUs, mechanism for handling such cases in a stipulated time frame by all concerned etc.

(f) Apart from sanctioned schemes of BIFR and enterprise specific measures, some general steps taken by the Government for checking on industrial sickness include financial/capital restructuring, entering into joint ventures for upgradation of technology or for expanding the available markets, professionalisation of PSU Boards, modernisation of plants and machineries, restructuring of manpower etc.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Enterprise	No. of Employees
1	2	3
	ANDHRA PRADESH	
1.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited	247
2.	Praga Tools Ltd.	1635
3.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	248
	ASSAM	
4.	North Eastern Regional Agri. Marketing Corp. Ltd.	74

1	2	3
BIHAR		
5.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	134792
6.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	3728
7.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	9653
8.	India Firebricks & Insulation Co. Ltd. (NR)	0
9.	MICA Trading Corpn. of India Ltd. (NR)	0
10.	Projects & Development India Ltd.	2310
GUJRAT		
11.	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	10068
HARYANA		
12.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	7276
KARNATAKA		
13.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	4170
14.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	633
15.	NTC (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe) Ltd.	8321
16.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	208
MADHYA PRADESH		
17.	NEPA Ltd.	2549
18.	NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	9708
MAHARASHTRA		
19.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	2569
20.	Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	269
21.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	667
22.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	14232
23.	NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	18031
24.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.	1368
MANIPUR		
25.	Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd.	32
NAGALAND		
26.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Ltd.	748
ORISSA		
27.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.	84
RAJASTHAN		
28.	Instrumentation Ltd.	2975

1	2	3
TAMIL NADU		
29.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Lt	2744
UTTAR PRADESH		
30.	Bharat Immunological & Biologicals Corp. Ltd.	123
31.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	1707
32.	British India Corporation Ltd.	4711
33.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	997
34.	Elgin Mills Company Ltd.	3085
35.	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	13389
36.	Scooters India Ltd.	2009
37.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	1400
38.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	1380
39.	U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	341
WEST BENGAL		
40.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	1090
41.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	1024
42.	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.	427
43.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	472
44.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.	470
45.	BIECCO Lawrie Ltd.	857
46.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	3118
47.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	9275
48.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	1447
49.	Damodar Cement and Slag Ltd. (NR)	0
50.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	153154
51.	*IISCO Ujjain Pipe & Foundry Co. Ltd. (NR)	0
52.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	27154
53.	JESSOP & Co. Ltd.	3645
54.	Mining & Allied Machinery Copr Ltd.	4040
55.	National Instruments Ltd.	844
56.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	23292
57.	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	6234

1	2	3
58.	R.B.L. Ltd.	216
59.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	540
60.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	1765
61.	Weighbird (India) Ltd.	181
DELHI		
62.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	5255
63.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	7231
64.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	8205
65.	NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd.	5283

[English]

Mining Project for Hilly Areas

*253 SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to carry out a special mining project for hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in Jammu & Kashmir, around Jawahar Tunnel and its surroundings, unexpected metals, minerals and other such reserves have been found;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reason for not carrying out such project in order to find out the hidden wealth of our country; and

(e) the details of new mines which have been discovered during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) No significant metal deposits have been found around the Jawahar Tunnel. However, to the north of the Jawahar Tunnel, reserves of limestone have been found at verinag area and to the south of the Jawahar Tunnel, reserves of Gypsum have been found in Ramban area.

(d) Since no metal deposit of economic significance has been found, the question of mining of metal deposits does not arise.

The gypsum and limestone deposits around the Jawahar Tunnel are being exploited by State Public Sector and private companies.

(e) Details of mines opened during the three years State-wise upto 96-97 are given in enclosed statement-I

and details of mining plans approved by Indian Bureau of Mines for fresh grant of mining leases during the last three years (upto 20.2.99) are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Mines Opened in the Three Years Ending in March, 1997

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Mines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53
2.	Bihar	25
3.	Gujarat	31
4.	Haryana	01
5.	Himachal Pradesh	04
6.	Karnataka	15
7.	Kerala	28
8.	Madhya Pradesh	40
9.	Maharashtra	13
10.	Orissa	12
11.	Rajasthan	17
12.	Tamil Nadu	30
13.	Uttar Pradesh	06
14.	West Bengal	02
Total :		277

Statement-II

State-wise Number of Mining Plans Approved by Indian Bureau of Mines for Fresh Grant of Mining Leases, during the Last 3 years

State	98-99 (upto 20.2.99)	97-98	96-97
1	2	3	4
Assam	3	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	90	80	53
Bihar	4	5	6
Goa	1	0	0
Gujarat	29	36	37
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2
Haryana	5	0	42
Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	0

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	15	26	35
Kerala	7	7	23
Madhya Pradesh	81	95	73
Maharashtra	3	4	3
Meghalaya	0	2	0
Orissa	13	21	14
Rajasthan	43	78	90
Tamil Nadu	28	45	54
Uttar Pradesh	1	4	11
West Bengal	1	0	2
Manipur	0	1	0
Total	324	405	445

Bank Loans to Minorities

*254. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are receiving regular returns from the nationalised banks, indicating loans/ advances provided to specified minorities;

(b) if so, whether some of the banks have defaulted in this matter;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against such banks;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any annual target for grant of loans to minorities; and

(e) 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 (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have informed that returns from Banks regarding loans and advances granted to minority communities are generally received regularly. However, in case of any delay in receipt of return from any bank, the matter is immediately taken up by RBI with the concerned bank.

Under Government sponsored bank credit linked programmes such as Prime Ministers' Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) etc, sub-targets have been fixed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and women.

With a view to ensure adequate flow of credit to minority communities, RBI have taken number of steps which inter-alia include :

- setting up of special cell for minorities in each banks for facilitating flow of credit to the minority communities;
- review of progress regularly at the meetings of the District Consultative Committees and State Level Bankers Committees;
- good publicity regarding various anti-poverty programmes of the Government especially in the 41 identified districts having concentration of minority communities;
- appointment of an Officer by lead bank in each of these 41 districts to look exclusively into the problems relating to flow of credit to minority communities;
- preparation of suitable programmes for bank credit to minority communities in consultation with the branch managers; and
- organising entrepreneurial development programmes by Lead banks for the benefit of minority community members.

[Translation]

Visit of American Team to India.

*255. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of American officials propose to visit India to verify the child labour component in the textile industry before according permission for Indian garment exports;

(b) if so, whether permission has been granted by the Government to the American Customs officials to visit India;

(c) if so, the date by which this team is likely to visit India and the items likely to be enquired by them; and

(d) the reasons behind the visit of such a team and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) On approval by the Government of India, a team of 3 U.S. customs officials has visited India during February, 1999. The purpose of their visit was to be briefed on forced/indentured child labour in handknotted carpet industry in India.

Growth of SSIs

*256. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether several schemes are being formulated by the Government to promote small scale industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the promotion of small scale industries during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(d) whether the Federation of Association of small industries of India has urged the Government to provide series of fresh incentives for healthy growth of SSIs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The strategy for development of Small Scale Industries during the 9th Plan includes continuation of the schemes/programmes and other support services. The important schemes are as under :

Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme to provide infrastructure facilities in rural and backward areas.

To set up Mini-Tool Rooms and Training Centres in the States.

To assist Small Scale Industries in Technology Upgradation and Management Programme on cluster basis.

- Upgradation of 42 workshops attached to Small Industries Service Institutes.

- To upgrade the facilities available in the Tool Rooms and Testings Centres.

- To facilitate the growth of Micro Enterprises under the PMRY.

- To set up 100 rural clusters under National Programme for Rural Industrialisation as announced by the Finance Minister.

(c) The amount allocated for the promotion of Small Scale Industries during 8th and 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 1629.55 crores and Rs. 4303.85 crores, respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India in its representation has urged the Government to provide fresh incentives for the growth of

SSI sector which include assured access to credit to SSI particularly tiny units, creation of a viable credit guarantee scheme and earmarking of funds by Small Industries Development Bank of India for modernisation of SSI units at concessional rates.

Part (f) : Steps taken by the Government thereon are :

(i) To ensure that credit is available to SSI sector. Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to meet the credit requirement of all the bankable units. For assured access credit to all segments of SSIs, Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions that out of the funds normally available to SSI sector, 40% be earmarked for SSI units having investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs, 20% for those units with investment between Rs. 5.00 lakhs to Rs.25.00 lakhs and remaining 40% for the SSI units having investment more than Rs. 25 lakhs.

(ii) Government has announced in Union Budget 1999-2000, launching of a new credit insurance scheme.

(iii) For technological upgradation and modernisation of the SSI units, SIDBI has been operationalising a Technology Development Modernisation Fund Scheme wherein the credit to SSIs is given at Prime Lending Rate Only.

(iv) For ensuring adequate flow of credit to SSI sector, Government have announced in Union Budget 1999-2000 enhancement of limit of composite loan from Rs. 2.00 lakhs to Rs. 5.00 lakhs, enhancement of working capital limit from Rs. 4.00 crores to Rs. 5.00 crores, lending by banks to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) or other financial intermediates for purpose of on-lending to the tiny sector to be included in the priority sector lending.

(v) With a view to further ease the flow of credit to SSI units, RBI has advised banks to delegate more powers to branch managers, to grant ad hoc limit, to simplify application forms, to fix their own norms for amount of credit requirements and open more special SSI branches.

(vi) The scope of Single Window Scheme of SIDBI has been extended to all districts to meet the financial requirement (both term loan and working capital) of SSIs.

Foreign Exchange Spent on Import of Coins

*257. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of foreign exchange likely to be spent on import/minting of coins from abroad;

(b) whether the import of coins is likely to be continued in future also or there is any scheme to make the country self reliant in the field of coin minting;

(c) whether currency notes are also being printed in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the value thereof alongwith the names of countries;

(e) whether the substandard quality of paper available in the country is the main cause of printing currency notes in foreign countries; and

(f) if so, the method evolved to improve the quality of paper produced in our country atleast for printing of currency notes and the expected savings in foreign exchange in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a)

Year	Foreign exchange involved on import of coins (in Million US Dollar)
1997-98	19.59
1998-99	12.69 (provisional)
1999-2000	35.29 (estimated)

(b) Any decision to import coins is need-based. The Govt. has decided to import 1000 Million pieces of coins (Rs. 1 = 300 MPCs, Rs. 2 = 300 MPCs and Rs. 5 = 400 MPCs) in 1999-2000. The Govt. Mints at Calcutta and Mumbai are being modernised and a new Mint has been set up at Cherlapally on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The new Mint was inaugurated on 20-8-1997. It is also proposed to run India Govt. Mint, Noida in two shifts. With all these measures, the indigenous production of coins will substantially go up from 1999-2000. As against the present production of 2375 MPCs, from 1999-2000 the production is expected to be 4700 MPCs per annum.

(c) and (d) As a one time measure, the RBI was authorised to import printed currency Notes. The import was made by RBI as under :

Year	Denomination	Quantity (in MPCs)	Expenditure (in MillionUSD)
1997-98	Rs. 100	1415	33.58
1998-99	Rs. 100	585	13.88
1997-98	Rs. 500	572.4	17.11
1998-99	Rs. 500	1027.6	30.71
Total		3600	95.28

The total value of the imported Notes is Rs. one lakh crore (Value-wise). The details are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Firm	Denomination	Quantity (in MPCs)
1.	De.La rue Currency & Security Print, UK	100	1092
2.	Debden Security Printing Ltd, UK	100	273
3.	American Bank Note Co., USA	100	635
Total			2000
4.	Geisecke & Debrint GmbH, Germany	500	787
5.	Francois Charles oberthur, France	500	482
6.	BA Bank Note, Canada	500	331
Total			1600
Grand Total			3600

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Recovery of Loans

*258. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court have directed the Union Government and RBI for review of banking system and banking laws in the backdrop of ever increasing bank-frauds and scams; and

(b) if so, the details of fresh steps taken/under consideration to frame rules, regulations for speedy recovery of bank loans and interest thereon and progress made in this regard so far?

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. However, in a Writ Petition filed by a non-governmental organisation in the Supreme Court of India, the petitioners have sought the issuance of a writ, order or directions, directing the respondent "to formulate definite policy laying down procedure for the recovery of loans and advances together with interest accrued thereon which are presently being treated as non-performing assets of banks."

(b) Does not arise. However, Government/RBI and banks have taken a number of measures to reduce NPAs in public sector banks. These measures inter-alia include the following

- (i) At the instance of RBI/Government, banks have laid down their loan policy and loan recovery policy.
- (ii) Banks have set up Recovery Cells at their Head Offices. Branch-wise recovery targets are fixed and recovery is monitored by the Recovery Cell. Recovery performance is reviewed at different levels within the banks.
- (iii) Banks are recovering NPAs through negotiated settlements which envisage that recovery is to the maximum extent possible at the minimum expense and in a reasonable timeframe.
- (iv) 9 Debt Recovery Tribunals and 1 Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal have been set up by the Government.
- (v) The system of banking supervision has been modified and strengthened, with banks being subjected to off-site supervision in addition to on-site inspection.
- (vi) Internal control systems within the banks have been strengthened.
- (vii) In order to contain fresh NPAs, credit appraisal skills are being upgraded on a continuing basis.

Small Saving Schemes

*259. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have scaled down the interest rates on all major small saving schemes including Indira Vikas Patra and Kisan Vikas Patra;

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

(c) whether some State Governments have criticised that this decision was taken without consulting the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;

(e) its likely impact on common man's savings and annual plan of the State Governments; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide due economic security and proper return of the common man's savings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the revision in the rates of interest on various small savings schemes is placed at Annex. A committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R.V. Gupta which was set up to look into the issues of small savings had recommended benchmarking the interest rates on small savings schemes to the rates prevalent in the public sector banks/all India financial institutions on similar schemes.

(c) and (d) Some of the State Governments have communicated their reaction in regard to the reduction of rates of interest on small savings schemes. Some State Governments have raised the issue of prior consultation with the States for revision of interest rates in small savings. Small savings schemes are an instrument of Government of India and hence no prior consultation is called for. The State Governments have never been consulted in the past.

(e) (i) The common man's savings in small savings instruments will draw interest at the rates benchmarked to the rates prevalent in the public sector banks/all India financial institutions.

(ii) No adverse impact on the annual plan of State Governments is expected.

(f) Small savings schemes continue to carry attractive returns, substantial tax benefits, easy liquidity terms and Government of India guarantee. A large network of post offices and branches of public sector banks all over the country including rural and far flung areas, ensure easy access for small savers in schemes on tap throughout the year.

Statement*Interest on Small Savings Schemes*

Name of the Scheme	Rate of Interest per annum	
	Prior to 1.1.99	w.e.f. 1.1.99
1. Post Office Savings Account	5.50	4.50
2. Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 years)	12.50	11.50
3. Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (6 years)	13.00	12.00
4. Post Office Time Deposit		
(a) 1 Year Deposit	10.50	9.00
(b) 2 Year Deposit	11.00	10.00
(c) 3 Year Deposit	12.00	11.00
(d) 5 Year Deposit	12.50	11.50
5. N.S.C. VIII Issue (6 years)	12.00	11.50
6. National Savings Scheme 1992 (4 Years)	11.00	11.00
7. Indira Vikas Patra	13.43	12.25
8. Kisan Vikas Patra	13.43	12.25
9. Public Provident Fund Scheme (15 years)	12.00	12.00

Anti-Dumping Duty

*260. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Japan may drag India to WTO over anti-dumping" appearing in 'The Statesman' dated February 13, 1999;

(b) if so, whether Japan has threatened to take India to the WTO protesting imposition of anti-dumping duties on certain items; and

(c) if so, the details of the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) No, Sir. However, Japan has addressed the Government through Notes Verbale sent from Embassy of

Japan, New Delhi seeking clarifications on the preliminary findings in the Anti-Dumping investigations concerning industrial sewing machine needles and Styrene Butadiene Rubber.

(c) No provision of the Multilateral Trade Agreements has been violated regarding anti-dumping by India. Antidumping proceedings in India are in accordance with Section 9(a), (b) and (c) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended from time to time and the Rules made thereunder, which are in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Anti-Dumping.

[Translation]

Dispute on Contract Workers of BHEL

2509. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a dispute with regard to the contract workers of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bhopal is going on since long;

(b) the present issue between workers and management; and

(c) the action taken or likely to be taken on such issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) The Theka Karamchari Samukta Morcha has been raising demands on various issues concerning them from time to time.

(b) and (c) Discussions take place between Morcha Leaders and the Management. The Management has resolved the relevant issues suitably and explained other issues to the Morcha Leaders.

[English]

Cultivation and Export of Cashew

2510. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any assistance for the cultivation and export of cashew; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Cashew with a view to enhance the production and productivity of cashew was implemented during the VIII Plan, with an outlay of Rs. 5800 lakhs. The scheme was continued during the year 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 16 crores and during 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 2000 lakhs as per the

approved pattern of assistance. Apart from the above, the Directorate of Cashew Development, Cochin is providing assistance to the State Governments for establishing regional nurseries, model clonal cashew gardens and farmer's training programme. Besides the above, under all India Coordinated Research Projects of ICAR research studies on cashew through its seven regional centres are being carried out. For export promotion of cashew, assistance is being provided for participation in international fairs and exhibitions, organising buyer-seller meets, dissemination of information through publications and circulars, establishment of testing facilities, acquisition of latest packaging systems to improve the quality of cashews for exports and for improving quality standards of cashew kernels by adopting, ISO 9000/HACCP Quality Control System and for technology transfer/process upgradation/modernisation of cashew processing units.

Thermal Power Project with French Technology

2511. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern coalfields Limited had undertaken a Thermal Power Project with French technology;

(b) if so, whether ECL had spent Rs. 18 crores for this project;

(c) whether Rs. 8 crores out of Rs. 18 crores were spent towards journey to France by experts;

(d) whether ECL has failed miserably in implementing the Project since the Gas Turbine procured from France could not produce even 1 MW of electricity;

(e) whether most of the spare parts of the Gas Turbine have been stolen; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. ECL has reported that ECL had not undertaken any thermal power project with French technology. However, a gas turbine project with French technology was undertaken by ECL.

(b) ECL has spent Rs. 11.20 crores for procurement, installation and commissioning of gas turbine project.

(c) ECL has spent Rs. 3.46 lakhs (including Rs. 2.85 lakhs in foreign exchange) towards journey to France by experts for training.

(d) No, Sir. The gas turbine were operated for a total period of 3636 hours and produced 39.30 million units of power delivering peak load to its rated capacity of 5MW.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of reply at 'e' above.

Closure of BOGL

2512. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 25 crores is allocated by the Central Government for closure of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited which could have been made viable at Rs. 20 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether upon closure of BOGL, 1500 MT crore Glasses are to be imported; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) BIFR, to whom BOGL stands referred as a sick company under the SICA, has not yet formulated any scheme for revival of the company nor has it expressed an opinion as to the viability or otherwise of the company. Funds have been allocated by Government under the Voluntary Separation Scheme for giving workers the option of taking up voluntary retirement, in view of the low level of production activities in the company.

(c) and (d) Import of glasses are undertaken as per the provisions of the Export-Import policy and are dependent among other things on relative costs and prices of imports and domestic production.

General Insurance Corporation

2513. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) propose to introduce 'check-off system' to decide the numerical strength of unions operating in the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms presently followed for inviting unions for talks for settlement of wages and service conditions of the employees;

(d) whether there is resentment among the unions against the 'check-off system' and the Unions have made representations against the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken proposed to be taken thereon;

(f) whether the 'check-off system' is the only course to find out the numerical strength of the Union.

(g) if not, the reasons for imposing the system forcefully; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken to evolve a system acceptable to all Unions?

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 GIC have reported that traditionally it has been the practice to invite eleven unions/associations representing different classes of employees for discussions on employee-related matters. Of late, more and more new groups have been seeking representation in such discussions. The management of GIC is finding it difficult to accommodate all such requests without first ascertaining their numerical strength. Therefore, the GIC proposes to introduce a check-off system. Under this method, employees will have the option to indicate the name of the union/association of which they are members and authorize the management to deduct from their salary such unions' annual subscription. Based on such options, the representative strength of unions is proposed to be ascertained. Only the unions/associations having prescribed minimum representative strength are proposed to be called for discussions on employee-related matters in future.

(d) and (e) Before arriving at the proposed system, extensive consultations/discussions were held by the management of GIC with existing employees' unions/associations as well as with new groups. Despite extensive consultations, some unions/groups have represented against the proposed check-off system.

(f) The check-off system is the preferred option arrived at by the management after extensive consultations with all concerned.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Akaltara Unit of CCI

2514.DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which commercial production of Akaltara cement factory of Cement Corporation of India situated in newly formed district Janjgir Chamba in rural area of Madhya Pradesh has been commenced;

(b) the details of the production, capacity utilisation and loss-profit during each of the last three years;

(c) the date on which production of this unit is stopped and the reasons therefor;

(d) the date on which the case of declaring it as a sick unit was referred to BIFR;

(e) whether global tenders were invited for sale of this unit before referring it to BIFR;

(f) if so, reasons therefor;

(g) whether the salary to the employees of the above units are not paid regularly; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Akaltara Plant commenced commercial production on 1st April, 1981.

(b) The year-wise production, capacity utilisation and net loss-profit during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 are as under:

Year	Production (lakh MT)	Capacity Utilisation (%)	Net Profit/Loss (Rs. Lakhs)
1995-96	0.52	13	2011.47
1996-97	0.43	11	2993.7
1997-98	-	-	1095.81

*Production suspended since 9.12.96.

(c) The production of the unit was suspended with affect from 9.12.1996 as the unit had become unviable and it was not possible to recover even the variable cost.

(d) CCI was referred to BIFR on 25.4.96 and was declared as a sick unit on 8.8.96 by BIFR.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, global tenders were invited on the 30th September, 1996 through M/s SBI Capital Markets Ltd.

(g) and (h) 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.

[English]

HCF Jute Bags

2515.SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant 10% External Market Assistance (EMA) on the newly launched environment friendly hydrocarbon free (HCF) jute bags;

(b) if so, the specification of HCF jute bags on which EMA will be provided; and

(c) the projection for export of HCF jute bags during the current year and expected during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The HCF jute bags on which EMA shall be provided shall conform to the international specifications as laid down in Annexure to International Jute Council documents IJO/CP(XXIX)/2 Add and I and International Cocoa Organisation document ED MEM 763 Annex I dated 6th May, 1998.

(c) The estimated export of Food Grade Jute Products during the current year is 10,000 MT. The export of HCF jute bags is estimated to increase upto 30,000 MT during the next two years and to 50,000 MT by the year 2001-2002.

Expansion Plan of NLC

2516. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has drawn up plans for trebling its lignite mining capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sources of funds for the expansion work;

(d) whether any agreement between NLC and State Electricity Boards in regard to financial performance has been signed; and

(e) if so, the details of said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Neyveli Lignite Corporation's existing lignite mining capacity as well as planned capacity during IX and X five year plans is given below :

PRESENT PROJECTS	CAPACITY (in Million Tonnes per Annum)
Mine I	7.5
Mine II	10.5
Total	18.0
Project Under Implementation	
Mine I Expansion	3
Mine IA	3
Projects Planned	
Mine II Expansion	4
Mine III	12

(c) The planned projects are to be funded by a mix of budgetary support, internal resources, and market borrowing by NLC.

(d) and (e) Bulk power purchase agreements are in operation between NLC and the Southern State Electricity Boards in respect of power supplied to them by NLC. The agreements contain formulae for fixation of power tariff, rebates as well as surcharge. The power tariff provides for a prescribed return on equity/internal resources of NLC.

Export of Flowers and Vegetables

2517. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of flowers and vegetables have been exported during 1997 and 1998, country-wise;

(b) whether any allocation has been made to Kerala to step up production of Orchids and other flowers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The quantity and value of flowers and vegetables exported during 1996-97, 1997-98 and April-November 1998 are as follows :

Year	Fresh vegetables		Flowers*	
	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. cr.)	Quantity	Value (Rs. cr.)
1996-97	498863	341.16	NA	62.47
1997-98	NA	319.45	NA	78.59
1998-99	NA	193.96	NA	64.63

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta/APEDA) NA : Quantity Not Available.

*Includes dried flowers and planting material.

The country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India Monthly/Annual bulletins published by the DGCI&S, Calcutta, copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a Central Sector Plan Scheme on Development of Commercial Floriculture since the Eighth Five Year Plan. It includes establishment of model floriculture centres and area expansion. The model floriculture centres are envisaged to serve as focal units in development of floriculture in the region and for introduction, multiplication and distribution of quality planting material, provision of training and demonstration on production technology and post-harvest management. Kerala is one of the Centres sanctioned during the eighth Plan. Tropical orchids and anthurium are two of the

important flowers identified for development in Kerala. Under the Scheme, Kerala has been provided Rs. 87.50 lakhs from 1992-97 to 1998-99.

[Translation]

Fifth Pay Commission

2518. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Association of Assistant Directors (Rajbhasha), "Aeyakar Rajbhasha Sangthan" working in the Department of Income Tax has sent a representation alongwith the request to remove the discrepancies emanated due to the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission to the Director General of Income Tax (Administration);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Assistant Director(OL) are demanding higher replacement scale of Rs. 7500-12000 in place of Rs. 6500-10000/- recommended by the 5th Pay Commission and already given to them. The demand cannot be accepted as it will have wide ramification in other cadres similarly placed.

[English]

Counter Trade Agreement

2519. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Malaysia Government has offered to sell Palmolein to India in return for a railway project to be executed by State owned IRCON International as a part of counter trade arrangement;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) IRCON International Ltd., which has built several railway lines for KTMB, the Malaysian Railway System, had submitted a preliminary proposal in September, 1998 for construction of Tanjung Pelepas Railway Project to link new Port at Tanjung Pelepas with KTMB network against counter-trade of palm oil products. The Government of Malaysia has very recently in March, 1999 asked IRCON International Ltd. to submit

a detailed proposal. IRCON International Ltd. has yet to submit a detailed proposal in this regard.

(c) Government of India are keen to encourage increase in balanced bilateral trade in general, including through the mechanism of Counter Trade.

Financial Assistance by SDF to Private Steel Companies

2520. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Executives Federation of India has requested to the Union Government to take speedy action on the request made by Steel Authority of India Limited for financial restructuring which primarily envisages adjustment of loans from Steel Development Fund (SDF) and Government loans to IISCO through SAIL.

(b) whether private steel companies have submitted any proposal to the Union Government seeking financial assistance through SDF route;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Loans have been granted from Steel Development Fund to Steel Authority of India Limited, Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited, Rastriya Ispat Nigam Limited and Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited for modernisation/expansion schemes of these Main Producers. The Main Producers, i.e. SAIL, TISCO, RINL and IISCO were the first generation steel producers through whom an element of surcharge (SDF levy) was collected which became the corpus of SDF. The steel produced by other steel producers in the private sector and imported steel were not subjected to the SDF levy. Recently some private steel companies have approached for loans from this fund. However, the loans from SDF continue to be recycled to the Main Producers only as per the decision of the Government in 1997.

[Translation]

Assistance to Gujarat

2521. SHRI JAYASINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills in public and private sector, separately, in Gujarat;

(b) the sector-wise number of persons working therein;

(c) the number of mills closed down in the State due to financial crisis;

(d) whether the State Government has requested the Union Government for assistance; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The number of cotton/man made fibre textile mills in public, private and cooperative sector in the State of Gujarat as on 31.12.1998 is 28, 111 and 5 respectively.

(b) The number of workers in public, private and cooperative sector mills as on 31.12.1998 is 32249, 132880 and 5299 respectively.

(c) The number of mills closed down in the State of Gujarat as on 31.12.98 due to financial difficulties was 38. No NTC mill in the State has been closed down.

(d) and (e) The State Government has not requested for assistance in respect of NTC mills.

The Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development has received two proposals from the Government of Gujarat as follows :

- (i) Proposal of Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd. (GSTC) for assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF).
- (ii) Proposal of Government of Gujarat seeking NRF assistance for closed Textile Mills.

Assistance from NRF is presently available only for VRS in Central Public Sector Undertaking and for counselling, retraining of rationalised workers.

[English]

Flood of Bhutanese Notes and Coins in North Bengal

2522. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given

to Unstarred Question No. 1508 dated 5-6-98 and state :

(a) whether the information has so far been collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Government has sought time upto 4-6-99 for collection of information and laying it on the Table of the House.

Housing Loan

2523. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 556 on May 29, 1998 regarding housing loan sanctioned by various financial institutions and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be collected?

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) A copy of the implementation report is given in Statements I to III attached.

Statement-I

Encl. to MOF (Bkg. Division) O.M.No. 12/7/98-CP Dated : 23.12.98
II Session, 1998 of the 12th Lok Sabha

Date of Fulfilment _____

Question No., date and Name of M.P(s).	Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs (Banking Division)			
	Subject	Promise Made	How Fulfilled	Reason for delay
1	2	3	4	5
Unstarred question No. 556 for 29th May, 1998 by Shri Mohammad Ali	HOUSING FINANCE Asking for :- (a) the eligibility criteria for the House Building Loan being	(a), (b) (c) & (d): Informa- tion is being collected	(a) to (c) National Housing Bank (NHB) have reported that individuals who have stable and verifiable source of income and who can service the	Collec- tion and process- ing of the

1	2	3	4	5
Ashraf Ali Fatmi and Mahesh Kanodia	<p>sanctioned by the various financial institutions;</p> <p>(b) the rate of interest being charged by these financial institutions, institution-wise;</p> <p>(c) whether it is a fact that these financial institutions do not sanction the loan easily and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and</p> <p>(d) whether the Government are considering to amend the procedure for sanction of House Building loan so that middle and weaker classes can be benefited ?</p>	and will be laid on the Table of the House.	<p>loan are generally considered eligible for grant of housing loans by the HFCs. The terms of sanction and criteria for selection of applicants for grant of housing loans vary for each HFC as detailed at Annexure-I in respect of major HFCs.</p> <p>The NHB have further reported that HFCs have their own interest rate structure under different slabs. The interest rate structure for individual Housing loans as on May 25, 1998 in respect of approved HFCs is at Annexure-II.</p> <p>Complaints, if any, received from public in respect of delay in sanctioning housing loans by HFCs, are referred to the concerned agency to take appropriate action.</p>	information entitled delay.
			(d) No, Sir.	

Statement-II

Criteria for Grant of Housing Loans by HFCs

No.	HFC	Eligibility Criteria	Eligible borrowers
1	2	3	4
1.	PNB Housing Finance Ltd. (PNBHFL)	<p>(a) Individuals in permanent service or having their own business.</p> <p>(b) Age of the applicant should not be more than 60 years. Repayment shall not normally be allowed beyond superannuation age in case of salaried applicant and 65 years in case of selfemployed professionals and business.</p> <p>(c) Eligible loan amount is based on the repayment capacity as determined by PNBHFL taking into account income, age, qualification and occupation, etc. In case there are other earning family members, their income can also be considered for calculation of eligible loan amount.</p>	<p>(a) Salaried class, businessmen including professionals and self-employed</p> <p>(b) Reputed Private Builders/Corporate bodies</p> <p>(c) Development Authorities/Housing Boards.</p>
2.	GIC Housing Finance Ltd. (GHFL)	<p>Individual or Individuals who intend to buy or build dwelling unit.</p> <p>Assistance would be restricted to 80% of the cost of the property and the income to installment ratio (IIR) is restricted to normally 50%.</p>	To all Resident Indians and also NRIs. Persons with permanent source of income for servicing the loan would be eligible for assistance.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
GRUH Fin. Ltd.	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	16.50%	18.00%	18.00%	18.00%	-	-
GTC Housing Fin. Ltd.	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	16.00%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	-
Orissa Rural Hsg. Dev. Corpn.	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.50%	-	-	-	-	-
Global Hsg. Fin. Corpn. Ltd.	12.25%	12.25%	14.50%	14.50%	14.50%	15.00%	15.25%	16.25%	-	-	-	-	-
PNB Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	-	-	-	14.50%	14.50%	14.50%	14.50%	15.25%	15.25%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%
Vijaya Home Loans Ltd.	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%	17.50%	17.50%	18.00%	18.50%	18.50%	-	-	-
Ind Bank Hsg. Ltd.	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	-	-
Saya Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	13.00%	13.00%	13.00%	17.00%	17.00%	18.00%	18.00%	18.50%	-	-	-	-	-
Vysya Bank Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	12.25%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	17.00%	17.50%	17.50%	17.50%	17.50%
BOB Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	14.25%	14.25%	14.25%	14.25%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	16.00%	-	-
GLFL Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.50%	17.50%	17.50%	17.50%	-	-
Livewell Home Fin. Ltd.	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	17.00%	17.50%	18.00%	19.00%	-	-	-	-	-
Weizman Homes Ltd.	12.25%	12.25%	12.25%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.50%	17.00%	-	-	-	-	-
Mercantile Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	14.75%	14.75%	14.75%	14.75%	14.75%	14.75%	14.75%	15.25%	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%
Peerless Abason Fin. Ltd.	12.00%	12.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.00%	16.50%	16.50%	17.00%	-	-	-	-	-
SBI Home Fin. Ltd.	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	-	-	-	-	-
Hometrust Hsg. Fin. Ltd.	13.50%	13.50%	13.50%	14.50%	14.50%	15.50%	15.50%	16.50%	-	-	-	-	-
AB Homes Ltd.	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%
VI Bank Hsg. Ltd.	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%
Centt. Bank Home Fin. Ltd.	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	15.00%	15.00%	15.50%	15.50%	16.00%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%	16.50%

Note : Some of the above HFCs vary their interest rate in respect of the above slabs, based on the term of loan.

De-Reservation of Posts for SCs/STs

2524. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of Bank of Maharashtra has approached the Banking Division of Ministry of Finance for approval of de-reservation of vacancies/posts reserved for SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Banking Division 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) Bank of Maharashtra has approached Government for dereservation of one vacancy of Chief Security Officer in Scale-V as its efforts to find a suitable Scheduled Caste Candidate failed despite giving advertisement twice for the post. The Government advised the bank to seek 'No Objection' from the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the guidelines on the subject. Bank of Maharashtra referred the matter to the Commission. No objection/comments' from the Commission has not been received as yet.

Task Force to Achieve Growth Rate

2525. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted task forces for infrastructure sector, capital market, administrative and legal reforms and other sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these task forces have submitted their reports to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by these task forces; and

(e) the details of the action plans being formulated by the Government on the basis of the reports to achieve the higher growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) On the basis of the decision taken in the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry, six Special Subject Groups, in the nature of Task Forces, were formed from among members of the Council. The Groups were constituted to consider and recommend implementable Action Plans in six different areas viz. food and agro-industries, infrastructure, capital markets

and financial sector, knowledge-based industries, service industries and administrative and legal simplifications.

(c) and (d) The Special Subject Groups submitted their recommendations to the Prime Minister on 14.12.1998. All the Groups have given wide-ranging suggestions on the areas concerned, covering all aspects and with a view to promote productivity and efficiency.

(e) A summary of the recommendations of the Special Groups indicating, inter-alia, the action points has been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for follow-up action.

Nilanchal Ispat Nigam

2526. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people likely to be displaced due to construction of the steel plant by Nilanchal Ispat Nigam in Orissa;

(b) whether any efforts have been made for the economic rehabilitation of those people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) According to information received from Government of Orissa and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., 634 families have been displaced. 503 families have opted to take self-rehabilitation assistance. The remaining 131 families have opted to take land patta in the Rehabilitation Colony. The families who opted for settlement in the Government Rehabilitation Colony were allotted 20 decimal of land and paid compensation according to the value of their earlier houses for construction of new houses. Those who opted and settled elsewhere were given Rs. 50,000 lumpsum and cost of their earlier houses. In addition, 17 eligible candidates from the oustee families are also being trained in Cuttack and the entire cost is being borne by the Company. And 285 persons have also been engaged in various jobs of project construction. Moreover, one member from each family will be provided employment in the Company, subject to performance and aptitude to work.

Crisis faced by Handloom Units

2527. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the subsidy is being given to the handloom units facing crisis and closure in the country;

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

(c) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to save such units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes for the development of handloom sector and the welfare of handloom weavers.

1. Market Development Assistance Scheme.
2. Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme.
3. National/Mini Handloom Expo.
4. Crafts Melas, District level Fairs and Festivals.
5. Work Shed-cum-Housing Scheme.
6. Thrift Fund Scheme.
7. Group Insurance Scheme.
8. Health Package Scheme.
9. Project Package Scheme.
10. Research and Development Scheme.
11. Free Lance Designer Scheme.
12. Decentralised Training Programme.
13. Supply of Yarn at Mill Gate Prices.

Collection of Income Tax/Excise in States

2528. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government maintain State-wise collection of Income tax and Union Excise duties;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof during the Seventh and Eighth Plan; and

(c) if not, the basis on which the State-wise distribution of income tax, basic and additional excise duties are made?

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. The information is collected Commissionerate/Zone wise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Distribution of shareable taxes and duties i.e. Income Tax, Basic Excise duty and Additional Excise duties in lieu of Sales Tax, is made on the recommendation of the Finance Commission. The share of individual States is distributed according to the percentage of the total collection as prescribed by the Commission.

Exploit of Bauxite Deposits

2529. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the initiatives taken by his Ministry and the Government of Orissa to the huge Bauxite deposits in Koraput and Rayagada Districts of Orissa so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up Alumina-Aluminium plants by Private sectors in these districts;

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard so far by all concerned agencies; and

(d) the total land proposed to be provided by the Government to the industries and the total land likely to be acquired from the tribals and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Marine Products from Gujarat

2530. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity, value and varieties of marine products produced and exported from Gujarat during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of marine products from Gujarat during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The quantity and value of different varieties of fish and fishery products sourced mainly from the State of Gujarat and exported from the ports located in Gujarat State to the major markets during the last three years, are as follows :

Item-wise exports

Q : Quantity in Metric Tons

\$: Value in US \$ Million

Item		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	
Frozen	Q :	5295	6329	6275
Shrimp	\$:	28.24	28.23	32.80
Frozen	Q :	516	3.89	3.80
Lobster	\$:	5.98	4.29	3.86
Frozen	Q :	6417	7451	7630
Cuttlefish	\$:	11.16	12.70	15.19

1	2	3	4
Frozen Squid	Q : 10577	14186	9432
	\$: 17.42	20.90	13.83
Frozen Fresh Fish	Q : 59223	91803	97195
	\$: 61.74	88.50	103.72
Others	Q : 530	3055	4649
	\$: 0.95	4.98	6.56
Total	Q : 82558	123213	125561
	\$: 125.49	159.60	175.96

Market-Wise exports

Q : Quantity in Metric Tons

\$: Value in US \$ Million

Country/Market	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
USA	Q 4130	4616	4152
	\$ 9.10	10.44	12.82
Japan	Q : 3229	5491	7032
	\$: 23.49	25.10	27.79
European Union	Q : 12459	12163	4972
	\$ 29.99	25.81	9.89
South East Asia	Q 61110	98421	105940
	\$ 58.13	93.35	118.02
Middle East	Q 1432	1158	1854
	\$ 4.27	3.26	5.03
Others	Q 198	1364	1611
	\$: 0.51	1.64	2.41
Total	Q : 82558	123213	125561
	\$: 125.49	159.60	175.96

Source : Marine Products Export Development Authority

(b) The Government of India has been implementing a number of schemes through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for boosting the exports of fish and fishery products from India to various markets and the benefits from the various schemes can be availed by all eligible units or persons in the various states of India including Gujarat. Some of the important schemes are : (i) Reduction of threshold limit from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme for duty free import of essential machinery and equipment, (ii) Notification of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for export of fish and fishery products (iii) Permission for debonding of existing Export Oriented Units (EOU) under zero custom

duty scheme under EPCG, (iv) Additional entitlement of 5% SIL (Special Import Licence) to units having Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System of Quality Assurance, (v) Interest subsidy on bank loans upto a maximum of 7% of interest over and above a basic rate of 7% for modernisation and upgradation of processing plants besides providing capital subsidy, (vi) Arranging of training programmes for the processing industry in HACCP and good manufacturing practices (GMP) (vii) Extension of technical and financial assistance to the aquaculture farmers to take up disease free sustainable aquaculture.

Hotel Leela Ventures Ltd.

2531. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hotel Leela Ventures Ltd. has raised loans from various banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof, bank/institution-wise;

(c) whether the loans sanctioned to Hotel Leela Ventures Ltd. have been diverted for other purposes in its other sister concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the refund of loans and interest thereon have been received by each of the banks in time;

(f) if not, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the company 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) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under the law.

CEGAT

2532. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the sanctioned strength of various benches of Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT);

(b) the number of benches are operating/functioning and the locations thereof;

(c) the number of benches are not operating with reasons therefor;

(d) whether there was a proposal to create two new benches at Bangalore and Ahmedabad; and

(e) if so, the time by which those benches are operational?

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, at present, there are nine sanctioned benches of Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT).

(b) All the nine sanctioned benches are functioning - five at Delhi, two at Mumbai and one each at Chennai and Calcutta.

(c) Nil.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) After detailed examination, it was found that the pendency in various benches, considered along with the rate of disposal, did not warrant creation of the two additional benches.

Administrative Control of CEGAT

2533. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any President of Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the President of CEGAT is likely to be appointed;

(d) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in R.K. Jain Vs. Union of India (CEGAT members Recruitment and Conditions of Services Rules, 1987) have observed that the administrative control of CEGAT should be in the hands of Law Ministry; and

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

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. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, presently, Sh. S.K. Bhatnagar is holding charge as President of the Tribunal in addition to his own duties as Vice-President.

(c) A proposal is under consideration.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Transparency and Accountability in Government Functioning

2534. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "P.M. advocates accountability in Government spending" appearing in Daily Business Standard, dated July 2, 1998;

(b) whether transparency and accountability in the expenditure being incurred by the Government Departments on various schemes are the basic need for clean administration; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to take any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Constitutional and other safeguards (by way of Government decisions under the General Financial Rules etc.) already exist for ensuring transparency and accountability in Government expenditure.

[English]

Exclusive Marketing Rights of Agro Chemical Products

2535. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to grant exclusive marketing rights to drugs and agro chemical products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is true that the People's Commission on Intellectual Property Rights in its report submitted had pointed out that medicines would go further out of reach of the poor under an Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMRs); and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) In terms of provisions of Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the Agreement on trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the World Trade Organisation Agreement, India is obliged to provide a means to receive product patent applications in the fields of pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals and on fulfilment of certain conditions, grant of exclusive marketing rights for a period

of five years or till the patent is granted or rejected, whichever is shorter.

(c) A representation has been received from People's Commission on Intellectual Property Rights in this regard.

(d) In the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 as well as in the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998, it has inter-alia been provided that the Government may, in the public interest, and for reasons to be stated in writing, direct any substance which is the subject of an exclusive marketing right to be sold at a price, to be determined by an appropriate authority designated by it.

Recommendations of G-8 Countries

2536 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether G-8 countries have agreed on the need to restore multilateral aid to India;

(b) if so, whether some member countries of the G-8 nations have agreed that the sanctions imposed on India after the Pokharan nuclear tests should be lifted;

(c) if so, whether G-8 countries are divided over the issue of world bank aid to India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) the extent to which the decision of G-8 nations likely to help India in meeting the financial crisis; and

(g) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (g) In June 1998, the G-8 countries resolved to support projects addressing basic human needs in multilateral institutions. Loans aggregating \$ 1.245 billion to support 7 such projects have been since approved by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Recently, two projects not classified as basic human needs have been approved by the World Bank Group. Some of the G-8 countries voted for the proposal while others abstained or opposed. Their different approaches are a reflection of their different perceptions and interests. Government of India is not in any financial crisis. However, Government of India is taking all possible steps to obtain funding support for projects posed by us to different institutions.

Export of Sugar

2537. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of sugar exported during each of the last three years, till date, country-wise;

(b) the quantity of sugar proposed to be exported during 1999-2000; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the good quality of Indian sugar in the International market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The total quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three years is as under :

Year	Exports	
	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (Rupees in lakhs)
1995-96	434320	59734
1996-97	667274	86080.03
1997-98	175081	24060.24
1998-99 (April-Nov.)	4744	649.86

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India Published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) As per the current Export-Import Policy, export of sugar is restricted except under preferential quotas to EEC and USA and to Nepal under Indo-Nepal Treaty of Bilateral Trade. The sugar exported meets the quality requirements of the international market.

[Translation]

Target for PMRY

2538. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :
SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed educated persons targeted for self employment during each of the last three years under Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana in the country particularly in the state of Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons provided employment till January, 1999, State-Wise;

(c) whether the target has been achieved during the said period;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The plan target in terms of number of beneficiaries to be assisted is 2.20 lakhs beneficiaries for each of the last three years i.e. 1995-96; 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. However, the States/UTs are allocated a higher target to ensure achievement of the national target. The statement showing state-wise targets allocated to States/UTs including the targets allocated to Madhya Pradesh and Union Territory Chandigarh during the last three years i.e. 1995-96; 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is at statement-I.

(b) The statement showing number of educated unemployed persons disbursed loans by banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years i.e., 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto December, 1998) based on reports received from the Reserve Bank of India is at statement-II. Studies have revealed that employment generation is 1.5 times of number of cases disbursed loans by banks.

(c) to (e) During the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 sanctions by banks were 125 per cent of the targets and disbursements were 95 percent of the plan targets as per the reports furnished by the Reserve Bank of India. The reasons for shortfall in disbursement are due to non completion of training by borrowers, borrowers, inability to complete post sanction formalities, delay in disbursement by bank branches, borrowers getting employment elsewhere, borrower unwilling to avail of loans even after sanctions etc. Instructions have been issued by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India for timely completion of training, and sanction and disbursement of loans in a time bound manner.

Statement-I

State-wise target under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for the last three years i.e. 1995-96; 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Target (Nos)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31900	31900	34200

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Assam	9900	15000	13400
3.	Bihar	22150	22150	21500
4.	Delhi	4550	4550	4700
5.	Goa	550	550	600
6.	Gujarat	8500	8500	12600
7.	Haryana	7200	7200	6300
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2100	2100	2300
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3100	3500	3500
10.	Karnataka	17700	17700	22000
11.	Kerala	15000	15000	16000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	27050	27050	31500
13.	Maharashtra	35900	35900	42600
14.	Manipur	4000	3000	1300
15.	Mizoram	250	375	400
16.	Orissa	8250	8250	9250
17.	Punjab	15000	8600	9000
18.	Rajasthan	10400	10400	14300
19.	Tamil Nadu	21800	21800	27700
20.	Tripura	1300	1950	1300
21.	Uttar Pradesh	35813	35813	45200
22.	West Bengal	22900	22900	23000
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	100	100	100
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	450	300
25.	Chandigarh	150	150	200
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	150	150	50
27.	Daman & Diu	100	100	50
28.	Nagaland	300	450	450
29.	Lakshadweep	50	50	50
30.	Meghalaya	550	550	550
31.	Pondicherry	500	500	500
32.	Sikkim	200	200	100

Statement - II

Number of educated unemployed persons disbursed loans by Bank during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto December, 1998 under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

Sl. No.	States/UTs	As reported by the Reserve Bank of India			
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (up to Dec., 98)
1	2	3	4	5	6
NORTHERN REGION					
1.	Haryana	7220	6548	4438	1032
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2350	2220	1967	663
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1694	1243	1825	523
4.	Punjab	12355	7618	7468	1627
5.	Rajasthan	7024	7962	8804	1769
6.	Chandigarh	152	118	116	30
7.	Delhi	2568	776	583	183
NORTH EASTERN REGION					
8.	Assam	7484	7757	3185	677
9.	Manipur	1147	1479	100	255
10.	Meghalaya	391	374	140	27
11.	Nagaland	293	421	304	21
12.	Tripura	674	543	127	233
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	226	239	31	17
14.	Mizoram	215	139	4	9
15.	Sikkim	144	110	30	9
EASTERN REGION					
16.	Bihar	12557	15322	9296	1979
17.	Orissa	5724	5744	3121	254
18.	West Bengal	7256	5522	2997	821
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	71	37	44	41
CENTRAL REGION					
20.	Madhya Pradesh	23108	22640	16954	3067
21.	Uttar Pradesh	28728	29089	28584	10633
WESTERN REGION					
22.	Gujarat	8879	8093	13528	5451

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Maharashtra	31853	30935	28699	8476
24.	Daman & Diu	29	22	30	13
25.	Goa	409	397	253	98
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	177	91	67	13
SOUTHERN REGION					
27.	Andhra Pradesh	24345	21716	17533	4667
28.	Karnataka	13364	12171	11251	2374
29.	Kerala	12763	13306	11236	2842
30.	Tamil Nadu	15003	14215	11356	2577
31.	Lakshadweep	35	36	40	7
32.	Pondicherry	347	260	274	83
	Not Specified	11	13	-	-
ALL INDIA		228597	217156	184385	50471

[English]

Finance for Housing Schemes

2539. SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen finance for housing schemes for the economically weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details of the loans disbursed by banks for House building purposes to the people living below poverty line during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the measures adopted by National Housing Bank and Housing Financial Institutions for mopping domestic resources as well as resources from International sources ?

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) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Financial Position of Government

2540. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the name of the countries

with which talks were held in order to strengthen financial position of the Government of India in the last ten months alongwith the other details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) In order to strengthen its financial position, the Government of India held talks with various countries during the last ten months at various levels. These include discussions with France, Japan and European Community. Brief details of these discussions are as follows:

- (i) The Indo-French Bilateral Talks for finalising the Indo-French Financial Protocol for 1998 were held in Paris, France on 16.11.98-17.11.98 wherein projects commitments worth FF 68.8 million for financing under the protocol were finalised. Eventually, the Indo-French Financial Protocol for the said amount was signed on 23.11.98.
- (ii) There have been various official level dialogues between the Indian side and Japanese side since January 1999 in an effort to get cleared the six additional loan tranches for ongoing projects appraised for 1998-99.
- (iii) A meeting of the Indo-European Sub-Commission was held in January, 1999, in which it was agreed that priority should be accorded to sectoral programmes with environment as new focal area in addition to primary education and health.

Export of Floriculture

2541. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the study conducted by the Export-Import Bank of India with regard to the present position of the floriculture and its export potential; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the main obstacles coming in the way of promoting floriculture as mentioned in the report ?

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

(b) The Government has been taking various measures to boost exports of floricultural products. Some of the steps taken to overcome the difficulties faced in the exports of floricultural products include the following :-

- (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 purchase of specialised transport units (reefer

containers), establishment of precooling/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 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 set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi and at Bangalore Airtort. Similar facilities are being established at Chennai, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram Airport.
- (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 on exports 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.
- (ix) Provision of financial assistance under the Central Sector Plan Scheme on Development of Commercial Floriculture for establishment of model floriculture centres and area expansion. The model floriculture centres are envisaged to serve as focal units for devevelopment of floriculture and for introduction, multiplication and distribution of quality planting material, provision of training and demonstration on production technology and post-harvest management.

[English]

WTO Meet

2542. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has decided to moot for a joint position by G-15 countries at the coming World Trading Organisation (WTO) in regard to various issues on the agenda;

(b) if so, the precise proposal has been mooted or proposed to be mooted by India and the main objects thereof; and

(c) the response of the other G-15 countries to this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) In the IXth G-15 Summit related meetings held at Montego Bay, Jamaica in February, 1999, India highlighted the need for coordinating and consolidating the G-15 position regarding multilateral trade issues in the context of the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation to be held later this year.

G-15 countries have already initiated action for a better understanding of Special and Differential Treatment provisions in various Uruguay Round Agreements through an Inter-governmental Symposium on the subject held at New Delhi in December 1998. In the IXth G-15 Summit India suggested that the G-15 needed to further the common understanding on specifics and analyse the experience of different countries to determine whether implementation of these agreements had provided the promised benefits to developing country members of WTO. India proposed that G-15 countries should pool their expertise in order to match the better awareness and bargaining power of developed countries on trade policy issues in the multilateral trade negotiations. The proposal of India to host a meeting of G-15 countries in New Delhi in preparation for the Third WTO Ministerial conference has been welcomed by the G-15 Countries.

[Translation]

Status of NRIs

2543. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians have requested the Government to accord them the same status and facilities as is being accorded to the foreign and domestic investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) There have been requests from Non

Resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) for accorded them better facilities for investment. The NRIs and PIOs are enjoying better status and facilities compared to foreign investors. Government have extended following concessions for NRIs and OCBs (Overseas Corporate Bodies), predominantly owned by NRIs (i) NRI/OCB can invest upto 100% in industries/items included in high priority industries included in Annexure-III of the Manual on Industrial Policy and Procedures, (ii) NRI/OCB investment is permitted in the real estate and housing sectors upto 100% (iii) NRI/OCB investment in domestic airlines sector is permitted upto 100% (iv) NRI/OCB are permitted to invest upto 40% in the banking sector, and (v) NRIs can invest beyond 24% in Small Scale Industries in the first instance provided they do not have a stake in any other industrial undertaking.

[English]

Retirement Age in PSUs

2544. DR ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce retiring age from 60 to 58 in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the details of review of voluntary Retirement Scheme introduced in PSUs during the last three years and the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The model voluntary retirement scheme framed in 1988 is still in vogue. No general review of VRS has been made so far. However, specific need based V.R. Scheme approvals are being obtained by the PSUs from the Government.

[Translation]

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Raj Bhasha Vibhag

2545. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to constitute a Committee comprising of all the departments under his Ministry for giving guidelines for celebrations of the Golden Jubilee Year of Rajbhasha ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he also propose to publish special issues of periodicals and magazines being published in the

various departments under his Ministry featuring special work done in Hindi on this occasion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The subject matter of the question concerns the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs who have indicated that the matter of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Official Language for a year beginning from 14 September, 1999 is under consideration.

[English]

Cadre Review of Indian Economic Service

2546. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhajharpur) :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a Cadre review of IES is under consideration;

(b) Whether in the exercise of current Cadre review of IES the interest of promotee Officers have been taken care of;

(c) Whether the 36 promotees Grade IV Officers of IES are eligible and being delayed their entitled promotion to Grade III of IES even though a large number of vacancies in grade III of IES are existing ; and

(d) If so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) A proposal to hold the DPC for promotion from Grade IV to Grade III of IES is under process.

[Translation]

Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme

2547. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN :
SHRI AJIT JOGI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some areas of Madhya Pradesh have been covered under Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme under which the development of small industrial area is done on the instructions of the Union Government and through the loans for small Industries Development Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details of the sanctioned scheme in this regard;

(c) whether cases are under consideration for granting sanction under the above mentioned scheme;

(d) whether the SIDBI has refused to advance loan for Bandol Industrial Area Development Scheme in Shivni district even after clearing the said scheme by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the above scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme was launched in 1994 to provide basic infrastructural facilities, in the rural/backward areas. Under the scheme, Central grant upto Rs. 200 crores and loan from SIDBI upto Rs.3.00 crore is available for each Centre. The State Govts. are required to select appropriate site, firm up the proposals and get these appraised from SIDBI for techno-economic viability. Two IID Centres have been sanctioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh; one at Nadantola in Distt. Satna and the other at Bandol in Distt. Senoni.

(c) As per the information available, three more proposals for setting up IIDs at Nirmani (Distt. Khargone), Shamgarh (Distt. Mandsaur) and Jaggakhedi (Distt. Mandsaur) have been received by SIDBI recently and are being processed.

(d) and (e) Under the Scheme, the State Government is required to appoint the implementing agency having a good track record and sound financial position. The financial position of Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam, Jabalpur, the proposed implementing agency in respect of IID Centre at Bandol was not found satisfactory. The agency is in default to IDBI and has accumulated losses. SIDBI is hence not willing to sanction loan. The State Government was given the option to invest its own funds in lieu of SIDBI loan or to change the implementing agency. The State Government has expressed inability to invest its own funds. Central grant of Rs. 89.00 lakhs has already been released for the other IID Centre at Nadantola (Distt. Satna).

[English]

Production of Resin, Turpentine and Camphor

2548. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of Resin, Turpentine and Camphor has declined sharply over recent years mainly as a result of shortage of Oleo Pine Resin (OPR), forest based basic raw material and unfair trade practice adopted by China;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years vis-a-vis production capacity established and actual utilisation thereof alongwith number of units closed;

(c) the details of representations received from the above industries regarding severe crisis faced by them and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the package of incentives proposed for revival and growth of the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Some shortfall in the production of Rosin and Turpentine has been reported in the State of J&K. However, in the overall production of Rosin, Turpentine and Camphor there has been no decline. The production of Camphor has exhibited increasing trends since 95-96. U.P., H.P. and J&K are the major states producing Oleo Pine Resin (OPR) and are having units for the production of Rosin, Turpentine and Camphor. Though the indigenous production of Oleo Pine Resin, the basic raw material for these products falls short of the present level of its demand, the short fall is being met through imports permitted under OGL. The import duty on Oleo Pine Resin has also been brought down to the level of 15%.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received for abolition of custom duty on OPR. The matter has been considered. However, in the current budget proposals also, the same duty level as in the previous year, has been retained.

Decline in Growth of Automobile Sector

2549. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU :
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth of automobile sector has shown a sharp drop in sales during the year 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government have proposed any effective measures to boost the growth of automobile industry with particular reference to encourage two wheeler sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The automobile sector as a whole has shown sales growth of 4.6% during April-December 1998 over the same period of 1997. However, except for the two wheelers, other segments have shown some decline in sales as per details given below:

Category	Aprill-Dec'97	April-Dec'98
Commercial Vehicles	1,13,776	90,205
Passenger Cars	3,05,917	2,89,858
Multi Utility Vehicles	98,065	79,349
Two-Wheelers	22,40,685	24,61,903
Three Wheelers	1,76,145	1,49,749
TOTAL	29,34,588	30,71,064

The reasons for drop in sales are mainly attributed to the demand constraint owing to the general slow down in the infrastructure industry and the over all economy and worldwide recessionary trends in auto industry.

(c) and (d) The thrust given for housing and infrastructure sector and initiatives for investment in road sector in the budget for 1999-2000 are expected to give the required demand boost up for the automotive sector. Further, high depreciation rate for Commercial Vehicles, restoration of Modvat restrictions to 100% and scrapping of 15 years old vehicles in Delhi are also expected to help this industry.

Deepak Parekh Committee on UTI

2550. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deepak Parekh Committee on restructuring of US-64 scheme of UTI has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the observations and recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the final status regarding decision taken on the restructuring of the Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Deepak Parekh Committee on restructuring of US-64 appointed by UTI has submitted its report to UTI on February 25, 1999.

(b) to (d) Some of the recommendations relating to US-64 namely restructuring of the US-64 portfolio and the tax exemption to the income received from equity funds have been implemented in the Budget, 1999. The other recommendations are before the UTI Board.

Export of Cotton Products

2551. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cotton products exported during the years 1996-97;

(b) the target fixed for export of cotton products during the current year;

(c) the details of the countries that are mainly importing cotton products from India;

(d) the percentage share of India in World Trade of cotton; and

(e) the promotional schemes envisaged to increase export of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The details of cotton products exported during 1996-97 are as under :-

	in crores Rs.	in million US \$
1. Cotton fabrics & Made-up (Millmade/Powerloom)	6526.12	1838.40
2. Cotton fabrics & Made-up (Handloom)	1758.89	495.48
3. Cotton Yarn	5330.17	1501.50
TOTAL	13615.18	3835.38

(b) Target fixed for export of cotton products during current year 1998-99 is as under :-

	in million US \$
1. Cotton fabrics & Made ups (Millmade and Powerloom)	1975
2. (Cotton fabrics & Made ups (Handloom)	600
3. Cotton Yarn	1600
Total	4175

(c) The major countries which are importing cotton products from India are Egypt, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Dubai, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mauritius, Nepal,

Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, U.K. and USA.

(d) The percentage share of India in World Trade of cotton during the last three years are as under :-

Year	Export	Import
1995-96	2.0%	0.14%
1996-97	4.7%	0.08%
1997-98	1.2%	1.20%

(e) Government has mooted to launch a technology mission on cotton development with objective of research and dissemination of technology to farmers for increasing production and productivity and improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories for improvement in quality of cotton. As regards exports of raw cotton, they are subject to an annual ceiling fixed, taking into account various factors like interests of the farmers, local price situation, world demand etc. The ceiling for the present (cotton) year, 1998-99 is 5 lac bales (of 170 Kg. each).

Export of Food Items

2552. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of food items exported during each of the last three years, item-wise; and

(b) its effect on the availability and price front in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) The policy of the Government to permit exports of food product is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of food products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making food exports increasingly viable.

Statement

Export of Food Items

Exports	Quantity in tonnes Value in Rs lakhs					
	April-March 1995-96		April-March 1996-97		April-March 1997-98	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pulses	61355	13181.45	55216	13157.78	160183	35474.39
Rice Basmati	373314	85066.86	523157	124763.58	581791	167434.74
Rice Non-Basmati	4543699	371740.81	1989040	192471.98	1721798	160038.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wheat	632468	36676.23	1145898	69845.18	1561	42.45
Other Cereals	28097	1696.53	71042	4864.8	14916	1323.76
Spices	203729	79352.37	222086	120214.03	241229	140770.41
Cashew Nuts	70068	123570.44	68856	128548.39	76323	138392.67
Sesame & Niger Seeds	84142	25726.34	103800	27528.03	118672	33419.63
HPS Groundnut	118908	23068.58	148780	32584.38	225221	55716.14
Sugar	434320	59734	667274	86080.03	175081	24060.24
Meat & Meat Prep.	-	62700.28	-	70891.11	-	80272.18
Poultry & Dairy Prod.	-	5875.98	-	12378.52	-	10733.01
Fresh Fruits	-	23019.24	-	24439.7	-	25929.15
Fresh Vegetables	-	29740.77	-	33438.13	-	30633.52
Proc. Fruits & Juices	-	20456.14	-	20944.25	-	28152.99
Processed Vegetables	-	14274.62	-	11678.68	-	10888.35
Misc. Processed Items	-	54045.36	-	76407.2	-	25365.5
Marine Products	327368	338112.97	394548	400762.63	387831	431270.54
Tea	158752	117111.39	179553	103707.74	171469	150507.22
Coffee	156089	150293.74	163025	142658.60	147851	162168.51
Total Agri. Marine etc.		1485150.36		1697364.54		1712593.61

Separate FDI Ministry

2553. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
 SHRI A.G. GANESHAMURTHI :
 SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
 SHRI K.S. RAO :
 SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "NRI body seeks separate FDI Ministry, gold amnesty scheme" appearing in the Indian Express dated January 9, 1999.

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news report referred to concerns a pre-budget Memorandum presented by a group of NRIs seeking Government initiatives for further improvement in the investment environment in India.

(c) In the budget for financial year 1999-2000, Government, in order to ensure that the approvals for

foreign investments are quickly translated into actual investment inflows and projects, has announced its decision to create a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority within the Ministry of Industry, which would include representatives of State Governments. It has also been decided to reduce the approval time by FIPB to 30 days.

A Gold Deposit Scheme has also been proposed in the Budget. According to the Scheme, to be operated by the Reserve Bank of India, selected banks would be permitted to accept gold deposits and issue interest bearing certificate or bonds which, on maturity, could be reclaimed in gold. The interest on the gold deposit bonds/certificates are proposed to be exempted from the Income Tax and the value of assets deposited under the scheme are to be exempted from Wealth Tax. The Scheme, however, would not enjoy amnesty.

Ledger Maintenance Charges

2554. SHRI VAIKO :
 SHRI A.GANESHA MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India is charging ledger Maintenance charges from the customers while it

is the part and parcel of the Bank's establishment expenses;

(b) if so, the justification therefore;

(c) whether all the Nationalised Banks are charging in the same manner; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the SBI to withdraw the same ?

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) State bank of India is levying ledger folio fees taking into account the cost of providing banking services.

(c) According to State Bank of India all public sector banks levy ledger folio charges.

(d) State Bank of India has no proposal to withdraw the levy of ledger folio charges.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Tannery Project

2555. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce convertible subsidy scheme for modernisation of viable Tannery projects; and

(b) if so, the action/progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware that one of the important constraints for modernisation of tanneries relates to availability of finance and cost of capital and takes various steps to mitigate the difficulties. The measures for interventions in the sector including adoption of eco-friendly technology for leather processing, induction of international expertise, training in cleaner technology, etc. under the Small Industries Development and Employment Programme in leather sector (SIDE-NLDP), Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDLP) and the Leather Technology Mission (LTM), have already been initiated.

[English]

Saving due to Extension of Retirement Age

2556. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the saving of the Government expenditure during 1998-99 due to enhancement of retirement age of Government employees from 58 years to 60 years; and

(b) the percentage of expenditure of the total budget of the Union Government which is spent on the Salaries, Allowances etc. of the Government and Public sector employees?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The estimated saving during 1998-99, in terms of terminal benefits payable, will be of the order of Rs. 4300 crore.

(b) In respect of Central Government employees, (including Defence Services personnel) the percentage is 10.14% of Government's total expenditure budget for the current year (1998-99). The expenditure on the salaries and allowances of Public Sector employees is not relatable to the budget of the Union Government.

Industries in Jammu and Kashmir

2557. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industries in Jammu and Kashmir has suffered losses due to the militancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for revival of the industries in J&K; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The impact of militancy varies from one activity to another. The details of losses suffered due to militancy are not centrally monitored by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated a debt relief scheme by the Banking Division for small borrowers of Jammu & Kashmir who are engaged in trade, transport, tourism and small scale industries and whose borrowing is less than Rs.50,000/-. An amount of Rs.150.00 crores has been released to implement this scheme. Under the growth centre scheme where basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunications, banking etc. are developed by the State concerned using its own resources and institutional finance, the state of Jammu & Kashmir has been allotted two growth centres namely Sambha (district Jammu) and Ompora- Lassipora (District Budgam-Pulwama)- Besides, the integrated infrastructure development scheme is aimed at setting up of SSIs in rural/backward areas. Under this scheme, 1 IID centre has been sanctioned in Village Batal Ballian in Distt. Udhampur (J&K) for the development of small scale units in the State. In the New Industrial Policy of May, 1998 of the State Government, provision has been made for providing soft loan assistance with 1% interest to sick units with ceiling of Rs.30 lakhs.

Discontinuation of Market Development Assistance

2558 SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI A.C. JOS :
SHRI T.GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to discontinue the centrally sponsored scheme Market Development Assistance to Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies in the States;

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

(c) whether various State Governments have requested to reconsider its decision, particularly the Government of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) to (d) The Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme was to be discontinued with effect from April 1, 1998. However, the Government of India had received requests from various State Governments, including Government of Kerala for its continuation. The Government of India, after considering the requests, have decided to continue the MDA Scheme for various handloom organisations, including Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies upto March, 2000, with partial modifications. Communication to this effect has already been sent to the State Governments, including Government of Kerala.

Setting Up of Separate Department to solve WTO Issues

2559. SHRI A.VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a separate Department in the Ministry of Commerce to solve the problems regarding World Trade Organisation and multilateral trade issues :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No decision has been taken

by Government to set up a Department to deal with WTO and multilateral trade issues.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cost of Production Due to Increase in Price of Coal

2560. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total turnover of SAIL during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether the cost of production is increasing due to increase in the price of coal;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) the steps taken to check the loss in SAIL and other public and private sector steel plants;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up captive coal mines for their coal consumption; and

(f) if so the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The total turnover of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1996-97 and 1997-98 was Rs.14131 crores and Rs. 14624 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) The cost of production of steel in SAIL has increased in the last two years due to various reasons which inter-alia include increase in the price of coal. The average increase in the price of coal during the last two years is as under :-

Year	Increase in Coal Prices
1996-97	12%
1997-98	7%

(d) SAIL has taken the following steps for improving the performance :

- * Greater emphasis on cost control measures.
- * Introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees.
- * Market oriented production and product-mix.
- * 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.

Government have taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry and to overcome the press problems :

- (i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron & 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<12%), non-coking coal (ash content<12%), metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes>28") has already been waived.
- (iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been imposed.
- (iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- (v) A Steel Exporters 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 ECB norms have been 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 quality of Indian Steel.

With a view to assist RINL become financial available, the Government approved a financial restructuring of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited in May, 1998 and further directed to prepare a comprehensive revival plan. The revival plan presently under inter-ministerial consideration.

(e) and (f) To meet the part requirement of coal, Ministry of Coal, Government of India offered four Coking Coal Blocks namely Parbatpur, Mahal, Bitanala & Tasra in Jharia coalfield in Bihar in October, 1995 for development by SAIL for its captive. Out of the four blocks, only Tasra Block was found techno-economically viable.

SAIL has engaged Centre for Mines Planning Design India Limited (CMPDIL), CIL for preparation of feasibility report of Tasra Block, which is under preparation.

Foreign Loans

2561. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives for which the Government took loans from the World Bank/International agencies/other foreign countries during the 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date;

(b) the total loans obtained from World Bank, International agencies and other foreign countries, separately, during the above period;

(c) the works on which the amount of loans was utilised alongwith details thereof;

(d) the amount of interest paid to above agencies/countries on the aforesaid loans during the above period, year-wise; and

(e) the number of instalments in which this loan likely to be repaid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) In general, the Government took loans from the World Bank/International agencies/other foreign countries during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 with the objective of assisting developmental projects in sectors like Agriculture and Rural Development, Coal, Power, Industry and Finance, Environment and Forests, Railways, Roads, Ports, Irrigation, Social Sector and Urban Development.

(b) The information is given in the attached Statement - I.

(c) The projects for which the amounts of loan was utilized are given in the attached Statement II for 1997-98 and 1998-99. For 1996-97, the information is available in the External Assistance Brochure, a copy of which is available in the library of the House.

(d) The information is given in the attached Statement-III.

(e) The repayment of loans received from various donors are made as per the amortization schedule of the loan agreements. The terms of repayment vary from donor to donor.

Statement I

Source-Wise Details of Utilisation of Foreign Loans during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (Only Govt. Account)

(Rs. in crores)				
Sl. No.	Name of the Country/Institution	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (upto Jan 1999)
1	2	3	4	5
MULTILATERAL				
1.	A.D.B.	1772.08	741.1	1112.56
2.	I.B.R.D.	1681.15	1279.91	543.8

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3.	I.D.A.	3379.61	3063.67	1944.8	10.	Japan	1613.33	2004.22	1666.76
4.	I.F.A.D	48.42	59.8	32.91	11.	Kuwait Fund	22.24	8.97	2.69
5.	O.P.E.C.	2.41	11.12	13.16	12.	Netherlands	0	0	77.55
TOTAL		6883.67	5155.6	3647.23	13.	Saudi Fund	25.95	4.88	6.65
BILATERAL									
6.	Australia	1.85	3.94	0.84	14.	Sweden	108.85	0	0
7.	Denmark	0	14.23	0	15.	Switzerland	4.09	0	0
8.	France	127.99	209.22	30.78	Total		2082.8	2421.49	1932.19
9.	Germany	178.5	176.03	146.92	Grand Total		8966.47	7577.09	5579.42

Statement II

Donor-Wise Details of Loans Utilised during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto 31.1.1999)

(Provisional)
(Donor Currency in million)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Agreement	Loan Amount	Unutilised Balance
1	2	3	4	5
IBRD (US Dollars)				
1.	National Agriculture Tech. Project	22.6.98	96.80	96.80
2.	U.P. Diversified Agri. Support Project	30.7.98	79.90	79.90
3.	Haryana Power Restructuring Project	16.1.98	60.00	45.91
4.	AP State Highway Project	30.7.97	350.0	327.32
5.	Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project	19.3.98	515.00	500.00
6.	Advance for Perp. of A.P. Power Sector	24.12.97	2.00	2.00
IDA (US DOLLARS)				
1.	AP Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Cyclone	9.7.97	100.00	75.87
2.	National Agriculture Technology Project	22.6.98	100.00	100.00
3.	U.P. Diversified Agri. Support Project	30.7.98	50.00	45.81
4.	Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project	30.12.97	52.94	46.95
5.	Kerala Forestry project	13.8.98	39.00	36.01
6.	Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project	19.3.98	2.00	2.00
7.	AP Irrigation - III	3.6.97	150.00	86.85
8.	Reproductive & Child Health Project	30.7.97	248.30	237.84
9.	DPEP-III	23.2.98	152.00	146.26
10.	U.P. Basic Education - II	3.3.98	59.40	43.72
11.	Orissa Health Systems Dev. project	13.8.98	75.35	75.35

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Rural Women's Development Project	14.9.98	19.50	19.50
13.	Kerala Forestry Project	23.12.97	0.56	0.22
GERMANY (DEUTSCHE MARK)				
1.	Modernisation of Signalling System	1.8.97	185.00	185.00
2.	Fertilizer Sector Project-VI	10.11.97	70.00	35.37
FRANCE (FRENCH FRANC)				
1.	Mixed Project (Financial Protocol attached)	25.1.98	125.00	125.00
JAPAN (JAPANESE YEN)				
1.	Simhadri & Vizag Trans. System	12.12.97	10629.00	10629.00
2.	Srisailam Left Bank Power Station Project	12.12.97	14499.00	12626.40
3.	Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station II	12.12.97	34151.00	26887.00
4.	Punjab Afforestation Project	12.12.97	6193.00	5899.30
5.	Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project	12.12.97	2212.00	2161.20
6.	Manipur Sericulture Project	12.12.97	3962.00	3841.10
7.	Rengali Irrigation Project	12.12.97	7760.00	7110.30
NETHERLAND (DUTCH GUILDER)				
1.	ORET PROJECT for Gujarat Health Care	27.11.97	59.74	24.39
OPEC (US DOLLAR)				
1.	Shimla Sewerage Project	21.8.97	10.00	9.90

Statement III

Source-Wise Details of Payment of Interest paid during
1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto Jan. 1999)

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Country/Institution	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (upto Jan 1999)
1	2	3	4	5
MULTILATERAL				
1.	A.D.B.	409.61	465.03	442.07
2.	I.B.R.D.	1950.36	1759.07	1426.59
3.	I.D.A.	465.21	482.52	451.86
4.	I.F.A.D.	8.6	7.43	8.46
5.	O.P.E.C.	2.2	1.69	1.72
TOTAL		2835.98	2715.74	2330.7
BILATERAL				
6.	Austria	4.02	3.57	3.87

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Belgium	1.37	1.12	1.29
8.	Canada	0.02	0.02	0.01
9.	Reps. of Czech & Slovak	0.91	0.08	0.37
10.	Denmark	0.03	0.71	0
11.	E.E.C. (SAC)	1.17	1.07	0.79
12.	France	152.41	131.81	141.89
13.	Germany	206.71	175.87	171.98
14.	Italy	12.51	12.08	12.82
15.	Japan	703.09	703.58	655.93
16.	Kuwait Fund	16.11	15.41	9.58
17.	Netherlands	67.47	59.4	33.2
18.	Saudi Fund	4.11	3.07	2.66
19.	Spain	3.23	3.32	4.79

1	2	3	4	5
20. Sweden		2.06	1.71	1.91
21. Switzerland		14.45	11.83	11.02
22. USA		176.53	175.09	147.58
23. Russian Federation		20.6	94.14	0.19
24. Australia		0.63	0.66	0.79
Total		1387.43	1395.26	1200.67
Grand Total		4223.4	4111	3531.37

Note The above figures include Commitment charges

Licence to Polyester Staple Fibre

2562. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies to which the licence have been issued by the Government for producing polyester staple Fibre (PSF) and (PFY);

(b) the total production and demand of PSF and PSY during 1998-99;

(c) whether the Government propose to import PSF to meet the domestic demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) With the initiation of liberalisation, Petrochemicals industry has been gradually delicensed. The current situation is that most of the products including PFY & PSF are not under compulsory licensing for setting up manufacturing facilities. A statement giving names of manufacturers of PFY & PSF is attached.

(b) Domestic production of PFY & PSF during 1998-99 is estimated at 7 lakhs and 5 lakhs MT respectively which is by and large expected to meet the domestic demand.

(c) and (d) Import of PSF is under OGL. Imports of PSF is dependent upon attractiveness of price and other commercial terms offered by overseas suppliers.

Statement

List of Manufactures of PFY and PSF

Sl.No.	Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY)
1	2
1.	Baroda Rayon Corpn. Ltd.
2.	Century Enka Ltd.

1	2
3.	DCL Polyesters Ltd.
4.	Garware Nylons Ltd.
5.	Haryana Petrochemicals Ltd.
6.	Jindal Polyester & Steel Ltd.
7.	Indian Organics Chemicals Ltd.
8.	J K Synthetics Ltd.
9.	Modipon Ltd.
10.	Nirlon Ltd.
11.	Orkay Polyesters Ltd.
12.	Sanghi Polyesters Ltd.
13.	Petrofils Coop. Ltd.
14.	Reliance Ind. Ltd. (Patalganga)
15.	Reliance Ind. Ltd. (Hazira)
16.	Ester (I) Ltd.
17.	Shree Synthetics Ltd.
18.	JCT Ltd.
19.	Raymond Synthetics Lt.d
20.	Orissa Synthetics Ltd.
21.	Rajshree Polyesters Ltd.
22.	Prag Bosimi Synthetics Ltd.
23.	Parasrampur Ind. Ltd.

Sl.No. Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF)

1.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochem. Ltd.
2.	Terene Fibre India Ltd.
3.	India Polyfibres Ltd.
4.	Indian Organic Chemicals Ltd.
5.	JCT Fibres Ltd.
6.	J K Synthetics Ltd.
7.	Orissa Synthetics Ltd.
8.	Reliance Ind. Ltd. (Patalganga)
9.	Reliance Ind. Ltd. (Hazira)
10.	Swadeshi Polytex Ltd.
11.	Indo Rama Synth. (I) Ltd.

Development of Gems and Jewellery Industry

2563. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign exchange being earned from the gems and jewellery industry in the country, every year;

(b) the schemes being implemented/under consideration for the development of this industry;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend certain specific facilities to promote this industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The foreign exchange earned by the exports of the gems and jewellery during each of the last three years and during the current year upto the end of January, 1999, is given below :

(Value in US\$ Million)	
Year	Value
1995-96	5275.44
1996-97	4752.84
1997-98	5116.01
1st April'98-31st Jan., 99	4694.29

(Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta for the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for 1st April, 98 - 31st Jan., 99.

(b) The Export Promotion Schemes for the gems & jewellery sector are contained in the Chapter 8 of the Exim Policy. The Schemes as contained in this chapter are modified from time to time depending on the requirements of the trade in the changing world economic scenario. The six export promotion schemes are :

- (a) Export against the supply of gold, platinum or silver by the Foreign Buyer.
- (b) Export through Exhibitions/Export Promotions tours/Display and sale of Branded Jewellery.
- (c) Export against supply of gold, platinum or silver by the Government nominated agencies or the RBI authorised Bank branches.
- (d) Export against Advance Licence for the import gold, platinum or silver.
- (e) Exports from Export Oriented units (EOUs)/ Export Processing Zones (EPZs).
- (f) Replenishment Licence against export of platinum, gold or silver jewellery.

(c) and (d) Most of the raw materials of the gems & Jewellery sector namely rough diamonds, coloured stones, pearls, synthetic stones, platinum, gold, silver, have to be imported. To make our gem & Jewellery competitive in the

world market, exporters have been provided many facilities for procuring the above raw materials duty free. Rough diamonds, coloured stones, pearls, synthetic stones, gold, platinum, silver, etc. can be procured duty free under the Replenishment Licences issued under para 8.2 & 8.37 of the Exim Policy. For the diamond exporters there is an additional facility of Diamond Imprest Licence which provides for procurement of rough diamonds in advance from any source. Besides, there is a provision for issuance of Bulk Licence to M/s. Hindustan Diamonds Company Ltd. (HDCL), MMTC Ltd. and certain other categories of exporters/companies fulfilling the specified conditions for import & supply of diamonds to the holders of REP/ Diamond Imprest Licence in the Domestic market. With a view to make India a trading centre for diamonds, precious and semiprecious stones, a provision has been incorporated in the Exim Policy (1997-2002) at para 8.13 for the establishment of Private Bonded Warehouses in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Domestic Tariff Area (DTA). The Supply of gold and silver to the exporters is available through the four Government nominated agencies and thirteen banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India.

[English]

Corruption cases in New India Assurance Company

2564. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the organisational set up of the Vigilance Division in the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New India Assurance Company Limited and the National Insurance Company Limited;

(b) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to known source of income investigated by these Vigilance Department during the year 1997 and 1998, company-wise;

(c) the details of complaints of corruption, dishonesty, frauds and illegal payments investigated in Delhi offices of the respective company during the above period alongwith the details of action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(d) the number of cases pending for action with the Vigilance Department, year-wise and company-wise as on January, 1999; and

(e) the reasons for inordinate delay in taking action by the Vigilance Division of the Insurance Companies?

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 Vigilance Departments of these companies are headed by a 'Chief Vigilance Officer' in the rank of Assistant General Manager. He is drawn on deputation from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and is supported by a Manager and other officers and staff at the headquarters level and by the Vigilance Officers in the Regional Offices of the company. The Chief Vigilance Officer directly reports to the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the company.

(b) Cases relating to disproportionate assets are investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and not by the Vigilance Department of the company. The number of other cases of corruption investigated by each of these companies is as under :

Name of the Company	Cases investigated in 1997	Cases investigated in 1998
Oriental	186	164
New India	85	103
National	64	109

(c) The number of cases investigated at Delhi is as under

Name of the Company	Cases investigated in 1997	Cases investigated in 1998
Oriental	24	13
New India	41	40
National	3	7

Out of the above cases investigated, Oriental have initiated Regular Departmental Action in 7 and 10 cases respectively during 1997 and 1998, while 17 and 3 cases respectively were closed during these two years, New India have initiated Regular Departmental Action in 10 and 16 cases respectively during 1997 and 1998, while closing 31 and 24 cases respectively during these two years.

In respect of the cases investigated by National, two employees have been prosecuted in court, four are facing major penalty proceedings and one minor penalty proceedings.

(d) The requisite information is as under :

Name of Company	1996	1997	1998
Oriental	6	15	52
New India	52	53	51
National	12	16	52

(e) The General Insurance Corporation has reported that in some cases delays occur due to Court Stay Orders, transfer of Enquiry Officers and Presenting Officers etc.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Steel Factory in MP

2565. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a steel factory in Baster division of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Mineral Development Corporation has given a proposal to set up a pig iron factory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The Union Government has no proposal at present to set up a steel plant in Bastar Division of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Board of Directors of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) approved in October, 1998 the feasibility report for setting up a pig iron plant of capacity 3 lakh tonnes per annum at Gidam in Dantewara district of Madhya Pradesh for conversion of Bailadila iron ore fines. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs. 298.68 crores is proposed to be financed with a loan of Rs. 40 crores from Technology Development Board, Deptt. of Science and Technology, Government of India and the balance from internal resources. NMDC submitted a proposal for Government approval for committing pre-project expenditure in October 1998, on which Government approval has already been conveyed. NMDC has also submitted an application to the Technology Development Board seeking a loan assistance of Rs. 40 crores.

[English]

Capital Restructuring of National Aluminium Co. Ltd.

2566. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the capital restructuring of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help the Government as a result thereof?

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

(b) The Government has approved the Capital Restructuring of National Aluminium Company Limited

(NALCO) by conversion of paid-up equity of face value of Rs. 644.31 crores being 50% of the existing paid up equity capital of Rs. 1288.62 Crores of NALCO into debt carrying interest @ 14.5% p.a. Government's portion of the debt would subsequently be sold in the market.

(c) The Capital Restructuring will lead to improvement in Earning Per Share (EPS) corresponding to the extent of reduction in equity. The Government of India, being the largest share holder is expected to benefit out of this exercise. Moreover, the sale of Government's portion of the debt is expected to fetch Rs. 561 crores.

Investment Limit of SSIs

2567. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the investment limit for Small Scale Industries against the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received numerous representations against this reduction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the Laghu Udyog Bharati function held on 29th April, 1998, the Prime Minister announced that the investment limit for SSI units would be reduced from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore.

(c) to (e) Representations both for upward revision of the investment limit as well as for reduction of investment limit have been received. On consideration of various issues, it has been decided to reduce the investment limit from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore. Follow up action is being taken by the Government.

Aluminium and Alumina Plant in East Coast

2568. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Aluminium and Alumina Plant in the East Coast; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

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

no proposal to set up any greenfield Aluminium and Alumina Plant in Public Sector in the East Coast.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export/Import with Bangladesh

2569. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of items exported to Bangladesh and the items imported in India from Bangladesh during 1998-99, till date;

(b) whether the trade balance with Bangladesh is favourable;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the existing gap of trade balance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The value of exports from India to Bangladesh during April-November, '98 was Rs. 2247.21 crores against imports of Rs. 134.04 crores from that country during the same period. The major items exported to Bangladesh from India are rice (other than basmati), cotton yarn, fabrics, machinery and instruments, glass/glassware/ceramics, cement, coal, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, transport equipment, primary and semi-finished steel, rubber manufactured products, manufacturers of metals, etc. The major items imported from Bangladesh are textile yarn, fabrics and made up articles, inorganic chemicals, raw jute, leather and raw and waste cotton.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Export of Leather Goods

2570. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of leather goods has gone down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of countries to which leather goods are exported in largest quantity;

(d) the foreign exchange earned from export of leather goods during 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of leather goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir. However, status of export of various other leather products is at Statement attached.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Germany, USA, UK, Netherlands and Australia top the list of countries to which leather goods are exported in largest quantity.

(d) the Foreign Exchange earned from export of leather goods during 1997-98 was to the tune of US\$ 259.66 Million. For the period April-November, 1998-99 exports of leather goods have registered a growth of 65.46% over the corresponding period of 1997-98.

(April-November)

1997-98 US\$ 170.42 Million.

1998-99 US\$ 281.97 Million.

(e) Various measures including fiscal measures in the form of duty concessions have been initiated. Import duty on capital goods has been brought down. Duty on some of the inputs used by the leather goods industry has also been brought down. Market Development Assistance is provided to small scale exporters for promotion of exports.

Statement

Statement of Export of Leather and Leather Products

(Million US \$)

Sl. No.	Product	1997-98	1997-98 (April-November)	1998-99	% change
1	Finished Leather	287.50	202.53	172.52	-14.82
2	Leather Goods	232.84	170.42	281.97	65.46
3	Leather Garments	412.84	299.20	254.55	-14.92
4	Leather Footwear	271.46	193.25	130.77	-32.33
5	Footwear Components	238.29	167.22	162.03	-3.10
6	Saddlery & Harness	26.82	18.94	18.16	-4.12
Total		1469.75	1051.56	1020.01	-3.00
		37.1648	36.1236	41.8592	

Fire Incidents in Coal Mines

2571. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of coal mines of various companies where fire incidents took place during 1997-98 and 1998-99 along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the names of coal mines where fire could not be extinguished till date;

(c) the total loss of coal and revenue suffered by each company in such fire incidents; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of fire incidents in future and the expenditure incurred on extinguishing fire during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The details are furnished in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The coal locked in areas, which have been isolated or sealed off to cut off the oxygen supply, will be recovered after the fire has died out. Thus the loss of coal is negligible.

(d) The following steps are being taken to prevent occurrences of spontaneous heating in the mines of Coal India Ltd. :-

1. In underground mines the provisions laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, and the recommendations made by the Directorate General of Mines Safety are complied with vide technical circulars issued from time to time and working the seams in panels of appropriate size keeping in view the incubation period, regular monitoring of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and temperature in depillaring districts for early detection of heating, cleaning of fallen coal, inspection of old workings and depillaring districts on idle days and surface blanketing to prevent breathing of air into areas from which coal has been extracted etc.
2. In opencast mines any spontaneous heating is quenched and coal mined out.

Expenditure incurred for extinguishing the fire is part of regular revenue expenditure incurred in construction of isolation stoppings fire stoppings, water spraying, stone dusting etc.

Statement

Names of Mines of CIL where spontaneous heating occurred during 1997-98 and 1998-99 and the status of the heating

Company	Year	Name of Mine	Reasons	Status
1	2	3	4	5
ECL	1997-98	Bankola	Spontaneous heating in Bankola seam panel 5	The areas have been isolated or oxygen supply has been cut off.
		Pandaveswar A Pit	Spontaneous heating in Dobrana seam pillar fire 32L & 33L42 rise	
		Kumardih B	Spontaneous heating in Bonhafal seam panel 16B	
		North Searsole	Spontaneous heating in Kenda top seal old goaf	
		Parascole West	Spontaneous heating in Jambad seam old sealed off panel No. 1	
		Kottadih	Spontaneous heating in Samla seam L-W panel 3	
		Moirā	Spontaneous heating in Jambad top seam old working.	
	Parascole West	Spontaneous heating in Jambad and seam working panel 23D		
	Bahula	Spontaneous heating in Jambad seam old sealed panel.		
	1998-99	Bansra	Spontaneous heating in Kenda seam depillaaring panel B&D	
		Khojrabad	Spontaneous heating in spontaneous heating in old helps	
		Dalurband	Spontaneous heating in Dalurband seam depillaring panel.	
		Bejdih	Spontaneous heating in RD/BD combined seam panel A.29	
		Madhaipur	Spontaneous heating in Samla seam panel Z	
South Samla		Spontaneous heating in Samla seam pillar fire at 8 EL off 22 dip		
BCCL	1997-98 1998-99	No New fire incidents has taken place in BCCL		Not applicable
CCL	1997-98	Saunda 'D' OCP	Spontaneous heating in occurred in developed pillars being taken by opencast methods	The heating in quenched by water infusion and coal is extracted.
	1998-99		NIL	Not applicable
NCL	1997-98		No New fire occurred, fire exists in Jhingurda top seam of Jhingurda project which is taken by opencast methods after	Not applicable
	1998-99		blanketing/quenching	

1	2	3	4	5
WCL	1997-98	Nandgaon Incline	Spontaneous heating detected at initial stage sealed off and later recovered	Extinguished
		Ghugus OC	Old developed pillars are being extracted by mechanised OC. Some spontaneous heating occurs in the exposed galleries.	Dealt with by quenching and blanketing after which the coal is taken out.
	1998-99	Ballarpur 3&4UG	There was an instance of spontaneous heating which was detected at the initial stage the area has been sealed off.	The heating has died out and the area shall be recovered for de-pillaring
		Chanda Rayatwari UG	There was an instance of spontaneous heating which was detected at the initial stage the area has been sealed off.	The heating has died out and the area recovered and coal extraction re-started
		Bellora OC/Majri OC	Old developed pillars are being extracted by mechanised OC. Some spontaneous heating occurs in the exposed galleries.	Dealt with by quenching and blanketing after which the coal is taken out.
SECL	1997-98	Balgi Mine	Spontaneous heating detected in panel 5A on 7.4.97	Based on analysis results it is presumed that the heating has extinguished. Re-opening is being considered.
	1998-99		NIL	Not applicable.
MCL	1997-98	Hingir Rampur	Spontaneous heating in fallen coal of old working	Extinguished
	1998-99		NIL	Not applicable
NEC	1997-98		NIL	Not applicable
	1998-99	Ledo colliery	Spontaneous heating	Extinguished.

Amount Provided to the Bokaro Steel Plant

2572. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided to the Bokaro steel plant under preferial development and other development schemes during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the amount spent every year from the said allotted amount and the details of the development made; and

(c) the name of corporation for development of local areas under Bokaro steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The details of fund allocated to Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) under peripheral development and other schemes and the

amount spent on the development works during each of the last three years, till date, is as under :-

	(Rs. In lakhs)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Fund Allocated	170.00	190.00	160.00	115.00
Amount Spent	170.03	190.02	127.12	40.18
				(till 28.2.99)

DETAILS OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
	1	2	3	4
Construction of School Buildings	09 Nos	08 Nos	03 Nos	-
Rig Bore Hand Pumps	123 Nos	50 Nos	50 Nos	50 Nos

	1	2	3	4
Construction/Re-novation of Community/Irrigation Wells	04. Nos	22 Nos	03 Nos	-
Construction of Causeways	02 Nos	01 Nos	-	-
Construction/Re-pair of Road	24 Kms	40 Kms	20 Kms	7 Kms

(c) There is no corporation for development of local areas under BSL. However, development of local areas is looked after by Peripheral Development Section under Town Administration Department of BSL.

[English]

Assistance from Financial Institutions for Setting up of Industrial Projects

2573. SHRIMATI BHAVANA DEVARAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector financial institutions have provided advances to the private sector for setting up the industrial projects in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether terms and conditions have been fixed for the sanctioned loans and detailed manner for setting up the projects with the help of sanctioned loans;

(d) whether priority likely to be given for setting up these industries in the backward areas of Gujarat; and

(e) 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) Yes, Sir. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that all India Term Lending Institutions viz. ICICI, IDBI and IFCI have provided direct financial assistance to private sector industrial projects in Gujarat. Details of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by them during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Institution	Assistance Sanctioned	Assistance Disbursed
1	2	3	4
1995-96	IDBI	2085	1456

	1	2	3	4
1996-97		ICICI	2239	1299
		IFCI	1925	622
1997-98		IDBI	2187	1523
		ICICI	3321	1893
		IFCI	881	1107
		IDBI	3120	2637
		ICICI	6072	4364
		IFCI	1180	1311

(c) A note on general terms and conditions laid by Financial Institutions (FIs) while financing industrial projects is given in enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Institutions provide assistance to industrial projects after thorough appraisal of financial, technical, economic and management aspects of the projects and all viable projects are supported including projects located in tribal and backward areas.

Statement

General Terms and Conditions Laid by Financial Institutions while Financing Industrial Projects

- Each project is evaluated with regard to promoters' background, managerial competence, technical feasibility, financial soundness, commercial prospects, international competitiveness and economic justification.
- The promoters' background, track record, resourcefulness and expertise in implementation of similar projects are assessed.
- The past performance of the company is analysed based on its financial statements, viz. profit & loss account and balance sheet. Inter-firm comparisons are made. The risk relating to future financial projection is evaluated by considering, inter alia, the financial and profitability indicators for the projects and the level of competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.
- Project loans are normally repayable within a period of 5-10 years, including a moratorium period of 2-3 years.
- The loans are secured by a mortgage over the immovable properties of the borrowing units and a

floating charge over its other assets, subject to a charge in favour of banks on specified movables for working capital borrowings.

WTO Agreements

2574. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a meeting of Indo-European Union joint commission was held at Brusells recently;
- (b) if so, gist of the topics discussed at the meeting;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the E U has threatened to take action against India due to its non fulfilment of its obligations under W.T.O agreement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The 10th meeting of the Indo-EC Joint Commission was held in Brussels on 14-15, January 1999. The issues discussed during the meeting include Indo-EU trade relations, market access issues and other broad policy issuses related to promotion of trade under the multilateral framework. A joint strategy for setting up of sectoral Working Groups has also been evolved to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

(c) to (e) The European Union has filed disputes against India in the WTO alleging violation of India's obligations under the WTO in respect of (i) India's Auto Policy; (ii) Quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India under Articles XX and XXI of GATT; and (iii) Imposition of various customs duties by M/o Finance under the Customs Tariff Act. Consultations are underway with the European Union on these issues with the objective of convincing them that India has been fulfilling its obligations under the WTO.

Loans to Educated Unemployed Youths

2575. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI RAM SHETH THAKUR :
 SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
 SHRI MOTI LAL VORA :
 SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI T.R. BAALU :
 SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
 SHRI GEORGE EDEN :
 SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of educated unemployed youths who applied for loans from the nationalised banks under PMRY to start their own industry/business during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the State-wise amount of loans allocated and disbursed by each bank and the number of youths of whom the loans were provided;
- (c) the State-wise number of applications pending and the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which such pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

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) As per information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of applications received, sanctioned and disbursed under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in respect of the educated unemployed youths by the Public Sector Banks (including Nationalised Banks) during the last three years is given in the Statements I, II and III. The sanction and disbursement of loan amounts under the scheme is a continuous Process. Sponsoring agencies forward applications for 150 percent of targets to banks by 31st December of that year and therefore some applications remain pending with banks for Scrutiny at the end of the year even after achievement of the target. A statement showing the number of applications pending as on 31.3.98 state-wise, is given in Statement-IV. Banks have been further advised to take up such pending applications for scrutiny at the commencement of the next programme year. Applications, which are not found eligible as per guidelines of the scheme or are not found viable are rejected by the banks. As per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), applications for sanction of loans up to Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed of by the banks within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

Statement-I

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) - Programme Year 1995-96
Report showing cumulative position for the year ended March 1996*

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the States/Union Territory	Target	No. of Applns. recd.	Total Loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	100	157	92	57.64	71	43.91
Andhra Pradesh	31900	44998	29855	16475.2	24345	13872.31
Arunachal Pradesh	300	305	256	190.81	226	139.07
Assam	10125	11868	8784	6773.43	7484	5466.71
Bihar	22150	39095	17100	12571.35	12557	8690.01
Chandigarh	150	307	168	138.27	152	116.57
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	150	276	188	128.05	177	116.58
Daman & Diu	100	81	44	27.81	29	16.79
Delhi	4550	15795	4358	2331.89	2568	1303.85
Goa	550	740	514	386.69	409	276.15
Gujarat	8500	18974	10455	4499.29	8879	4009.97
Haryana	7480	16956	9003	4741.25	7220	3662.97
Himachal Pradesh	2100	4503	2570	1476.44	2350	1252.89
Jammu & Kashmir	3152	4802	2658	1810.52	1694	1070.85
Karnataka	17700	28316	15867	8795.88	13364	7265.5
Kerala	16000	30170	14204	7404.31	12763	6586.97
Lakshadweep	50	62	35	24	35	23.86
Madhya Pradesh	27050	60443	30592	20360.76	23108	13682.48
Maharashtra	35980	67210	40067	19381.58	31853	14773.22
Manipur	4000	1974	1272	1113.24	1147	834.4
Meghalaya	550	601	534	415.77	391	211.67
Mizoram	250	350	250	230.99	215	162.04
Nagaland	300	312	296	229.78	293	212.91
Orissa	8310	20676	7941	5881.7	5724	3623.51
Pondicherry	500	752	411	173.64	347	145.7
Punjab	15000	27945	15312	9088.77	12355	7177.11
Rajasthan	14000	20795	9938	5232.32	7024	3274.75
Sikkim	200	236	161	81.86	144	73.76
Tamilnadu	22870	35391	18283	9941.53	15003	8297.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	1300	1799	1407	964.85	674	433.67
Uttar Pradesh	42613	75758	34477	20151.46	28729	16082.65
West Bangal	25950	25384	11540	6970.37	7256	4220.66
Not Specified		21	13	6.66	11	4.71
All India	321360	557052	288645	168058.1	228597	127125.03

Statement-II

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) - Programme Year 1996-97
Report showing cumulative position for the year ended 31st March 1997

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the State/Union Territory	Target	No. of Applns. recd.	Total Loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	100	93	45	51.08	37	23.73
Andhra Pradesh	31900	40876	28158	16314.21	21716	12414.82
Arunachal Pradesh	450	440	405	276.01	239	133.7
Assam	15000	14020	10241	8027.67	7757	5728.05
Bihar	22150	41844	18083	13964.93	15322	11352.31
Chandigarh	150	238	147	115.81	118	84.75
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	150	215	140	83.98	91	47.04
Daman & Diu	100	48	27	18.75	22	14.19
Delhi	4550	5390	1172	613.77	776	393
Goa	550	724	460	351.29	397	287.74
Gujarat	8500	17388	9926	4493.43	8093	3384.17
Haryana	7200	15440	8201	4442.96	6548	3463.32
Himachal Pradesh	2100	4252	2392	1322.79	2220	1185.67
Jammu & Kashmir	3500	3986	1840	1378.44	1243	858.5
Karnataka	17700	28249	15536	8888.33	12171	6861.78
Kerala	15000	27063	14724	8199.63	13306	7094.91
Lakshadweep	50	75	36	29.27	36	29.27
Madhya Pradesh	27050	66715	31213	21159.29	22640	14077.05
Maharashtra	35900	63234	37130	19315.89	30935	16253.16
Manipur	3000	2439	2075	1609.92	1479	1176.92
Meghalaya	825	482	425	331.48	374	231.83
Mizoram	375	602	217	200.78	139	110.4
Nagaland	450	459	428	292.51	421	350.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	8250	14312	7642	5426.68	5744	3799.55
Pondicherry	500	677	355	149.93	260	112.66
Punjab	8600	19403	9389	5704.21	7618	4550.71
Rajasthan	10400	20644	10241	5627.51	7962	3929.01
Sikkim	200	224	110	49.32	110	50.99
Tamilnadu	21800	20571	16329	9428.07	14215	7670.88
Tripura	1950	2677	1569	1089.18	543	317.05
Uttar Pradesh	35813	73307	33928	20576.59	29089	17208.84
West Bengal	22900	21893	6813	4429.5	5522	3455.21
Not Specified		33	18	11.55	13	8.26
All India	307163	513013	269415	163974.8	217156	126660.21

Statement-III

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) - Programme Year 1997-98
Report showing cumulative position for the year ended 31st March 1998

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the State/Union Territory	Target	No. of Applns. recd.	Total Loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	100	114	61	47.51	44	28.09
Andhra Pradesh	34200	38518	25574	14393.18	17533	9697.96
Arunachal Pradesh	300	275	222	80.12	31	20.33
Assam	13400	12849	7880	6762.45	3185	1852.07
Bihar	21500	33311	12997	10304.48	9296	6759.59
Chandigarh	200	274	167	125.86	116	79.52
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	111	75	48.55	67	45.3
Daman & Diu	50	44	31	19.19	30	17.88
Delhi	4700	5852	1104	595.7	583	330.49
Goa	600	462	313	236.46	253	184.33
Gujarat	12600	17917	17883	8272.5	13528	6273.01
Haryana	6300	11049	6137	3335.74	4438	2385.11
Himachal Pradesh	2300	3763	2341	1351.65	1967	1081.26
Jammu & Kashmir	3500	4915	2812	2257.95	1825	1276.87
Karnataka	22000	29868	17235	9949.51	11251	6395.9
Kerala	16000	26195	13881	7751.98	11236	6131.52
Lakshadweep	50	89	47	38.53	40	31.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	31500	58719	30569	19918.74	16954	10310.11
Maharashtra	42600	68896	38843	20326.77	28699	15093.83
Manipur	1300	751	294	240.59	100	65.08
Meghalaya	550	548	440	265.24	140	97.63
Mizoram	400	276	217	194.12	4	3.32
Nagaland	450	443	420	366.35	304	224.12
Orissa	9250	13797	7506	5884.88	3121	1681.69
Pondicherry	500	779	413	171.71	274	111.61
Punjab	9000	17281	9239	5640.54	7468	4159.91
Rajasthan	14300	22625	12598	6596.38	8804	4184.48
Sikkim	100	105	62	31.53	30	15.68
Tamilnadu	27700	32070	15322	8107.5	11356	5879.75
Tripura	1300	2127	912	587.67	127	72.4
Uttar Pradesh	45200	73323	37434	22980.52	28584	16308.89
West Bengal	23000	14951	4682	2957.22	2997	1811.39
Not Specified	12					
All India	345000	492297	267711	159841.1	184385	102610.59

Statement-IV

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) - Programme Year 1997-98

Report showing Pending applications for the year ended 31st March 1998

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of Applications Pending	1	2
1	2		
Andaman & Nicobar	40	Haryana	139
Andhra Pradesh	5923	Himachal Pradesh	129
Arunachal Pradesh	58	Jammu & Kashmir	376
Assam	401	Karnataka	3730
Bihar	5590	Kerala	2232
Chandigarh	20	Lakshadweep	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8	Madhya Pradesh	4589
Daman & Diu	6	Maharashtra	6471
Delhi	478	Manipur	367
Goa	18	Meghalaya	81
Gujarat	1248	Mizoram	8
		Nagaland	178
		Orissa	3242
		Pondicherry	21
		Punjab	1987
		Rajasthan	2002
		Sikkim	14

1	2
Tamilnadu	2809
Tripura	887
Uttar Pradesh	4195
West Bangal	3698
Not Specified	2986
All India	57512

[English]

Export of Onion and Potato

2576. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of onion and potato exported after lifting the ban on export of onion and potato recently; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned through its export during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMRCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Restrictions on export of potatoes were removed on 22nd January, 1999 and ban on export of onion was partially lifted on 1st February, 1999 and again further relaxed on 12th February, 1999. Since there is a gap of at least four months in the availability of figures of export from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta after the exports are effected, figures of export of potatoes and onions made in January and February, 1999 are not available. However, as per details available from NAFED and Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), No Objection Certificates (NOCs) have been issued for the export of onion as given below :

(As on 4.3.1999)

	Qty (MTs)	FOB value (Rs lakhs)
I. NAFED		
i. Krishnapuram & Bangalore Rose onion	11045	1932.0
ii. Export to Sri Lanka	750	61.84
II MSAMB	25,000 MTs	-

Export of Vegetable Fats

2577. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of vegetable fats is in jeopardy as some of the European Countries have banned their use in chocolate manufacturing;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Some member states of the European Union namely Belgium France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Spain are not permitting use of vegetable fats in chocolate manufacturing on account of quality concerns due to differing national attitudes of what the consumer wants.

(c) The concerns of India are made known to the respective Governments through our Missions abroad whenever standards established have a detrimental effect on our exports.

Private Banks

2578. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the private banks under the investigative jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to order CBI for conducting inquiry into the misdeeds of private banks; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to discipline the private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FIINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Private Sector Banks are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

[Transaltion]

Rules of Speedy Automatic Clearance to Projects

2579. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an extraordinary delay is made in sanctioning the proposals of foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate rules for accordng speedy automatic clearance to the projects of all sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the above rules are proposed to be finalised;

(f) the extent to which it is likely to help the investors; and

(g) the details of cases found violation of rules, received and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (g) Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has been following 6 weeks time frame for disposal of FDI proposals. In the budget speech a time frame of 30 days has been stipulated. Majority of the FDI proposals are disposed of within the time frame except in case of the proposals where the sectoral policy has not been clearly defined. Govt. has been expanding the list of the industries in Annexure-III qualifying for automatic approvals. Recently Govt. has allowed 100% FDI under automatic route in power sector for electric generation, transmission and distribution as also roads and highways, ports and harbours and vehicular tunnels and bridges provided foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore.

[English]

.Diamonds Stolen from Custom House

2580. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the diamonds worth over Rs. 60 lakhs meant for auction were stolen from the Customs House strongroom in Mumbai in June, 1998;

(b) if so, whether some persons have been arrested in this regard; and

(c) if so, 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) Yes Sir. A case of substitution of certain costlier varieties of diamonds-by inferior varieties, differential value estimated over Rs. 60 lakhs, while lying in the Custom House strong room at Mumbai has come to light as a result of investigations initiated on receipt of an information in June, 1998. Exact period of substitution is not yet known.

(b) and (c) Based upon the findings of preliminary investigations two Customs Officers-a Superintendent and a Preventive Officer, who were the custodians of the strong room at relevant time were placed under immediate suspension. The case was handed over to the Crime Branch of the Mumbai Police in August, '98 who during the course of investigations arrested the suspected Custodians in November, 1998 for their prima-facie involvement in the substitution of diamonds. The investigations are still under progress. Appropriate stringent penal action will be taken against the Departmental officers and outsiders found involved in the criminal misappropriation of Government property, on completion of investigations.

[Translation]

Setting up Industries with Foreign Investment

2581. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from abroad for setting up of industries in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals cleared so far, State-wise;

(d) the number of foreign or joint venture industries with foreign participation set up in the country during the last three years, sector-wise and State-wise;

(e) the number of local people employed therein;

(f) whether any survey has been conducted by a foreign company regarding possibility of setting up of industries in some particular area; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (g) Sir, details of Sector-wise and State-wise number of foreign or joint venture proposals cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the last three years are at Statements I and II respectively.

Data on employment generation with specific linkage to FDI is not centrally maintained. Employment linkage is with reference to industrial approvals i.e. Letters of Intent (for licensed sectors) and IEMs (for delicensed sectors). Such approvals are inclusive of projects involving FDI. Therefore, the employment projections made in LOIs/IEMs are indicative of the employment likely to be generated as a result of Government's New Industrial Policy, 1991 including the policy on foreign investment. During the entire post policy period (i.e.

August, 1991 to December, 1998) 41220 IEMs/LOIs/EOUs were filed envisaging investment of Rs. 815057 crores, employment opportunities for over 72.89 lakh persons.

Several consultancy agencies do take up general as also specific study/survey on the potential of investment on behalf of their clients. However, Government has not commissioned any such survey by a foreign company or foreign owned Indian company.

Statement-I

Sector wise break-up of foreign direct investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the period (01/01/1996 to 31/12/1998)

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	Total			Amount of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total Amount approved
		Total	Tech.	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Metallurgical Industries						
	Ferrous	146	77	69	4018.29	3.30
	Non-Ferrous	3	1	2	2.75	0.00
	Special Alloys	17	10	7	119.34	0.10
	Mining Service	22	6	16	1776.62	1.46
	Misc. (Other Items)—Metallurgy	39	6	33	1135.94	0.93
	Total	227	100	127	7052.94	5.79
2. FUELS						
	Power	127	12	115	22128.82	18.16
	OIL Refinery	100	44	56	13862.82	11.38
	Power (Other)	36	3	33	4874.50	4.00
	Oil Refinery (Other)	41	21	20	3911.98	3.21
	Others (Fuels)	52	15	37	1298.86	1.07
	Total	356	95	261	46076.97	37.81
3.	Boilers and Steam generating Plants	18	9	9	21.43	0.02
4.	Prime Movers other than electrical	32	20	12	73.78	0.06
5. Electricals Equipment						
	Electrical Equipment	513	242	271	2798.62	2.30
	Computer Software Industry	449	29	420	2266.83	1.86
	Electronics	144	46	98	1620.87	1.33
	Computer Hardware	2	0	2	0.19	0.00
	Others (S/W)	13	1	12	56.16	0.05
	Total	1121	318	803	6742.67	5.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. Telecommunications						
	Telecommunications	126	24	102	8021.53	6.58
	Radio Paging	14	3	11	811.14	0.67
	Cellular Mobile/Basic Telephone Service	42	8	34	4187.27	3.44
	Telecommunications (I&B)	41	2	39	994.60	0.82
	Others (Telecommunications)	15	1	14	707.40	0.58
	Total	238	38	200	14721.94	12.08
7. Transportation Industry						
	Automobile Industry	290	146	144	2644.13	2.17
	Air/Sea Transport	60	5	55	1059.98	0.87
	Passenger Cars	20	3	17	3090.98	2.54
	Auto Ancillaries/Parts	100	51	49	382.84	0.31
	Ports	7	0	7	520.50	0.43
	Others (Transport)	51	8	43	533.56	0.44
	Total	528	213	315	8231.96	6.76
8.	Industrial Machinery	407	210	197	523.88	0.43
9.	Machine Tools	69	26	43	216.45	0.18
10.	Agricultural Machinery	11	7	4	272.71	0.22
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	15	7	8	70.37	0.06
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	322	121	201	868.25	0.71
13.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	24	3	21	690.61	0.57
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	33	13	20	71.18	0.06
15.	Industrial Instruments	58	32	26	55.23	0.05
16.	Scientific Instruments	7	3	4	14.69	0.01
17.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	4	1	3	38.25	0.03
18.	Fertilizers	22	19	3	243.24	0.20
19.	Chemicals (Other than fertilizers)	512	184	328	7670.79	6.30
20.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	10	6	4	196.57	0.16
21.	Dye-Stuffs	8	1	7	80.99	0.07
22.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	147	80	67	392.24	0.32
23.	Textiles (Includ. Dyed. Printed)	254	39	215	1243.30	1.02
24.	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	69	14	55	1854.47	1.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Sugar	5	1	4	947.25	0.78
26.	Fermentation Industries	15	4	11	337.48	0.28
27.	Food Processing Industries					
	Food Products	229	30	199	5936.21	4.87
	Marine Products	6	2	4	5.92	0.00
	Miscellaneous (Food Prod)	1	0	1	2.12	0.00
	Total	236	32	204	5944.24	4.88
28.	Vegetable oils and Vanaspati	9	0	9	150.14	0.12
29.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	27	9	18	234.18	0.19
30.	Rubber Goods	72	30	42	940.24	0.77
31.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	57	10	47	137.03	0.11
32.	Glass	40	9	31	962.22	0.79
33.	Ceramics	52	7	45	412.73	0.34
34.	Cement and Gypsum Products	40	13	27	304.87	0.25
35.	Timber Products	5	1	4	9.45	0.01
36.	Defence Industries	2	1	1	3.47	0.00
37.	Consultancy Services					
	Design & Eng. Services	109	19	90	702.87	0.58
	Management Services	90	10	80	400.07	0.33
	Marketing	25	3	22	47.77	0.04
	Construction	6	0	6	7.95	0.01
	Others (Consultancy Service)	16	3	13	371.43	0.30
	Total	246	35	211	1530.08	1.26
38.	Service Sector					
	Financial	137	5	132	5906.23	4.85
	Non-Financial Services	125	11	114	1891.01	1.55
	Banking Services	8	0	8	57.23	0.05
	Hospitals & Diagnostic Centres	37	7	30	402.88	0.33
	Other Service	12	2	10	146.37	0.12
	Total	319	25	294	8403.73	6.90
39.	Hotel & Tourism					
	Hotel & Restaurants	152	56	96	934.65	0.77
	Tourism	29	6	23	705.57	0.58
	Other (Hotel & Tourism)	8	2	6	17.50	0.01
	Total	189	64	125	1657.72	1.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40.	Trading	192	16	176	1089.73	0.89
41.	Miscellaneous Industries					
	Horticulture	38	12	26	96.53	0.08
	Agriculture	35	9	26	62.39	0.05
	Floriculture	48	24	24	187.03	0.15
	Diamond	3	0	3	37.56	0.03
	Ornament & Gold	3	0	3	3.01	0.00
	Construction Activities	12	0	12	15.15	0.01
	Tea/Coffee	2	2	0	0.00	0.00
	Cigarettes	2	1	1	7.35	0.01
	COIR	2	0	2	2.43	0.00
	Others (Misc. Industries)	271	134	137	953.26	0.78
	Total	416	182	234	1364.71	1.12
	Total	6414	1998	4816	121854.70	

Statement-II

*State-wise Break up of Foreign Collaboration and Foreign Direct Investment
Proposals Approved during (January, 1996 to December, 1998)*

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	267	62	205	6387.66	5.24
Assam	1	1	0	0.0	5.24
Bihar	61	35	26	146.66	0.12
Gujarat	332	154	178	7330.24	6.02
Haryana	269	116	153	1626.59	1.33
Himachal Pradesh	20	11	9	48.05	0.04
Jammu and Kashmir	3	2	1	8.01	0.01
Karnataka	518	127	391	11565.07	9.49
Kerala	67	19	48	504.05	0.41
Madhya Pradesh	91	25	66	6635.63	5.45
Maharashtra	1030	347	683	12904.66	10.59
Manipur	1	0	1	3.19	0.00
Meghalaya	4	0	4	52.96	0.04
Nagaland	2	1	1	3.68	0.00
Orissa	49	10	39	5836.87	4.79

1	2	3	4	5	6
Punjab	63	16	47	1154.04	0.95
Rajasthan	87	29	58	1759.17	1.44
Tamil Nadu	648	197	451	9382.32	7.70
Tripura	1	1	0	0.00	7.70
Uttar Pradesh	274	97	177	2112.75	1.73
West Bengal	196	74	122	3233.30	2.65
Andaman & Nicobar	2	0	2	12.80	0.01
Chandigarh	7	0	7	65.64	0.05
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	12	8	24.88	0.02
Delhi	391	69	322	9059.28	7.43
Goa	58	17	41	371.49	0.30
Pondicherry	29	11	18	157.14	0.13
Daman & Diu	13	4	9	14.82	0.01
Others	1910	561	1359	41453.74	34.02
Total	6414	1998	4416	121854.69	

[English]

Safety Rating

2582. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any company/industrial units in the country has obtained safety rating from the International Rating System (ISRS) by the Uk based agency, 'Det Norske Veritas';

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

(c) the highest level of rating obtained in our country; and

(d) the efforts being made to improve the level of rating including details of incentives being given for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Entry of Private Sector Into Insurance Business

2583. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of officials of Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation was recently held to assess their preparedness to face

competition in the event of entry of private sector into insurance business;

(b) if so, the outcome of the deliberations of the said meeting; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) Discussions are held from time to time with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and the subsidiary companies to review their performance and also involve measures to strengthen them further to face the competition as and when the sector gets opened up. The intention of the Government to open up the insurance sector was already announced by the Finance Minister in his 1998-99 Budget Speech. Consequent to this announcements, the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15.12.1998. Second and Third Schedules to this Bill contain amendments to Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972 to remove the exclusive privilege of the LIC, GIC and its four subsidiaries to transact insurance business. The Bill has since been referred to the Standing Committee on Finance who have recently taken Oral Evidence from the unions and managements of LIC, GIC and its

subsidiaries, which, inter-alia, includes the question of the preparedness of the public sector companies to face competition in the event of opening up the insurance sector. The Standing Committee will submit the report to the Parliament.

Assistance to Heavy Industries

2584. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Public Sector Undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industries have been incurring losses due to dearth of orders from other Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have now assured any assistance to these undertakings;

(d) if so, the details of Undertakings which are likely to be provided assistance and the quantum of assistance proposed to each undertaking; and

(e) the steps taken to procure orders for these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) Some of the Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Heavy Industry have been incurring losses due to various reasons including shortage of orders. List of PSUs which incurred loss in 1997-98 is given in the statement attached.

(c) to (e) This Department regularly interacts with user Ministries/Departments like Railways, Communications, Petroleum etc. and assists these PSUs in improving their order book for increasing production and improving viability. In case of one PSU, namely Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL), Government have recently agreed for reservation of orders of annual requirement of telecom cables of Department of Telecommunications (DOT) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in favour of HCL - 30% in the first year and 25% in the second year with review of reservation policy thereafter.

Statement

List of Public Sector Enterprises under the Deptt. of Heavy Industry which made loss in (1997-98)

S.No.	Net Loss (Rs. Cr.)	
1	2	3
1.	BSCL	-88.78
2.	RBL	-1.42
3.	JESSOP	-39.54

1	2	3
4.	BPME	-23.57
5.	WIL	-4.54
6.	LAGAN JUE	-1.04
7.	TSL	-6.46
8.	TSP	-2.47
9.	CCIL	-37.29
10.	HCL	-174.80
11.	HEC	-71.97
12.	HMT	-29.14
13.	PTL	-26.36
14.	ILK	-39.42
15.	MAMC	-144.80
16.	NBCIL	-17.05
17.	NIL	-28.66
18.	BOGL	-24.00
19.	MNPM	-31.96
20.	NPPC	-7.60
21.	HPF	-231.67
22.	HSL	-2.11
23.	NEPA	-20.16
24.	RIC	-81.13
25.	TAFCO	-28.29
26.	TCIL	-49.71
27.	BLC	-2.65
28.	EPI	-35.74
29.	NIDC	-2.03

Import Duty on Gold

2585. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :
 SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :
 DR. ULHAS VASUDEV PATIL :
 DR. SANJAY SINH :
 SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
 SHRI S.S. OWAISI :
 SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
 DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
 SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have increased the import duty on Gold;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the prices of gold in the domestic market has been increased as a result thereof;
- (d) the total gold imported in the country during 1998-99;
- (e) the total amount likely to be earned by the Government by increasing this duty;
- (f) the total gold likely to be imported during 1999-2000 and projections made by the Government in this regard;
- (g) whether the Government are aware that increase in import duty of gold will encourage smuggling; and
- (h) if so, the steps taken to curb 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) Yes, Sir, the duty on import of gold which was Rs. 250/- per 10 gms. has been increased to Rs. 400/- per 10 gms. w.e.f. 5.1.99 vide Notification No. 2/99-Cus. dated 4.1.1999. Consequent to the increase in duty there has been some increase in domestic price of gold.

(d) Total Import of Gold into India during 1998-99 is 442.18 MT (upto January, 1999).

(e) The Government expects to realise additional Rs. 250 crores from this increase.

(f) The total quantity of gold likely to be imported during 1999-2000 is about 650 to 700 Tonnes. However, it is difficult to make any accurate projection.

(g) and (h) The import duty on gold was increased considering the trend in the quantity of gold imported and in order to moderate the import of gold and also to raise some additional revenue. The Government do not consider that the increase in import duty will encourage smuggling. However, the field formations/preventive agencies have been alerted to maintain strict vigil against any spurt in smuggling activities.

Decline in FDI

2586. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Foreign Direct Investment inflow in India has declined in comparison with China during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the FDI inflow?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHAT) : (a) and (b) Sir, the inflow figures for the years 1995-97 as per World Investment Report 1998 are as under. There has been a constant increase in the FDI inflow in India as compared to China.

Year	Amount US \$ in million			
	China	Growth% with corresponding period of last year	India	Growth% with corresponding period of last year
1995	35849	6.10	1964	101.84
1996	40800	13.81	2382	21.28
1997	45300	11.03	3264	37.02

(c) The steps taken by Government to boost the FDI inflows inter-alia include time bound disposal of FDI applications, further enlargement of the automatic route, simplification of procedure for allotment of shares of non-resident share holders setting up of regulatory authorities in core sectors for tariff fixation, etc.

Captive Power Plant at Kudremukh Iron Ores Ltd.

2587. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a captive power plant at Kudremukh Iron Ores Ltd. in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost alongwith the production capacity of the same;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to give any kind of assistance; and

(d) if so, the details of amount, released so far, if any?

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

Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has a proposal to set up a captive power plant at Kudremukh in the State of Karnataka;

(b) The cost of the plant is estimated by KIOCL at Rs. 275 crores which will have the capacity of generating 62 MW of power.

(c) No financial assistance is sought by KIOCL from the Government; and

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

[Translation]

Outstanding Amount of Royalty

2588. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of royalty outstanding against Coal India Ltd. to be paid to Bihar Government;

(b) the time by which the said amount is likely to be paid by the Company; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) As per the latest information received from Coal India Limited (CIL) the amounts of coal royalty payable by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), the three subsidiary coal companies of CIL, to the Government of Bihar as on 30.11.98 are given below :

	Rs. in crores
ECL	Nil
BCCL	1.91
CCL	21.29
Total	23.20

The above dues of coal royalty as outstanding on 30th November, 1998 have been paid to Government of Bihar by the coal companies during the month of December, 1998.

[English]

Taking Over of Sujatha Textile Mills, Nanjangud by NTC

2589. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Textile Mills of National Textiles Corporation in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to take over Sujatha Textiles Mills, Nanjangud, by N.T.C.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) National Textile Corporation (NTC) has 4 mills in the State of Karnataka which are under NTC (APKK&M) Ltd, a subsidiary of NTC.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

Funds for Welfare and Rehabilitation Schemes

2590. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds are released every year by the Government to various States under welfare and rehabilitation schemes for the peripheral developments of the coal mines areas for the benefit of living population there;

(b) if so, the State entitled for receiving the funds and the amount actually released in favour of each State during each of the last three years; and

(c) the actual works executed on the site as per the schemes?

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

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

Closure of Coal Mines

2591. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reconsidering its earlier decision to close down 64 coal mines under the Eastern Coalfields Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government to take some revival strategies for the 64 collieries of ECL propose to be closed down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The Board of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has resolved to close down 64 coal mines in their area of operations. The question, therefore, of the Government reconsidering the decision in this regard does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government of West Bengal are understandably concerned about this decision of the Board of ECL and have urged the CIL and ECL to evolve a suitable revival strategy for the company. Various options for revival of ECL are under discussion at the bipartite level. The Government of India would extend support to ensure the success of any agreed revival package.

Over Burden in WCL

2592. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of over burden (O.B.) removed in Western Coalfields area during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have devised any plans to utilise the dumped area in terms of eco-friendliness; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The total quantity of overburden(OB) removed in Western Coalfields Limited during each of the last three years is given below :

	(In million Cubic tonnes) (Data Provisional)
1995-96	59.39
1996-97	70.81
1997-98	85.30

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Year-wise Plantation Programmes the Coal Co. has undertaken Plantation of dumped area to cover all the Over Burden Dumps. Every year about 12 Lakh trees are proposed to be planted on such areas.

In addition research and development schemes have been formulated to utilise old mine sites as mentioned below :-

- (i) Biological Reclamation of Degraded Mines land of existing Ballarpur OCP.
- (ii) Biological Reclamation of Degraded Mines land of existing Dhupatala OCP (Sector A & B).
- (iii) Biological Reclamation of abandoned pit of Sethia OCP.
- (iv) Research and development projects undertaken:-
 - (a) Stablisation of Spoil dumps using organic waste with the Technology developed by NEERI.
 - (b) Conversion of Mined out areas for agriculture purpose has been taken up by WCL

at Ballarpur Open-cast Mines in Collaboration with Department of Environmental Science, Institute of Science, Nagpur (.)

- (c) Root Trainer Technology.
- (d) Stablisation of slopes of OB Dumps with the help of Broad Casting of grass Seeds a departmental experiment on trial basis.
- (e) Restoration of bio-diversity in Padmapur Opencast project.
- (f) Rejuvenation of mined out areas in Sasti OC project with Bio-Technological approach.

FDI in Tobacco

2593. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY :
SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :
SHRI GIRAJALA VENKAT SWAMY NAIDU :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow M/s. Phillip Marris and other MNCs with 100% Foreign Direct Investment in Cigarette/Tobacco industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received representation from the All India Bidi Cigar and Tobacco Workers Federation against the entry of multinationals into India;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the impact of the beedi workers as a result thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interest of the bidi workers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The Government have received two separate proposals from M/s. FTR Holdings (a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s. Phillip Morris) and M/s. Rothmans of Pall Mall (International) Ltd., UK for 100% foreign direct investment in Cigarette/Tabacco industry. These proposals will be considered by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on the basis of comments received from Administrative Ministries concerned.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Government have received two representations from All India Bidi, Cigar and Tobacco Workers Federation against allowing 100% foreign direct investment in cigarette/Tobacco industry on the ground that it would capture the beedi market and throw the beedi workers out of employment.

Beedis and cigarettes generally cater to different market segments as is evident from the Beedi industry already co-existing with a growing domestic cigarette industry. Beedi workers are not likely to be adversely affected with the induction of 100% foreign direct investment, as it encourages competitiveness only in the cigarette sector.

Restructuring of Sick Public Sector Undertakings

2594. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has recommended for setting up of an independent agency/the Public Sector Restructuring Authority for restructuring the sick public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) Centre for Industrial and Economic Research (CIER), commissioned by Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) have conducted a study on 'Strategies for Action on Sick Central Public Enterprises'. The report suggests that a Public Sector Restructuring Authority/Agency (PSRA) may be established with the following broad functions

Develop guidelines for monitoring incipient sickness;

Provide advise and assistance to sick enterprises;

Sponsor and deal with cases before BIFR;

Organise liquidation proceedings, where necessary;

Organise strategic sale of management of undertakings; and

Organise sale of assets, where necessary.

(c) Suggestion as contained in the report has been noted.

Revival of Jute Mills

2595. MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of jute Mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number out of these have been closed down, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for their closure, mill-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to revive these closed mills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) There are 73 jute mills in the country out of which 59 mills are situated in West Bengal, 4 mills in Andhra Pradesh, 3 mills each in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and 1 mill each in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tripura and Orissa.

(b) Two jute mills i.e. Kanpur jute Udyog Ltd. situated in U.P. and Katihar jute mill situated in Bihar are lying closed for a considerable period.

(c) Due to poor operative result both the mills are lying closed since 1987.

(d) and (e) No representation has been received from State Govt/Management/Workers, for reopening of Kanpur Jute Udyog Ltd. For examining the proposal of vesting Katihar Jute Mill Ltd. in NJMC Government of India had constituted a study group in 1984. 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.

Hike in the Import Duty on Tea

2596. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has suggested for increase in the import duty on tea to ensure the competitiveness in terms of price; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Budget for the year 1999-2000 the import duty on tea has been increased from 15% to 16.5%. In addition, tea imported in bulk attracts a countervailing duty of Rs. 2/- per kg. with effect from 28.2.1999.

Setting up of Carpet Technology Institute

2597. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up an Indian Institute of Carpet Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the place where it is likely to be situated; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to promote handicraft development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) A proposal to set up an Institute of Carpet Technology has been sanctioned at Bhadohi. The sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 18.04 crores (approximately) and the same will be completed in three years time. Accordingly various steps have been initiated to make the Institute operational.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to promote handicrafts in the country include : training; marketing development; design development; setting up of new emporias and renovation of existing emporia; setting up of craft development centres and workshop-cum-housing etc.

BIFR

2598. SHRI RAJ BANSI MAHTO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Finance Reconstruction (BIFR) is on the verge of defunct;

(b) if so, the circumstances leading to such a situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government 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) No, Sir, The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that during the year 1998 (1.1.1998 to 31.12.1998) 453 references were received from Sick Industrial Companies. Out of these, 370 sick industrial companies were registered with the BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). A total of 141 cases were disposed by BIFR during the year 1998.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal for Terminator Gene Technology

2599. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval of Terminator Gene Technology into India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers and Non-Government Organisations from various parts of the country have raised objections for allowing the entry of the said technology into India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) The Government has not accorded any approval for entry of Terminator Gene Technology into India and has already initiated measures to restrict entry of Terminator Gene Seeds into India. The Ministry of Agriculture have taken various precautionary steps and issued an order which among other things compares a rigorous drill to be followed by the "import permit issuing authorities" of the country, the moment they come across request for import of seed.

Tea Board

2600. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tea has been sold by the Tea Board during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Tea Board propose to extend its sales service network; and

(c) if so, the areas where the Tea Board intends to establish its new branches. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Tea Board is not normally involved in buying and selling of Teas for commercial purpose. However, Tea Board maintains Promotional/PR Outlets at various places in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Debt Relief Grant by Japan

2601. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI MADAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japan has decided to extend Rs. 6.9 crore debt relief grant to India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(d) the schemes/projects where this grant is likely to be spent; and

(e) the time by which the grant is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An agreement in the form of Exchange of Notes has been signed in this regard on 11th February, 1999.

(c) to (e) The grant is available for utilisation through import of machinery, equipment and material, based on agreed list of commodities, and is allotted to State Governments/Central Ministries/PSUs after scrutiny of their proposals.

Export of Coir and Coconut Products

2602. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of coir and coconut products have declined in the recent years;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of coir and coconut products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The total value of coir and coir products and coconut products exported during the last three years are as under :-

Quantity : in MTs

Value : In Rs Lakhs

Year	Coconut (Fresh, dessicated and dried)			Coir and Coir Products		
	Quantity	value	%growth in value terms	Quantity	Value	% growth in value terms
1995-96	174	44.49	236	48276	206.85	20
1996-97	381	146.45	229	46369	212.59	3
1997-98	182*	88.22*	(-)40*	49850	238.93	12

(*Data pertains to Apr., 97-Feb,98)

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta and Coir Board, Cochin)

(c) Exports are mainly in the coir products segment which has shown a positive trend during the last three year. Some of the steps taken for enhancing production and productivity of coconut and exports of coir products inter-alia include :-

- (i) Production and distribution of quality plant material;
- (ii) Promotion of Integrated farming in coconut holdings;
- (iii) Area expansion.;
- (iv) Implementation of Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar;
- (v) Undertaking of joint publicity programmes with British and German Coir Association for promoting consumption of Indian Coir;
- (vi) Participation in important trade fairs/exhibitions;
- (vii) Organising seminars for popularising the use of coir geo-textiles.

Proposals from Foreign Companies in Mining Sector

2603. DR. SAROJA V. :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

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

(a) the details of the proposals received from the foreign companies interested to invest in the mining sector;

(b) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved some of these proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the details of the areas identified for this purpose, Mineral-wise and Metal-wise;

(d) the amount likely to be invested under these proposals; and

(e) the number of foreign companies which have commenced the mining operations by December 31, 1999, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) From September, 1992 to 6th March, 1999, the Foreign

Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), in consultation with the Department of Mines, has approved 52 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment in the Mining/Metallurgical sector. The likely investment in these cases will be about Rs. 3285 crores. Most of these proposals speak only about their investment plans and do not specify the minerals or the area where they would like to operate. It is not mandatory for an applicant company to specify the mineral or area/State where they would like to operate. The approval granted by FIPB is only for foreign equity participation in a Company incorporated in India and does not in any way confer a right on the company to begin prospecting/mining operations. After obtaining FIPB approval these companies are required to apply to the concerned State Governments, which are the owners of minerals in their respective territorial jurisdictions, for mineral concessions under the Mines and Minerals [Regulation and Development] Act, 1957. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only in respect of Minerals in the First Schedule of this Act and in cases of aerial prospecting. In accordance with Section 5(1)(a) of the Act, only an Indian national or a Company as defined in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956, can undertake mining operations in the country.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance to Maharashtra

2604. SHRI DATTA MEGHE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government have sent any proposal for financial assistance from International agencies for some developmental projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken, or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has sent some project proposals for external assistance, e.g. Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II, Mumbai Urban Rehabilitation Projects, Maharashtra State Highway Project (for World Bank assistance), Commuter Railway Projects in Navi Mumbai, Restoration of degraded Habitats of Konkan Region (for OECF assistance) and Integrated Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Jalgaon, Nasik and Dhule districts in Maharashtra (for U.K. assistance). These projects are at varying stages of processing. The details like loan/credit amount will be known only after the finalization of the project proposal.

[English]

Trade Talks with Japan

2605. SHRI M. RAJAI AH :
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Japanese trade has caused a setback after conducting nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India and Japan have agreed to improve the trade relations between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof : and

(e) the extent to which the trade between two countries are likely to be improved during 1999 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. At the recently concluded 14th Round of Indo-Japan Trade Talks held on 5th February, 1999, both the countries have resolved to strengthen and optimise their bilateral trade relations through various steps like heightening mutual awareness of the steps taken by each country towards removing trade constraints, encouraging exporters to participate in trade fairs in each other's countries, creating an attractive investment environment and exchange of views on issues of commercial and economic importance. Improvement of trade between India and Japan during 1999 will depend upon various developments including the economy of Japan showing signs of recovery

Export of Cotton Textiles by CTEPC

2606. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of cotton textiles exported by the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (CTEPC) during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of value added exports and raw material cotton exports, in terms of quantity and its value, during the above period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council itself does not export any textile items, however, the quantum of Cotton Textiles exported by various agencies during the last three calendar years is as follows :-

(Figures in Millions)

Year	Rs.	\$
1998	142160.22	3443.80
1997	130282.04	3585.09
1996	110453.98	3118.41

(b) Details are as follows :-

(Figures in Million)

Product	Qty. Unit	1998		1997		1996	
		Qty	Value (Rs.)	Qty	Value (Rs.)	Qty	Value (Rs.)
Grey Yarn	Kgs.	439.09	54384.23	488.56	57214.85	216.08	23669.31
Processed Yarn	Kgs.	34.45	4365.08	25.91	3427.46	187.73	23930.47
Sewing Thread	Kgs.	0.42	133.80	0.26	59.27	0.21	60.04
Grey Fabrics	Sq. Mtrs.	1213.41	16937.80	990.33	15102.53	966.57	14135.43
Bleached Fabrics	Sq. Mtrs.	113.97	2423.85	65.35	1491.57	66.65	1418.74
Printed Fabrics	Sq. Mtrs	362.85	8418.81	354.61	7411.99	313.22	6513.02
Piece Dyed Fabrics	Sq. Mtrs.	197.24	9428.41	178.28	7479.83	182.15	7043.00
Yarn Dyed Fabrics	Sq. Mtrs.	140.03	6015.22	136.75	5301.14	175.68	6122.35
Embroidered Fabrics	Sq.Mtrs.	0.25	34.47	0.28	55.79	0.27	20.08
Knitted Fabrics	Sq. Mtrs	103.42	3008.07	120.73	3245.27	124.13	3338.74
Made-ups	Kgs.	141.36	37010.48	127.48	29492.34	104.81	24202.78
TOTAL	Rs.	-	142160.22	-	130282.04	-	110453.98

The figures of cotton exports for the last three years are given below :-

(Qty. in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

Year	Quantity	Value (Rs./cr.)
1996-97 (Oct. - Sept.)	16.822	1655.00
1997-98 (Oct. - Sept.)	3.4647	313.60
1998-99 (Oct. - Sept.)	0.059	4.456

(as on 17.2.99)

[Translation]

Small Investors

2607. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the legal and administrative measures, which safeguard the interests of the small and individual investors;

(b) whether the Government have taken some more steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the role and the efforts being made by SEBI in this regard during the last year?

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

Performance/Production of Indian Steel Industry

2608. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) the actual financial performance and production of Indian Steel Industry, as on date;

(b) the extent to which the public and private sector steel plants have strengthened the steel sector of the country;

(c) the total revenue earned every year from the Indian Steel Industry; and

(d) the extent to which the gap between the demand and production of steel has been reduced till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The actual financial performance of the major steel producers in India during 1997-98 was as under :-

(Rs. Crores)

Name of the Company	Profit (+) Loss (-)
1	2
Public Sector	
1. Steel Authority of India Ltd.	(+) 149
2. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	(-) 419*

1	2
Private Sector	
1. M/s. Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	(+) 322.08
2. M/s. Essar Steel Ltd.	(+) 24.70
3. M/s. Lloyds Steel Industries	(-) 58.81
4. M/s. Ispat Industries Ltd.	(+) 55.17
5. M/s. Jindal Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	(+) 31.24
6. M/s Jindal Strips Limited	(+) 73.31

*Before considering financial reliefs granted by Government on 27.5.98.

The production of Finished (Carbon) Steel during 1997-98 was as under :-

	(Qty. in Million Tonnes)
PUBLIC SECTOR	= 8.538
PRIVATE SECTOR	= 14.834
TOTAL	23.372

Measures taken to strengthen the Steel Industry in the country include :

- (i) Introduction of appropriate technologies in critical areas to remove production bottlenecks.
- (ii) Improvement of product mix.
- (iii) Improving techno-economic parameters.
- (iv) Demand oriented production.
- (v) Improving quality of products and
- (vi) increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing etc.

(c) The total revenue earned during the last 2 years from Iron & Steel Industry was as under :-

	(Rs. in Crores)	
	1996-97	1997-98
Excise Duty	3894.80	3894.34 (Revised Estimate)
Custom Duty	1759.90	1649.14 (Revised Estimate)
Total Revenue	5654.70	5543.48

(d) During the last 2 years, demand and production of Finished (Carbon) Steel has been as under :-

	(Qt in Million Tonnes)	
Year	Demand	Production
1996-97	22.12	22.72
1997-98	22.63	23.37

At present, there is no shortage of most items of steel. To supplement domestic availability both in terms of quantity and quality, import of all items of steel is freely allowed as per policy.

[English]

LIC Branches in States

2609. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of the Life Insurance Corporation in various states, particularly in Kerala along with location thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to open more branches of LIC in various states;

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(d) whether computerisation has been made in all these branches; and

(e) 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 number of branches of Life Insurance Corporation of India in various States is given in enclosed Statement-I. The location of branches in the State of Kerala is given in enclosed Statement-I, II, and III.

(b) and (c) The LIC considers proposals received for opening of new branches as an annual exercise on the basis of business consideration.

(d) and (e) LIC has reported that out of 2048 branches, front end operations (full computerisation) is achieved in 1880 branches. Remaining 168 branches are likely to be computerised by the end of June, 1999.

Statement-I

Statewise Distribution of Branches of Life Insurance Corporation in India :

State	No. of Branches	Total
1	2	3
Delhi	70	
Haryana	31	
Rajasthan	110	
Himachal Pradesh	23	
Punjab	69	

1	2	3
J&K	17	
		320
Uttar Pradesh	247	
		247
Madhya Pradesh	140	
		140
Assam	66	
Bihar	101	
Orissa	56	
W. Bengal	140	
		363
Andhra Pradesh	176	
Karnataka	138	
		314
Kerala	85	
Tamilnadu	176	
		261
Goa	11	
Gujrat	142	
Maharashtra	250	
		430
	All India	2048

Statement-II

DIVISION NAME (DIV.CODE) STATE NAME	BRANCH LOCATION
1	2
ERNAKULAM (877) KERALA	ALATHUR ALUVA ANGAMALY CHALAKUDY CHITTUR ERNAKULAM (CAB) ERNAKULAM-I ERNAKULAM-II IRINJALAKUDA KALOUR CBU KUCHI

1	2
	KONDUNGALLUR
	KUNNAMKULAM
	MANNARKKAD
	MUVATTUPUZHA
	NORTH PARAVUR
	OTTAPALAM
	PALAKKAD-I
	PALAKKAD-II
	PERUMBAVUUR
	THRISSUR-I
	THRISSUR-II
	TRIPUNITHURA
	NADAKKANCHERRY
KOTTAYAM (839) KERALA	ADIMALI ADOOR AIAPPUZHA-II AIAPPUZHA-I CHANGANNCHERRY CHENGANNUR CHERTHALAN KAYAMKULAM KOTTAYAM-I KOTTAYAM-II KOTTAYAM-3 (CAB) MAVELIKARA MINUAKAYAM NEDUMANDAM PALA PATHANAMIHITTA RINNI THRUVALLA THODUPUZHA VALKOM YANDIPERIYAR
KGZHIKODE (879) KERALA	CALICUT (CAB) KALPETTA KAMHANGAD KANNUR-I KANNUR-II KASARKOD

Statement-III

DIVISION NAME (DIV CD) STATE NAME	BRANCH LOCATION
	KOYILANDY
	KOZHIKODE-II (CALICUT)
	KOZHIKODE-I (CALICUT)
	KOZHIKODE-III (CALICUT)
	MANJERI
	MATTANUR
	NILAMOUR
	NILESWAR
	PAYYANUR
	PERAMBRA
	PERINTALIMANNA
	RAHANATTUKARA
	SULTAN'S BATTERY
	TALIPARAMBA
	THALASSERY
	THALASSERY-II
	THAMARASSERRY
	THARUR
	VADAKARA
TRIVANDRUM (878)	ATINGAL
KERALA	CHATHANNUR
	KARUNAGAPPALLY
	KILIHANUR
	KOLLAM-I
	KOLLAM-II
	KOTTARAKKARA
	HEDUHANGAD
	TEYYATTINKARA
	PUNALUA
	TRIVANDRUM-1
	TRIVANDRUM-2
	TRIVANDRUM--3
	TRIVANDRUM-4 (CAB)
	TRIVANDRUM-5

[Translation]

**Impact of Devaluation of Currencies
on Indian Export**

2610. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of the devaluation of currencies of Brazil and neighbouring Asian Countries on India's export; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Depreciation of currencies like the depreciation in Southeast Asia since the financial crisis in July 1997 and the depreciation of currency of Brazil especially since January 1999, affects the exports of goods of other countries . But it may also adversely affect the export of services like Tourism and wholesale trade, Imports of goods and debt situation of the depreciating countries; and

(b) The developments on global economic and financial situations are closely and continuously monitored. Steps have been taken to preserve and improve India's external competitiveness through pragmatic exchange rate policy, structural reforms to enhance productivity and improvement in cost effectiveness.

[English]

L.K. Jha Committee

2611. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the proposal of the L.K. Jha Committee making January-December as the financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) The report of the L.K. Jha Committee was considered by the Government in consultation with all State Governments. The State Government, except for four, did not favour any change. Even among the four States, there was no consensus regarding the alternative financial year to be adopted. In view of this, and also the fact that in the present day context, the Budget is influenced by innumerable considerations, which are not dependent on the behavior of the south west monsoon (which is one of the main reasons given by the Committee for suggesting a change in the financial year); the difficulties in maintaining uniformity in statistical series; the amendments needed in the tax laws; the problems of fitting the changes into the Five Year Plans and Finance Commission's recommendations, it was decided that the existing financial year need not be changed.

Decisions of Government on the recommendations of this Report, were also laid on the Table of the House in April, 1986.

Orissa Cotton Mill

2612. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of commissioned spindle capacity of Orissa Cotton Mill;

(b) the strength of permanent workers as per CITRA or BITRA norms;

(c) the details of workers alongwith the period from which they are working in that mill;

(d) whether these substitute workers are getting the financial benefit like permanent workers of that mill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The revised manpower agreed as per SITRA norms for 24,668 ring spindles plus 1600 doubling spindles for counts ranging 32s to 35s having 50% cones and 50% hanks, as per Memorandum of Understanding-1991 was 615. As per Ahmedabad Textiles Industry Research Association (ATIRA) study-1993, the required strength per day was fixed at 494.

(c) As on 31.12.1998, 79 permanent workers and 318 badli (substitute) workers were on roll of Orissa Cotton Mills. These badli workers were recruited in between 1.7.1977 to 1.1.1983.

(d) All these badli workers are getting financial benefits like the permanent workers of the mills.

(e) The badlis are getting the benefit of provident fund, Employees State Insurance, Dearness Allowance, Variable Dearness Allowance, Earned Leave, Bonus, etc.

Loans by Banks for Agricultural and Industrial Sectors

2613. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans provided by the nationalised banks to the industrial and agricultural sectors during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise;

(b) the details of recovery of loans made from both sectors during the above period, separately; and

(c) the number of applications pending at present seeking loans from the banks, State-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) to (c) The

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

[Translation]

Bank Loans for Commercial Purposes

2614. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank-wise and year-wise details of the loans disbursed by the banks for commercial purposes during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a meagre increase in the loans disbursed for the commercial purposes by the banks; and

(c) if so, 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) Non-food credit extended by banks for the last three years; as reported by Reserve Bank of India, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Outstanding Non-food credit of Scheduled commercial banks has increased from Rs. 2,44,224 crore in the year 1995-96 to Rs. 3,11,594 crore in the year 1997-98.

Statement

Non-Food Credit* of Public Sector Banks for the Last Three years.

(Rs. Crore)

Name of the Bank	Outstanding as on		
	April 12, 1996	March 28, 1997	March 27 1998,
1	2	3	4
1. State Bank of India	52846.2	57830.1	65557.9
2. Central Bank of India	9506.4	9509.5	10953.7
3. Punjab National Bank	12632.0	13857.3	15615.9
4. Bank of India	11898.4	13833.0	16226.3
5. Bank of Baroda	13844.0	14373.2	16981.6
6. Canara Bank	12761.7	14555.1	16854.3
7. Syndicate Bank	4746.0	4692.5	5634.7
8. UCO Bank	4181.4	4233.0	4774.8
9. Union Bank of India	8400.9	8942.7	10017.8

1	2	3	4
10. United Bank of India	3400.5	3620.0	3846.6
11. Indian Overseas Bank	5692.9	5890.7	6910.5
12. Indian Bank	7375.7	6753.7	6682.3
13. Dena Bank	3354.0	4246.8	5325.8
14. Bank of Maharashtra	2962.0	3167.8	3752.2
15. Allahabad Bank	4775.6	5057.9	5692.2
16. Andhra Bank	-	2858.9	3135.9
17. Punjab Sind Bank	3015.1	2945.2	3226.5
18. Vijaya Bank	-	2574.4	3243.2
19. Oriental Bank of Commerce	4667.0	4653.7	5890.3
20. Corporation Bank	2339.9	2751.6	3853.2
21. State Bank of Hyderabad	-	4329.7	4652.0
22. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	2554.5	3033.4	3457.5
23. State Bank of Travancore	3513.1	3834.6	4065.1
24. State Bank of Patiala	3358.9	3753.9	3943.5
25. State Bank of Mysore	-	2685.1	2908.1
26. State Bank of Saurashtra	1828.0	1978.8	2310.9
27. State Bank of Indore	1494.3	1632.2	1863.1

*Provisional

Production of Coal in Paya Khera Coal Mine

2615. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise details of total production of coal during last three years in Paya Khera Coal Mine of Western Coalfields in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the coal production has been decreasing in this mine during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) There is no mine in Western Coalfields Limited with the name of "Paya Khera" in

Madhya Pradesh. However Western Coalfields Limited is operating a mine called "Pathakhera" in Madhya Pradesh. The year-wise coal production in the Pathakhera coal mine during the last three years is given below :

(Figures in tonnes) (Data Provisional)	
1995-96	5,75,500
1996-97	5,92,075
1997-98	5,99,069

(b) No, Sir. As is evident from the above Table coal production in Pathakhera mines has been increasing.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply given to (b) above.

[English]

Goods Seized by Customs Officials

2616. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details and value of goods seized and auctioned by the Customs officials at different places during the last six months; and

(b) the method by which the above seized goods are auctioned?

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 value of goods seized by the customs officials during the last six months by various field formations all over India, is reported to be Rs. 412.10 crores. This included seizure of an aircraft valued Rs. 66.19 crores, which was subsequently released on bond pending adjudication. In the same period goods valued Rs. 31.11 crores are reported to have been auctioned by various field formations. The more important items seized during the said period included Gold, Foreign Currency, Electronic Goods, Data communication equipments, Ball bearings, plastic granules, readymade garments, Narcotic Drugs, Watches, Vehicles and Silk yarn. The goods auctioned included Electronic goods, Vehicles, Spices, Computer parts, Polyester Textile yarn and certain other trade goods.

(b) Seized/confiscated goods (other than consumer goods, valuables and Narcotics), are generally disposed off by the field formations after giving wide publicity through press, circulation to chambers and Customs Houses etc., following various guidelines laid down by the Government essentially to ensure most competitive bidding and best possible price realisation for the goods offered for sale.

Trade Relations with South Eastern Asian Countries

2617. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are seized of the importance of land frontier trade for the North-Eastern region as a catalyst for the development of exportable commodities like coal, minerals and power;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to establish trade relations with South-Eastern Asian countries as this will strengthen the geographic and historical ties that exist between the South-Eastern Asian countries and the North-Eastern States of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Recognising the importance of border trade from the North-Eastern region, following projects have been sanctioned under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme :

- (i) Construction of a composite building for trade with Myanmar at Zokhawther, Mizoram; The entire contribution of Central Government i.e., Rs. 2.00 crores, under CIB Scheme has been released to Border Roads Organisation, who are implementing the project.
- (ii) Strengthening of Surma, Trunk road from Karimganj to Sutarkhandi on the Indo-Bangladesh Border: The total cost of the project is Rs. 11.00 crores and the contribution from the CIB Scheme is Rs. 5.50 crores.
- (iii) Installation of weighbridges at Raghna and Akhaura Land Customs Stations : Rs. 27 lakhs have been released under the critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme for the project.
- (iv) Improvement of road from Fire Station Chaumuhani to Akhaura checkpoint in Tripura at a total cost of Rs. 82.00 lakhs. Contribution from the CIB Scheme is 41.00 lakhs, which has been released to the State Government.

India has signed Border Trade Agreement with Myanmar. Besides, India has trade agreement with Thailand and Indonesia and is maintaining friendly and cordial trade relations with the countries in South East Asian region.

India is also an active member of BIMSTEC which is a sub-regional initiative involving India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh and Myanmar. The objectives of this grouping include cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, natural resources etc.

Export of Handicraft Items

2618. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to increase the Southern India's share in handicrafts exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of exports of handicrafts during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the exports of handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) To increase the share of handicrafts exports from Southern India the steps taken include: training; organisation of workshops on packaging, export marketing and documentation and designing; setting up of wood seasoning plant at Thiruvananthapuram and participation of handicrafts exporters from South India in Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (Autumn and Spring) held at New Delhi every year.

(c) The exports of handicrafts during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been to the tune of Rs. 4621.64 crores, Rs. 5594.86 crores and Rs. 6457.69 crores respectively.

(d) The steps taken to boost the exports of handicrafts include: organisation of workshops on design development, export marketing, packaging etc.; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in various international fairs; publicity campaign and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) annually at New Delhi.

[Translation]

Waiving off Loans of Weavers

2619. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of weavers of powerlooms and the poor SCs/STs whose loans have been waived off during the last two years and current year;

(b) whether the Government propose to waive off the loans of the people who are living below poverty line; and

(c) if so, the time by which their loans are likely to be waived off?

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)
Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table
of the House.

[English]

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam

2620. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the
Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of
the Government for restructuring of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam
(RINL);

(b) whether the restructuring plan for Hindustan
Steel Construction Ltd. (HSCL) was also under the
consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which the restructuring work
of RINL and HSCL is likely to be started/completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Yes,
Sir. The proposals for revival/restructuring of Rashtriya
Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) and Hindustan Steelworks
Construction Ltd. (HSCL) are presently under the active
consideration of Government. Efforts are being made to
arrive at an early conclusion.

Reduction in the Strength of Employees of Coal Companies

2621. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH : Will the
Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reduce
the strength of employees of various coal companies
particularly Eastern Coalfields Limited;

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

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) As per the Memorandum
of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry, Coal India
Limited has planned to reduce its overall manpower by
about 10,000 every year during 1998-99 and 1999-2000
by way of natural wastage and Voluntary Retirement
Scheme (VRS) particularly in the Eastern Coalfields and
the Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(b) Target of reduction of strength of employees in
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal
Limited (BCCL) under VRS during 98-99 and 1999-2000
are as under :-

	1998-99	1999-2000
ECL	3,800	3,300
BCCL	3,800	3,300

(c) To reduce surplus workers and to increase the
productivity (Output per manshift) resulting in reduced cost
of production.

Report on TCIL and IRP Division by IDBI

2622. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India
(IDBI) was asked to submit separate viability reports for
Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) and Industrial
Rubber Product (IRP) division by the end of September,
1998;

(b) if so, whether the IDBI has submitted the report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon;
and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in submission of the
report and the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (e)
BIFR, a quasi-judicial body, in its hearing held on 24.6.98
directed the Operating Agency - Industrial Development
Bank of India (DIBI) to formulate a Draft Rehabilitation
Scheme (DRS) for Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL)
incorporating separate schemes for both the Kankinara
(Tyre) and Tangra (IRP) Units taking the cut-off date as
30.9.98. IDBI has not yet submitted the Report to BIFR.

Central Loan

2623. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total loan sanctioned by the Government to
the States since 1996;

(b) the total loan waived off since 1998, State-wise.

(c) the total loan terrorism hit States owe to the
Union Government;

(d) whether the Government propose to waive
complete loan granted to the States hit by the terrorism;
and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is attached as Statement-I.

(c) Loans outstanding against the States as on 31.3.98 are given in the statement attached as

Statement-II; all States are covered in the said statement.

(d) and (e) The Eleventh Finance Commission has begun its work and it is the prerogative of the Commission to make recommendations regarding debt relief to be given to the various States.

Statement-I

The details of Central Loans sanctioned to the State Governments from the Ministry of Finance and the loans waived off since 1998

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State	Total Loan Sanctioned to the State Govts. during			Loan waived off During 1998-99	
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 upto 28.2.99	Specific Debt. Relief	General Relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	126794	196565	203962	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4193	4531	5095	5.92	28.00
3.	Assam	43411	32544	26553	129.28	194.00
4.	Bihar	132470	178945	242417	324.24	1146.08
5.	Goa	7005	9074	11152	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	153363	206981	295314	0.00	0.00
7.	Haryana	49722	80034	85929	0.00	0.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	33021	70938	35227	89.65	43.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	46142	37905	40520	61.60	703.86
10.	Karnataka	98658	111256	143008	0.00	558.64
11.	Kerala	53300	56375	74498	0.00	276.64
12.	Madhya Pradesh	98514	142135	166771	0.00	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	297851	382783	400749	0.00	0.00
14.	Manipur	3483	6597	3933	7.12	14.00
15.	Meghalaya	2710	3693	4085	11.55	70.69
16.	Mizoram	2829	3125	3154	7.59	14.00
17.	Nagaland	3296	3417	4047	9.87	24.00
18.	Orissa	63797	108348	106381	130.38	381.00
19.	Punjab	144179	138221	154797	0.00	34124.48
20.	Rajasthan	112021	137618	175262	0.00	0.00
21.	Sikkim	2320	2570	3059	5.61	12.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	127159	136408	135587	0.00	1658.99
23.	Tripura	5074	8186	10653	25.19	109.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttar Pradesh	298598	399255	528952	837.10	1522.00
25.	West Bengal	247664	360922	496130	0.00	0.00
Total		2157574	2818426	3357235	1645.10	40880.70

Statement-II

The details of Loans owed by State Governments to the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) as on 31.3.98

(Rs. in Crores)		
S.No.	State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11908.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	265.63
3.	Assam	3777.81
4.	Bihar	10836.81
5.	Goa	860.88
6.	Gujarat	11517.43
7.	Haryana	4093.22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2322.51
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3063.38
10.	Karnataka	7576.73
11.	Kerala	4929.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7515.37
13.	Maharashtra	19039.95
14.	Manipur	261.24
15.	Meghalaya	260.30
16.	Mizoram	174.92
17.	Nagaland	271.58
18.	Orissa	5546.66
19.	Punjab	11577.00
20.	Rajasthan	8108.28
21.	Sikkim	155.96
22.	Tamil Nadu	9427.39
23.	Tripura	419.35
24.	Uttar Pradesh	24246.84
25.	West Bengal	16400.18
Total		164556.35

Reforms in State Financial Corporations

2624. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up a Committee under the Industrial Development Bank of India to recommend reforms in the State Financial Corporations (SFC);

(b) if so, the salient features and objects of the proposed Committee; and

(c) the specific problems faced by the State Financial Corporations which are in dire need of recapitalisation besides financial and managerial restructuring ?

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 being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Sales Tax on Potatoes and Onions

2625. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for charging Sales Tax on Potatoes and Onions in Bihar only while it is not charged in any other State in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to abolish such Sales Tax in the State; 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, Sales tax is a State subject as per Entry 54 of the List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The State Government of Bihar exercises its constitutional powers to levy sales tax on commodities accordingly. Hence the decision regarding levy or abolition of Sales Tax

on potatoes and onions in Bihar is taken by the Government of Bihar in exercise of its constitutional powers.

[English]

Amendment to Industrial Development and Regulation Act

2626. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Government propose to amend Industrial Development and Regulation Act, 1951;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the small Scale Industries are likely to be benefited as a result thereof; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) In the process of review of laws, regulations and simplification of procedures, the Government has taken up review of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. An Expert Group which has been constituted to review the Act in consultation with the Apex Industry Associations is holding consultations on the same.

[Translation]

Promotion of Handicrafts in U.P.

2627. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1998 to accord approval to the project for development of art of weaving by gold threads (dari-jardoji) in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the project has been sanctioned so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) No Proposal has been received by the Government from Government of Uttar Pradesh. However, a proposal has been received from U.P. Export Corporation Ltd., Kanpur for development of Zari and Zardoji of Bareilly District of Uttar Pradesh. The said proposal was discussed with officials of Government of Uttar Pradesh on 25.1.99 and based on these discussions a revised proposal from Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation has been received only on 4.3.99. As such, it is premature to sanction the project.

Allocation of Funds to Nagaland

2628. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 3251 dated 10.7.1998 and 1145 dated 4.12.1998 regarding allocation of funds to the State of Nagaland and state :

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay;
- (d) whether Government are aware that due to delay in clearing the financial liabilities to these Government Corporations are on the verge of closure and are resulting in payment of heavy interest; and
- (e) the steps likely to be taken for early release of funds to remove the financial constraints on the State of Nagaland for these Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It may be added that the Question asked initially by the Hon'ble Member was Unstarred Question No. 3451. (and not 3251) dated 10.7.1998.

- (b) A Statement giving the details is enclosed.
- (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) With the exception of Nagaland Paper and Pulp Mills, all the undertakings referred to by the Hon'ble Member in his earlier Unstarred Question No. 3451 dated 10.7.1998 are State Government Undertakings. Nagaland Paper and Pulp Mills is a subsidiary of Hindustan Paper Corporation which is a Central Government Undertaking. All these Undertakings are being assisted to the extent possible. The Statement given in reply to part (b) of the question may also be seen.

Statement

*Allocation of Funds to Nagaland
In respect of Unstarred Question No. 3451 answered on 10.7.1998 and Unstarred question No. 1145 answered on 4.12.1998 in the Lok Sabha regarding Funds to Nagaland, the information collected is as under*

	(Rs. in lakhs)
(i) Nagaland Forest Products Ltd., Tizit	2388.00
(ii) Nagaland Sugar Mills Company, Dimapur	1300.00
(iii) Nagaland Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation, Dimapur	400.00
(iv) Nagaland Industrial Raw Material Supply, Dimapur	45.00

The financial viability of the above mentioned undertakings is the concern of the State Government and it is for the State Government to decide how best they can be helped. All these undertakings are engaging the constant attention of the State Government.

Nagaland Paper and Pulp Mills :-

This is a subsidiary of Hindustan Paper Corporation which is a Central Government Undertaking. Due to erratic power supply from the grid, coupled with disturbed working conditions and lack of infrastructure facilities, the Nagaland Paper and Pulp Company was achieving low capacity utilisation and was incurring losses right from inception. As the losses were more than the share capital, the Company had to be referred to the BIFR on 7.4.92. Though the company was discharged in November, 1995 from the purview of BIFR with retrospective effect from April, 1993 on the basis of the financial restructuring carried out by the Government of India w.e.f. that date, the revival scheme could not be taken up due to law and order problems etc. The company had to be referred again in 1997-98 to BIFR because its net worth as on 31.3.1997 became negative. The accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1998 amount to Rs. 146.37 crores. There has been no production in the unit since October, 1992. However, the workers are being paid their wages regularly.

Excise Evasion by I.T.C.

2629. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a case involving a sum of Rs. 803 crores of excise evasion by ITC is pending before CEGAT since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Transaction]

Economic Sanction by Japan

2630. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japan has also brought the ongoing projects under the purview of the sanctions expanding scope of sanctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Disbursements for ongoing projects wherever agreements have been signed are not affected by the present Japanese sanctions. For second and subsequent tranches of ongoing projects, the Japanese side have informed that the same would be considered on a case to case basis.

[English]

Branches of Regional Rural Banks

2631. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision to set up more branches of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken towards setting up the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-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) and (b) Government have not imposed any restriction on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) setting up more branches. Application from RRBs for opening of new branches in their areas of operation are considered on merits of each case, specially looking into the financial viability of such branches, the service area approach to rural lending and the existing branch net-work in the area.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details of branches of RRBs opened during 1997-98 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details Regarding Opening of New Branches of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the Year 1997-98

Sl. No.	State	Branches opened during the year
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	0
2.	Himachal Pradesh	0
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	0
4.	Punjab	0

1	2	3
5.	Rajasthan	10
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
7.	Assam	2
8.	Manipur	0
9.	Meghalaya	0
10.	Mizoram	0
11.	Nagaland	0
12.	Tripura	0
13.	Bihar	3
14.	Orissa	4
15.	West Bengal	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0
17.	Uttar Pradesh	7
18.	Gujarat	6
19.	Maharashtra	6
20.	Andhra Pradesh	16
21.	Karnataka	19
22.	Kerala	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	1
ALL INDIA		74

[English]

Import of Rubber

2632. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rubber Board has recommended suspension of Advance Licensing Scheme for import of Rubber to overcome the difficulties faced by the rubber plantation industry in the country;

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

(c) whether the production of rubber has declined due to import of rubber; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save the rubber plantation industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, with effect from 20.2.99, has suspended the facility of import of Natural Rubber through Advance Licence.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pilferage of Coal

2633. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there was a dispute between the authorities of the S.E.C.L. AND Railway Department over the issue of lifting of strewned coal at the Bijure railway siding in Bilaspur;

(b) if so, whether the coal thieves have taken full advantage of the situation and pilferage the coal therefrom amounting to lakhs of rupees as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any probe into it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was no dispute between SECL and Railways authority over the issue of lifting of strewned coal at the Bijure Railway siding as reported by CIL.

However there was a case of derailment of coal wagon on 7.12.98 on Bijure Railway siding of Hasdeo area in SECL. As soon as the report of derailment was received security guard was posted at the site of derailment to avoid any theft of coal and there was no theft of coal at the site.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply given above.

[English]

Import of Phenol

2634. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General (safeguards) is probing into high volume imports of Phenol;

(b) if so, whether such investigation has been conducted into high-volume imports of other products besides chemicals;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the import item of which the Government have imposed safeguard duty or anti-dumping duty?

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 Directorate General (Safeguards) has issued a notice on 2.2.99 for initiation of safeguard investigation into increased import of phenol. In addition to the no, safeguard investigation has been conducted in respect of Acetylene Black, Styrene Butadiene Rubber, Carbon Black, Flexible Slabstock Polyol, Propylene Glycol and Hard Board.

(d) Presently Government have imposed safeguard duty on Acetylene Black, Propylene Glycol and Flexible Slabstock Polycol. In addition, the Government have also imposed anti-dumping duty on 25 items, the list of which is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The commodities on which anti-dumping duty imposed are :

1. Bisphenol A
2. Isobutyl Benzene
3. Theophylline and Caffeine
4. Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde
5. Potassium Permanganate
6. Acrylo nitrile Butyl rubber
7. DBM
8. Low carbon ferrochrome
9. Sodium Ferricyanide
10. B-Hydroxyquinolines
11. Acrylic fibre
12. Catalysts
13. PTA
14. Magnesium
15. Vitamin-C
16. Graphite electrodes
17. Metallurgical coke
18. Polystyrene
19. Calcium Carbide
20. Lovastatin
21. Citric acid
22. Ortho Chloro Benzaldehyde
23. HR coils
24. Industrial sewing needles and
25. P Tert Butyl Catechol

[Translation]

New Bank Branches

2635. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new branches of various banks reopened during the last three years, State-wise:

(b) the State-wise number of proposals under consideration for opening new branches, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the details thereof and 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) and (b) State/Union Territory-wise number of branches (excluding administrative offices) of commercial banks opened during the last three years and the number of authorisations/licences issued between the period April 1, 1995 to January 31, 1999 to commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks for opening branches are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Banks open their branches against the authorisations/licences issued to them by Reserve Bank of India on completion of infrastructural facilities etc.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise number of authorisations/licences issued between the period April 1, 1995 to January 31, 1999 to Commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks for opening branches and number of branches (excluding administrative offices) of Commercial banks opened during the last three years

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of authorisations/licences issued	Number of branches opened during January to December			
			1996	1997	1998	
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137	58	65	65	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0	0	0	
3.	Assam	18	6	0	4	
4.	Bihar	62	17	18	16	
5.	Goa	19	4	13	11	
6.	Gujarat	101	37	39	34	

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Haryana	72	27	38	27
8.	Himchal Pradesh	17	3	7	6
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	13	6	7	6
10.	Karnataka	144	62	67	67
11.	Kerala	110	43	29	20
12.	Madhya Pradesh	70	28	37	34
13.	Maharashtra	280	88	111	73
14.	Manipur	—	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	—	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	—	0	0	0
18.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	169	33	56	44
19.	Orissa	47	5	18	17
20.	Punjab	95	63	72	39
21.	Rajasthan	59	40	27	35
22.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	126	56	44	41
24.	Tripura	1	0	1	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	209	74	66	78
26.	West Bengal	86	18	36	15
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	—	1	0	0
28.	Chandigarh	24	11	8	5
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	0	2	1
30.	Daman & Diu	3	1	0	1
31.	Lakshadweep	—	1	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	4	1	0	3
All India		1870	683	761	643

[English]

UCO Bank

2636. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UCO Bank has declared 7,000 of its staff as surplus;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for restructuring and revival of this bank and to redeploy the staff?

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. JANARATHANAN) : (a) UCO Bank has not formally declared any staff surplus. Different studies/ Committees who have assessed staff requirement level have however found that the surplus staff would range from 7,000 to 10,000.

(b) the reasons for surplus staff are primarily slow growth of business of the bank during the past one decade and liberal recruitment in eighties.

(c) Reserve Bank of India had appointed consultants in 1994 to conduct diagnostic study and suggest strategies for revival of the UCO Bank. The Bank has prepared a three year Strategic Revival Plan (SRP) (1997-98 to 1999-2000) based on an MOU with the Unions/Associations for its turn around. The performance of the bank under SRP is being monitored by the Board of Directors and is periodically reviewed by the RBI/Government.

Reserve Bank of India has recently set up a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Verma, Hon. Advisor to Reserve Bank of India to suggest measures for revival of weak public sector banks.

Rating of Banking Industry

2637. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sluggish reforms, bad loans to hit banks: Moddy's" and "Moody's projects dismal outlook for Indian Banks" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" and the "Times of India" dated January 14, 1999:

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the image of the country in the world?

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) As per the report, the Moody's Investor Services Ltd. in its Annual Report on the country's banking system, has assigned rating of "adequate D" for the financial

strength of India's banks on account of the Rating Agency's perceived opinion on the slackening of the reform process initiated, including deregulation and privatisation of public sector banks.

(c) Govt. is of the view that the public sector banking industry in India is fundamentally sound and its performance is transparent, based on objective norms prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India. Though the sector is not without constraints arising largely from the sluggishness of the real sector, the banking sector in India is increasingly deregulated and liberalised and is certainly stronger than it has been rated by the International Rating Agency.

Financial Mess of State Governments

2638. SHRI RAJO SINGH:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI MADAN PATIL:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Reserve Bank of India has pointed out that the Maharashtra dubious distinction showing an incredible rise of 700 percent in the revenue deficit this year;

(b) if so, whether RBI has also pointed out that the financial mismanagement in Maharashtra is worse than Bihar;

(c) if so, whether RBI report has also pointed out that financial crisis of other States particularly of Bihar is also worst;

(d) if so, the States in which the RBI has pointed out financial mess of the State Governments;

(e) the suggestions made by the RBI to check the financial mismanagement of the State Governments;

(f) whether the State Government have asked for financial aid from the Central Government; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (g) As per RBI Bulletin of finances of State Governments brought out in February, 1999, revenue deficit of Maharashtra is Rs. 4621.10 crore in 1998-99 (BE) as compared to Rs. 669.60 crore in 1997-98 (RE). In case of Bihar the revenue deficit in 1998-99 (BE) is Rs. 2627.60 crore as compared to Rs. 1562.80 crore in 1997-98 (RE).

According to RBI, the fiscal health of States has been under stress in recent years, as evidenced by the rising deficits.

The RBI has suggested that States embark more steadfastly than ever before upon a path of fiscal consolidation, with expenditure restructuring, cuts on non-merit subsidies and increases in user charges as major planks of action.

Many State Governments on whom the financial burden of revision of pay scales is weighing heavily have sought assistance from the Central Government. While the Central Government has always extended help to the State Governments in times of need, the Central Government has also been exhorting the State Governments to put their finances on a sound footing.

Priority Sector Lending by Banks

2639. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all nationalised banks are adhering to the norms relating to lending to the priority sector;

(b) if not, the names of the banks which have fallen short of target in this regard;

(c) the reasons for not providing the loan by those banks to priority sector; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the defaulting banks?

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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that nationalised banks as a group have achieved the priority sector lending of 43.67 percent of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) as on the last Friday of March 1998, as against the stipulated target of 40 percent. However, Allahabad Bank and UCO Bank had not achieved the stipulated target as on that date.

(c) and (d) RBI have directed Allahabad Bank and UCO Bank to deposit the short fall in Rural Infrastructural Development Fund-IV (RIDF-IV) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which is utilised by NABARD for giving loans to State Governments for completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure. The amounts allocated are :-

Allahabad Bank	Rs. 249.46 crore
UCO Bank	Rs. 7.43 crore

[Translation]

Bauxite Reserves in Madhya Pradesh

2640. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rewa district under Semaria Tehsil of Madhya Pradesh has ample reserves of Bauxite;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to exploit these reserves;

(c) whether illegal mining of that mineral is going on; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Semaria area in Sirmour Thesil of Rewa district has recoverable reserves of bauxite which are placed at 15,470 thousand tonnes.

(b) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh have granted mining leases for the exploitation of Bauxite mineral including white clay and red ochre.

(c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that there is no illegal mining in the area.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Contract for Super Calendering Paper

2641. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Security Press, Nasik has awarded any contract for Super Calendering on Ashoka Pillar Watermarked Stamp base paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main terms and conditions laid for awarding this contract?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During 1998-99, the General Manager, India Security Press, has awarded two different contracts to M/s. Soma Papers and Industries Ltd., Nashik Road for gumming and supercalendering of Ashoka Pillar Water Marked Stamp Base Paper. The total quantity involved is 1225 reels and value of the contracts come to Rs.72,88,375/-. All the usual terms and conditions specified in Government rules have been incorporated in the above contracts also.

[Translation]

Loss to Opium Crop

2642. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy hailstorm and cold waves caused great loss to opium crop;

(b) whether assessment of loss would not be made

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of farmers affected thereby; and

(e) the action 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) Sir. Representations have been received from a number of cultivators that their crop has suffered damage due to various reasons such as rainfalls, hailstorm, and plant diseases and that the said damage should be assessed. Some of them have also applied for getting the damaged portion of their crop uprooted under Departmental supervision.

(b) and (c) As per legal provisions, cultivators can apply for getting the damaged portion of unlanded opium poppy crop uprooted under Departmental Supervision. This is done promptly.

(d) About 6,000 poppy cultivators have applied for uprooting of their damaged crops.

(e) After verification of damage the affected crops shall be uprooted under Departmental Supervision.

[English]

Foreign Assistance for Modernisation

2643. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some textile mills are being modernised in Gujarat with the foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the names of such textile mills;

(c) the names of countries and financial institutions from which the funds were made available for modernisation; and

(d) the details of funds provided by them during the last three years, year-wise, country-wise and financial institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) State-wise information regarding investments made towards modernisation of textile mills in the private sector is not centrally maintained.

Review of PSUs by BIFR

2644. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Heavy Industries have referred 18 Public Sector Undertakings to the Board

for Industrial and Financial reconstruction for review recently;

(b) if so, the names of the PSUs for which BIFR has recommended for revival;

(c) the name of PSUs for which BIFR has recommended for closure;

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken for adjustment of employees of these non-revivable PSUs in other Government Departments;

(e) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive strategy to improve the performance of sick PSUs;

(f) if so, the salient features of the strategy; and

(g) the fresh initiatives taken/proposed to be taken for revival of above PSUs during the current year and the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, 26 PSUs of Deptt. of Heavy Industry are sick and registered with BIFR. statement-I indicating the names including PSUs where BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes is enclosed.

(c) There are 8 sick PSUs under the Deptt. of Heavy Industry where BIFR has taken a provision/final view for winding up, statement-II giving names of PSUs is enclosed.

(d) Adjustment of PSU employees in Government Department is not possible as PSUs are different legal entities with their own Service Conditions etc.

(e) to (g) Recommendations on revival or otherwise of the company are finalised by BIFR after consultation with various agencies and looking into current and projected performance in future. BIFR is a quasi-judicial body. At the same time, Govt. is providing assistance for securing orders, manpower rationalisation and other financial assistance to the extent possible for improving the performance of sick PSUs based on merit of each case. Govt. has approved revival/restructuring proposals of NEPA Ltd., Burn Standard Co. Ltd. and Instrumentation Ltd. in the current year. Revival schemes sanctioned by BIFR in respect of other 9 PSUs are under implementation.

Statement-I

Name of PSUs under Deptt. of Heavy Industry registered with BIFR including PSUs where BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes

S.No.	Name of the PSUs
1	2
1.*	Braithwaite & Co Ltd. (BCL)
2.*	Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd. (BBVL)

1	2
3.*	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd. (BPCL)
4.*	Triveni Structurals Ltd. (TSL)
5.*	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd. (R&C)
6.*	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (HEC)
7.*	Scooters India Ltd. (SIL)
8.*	RBL Ltd. (RBL)
9.*	Jessops & Co. Ltd. (JESSOP)
10.*	Instrumentation Ltd. (IL)
11.*	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL)
12.*	Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFCO)
13.	Weighbird India Ltd (WIL)
14.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL)
15.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL)
16.	National Instruments Ltd. (NIL)
17.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. (MAMC)
18.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)
19.	Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd. (MNPM)
20.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd. (HPF)
21.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL)
22.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL)
23.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL)
24.	Praga Tools Ltd (PTL)
25.	NEPA Ltd. (NEPA)
26.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper 1XCo. Ltd. (NPPC)

*BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes in these PSUs

Statement-II

(c) Name of the PSUs

S.No.	Name of the PSUs
1.	National Instruments Ltd. (NIL)
2.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)
3.	Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL)
4.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL)
5.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL)
6.	Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. (MAMC)
7.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFCO)
8.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL)

[Translation]

Creation of Posts of Deputy Directors

2645. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to create one post of Deputy Director (Rajbhasha) for every office of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax/Director General of Income Tax (admn.) level is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any cadre review had been made for Rajbhasha Division of Income Tax Department;

(d) if so, when the review was made and the details of the recommendations thereof;

(e) whether these recommendations have been implemented completely;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are 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) to (g) A proposal for creation of one post of Director (OL) and 4 posts of Deputy Director (OL) was examined in consultation with the Intergrated Finance Division, but was not found acceptable. No Cadre Review as such of the Rajbhasha Division of Income Tax Department has been undertaken.

[English]

Export of Spices

2646. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of spices exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date;

(b) the countries which are the main importers of spices from India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The quantity and value of spices exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date are as under :

Year	Exports	
	Qty. (tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1997-98*	228,821	1408.31
1998-99*	157,240	1232.33

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta/Shipping Bills/Exporters' return. *Estimated

(b) The main importing countries of spices from India are USA, UK, UAE, Pakistan, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany, Sri Lanka, Malaysia etc.

(c) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess of export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market; implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion"; grant of "Spices House Certificate" as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

[Translation]

Import of Textiles Products

2647. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the continuous increase in the import of textile products;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent on the import of textile products during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to ban or take preventive measures on the import of poor quality textile products in view of its adverse effect on the foreign exchange reserves; and

(d) if so, the time by which the safeguard measures are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) The import of textile products in the country during the last three years has been as follows :-

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1995-96	3137.10
1996-97	2639.87
1997-98	2975.47

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta

In the various WTO agreements, there are provisions for taking safeguard measures against cheap imports into any member country. Government has been closely watching the import trends of textile products and if need arises Government would initiate steps for necessary safeguard action like imposition of countervailing duty, anti-dumping duty etc. to prevent the low cost import of textile products and to safeguard the domestic products.

[English]

Export to Chilly

2648. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to set up a Chilly Board to promote the export of Chilly;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to the proposal of the State Government; and

(c) if so the time by which the Chilly Board is likely to be set up in Andhra Pradesh ?

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

(b) No, Sir. The development, research and marketing/export promotion of spices including chillies is well taken care of by the following three institutes of the Government of India set up for this purpose;

- (i) Directorate of Cocoa, Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut;
- (ii) ICAR and its Research Institutes;
- (iii) Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce.

Spices Board is primarily responsible for export promotion of all spices including chillies. The research and development aspects of chillies cultivation are looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. Setting up a separate Board for Chillies would involve unnecessary duplication of work and would not result in commensurate gains. In view of this, it is felt that it would not be advisable to set up a separate Board for Chillies.

(c) Does not arise.

Interest Rate on Priority Sector Lendings

2649. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of the interest charged by the nationalised banks from priority sector;

(b) whether this rate of interest is much higher than the other developing Asian Countries;

(c) if so, the reasons for such higher rates of interest is charged from priority sector debtors; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide credit to priority sector on lesser rate of interest?

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) Reserve Bank of India have reported that at present interest rate is linked to size of the loan (with the exception of advances under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme and export credit). Interest rate to be charged by banks on loans upto Rs.2 lakhs should not exceed the Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of the bank, which is available to the best borrower of the concerned bank. In case of credit limits above Rs.2 lakhs, the banks are free to determine the interest rate. At present, the PLRs of major banks range between 12-75 percent to 13.00 percent. Since credit requirements of most of the borrowers of weaker sections/priority sector falls within Rs.2 lakh, concessionality is inbuilt in the lending structure for loans upto this limit of Rs.2 lakhs. The policy governing lending rate prescription is continuously reviewed and is subject to modification on the basis of emerging developments.

Reserve Bank of India have reported that the comparison of rate of interest prevailing in India vis-a-vis the rest of the world would not be meaningful unless the prevailing rates of inflation in India vis-a-vis the rest of the world are also considered. Some of the Asian countries have reduced their discount rates in view of their countries' specific economic conditions.

Revival of Praga Tools Ltd.

2650. SHRI S.S. OWASI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rehabilitation package for M/s Praga Tools Ltd., Secunderabad is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the proposal is pending with the Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of this company have not got salaries for the last three months;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to clear the revival package of Praga Tools Ltd., and the steps taken to make the arrangement of payment of salaries to the workers;

(e) whether the casual labourers of the company has been asked by the management to search jobs elsewhere; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to regularise them?

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

(b) The proposal envisages financial restructuring through waiver of interest, infusion of fresh equity and funds for separations under VRS. It is with Government since July, 1998.

(c) Salaries of employees have not been disbursed for the last 2 months.

(d) The revival package has been processed through inter-Departmental consultations for decision by the Government. During this financial year Government have provided non-plan financial assistance of Rs.4 crores to company

(e) and (f) Casual labourers are by their very nature engaged as per the requirements of the company from time to time. As the company has overall excess manpower, it may not be possible to regularise casual labourers.

Borrowing from Market

2651. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the States that sought the permission from the Central Government for borrowing from the market; and

(b) the name of the States whose permission have been granted and rejected with adequate reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Consent of the Central Government under Article 293 of the Constitution was given to all the 25 States who had sought permission for borrowing from the market as per annual market borrowing programme.

[Translation]

Central Policy to Improve Composite Textile Mills

2652. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Composite Textile Mills are not earning profit because the cloth manufactured by powerloom is cheap;

(b) whether the Union Government have formulated any policy for these composite mills as their future depends on it;

(c) the number of powerlooms in the country and the rate by which their number is increasing every year; and

(d) the action taken to improve the financial condition of composite textile mills and powerlooms during this year ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The variety of fabrics produced by mill sector

and powerloom sector are not generally comparable. The powerloom sector has certain inherent cost advantages over composite mills in the area of labour cost overhead expenses etc. The composite textile mills are mostly producing high value fabrics while the powerlooms produce fabrics for mass consumption in the country.

(b) Presently the 1985 textile policy is being reviewed under the chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam with a view to evaluate the overall perspective of the present scenario of the textile industry. The committee will examine the competitiveness of the various segments of the industry and will suggest appropriate policy to improve the competitive edge of each segment of the textile industry.

(c) There were 1595,334 powerlooms located in the decentralised sector as on 31.12.98. The compounded annual rate of growth (CARG) between 1986 and 1998 works out to 7.9 %.

(d) The Technology Upgradation Fund for Textile and Jute Industries has been set up which will be operative for 5 years from 1/4/99. Under the Fund, Loans will be given at 5 percentage points lower interest rate than providing rate on interest charged by financial institutions and banks to the textile industry cotton ginning and pressing industry as well as the jute industry would be eligible to avail of these concessional loans. Besides, the Ministry of Textiles is generally monitoring the financial condition of the textile mills and intervening at the appropriate times. In order to mitigate the financial problems faced by the textile units, the Union Minister of Textiles, and the Secretary (Textiles) convened a series of meetings with representatives of commercial banks/ financial institutions and impressed upon them the need for expediting credit flow to textile sector.

Smuggling of Drugs through Sri Lanka

2653. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that due to smuggling of drugs through Sri Lanka, the coastal areas of the Southern part of the country are becoming heaven for the international smugglers;

(b) whether the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and the Western part of Tamil Nadu are becoming troubled due to smuggling from Pakistan into the country through Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government to effectively check the smuggling being done through sea routes in the Coastal States ?

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, there are no reports of smuggling of drugs to India through Sri Lanka.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Proposal of Bottling TODDY

2654. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for bottling TODDY (the low velocity country liquor extracted out of Coconut/Palm trees) through Government Agencies for exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) International trade in liquor is based on products either made from malt or from molasses. The demand for products based on other materials has not been established as they are not preferred by the overseas consumers.

New Patent Bill

2655. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is likely to lose its extensive treasure of valuable creepers, plant based pharmaceuticals and qualitative zoological wealth due to ordinance of New Patent Bill;

(b) whether highly sophisticated super-structure of bio-technology of our country is likely to be transferred to the foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the impact on the employment of workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) The Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 provides for receipt of product patent applications in the field of pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals and on fulfilment of certain conditions, for grant of exclusive marketing rights for a period of five years or till the patent is granted or rejected whichever is shorter. As such, it will have no effect on our Bio-technological structure or zoological wealth.

[Translation]

Spare Parts Purchases by BCCL

2656. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the value of spare parts and equipments purchased locally by the BCCL during 1997-98 and 1998-99 till January, 1999;

(b) the amount spent on repairs of spare parts and equipments during the above period;

(c) whether any complaints about irregularities in repairs of spare parts and equipments and in their procurement have come to light; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The value of spares and equipment purchased locally by BCCL during 1997-98 and 1998-99 till January 1999 is Rs. 3,700.07 lakhs and Rs. 3,037.07 lakhs respectively.

(b) The amount spent for repairs of equipments and spares during 1997-98 and 1998-99 till January 1999 is Rs. 5,360.68 Lakhs and Rs. 4,520.71 Lakhs (Provisional) respectively.

(c) and (d) Coal India Limited has reported the following cases of irregularities in repair of spare and equipments;-

(i) Superintendent of Police, CBI, Dhanbad has registered a PE vide No. PE/2(A)/98(D) against senior purchase officer, Katras project Area and M/s. Agarwal enterprises, Katras, Dhanbad (Pvt.) for purchase of spares for TATA Tippers at higher price. The case is under investigation.

(ii) Irregularity in purchase of spares for HEMM at Collieries of Charge Victoria area, BCCL was investigated by Vigilance Department vide case No. VIG/CB/13/98. Departmental action against erring officials has been initiated.

(iii) Superintendent of Police, CBI, Dhanbad had registered a PE vide No. PE1/(A)/99/(D) against the then Addl. Chief Engineer (Excvn.) and M/s. Cuprum Bagrodia Limited, Calcutta (Pvt.) and others for irregular purchase of spares for PC-300 Shovel. The case is under investigation.

[English]

Arbitration Cases in PSUs

2657. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of arbitration cases are pending for settlement in various Central Public Sector Undertakings since long and the problem has assumed alarming proportion;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases, PSU-wise as on December 31, 1998 and amount of claim involved;

(c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear the pending arbitration cases; and

(d) the details of reforms initiated/under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) There are only 42 arbitration cases pending for settlement in various Central Public Enterprises till 31.12.98. The amount involved depends on the arbitration award. The details of the cases are given in the statement enclosed. Considering the number of transactions undertaken and contracts entered into, the pendency is not considered to be alarming.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

List of Arbitration Cases

1. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Delhi Admn. (PWD)
2. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.
3. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
4. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
International Air Port Authority of India (now Airport Authority of India)
5. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
International Airport Authority of India (now Airport Authority of India)
6. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
All India Radio.
7. Engineering Project (I) Ltd.
Vs.
Rajasthan Housing Board.
8. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd.
9. Indian Railway Const. Ltd. (IRCON)
Vs.
National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
10. Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Shipping Corpn. of India Ltd.
11. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
Vs.
Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.
12. Graden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
Vs.
Border Security Force.
13. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
Vs.
Steel Authority of India Ltd.
14. Canera Bank
Vs.
National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
15. National Institute of Oceanography.
Vs.
Shipping Corpn. of India Ltd.
16. Deptt. of Telecommunications.
Vs.
Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.
17. Calcutta Port Trust.
Vs.
Steel Authority of India Ltd.
18. State Bank of India.
Vs.
Tannery & Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.
19. Cotton Corpn. of India..
Vs.
Air India Ltd.
20. State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
Vs.
Air India Ltd.
21. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.
22. Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Deptt. of Telecommunication.
23. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
India Oil Corpn. Ltd.
24. Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.
Vs.
National Aluminium Co. Ltd.

25. Punjab National Bank.
Vs.
Export Credit Guarantee Corpn. of India.
26. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Heavy Water Board.
27. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.
Vs.
Bank of Baroda.
28. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
29. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.
Vs.
Deptt. of Telecommunications.
30. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.
Vs.
Deptt. of Telecommunications.
31. Hindustan Steelwork Const. Ltd.
Vs.
Betwa River Board.
32. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.
Vs.
National Aluminium Co. Ltd.
33. Engineering Project (I) Ltd.
Vs.
All India Radio.
34. Engineering Project (I) Ltd.
Vs.
Steel Authority of India Ltd.
35. National Building Const. Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.
36. Indian Oil Corpn.
Vs.
Air india.
37. Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Air India.
38. Directorate General Border Road.
Vs.
Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd.
39. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL)
40. Telecommuncations Consultants (I) Ltd.
Vs.
Deptt. of Telecommunications.

41. Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
Air India.

42. Power Finance Corpn. Ltd.
Vs.
UCO Bank.

SCAM in National Insurance Company

2658. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 50 crore scam has been detected in National Insurance Company Ltd. entails paying out fictitious claims to front companies owned by clutch of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of persons involved in the scam;

(c) whether the scams have been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI);

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

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to stop such scandals in the domestic Insurance 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) Fraudulent settlement of Marine Cargo claims have been detected in Divisional Office of National Insurance Co. Ltd. at Delhi. However, the total amount involved is Rs. 29.16 lakhs and not Rs. 50 crores. Investigations are continuing as on date. The concerned Divisional Manager and a Senior Asstt. have been found to be involved, who have been suspended. Four surveyours, tracers and concerned Insurance Agent found to be involved have been blacklisted.

(c) and (d) National Insurance Co. Ltd. have already reported the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation for making further investigation.

(e) The Company is having a strong internal Audit Team and Vigilance Team at the Head Office and the Regional Offices for internal checks and controls on irregularities and frauds.

Joint Committee for Monitoring and Revival of ECL

2669. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government to constitute a Joint Committee to monitor the working and revival of the Eastern Coalfields Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) A State Level Joint Monitoring Committee was set up by the Government of West Bengal on 24.12.98 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, West Bengal. In addition to the representatives of the Government of West Bengal, the Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) were represented in the Committee. Only one Trade Union was initially represented in the Committee. By an amendment effected on 30.1.1999, the Government of West Bengal included five more Trade Unions in the Committee. Before constituting the Committee, the Government of West Bengal did not seek for the concurrence of Ministry of Coal. The composition of the Committee and its terms of reference were decided solely by the Government of West Bengal without any consultation with the Ministry of Coal.

Quantitative Restrictions on Export of Rice

2660. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Ministry has sought quantitative restrictions on export of rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure buffer norms before export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Review of Export import Policy of agricultural products, including rice, is an on-going process and accordingly Policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary keeping the interests of domestic producers, consumers and industry in view. Consultations in this regard between various Ministries including Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and exporters/importers are held from time to time. As per the current EXIM Policy, export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is free subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(c) The total minimum stock to be maintained by public agencies under the new buffer stocking policy w.e.f. 30.10 98 and stocks available are as under :-

Date	Million Tonnes					
	Rice		Wheat		Total	
	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies	Buffer norms	Stocks with public agencies
1st April	11.80	13.05	4.00	5.08	15.80	18.13
1st July	10.00	12.04	14.30	16.48	24.30	28.52
1st Oct.	6.50	8.96	11.60	15.24	18.10	24.20
1st Jan.	8.40	11.69	8.40	12.70	16.80	24.39

(Source : Min. of Food)

[Translation]

Export of Pulses

2661. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and the varieties of pulses imported/exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the foreign exchange spent/earned through its import and export;

(c) whether the Government propose to export gram pulse;

(d) if so, the quantity of gram pulse proposed to be exported during 1999-2000, country-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of pulses imported and exported during 1997-98 and 1998-99 (April-November'98) are as follows :-

Year	Quantity : MTS Value in Rs. crores			
	imports		exports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1997-98	659396	833.64	160183	354.74
1998-99 (Apr.-Nov.98)	208870	274.23	75050	160.96

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Some of the varieties of pulses imported include Peas (Pisum Sativum) Dried and Shelled, Chickpeas (Garbanzos) Dried and Shelled, Beans of The SPP Vigna Mungo.

Hepper, Small Red Beans Dried and Shelled, Kidney Beans including white Pea beans Dried and Shelled, Lentils (Mosur) Dried and Shelled, Broad Beans and Horse Beans Dried and Shelled, Grams (excluding split) Dried and Shelled, Gram Dal (Grams, split), Moong, Tur and Urad.

Some of the varieties of pulses exported include are Peas (*Pisum Sativum*) Dried and Shelled, Chickpeas (*Garbanzos*) Dried and Shelled, Beans of the SPP *Vigna Mungo*, Hepper, or *vigna Radiata*, *wilozek* Dried and Shelled, Kidney Beans including white Pea beans Dried and Shelled, other beans Lentils (Mosur) Dried and Shelled, Broad Beans and Horse Beans Dried and Shelled, Grams (excluding split) Dried and Shelled, Gram Dal (Grams, split), Moong, Tur and Urad.

(c) and (d) As per current EXIM policy export of pulses (including Gram) in consumer packs upto 5 kg is free. The quantity of pulses including gram to be exported during 1999-2000 would depend upon the international demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, availability for exports and ability of the exporters to meet the quality standards of the overseas buyers.

(e) In order to enhance the export of value added pulses, the export of pulses in consumer packs have been made free w.e.f. 1.12.97. This policy has since been continued during 1998-99 also.

[English]

Duty on Waste Paper

2662. DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce of Industry has given suggestions for using waste paper to meet the shortage of newsprint and appealed for abolition of duty on waste paper to save foreign exchange on import of newsprint:

- (b) if so, the details of points suggested; and
(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

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 PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry had, in their pre-budget memorandum, suggested exemption from Basic Customs Duty and Special Additional Duty of Customs on import of waste paper.

(c) The current rate of import duty on waste paper is 5.5 %, excluding Special Additional Duty wherever applicable. Taking all aspects into account, request for exemption from import duty was not acceded to.

[Translation]

Setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres

2663. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme is being run by the Government for setting up of "Mini -Tool Rooms" and "Training Centres" in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the names of places where such training centres have been set up during the last three years till date along with the names of places to which approval has been given;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres in Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) None so far.

(c) and (d) Yes, proposals from Karnataka and Kerala are under process for approval. In respect of Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, the State Governments have communicated their intention of setting up of Mini Tool Rooms and Training Centres but are yet to submit Detailed Project Report. Their cases will be processed only after the Detailed Project Reports are submitted by them.

[English]

Revival of Warrangal Mill

2664. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ajamzahi Mill Workers in Warrangal are demanding revival of the mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the other measures taken for revival of mill under the National Textiles Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The workers unions have demanded that the mill should be started as a Composite mill by raising necessary finances by the management and also modernising the existing mill.

On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around

strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth of these mills turning positive with in the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[Translation]

Target Fixed for Foreign Capital Investment

2665. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign capital investment has been less than the target fixed in this regard during 1998-99 despite announcement of changes effected in the policies with a view to promoting liberalisation policy of the Government.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the target fixed in this regard and the actual foreign investment made in the country, till December, 1998 and the foreign capital investment made, till December, 1997 during 1996-97; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the target ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) No target is fixed for Foreign Direct Investment. The FDI approvals and inflow are calculated on calender year basis. The FDI inflow for the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 are given below :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	FDI Approval (Including GDR)	FDI Inflow (Including GDR)
1995	32072	6820
1996	36147	10389
1997	54891	16425
1998	30814	13320

[English]

Coal/Mineral based Industry

2666. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a pilot project scheme to establish coal/mineral based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in the desert areas of Rajasthan ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) A pilot project meant for proving and commercialising the technology developed for exploitation of indigenous reserves of Nickel is jointly being set up by Hindustan Zinc Limited and Council of scientific and Industrial Research in Orissa at a cost of Rs. 8 crores. A number of coal based industries, particularly cement, already exist in Rajasthan.

(c) The question does not arise.

Cotton Production

2667. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state :

(a) the details of the cotton produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise, and

(b) the measures being adopted by the Government to encourage farmers for more production of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The details of the cotton produced in the country during the last three years are as under :

Year	Production (in lakh bales of 170 kg each)
1995-96	169.20
1996-97	177.90
1997-98*	158.00

(* As estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board in its meeting held on 18.2.1999)

(b) To encourage farmers for more production of cotton apart from announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP), a Centrally sponsored scheme viz. Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing states. The salient features of the scheme *inter alia* include transfer of technology to farmers, adoption of integrated pest management approach, popularising new varieties, enchancing area under irrigation through water saving devices, production of breeder seeds and distribution of certified seeds. Beside, Government has mooted to launch a Technology Mission on Cotton Development with objectives of increasing production and productivity of cotton, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories.

Package for Industrial Sector

2668. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banking industry propose to prepare a special package to bail out industrial sector from

recession and enable it to compete at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be 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) to (c) Policies for the banking industry including those for lending to the industrial sector are formulated through the Monetary and Credit Policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India and changes made therein from time to time. In preparing such policies all aspects relating to macro-economic developments are taken into account. Bank and financial institutions follow prudential norms and exposure norms and credit to any project is based on their commercial considerations on the proposal. Pursuant to these policies the outstanding gross bank credit to industrial sector (medium and large) has increased from Rs. 93,053 crore at end March, 1996. to Rs. 1,17,530 crore at end March, 1998.

Balance Sheet of NBFCs

2669. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has finalised a standardised balance sheet and profit and loss account statement for non-banking financial companies;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The finalisation of the proforma of a standardised balance sheet and profit and loss account statement for non-banking financial companies is contingent on the recommendations of a group which has initiated action in the matter of design of formats with adequate disclosures.

Pension Scheme in CIL

2670. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited has introduced pension scheme for its workers and officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited and its sister concerns have deducted 2 percent amount from their salary package from 1989 under the above scheme;

(d) if so, the total amount deducted from their salary, till date, company-wise;

(e) whether this amount has been deposited with the Provident Fund Commissioner or some other agencies; and

(f) if so, the total amount thereof, company-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have notified a Coal Mines Pension Scheme w.e.f. 31st March, 1998. This scheme has replaced the Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme, 1971. The details of the Scheme are available in the notification No. 123 (E) dated 5.3.98. Some of the main features are-

- (i) Superannuation Pension
- (ii) Disablement Pension
- (iii) Widow/Widower Pension
- (iv) Children /Orphan Pension

(c) to (d) The Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries were deducting 2 % from the salary of their eligible employees since 1.4.89 except for some executives, pending decision in a court case. In their cases also, the deductions are now being made with effect from 1.4.89. The amount deducted upto 31.3.98 Company-wise is as under :-

COAL COMPANY	Rs. in Crores
ECL	191.8100
BCCL	182.8776
CCL	90.8282
WCL	90.8200
SECL	103.5595
NCL	19.5900
MCL	20.9000
CMPDIL	4.3619
CIL including NEC	7.3322

The deductions from 1.4.98 are being done as per Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998, on monthly basis, as reported by Coal India Limited.

(e) and (f) The amounts deducted by CIL and its subsidiaries are being deposited on a continuous basis. The position as on Feb' 99 is given below :-

Name of Company	Rs. in crores
ECL	16.0000
BCCL	NIL
CCL	73.0000
WCL	90.8200
SECL	103.5595
NCL	19.4826
MCL	20.9000
CMPDIL	1.8000
CIL including NEC	4.8873

**Backlog of Reserve Posts in Customs
and Excise Department**

2671. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of reserved posts in the Customs and Excise Department, category-wise as on March 31, 1998; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear this backlog, till 31st January, 1999.

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in the Price of Hot Rolled Items

2672. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :

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

(a) whether SAIL and private sector steel giants have decided to increase the price of Hot Rolled items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SAIL and other steel giants had increase the prices of Hot Rolled items just 23 months before; and

(d) if so, the reasons and justification of such hike again?

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

the introduction of New Industrial Policy in 1991 and the subsequent removal of price and distribution controls on steel with effect from 16th January, 1992 prices of steel including that of Hot Rolled items are governed by interplay of market forces. Further, prices of Hot Rolled items were adjusted recently by the producers in an effort to improve their net sales realisation in a declining market.

Misuse of MODVAT

2673. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is rampant misuse of MODVAT during the recent years;

(b) if so, the details regarding total number and extent of duty/tax evasion under MODVAT, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent misuse of MODVAT by both legislative and administrative side; and

(d) the additional revenue mobilised during 1997-98 and the revenue likely to be mobilised 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 (d) Upto date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Forex Department of State Bank of India

2674. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has partially shifted its Forex Department from Calcutta to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal was consulted before taking this decision; 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) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Export of Gold Jewellery

2675. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI V. K. KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to promote export of gold jewellery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for export of gold jewellery during 1999-2000; and

(d) the names of countries to which gold jewellery exported during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government have taken several steps to boost the exports of gold jewellery from the country. Some of the more important steps taken recently include : (i) Permission to Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Export Processing Zone units (EPZs) to cell 10 % of the value of the exports of the preceding year in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) on payment of a concessional rate of duty of Rs. 400/-per 10 grams of plain gold jewellery and a duty of 5 % in respect of studded jewellery, (ii) The threshold limit for zero duty imports under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) has been reduced from the earlier level of Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore only (iii) Rationalisation of Value Addition and Wastage Norms, (iv) Extension of Replenishment Licence Scheme to Platinum/Silver jewellery (v) Permission for Personal Carriage of samples of jewellery etc. upto US 1,00,000 for Export Promotion Tours (vi) Permission for export of branded jewellery for display/sale in foreign outlets subject to getting them returned within 45 days if not sold within 180 days (vii) Export Oriental Units/Export Processing Zone units have been permitted to get machine made gold/silver/platinum jewellery from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units on sub-contract basis against exchange of gold /silver/ platinum (viii) Authorisation to the Reserve Bank of India to nominate banks for trade in precious metals. Accordingly, RBI has nominated thirteen banks till date (ix) Procedure for import and supply of precious metals by the Government nominated agencies and the banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India has been simplified (x) Pursuant to the initiative taken by the

has removed sales tax on supply of bullion by the banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India and a few other State Governments have drastically reduced the value of sales tax being levied on supply of bullion by the Government nominated agencies/RBI authorised banks.

(c) Target of export of gold jewellery for the year 1999-2000 is under finalisation.

(d) The names of the major countries to which gold jewellery was exported during each of the last three years are : (i) United State of America (ii) United Kingdom (iii) United Arab Emirates (iv) Japan (v) Kuwait (vi) Germany (vii) Singapore (viii) Hongkong (ix) Australia (x) Belgium (xi) Bahrain (xii) Canada (xiii) Netherland (xiv) Newzealand (xv) Oman (xvi) Qatar (xvii) Russia (xviii) Switzerland (xix) South Africa (xx) Spain (xxi) France.

Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India

2676. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh have launched a widespread agitation for not getting salaries for the last four months;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to make payment of their salaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Consequent to Allahabad High Court's order for winding up to Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India (TAFCO) and appointment of the Official Liquidator, the company management has not been able to ensure timely payment of salary to the employees and there has been some agitation.

(b) and (c) Government has released non-plan funds to the Company and ad-hoc payment equivalent to 60 days' wages has already been paid to the employees.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Technology Development and Modernisation Fund for SSI Units

2677. SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Small Industries Development Bank of India has created a Technology and Development and Modernisation Fund for SSI units; 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) A Technology Development and Modernisation Fund (TDMF) has been set up during 1995-96 by SIDBI to encourage industrial units in the small scale sector to modernise their production facilities and adopt improved and updated technology. An amount of Rs. 200 crores has been earmarked by SIDBI for the purpose. The scheme envisage assistance to SSI units and units graduating out of SSI sector for modernisation and technology upgradation. Refinance assistance under TDMF is also provided by SIDBI to primary lending institutions.

Over the last two years, (upto February 28, 1999), SIDBI has extended assistance to the tune of Rs. 143.40 crore under TDMF including refinance.

Recession in Cement Industry

2678. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been recession in the cement industry of the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to boost the growth of cement industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The growth rate of cement industry in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 have been 9.6% and 9.1% respectively. However, in the current year from April 1998 to February 1999, the growth rate of cement industry has slowed down to 5.2% mainly on account of general slow down of the economy resulting in lack of demand.

(b) In the Union Budget 1999-2000, Government has announced a comprehensive package of fiscal incentives for housing construction, as also infrastructure development including roads. These measures are expected to improve the demand for cement.

Promotion of Pashmina Craft in J&K

2679. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for promotion of Traditional Pashmina Craft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of India has

received a proposal from J&K State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Jammu, under Research and Development Programme for development of Pashmina Craft during 1995-96. According to the guidelines of the Scheme, Rs. 29.50 lakhs was sanctioned to Corporation and 50% amount was released. 200 samples have been developed which were exhibited in Delhi.

FDI in Housing and Infrastructure Sector

2680. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI T.R. BAALU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared any proposal of Foreign Direct Investment in Housing, Urban infrastructure and Coal sector recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount of foreign investment involved therein, separately;

(c) the number of proposals of FDI in Housing sectors are pending with Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether Reserve Bank of India has issued any directions to further liberalise norms for FDI in infrastructure industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) Sir, a total number of 789 proposals in Construction and Urban Infrastructure and 526 proposals in Feul Sector (including coal), both financial and technical collaborations, involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 40658.89 crore and Rs. 57779.65 crore respectively have been cleared by the Government till December, 1998.

The details regarding origin/area of investment and investment involved are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated including in Parliament Library.

At present, no proposal in Housing Sector is pending with FIPB.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, Government have allowed issue of shares upto 100% to foreign collaborations under automatic route in respect of activity of generation and transmission of electric energy produced in Hydro-electric Power Plants. Coal/lignite based, Oil based and Gas based

thermal plants involving project cost upto Rs. 1500.00 crore and also in respect of activities of construction and maintenance of roads, highway, vehicular bridges, toll roads, vehicular tunnels, ports and harbours.

[Translation]

Foreign Capital Investment Proposals

2681. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the actual amount of capital investment in the country is very less in comparison to that of the foreign capital investment proposals received and cleared by the Government and the amount of capital investment cleared;

(b) if so, the proposals of the total amount of capital investment cleared during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 19997-98, separately, and the actual amount invested in each year during the above period; and

(c) the amount of foreign capital investment cleared during the current financial year, so far, and the actual amount of foreign capital invested so far and the reasons for the difference between the amount of foreign capital invested/cleared and the amount actually invested?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The FDI approvals and inflow for the year 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 are as under :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	FDI Approval (including GDR)	FDI Inflow (including GDR)
1995	32072	6820
1996	36147	10389
1997	54891	16425
1998	30814	13320

The total FDI inflow approval ratio is approximately 29.3%. The lag between inflows and approvals in on account of varying gestation periods of projects approved, with greater delay in inflows in mega projects (which account for almost 50% of FDI approvals).

Projects of SECL in Madhya Pradesh

2682. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of projects set up by South Eastern coalfields Limited particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the quantum of coal extracted from each project since inception till the end of the last financial year, year-wise; and

(c) the year-wise details of amount earned by sale of coal extracted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The location-wise details of the projects set up by South Eastern coalfields Ltd. since its inception alongwith the quantum of coal extracted, year-wise, from such projects are given in Annexure. The projects in respect of which the information has been given in the statement enclosed have been classified as under :

1. Ongoing projects as on date	32 projects
2. Projects treated as completed as on date but set up after the incorporation of the company and completed reorganisation projects which were under implementation on the date of incorporation of the company.	49 projects
3. Marginal Schemes	3 scheme
Total	84 projects

(c) The yearwise details of amount earned by sale of coal extracted from the above projects are given below :

Year	Production (million tonne)	Sale value of production (Rs. in crores)
86-87	23.750	445.88
87-88	25.653	516.04
88-89	28.138	648.75
89-90	33.301	833.67
90-91	36.700	383.96
91-92	38.859	1112.22
92-93	40.775	1379.09
93-94	44.756	1645.77
94-95	45.186	1807.62
95-56	48.501	2065.03
96-97	50.686	2479.10
97-98	51.958	2839.24

The sale value has been computed on the basis of average sale value of the company.

						State- Production Performance	
Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Location		Ultimate Capacity (Mty)	Sanction Capital (Rs. Crs.)	Production Performance	
		Area	District			1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
On-going Projects							
1.	Jhilmili UG	Baikunthpur	Korea	0.3000	14.3652	—	—
2.	Churcha West PSLW	-do-	-do-	0.6500	48.6106	—	—
3.	Bhaskarapara UG	-do-	-do-	0.2400	19.3459	—	—
4.	Bagauli UG	Bhatgaon	-do-	0.2100	19.4041	—	—
5.	Kalyani UG	-do-	Surguja	0.1200	9.6613	—	—
6.	Amba UG	-do-	-do-	0.1800	17.9526	—	—
7.	Nawapara UG	-do-	-do-	0.1800	19.1459	—	—
8.	Shiwani UG	-do-	-do-	0.2700	23.9300	—	—
9.	Mahan OC	-do-	-do-	0.3600	41.9500	—	—
10.	Gayatri UG RPR	Bisrampur	-do-	0.3000	21.8400	—	—
11.	New Kumda UG RPR PSLW	-do-	-do-	0.6000	45.3194	—	—
12.	Balarampur UG RPR PSLW	-do-	-do-	0.5400	47.7902	—	—
13.	Rehar UG RPR	-do-	-do-	0.3100	26.3000	—	—
14.	Rani Atari UG	Chirimiri	Korea	0.1800	17.9506	—	—
15.	Chirimiri Zero Serun RPR	-do-	Surguja	0.4343	49.2130	—	—
16.	Dipka OC Expn.	Gevra	Korba	10.0000	533.9600	—	—
17.	Kurja UG	Hasdeo	Shahdol	0.4000	18.9306	—	—
18.	Behraband UG	-do-	-do-	0.6000	48.3883	0.02	0.043
19.	Kapildhara UG Aug.	-do-	-do-	0.5100	47.3068	—	—
20.	Sheetaldhara UG	-do-	-do-	0.5100	48.2218	—	—
21.	Bartarai UG		-do-	0.2250	19.2463	—	—
22.	Amadand-A UG	J&K	-do-	0.2400	19.8214	—	—
23.	Vindhya UG Aug.	Johilla	Umariya	0.5850	49.9025	—	—
24.	Pinoura UG Aug.	-do-	-do-	0.4800	49.9291	—	—
25.	Umariya UG RO	-do-	-do-	0.3000	13.9460	—	—
26.	Pipariya UG RPR	-do-	-do-	0.2400	17.6238	—	—
27.	Singhali UG	Korba	Korba	0.2400	15.8186	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Bagdeva UG	Korba	Korba	0.2400	18.5889	—	—
29.	Bagdeva OC	-do-	-do-	0.2000	11.6000	—	—
30.	Karkati UG	Sohagpur	Shahdol	0.1650	15.4051	—	—
31.	Navagaon UG RCE	-do-	-do-	0.3000	16.4444	—	—
32.	Rajendra UG RPR PSLW	-do-	-do-	0.6400	48.5664	—	—
Total of On-going Projects						0.02	0.43

Completed Projects :

1.	Dugga OC	Bhatgaon	Surguja	0.5000	46.0024	—	—
2.	Mahamaya UG	-do-	-do-	0.2700	18.5040	—	—
3.	Bhatgaon UG RCE	-do-	-do-	0.5000	19.9174	5.36	5.88
4.	Bisrampur UG RO	Bisrampur	-do-	0.9000	6.7028	8.22	8.18
5.	Bisrampur OC	-do-	-do-	1.2500	22.2169	7.43	10.33
6.	Churcha Expn.	Baikunthpur	Korea	1.0000	7.9321	9.00	6.80
7.	Pandavpara UG	-do-	-do-	0.2100	19.3258	—	—
8.	Churcha West RPR (B&P)	-do-	-do-	0.6000	43.2685	0.56	2.11
9.	Katkona Re-appraisal UG	-do-	-do-	0.2250	10.0002	1.72	1.70
10.	Churcha West (LW) UG	-do-	-do-	0.6000	32.6300	*LW Face started in 1990	
11.	Kurasia OC RPR	Chirimiri	-do-	1.0000	18.6276	9.24	9.15
12.	N.C.P.H. RO UG	-do-	-do-	0.5800	8.3627	4.13	4.74
13.	Chirimiri OC	-do-	-do-	0.0000	18.7098	—	2.80
14.	West Chirimiri UG	-do-	-do-	0.6000	9.3590	5.88	5.25
15.	Dipka OC	Gevra	Korba			Including in Dipka OC Exp.	
16.	Gevra OC Expn./Aug.	-do-	-do-	0.0000	224.3900	49.97	65.00
17.	Somna UG	Hasdeo	Shahdol	0.5500	44.8496	—	—
18.	West JKD B Seam UG	-do-	Korba	0.1600	7.3792	1.74	1.71
19.	Bijuri UG RPR	-do-	Shahdol	0.4800	12.7541	5.02	5.00
20.	Ramnagar UG RO	-do-	-do-	0.7200	23.2273	9.24	8.35
21.	Dola OC	-do-	-do-	0.3500	15.3570	—	—
22.	Rajnagar OC	-do-	-do-	1.0000	25.5394	11.78	12.49
23.	Rajnagar RO RCE	-do-	-do-	0.7220	19.9264	4.22	4.71
24.	Vindhya UG	Johilla	Umaria	0.3000	18.3018	—	—

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	0.26	0.87	1.17	1.38	1.40	1.43
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.92	16.04	22.79	24.09	34.23	40.28	48.51	55.61	61.44	68.86

0.48	1.50	1.62	1.75	2.01	2.42	2.92	3.24	4.03	5.02
-	-	-	-	0.04	0.47	1.10	1.79	2.53	2.87
6.27	5.80	5.28	5.07	4.21	4.43	4.24	4.03	4.10	4.11
8.89	9.07	8.95	8.90	7.99	8.57	8.75	9.05	8.97	6.53
10.72	10.34	10.10	11.29	11.30	10.59	12.42	11.96	12.50	12.61
6.87	7.31	7.36	6.89	6.79	3.97	2.70	3.86	4.43	4.56
-	-	-	-	0.06	0.24	0.79	1.23	1.40	1.67
2.40	2.04	2.92	2.47	3.15	3.83	4.16	4.44	4.74	4.86
1.90	2.12	2.20	2.13	2.13	2.28	2.25	2.35	2.78	2.90

but collapsed after 3 months operation. Production including in Sl.No. 8

8.01	8.18	7.90	7.40	7.77	8.17	8.20	8.21	7.23	7.40
5.21	5.20	5.23	5.26	5.22	5.41	5.48	5.19	5.34	4.74
4.11	3.91	3.41	3.15	3.30	3.20	2.69	3.00	3.87	4.15
5.08	4.40	3.48	3.40	3.68	3.31	2.71	2.90	2.56	2.47

On going project.

82.10	97.10	112.11	12.00	133.02	140.45	146.29	154.45	168.33	178.81
-	-	-	-	-	-	2.44	2.72	2.88	3.17
1.82	2.03	1.87	1.75	1.65	1.49	1.51	1.45	1.33	1.20
5.03	4.56	4.17	3.82	4.26	4.74	3.44	3.47	3.53	4.17
8.54	7.81	7.55	6.76	7.46	7.16	6.59	5.98	6.34	6.37
-	0.03	9.90	11.73	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.00	13.00	2.50	1.46	13.90	14.36	18.66	15.53	14.60	14.12
5.80	6.69	8.26	7.60	7.42	7.58	8.06	8.36	7.78	7.40
-	-	-	-	-	-	0.04	0.54	1.22	1.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Pali UG	Johilla	Umaria	0.5000	26.9817	0.59	1.15
26.	Pinoura UG	-do-	-do-	0.3100	19.3108	-	-
27.	Bhadra UG	J&K	Shahdol	0.2250	2.1671	1.18	1.41
28.	Govinda UG RO	-do-	-do-	0.6000	12.8479	5.66	6.12
29.	Kotma West OC	-do-	-do-	0.2000	9.4718	-	-
30.	Harad Incline	-do-	-do-	0.1200	4.4925	-	-
31.	Jamuna RO	-do-	-do-	0.6000	18.0699	6.25	6.82
32.	Jamuna UG RO	-do-	-do-	0.3000	10.6003	1.63	1.58
33.	Kotma UG RO	-do-	-do-	0.6000	9.6697	5.34	5.12
34.	Pawan Incline	Korba	Korba	0.1200	6.9414	-	-
35.	Balgi UG	-do-	-do-	0.6000	28.0044	1.86	1.60
36.	Rajnagar UG RO	-do-	-do-	0.3000	33.9245	2.62	2.44
37.	Manikpur OC	-do-	-do-	1.9400	10.9344	18.00	16.86
38.	Dilwadih UG	-do-	-do-	0.2700	15.3427	-	-
39.	Laxman OC Aug.	Kusumda	-do-	0.7000	16.6638	-	-
40.	Laxman OC	-do-	-do-	0.8000	19.1517	-	-
41.	Kusumunda OC RCE	-do-	-do-	6.0000	168.4500	51.15	47.03
42.	Chal Incline UG	Raigarh	Raigarh	0.1350	8.2204	-	-
43.	Jharam Pilot Incline UG	-do-	-do-	0.1350	8.2620	-	-
44.	Sarda OC	Sohagpur	Shahdol	0.5000	18.7088	-	4.27
45.	Dhanpuri OC RCE	-do-	-do-	1.2500	54.6950	6.23	4.45
46.	Amlai OC RCE	-do-	-do-	0.7000	46.6125	-	-
47.	New Chachai RO UG	-do-	-do-	0.3100	12.3781	3.46	3.05
48.	Bungwar UG RPR	-do-	-do-	0.3600	27.5485	-	-
49.	Nand Incline UG	Raigarh	Raigarh	0.1350	-	-	-
Total of completed projects						237.48	256.10
Marginal Schemes							
1.	Subhash Incline	Sohagpur	Shahdol	0.1500	-	-	-
2.	Palkimara	Hasdeo	-do-	0.1100	-	-	-
3.	Viveknagar Incline	Sohagpur	-do-	0.1000	-	-	-
Total of Marginal Scheme						0.00	0.00

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.41	2.34	3.00	3.06	3.20	3.60	3.57	3.60	3.40	3.14
—	0.05	0.62	1.50	1.80	2.03	2.21	2.03	2.56	2.45
1.52	1.47	1.40	1.56	1.73	1.53	1.50	1.51	1.31	1.12
6.52	6.98	6.79	6.24	5.56	3.93	3.35	3.22	2.97	2.72
—	—	—	—	—	—	1.08	2.53	4.82	3.70
—	—	—	—	0.02	0.15	0.65	0.83	0.92	0.91
7.22	6.80	8.38	8.44	7.96	4.89	5.50	9.71	8.00	9.43
2.15	2.10	2.51	3.02	3.49	3.56	4.13	4.47	4.69	4.05
5.59	5.65	5.48	5.38	5.29	4.77	4.47	4.91	4.89	4.21
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	0.81	1.15
2.20	2.38	3.43	4.20	5.22	6.03	5.56	5.83	5.77	4.42
2.72	3.27	3.03	2.87	3.14	3.75	3.52	2.59	2.12	2.36
17.07	20.00	20.97	18.08	18.13	2.29	22.03	21.25	21.60	19.14
—	—	—	—	0.16	1.52	2.11	2.07	2.39	2.16
1.33	15.10	20.91	24.12	26.72	47.12	31.51	30.13	31.59	33.00
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
37.45	40.00	42.29	41.09	44.18	47.06	47.38	51.24	48.93	44.91
—	—	—	—	—	—	0.11	0.55	0.99	1.49
—	—	—	—	—	—	0.33	0.70	1.00	1.41
2.84	4.22	4.67	4.39	4.45	3.56	4.09	4.83	5.30	5.11
8.17	8.22	6.85	10.16	9.52	11.07	5.17	9.33	7.96	10.76
—	2.57	3.24	1.34	0.10	1.08	1.67	5.11	4.15	3.38
3.15	2.70	2.46	2.51	2.68	2.85	2.12	1.85	1.51	1.51
—	0.10	0.54	0.93	1.49	2.18	1.88	2.84	3.61	3.64
—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.08	0.29	0.41	0.40
275.57	315.04	341.75	361.72	370.20	403.59	399.46	425.24	442.19	447.49
0.74	1.23	1.29	1.39	1.57	1.86	2.04	2.40	2.42	2.26
—	—	0.53	0.64	0.74	0.68	0.70	0.70	0.78	0.97
0.15	0.73	0.64	0.75	1.01	1.15	1.15	1.06	0.03	—
0.89	1.96	2.46	2.78	3.32	3.69	3.89	4.16	3.23	3.23

Foreign Banks

2683. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loss/profit of foreign banks working in the country during June 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) whether the foreign banks have been done more business than the Indian banks during June, 1998 to February 1999; and

(c) if so, 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) The details of Profit and Loss of foreign banks during 1997-98 are given in the statement enclosed. The Balance Sheet for the year 1998-99 has not yet become due.

(b) and (c) The share of banking business handled by the foreign banks is not comparable with that handled by public sector banks, as public sector banks handled more than 80% of the business during 1997-98, the latest year for which figures are available.

Statement

Foreign banks net profit/loss 1997-98

(Rs. in crore)

Name of bank	Amount
1	2
Abudhabi Commercial Bank Ltd.	2.05
ABN Amro Bank N.V.	65.08
American Express Bank Ltd.	68.15
ANZ Grindlays Bank PLC	230.07
Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	0.76
Bank International Indonesia	(-)9.06
Bank of America NT & SA	177
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait BSC	(-)15.24
Bank of Ceylon	3.07
Bank of Nova Scotia	7.07
Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd.	(-)336.42
Banque Nationale De Paris	18.14
Barclays Bank PLC	5.07

1	2
British Bank of Middle East	3.09
Chase Manhattan Bank	3.14
China Trust Commercial Bank	0.002
CHO Hung Bank	4.12
Citibank N.A.	119.22
Commercial Bank Korea Ltd.	0.69
Commerz Bank AG	(-)0.84
Credit Agricole Indozuez	(-)14.74
Credit Lyonnals	(-)5.51
Deutsche Bank AG	117.31
Development Bank Singapore	1.49
Dresdner Bank AG	4.44
Fujii Bank Ltd.	4.59
Hanil Bank	1.13
Hongkong Bank	72.74
ING Bank	10.75
Krung Thai Bank Pub. Co. Ltd.	2.3
Mashreq Bank PSC	(-)9.02
Oman International Bank SAOG	(-)3.25
Overseas Chinese Banking Corpn. Ltd.	0.38
Sanwa Bank Ltd.	3.7
Slam commercial Bank	6.13
Societe Generela	10.35
Sonali Bank	1.8
Satandard Chartered Bank	66.7
State Bank of Mauritius Bank	8.7
Sakura Bank Ltd.	1.57
Sumtiomo Bank Ltd.	2.01
The Totonto-dominion Bank	1.24
Total	629.972

Pending Claims with Insurance Company

2684. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :
SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases of claims/documents pending with each subsidiary of GIC, as on date, subsidiary-wise and state-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending for over three years and the reasons for delay in settlement of such cases;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose penalty on insurance companies where inordinate delay is taken in settlement of such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for speedy disposal of 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) GIC has reported that the total number of claims/documents pending as on December 31, 1998 in the four subsidiary companies are reported to be as under :

Company	No. pending as on 31.12.98 (Provisional)	
	Claims	Documents
National	1,63,296	2,06,920
New India	2,53,307	3,79,156
Oriental	2,47,257	2,16,248
United	2,83,735	5,78,544
Total	9,47,595	13,80,868

Above information on State-wise basis is not maintained by Companies.

(b) As on 31.12.1998 the total number of cases reported to have been pending for over three years is 1,55,190 of which approximately 90 % cases pertain to motor third party claims which are sub-judice. The other major reasons for the delay in the settlement of claims are- (i) complicated nature of claims where assessment takes long time; and (ii) liability of insurer and/or amount of compensation is/are disputed; and (iii) motor third party claims which are subject matter of litigation.

(c) and (d) As regards imposition of penalty on Insurance Companies, it may be mentioned that the contract of insurance does not provide for payment of interest in claim amount and also it is not in conformity with international practice and Insurance Act, 1938. Interest payment, however, are made only when awarded by competent Courts in respect of claims under litigation.

Paper Mills in UP

2685. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to establish paper mills in sugarcane dominated areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the State;

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

(c) if not, whether Government are contemplating to constitute any possibilities of paper industries in view of adequate availability of raw material in the State ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Paper industry is delicensed. Entrepreneurs are required to file only an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) with Secretariat for Industrial Assistance in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. 186 IEMs with an annual capacity of 3.66 lakh tonnes have been filled from 1991 to February 1999 for setting up paper mills in Uttar Pradesh.

Global Tenders by RINL for supply on Ferry Silicon

2686. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) had invited global tenders in April, 1993 to get supply of 11500 tons of ferry silicon to fulfill its requirement during -1993-94;

(b) if so, whether the company failed to project its annual requirement and the sources for getting the supply thereof and order was given to indigenous suppliers in August, 1993 for purchase of only 600 tonnes;

(c) whether due to failure in the projecting for the annual requirement and the placing orders within the stipulated time, Rs.217.39 lacs were spent unnecessarily; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the officials found responsible for this unnecessarily expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) RINL (VSP) had invited global tenders in April, 1993 for procurement of 11500 tonnes of Ferro Silicon for the year 1993-94. The bids were opened in June, 1993. Landed cost of imports was found to be substantially lower than the

indigenous offers, making imports attractive. However, at that time, RINL did not have any advance licences for imports. As such, it placed orders for 600 tonnes of Ferro Silicon on an indigenous supplier in August, 1993. Also Ferro Silicon had been placed in the sensitive list in 1993-94 implying restriction on its imports. And the matter had been taken up with the Government for the its removal from this list. As such, during this period, VSP confronted by uncertainty of imports against VABAL and the need to procure Ferro Silicon to keep production going, resorted to adhoc-purchases to meet their requirements.

Recovery for Loans

2687. SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan recovered by various public sector banks in Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the tribal and backward areas;

(b) the amount of loan recovered in comparison to other States whether the amount recovered is less or more; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more loan facility to the tribals areas of various States?

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) Central Bank of India, the Convener Bank for Madhya Pradesh has reported that as against demand of Rs. 1660.38 crores, amount of loan recovered by various public sector banks in the State is Rs. 704.27 crore, of which Rs. 70 crore was recovered in tribal area and Rs.280 crore recovered in backward areas.

(b) Comparable position of recovery as available in respect of Central Bank of India in Madhya Pradesh vis-a-vis all India level (1997-98) is given below :

(Rs. in crores).

	Madhya Pradesh	All India
Demand	280.24	1693.44
Recovery	139.91	770.35
% of Recovery to Demand	49.9	45.5

(c) For increasing the flow of credit to the priority sectors and advances to weaker section including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the rural and semi-urban areas, the Annual Credit Plans (ACPs) are prepared for each district every year and implementation thereof is monitored by the various fora created under the Lead Bank Scheme.

[English]

Outstanding Dues of Coal India Limited

2688. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "CIL awaits award of Central team on dues" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated January 29, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the status of CIL's outstanding as per latest information;

(d) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives for realisation of outstanding dues; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are substantial outstanding dues of the coal companies for coal supply to the power and steel sectors. Some of these dues have been disputed by the State Electricity Boards and the Govt. have appointed Umpires for listening to the claims and counter claims on the matter and to adjudicate thereon.

The name of the Umpires and the SEBs are given below :-

S. No.	NAME OF THE UMPIRE	SEBS FOR WHICH UMPIRES WERE APPOINTED
1.	Shri R.K.Tikku	BTPS, PSEB, DESU (DVB), HSEB
2.	Shri V. Krishnan	KPCL, UPSEB, RSEB
3.	Shri B. Vijayraghvan	GEB, MSEB, MPEB
4.	Shri R. Shrinivasan	TNEB, APSEB
5.	Shri S.M. Murshid	BSEB, WBSEB, WBPDC, DPL and DVC

The Umpires have pronounced interim awards in respect of BTPS, KPCL, MSEB, RSEB, GEB, MPEB and TNEB. Based on the principles set out therein, coal companies and the SEBs have to work out the amounts due and resubmit claims before the Umpires for final awards.

(c) The sector-wise outstanding dues to CIL as on 31.1.1999 are given below :-

(Rs. in crores) (Data Provisional)

Sector	Disputed Outstanding	Undisputed Outstanding	Total
POWER	1,768.65	2,818.37	4,587.02
STEEL	625.14	183.12	808.26
OTHERS	100.44	43.40	143.84
TOTAL	2,494.23	3,044.89	5,539.12

(d) and (e) The following initiatives have been taken to recover the outstanding :

- (1) Recoveries of coal sales outstanding dues a/c SEBs from the Central Assistance to be received by the States.
- (2) Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries have been persistently following up with the consumers in diverse sectors for settlement of outstanding dues.
- (3) Recovery of dues by way of adjustment against energy bills in respect of certain power utilities.
- (4) Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries will supply coal to power utilities only against advance payment or IRLC in terms of the Agreement evolved between CIL and the Council of Power Utilities representing SEBs/Power Utilities.
- (5) Recovery of outstanding dues through securitisation route.
- (6) The Coal India Limited have also written to the SEBs requesting them to intimate the schedule of clearing the old arrears. If dues are not cleared by the schedule date, coal companies would be compelled to stop coal supplies.

Hawala cases in Country

2689. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of former Ministers of Union Government and State Government as well as politicians against whom Hawala cases are Pending in the Courts; and

(b) the names of politicians/ex-Ministers who have been found not guilty and discharged by the Courts ?

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, Hawala cases are pending in Courts against the following former Ministers/Politicians :-

S/Shri

(i) Balram Jakhar

(ii) Sharad Yadav and

(iii) Devi Lal

(b) The names of the Politicians/ex-Ministers discharged by the Courts are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

S/Shri

1. Arif Mohd. Khan
2. Arjun Singh
3. L.K. Advani
4. Yashwant Sinha
5. Kalpnath Rai
6. V.C. Shukla
7. Madhav Rao Scindia
8. Kamal Nath
9. Arivind Netam
10. L.P. Sahi
11. Buta Singh
12. C.K. Jaffar Sharif
13. B.D. Dhakne
14. R.K. Dhavan
15. N.D. Tiwari
16. Ranjit Singh
17. K. Natwar Singh
18. Harmohan Dhavan
19. M.L. Khurana
20. Chand Ram
21. P. Shiv Shankar
22. Moti Lal Vora
23. Ajit Kr. Panja
24. Kailash Joshi

Stock Investment Scheme

2690. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Stock Investment Scheme has been a total failure to achieve the targets for which it was introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government purpose to review the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

IDA LOAN

2691. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of IDA loan from World Bank sanctioned to India recently;

(b) the rate of interest payable on this loans;

(c) whether the Government have submitted its projects to the World Bank for IDA credit during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The details of IDA loans sanctioned by the World Bank during April 1998 to February 1999 is as follows:

S.No.	Name of Project	Amount (US \$ M)
1.	Orissa Health System Development	76.4
2.	Women and Child Development	300
3.	Maharashtra Health System Development	134
4.	A.P. Eco. Restructeering IDA Part	241.9
5.	UP- Diversified Agricultural Support. IDA Part	50.0
6.	UP-Sodic Land Raceamation	194.1

(b) IDA loans are interest free loans but a service charge of 0.5 % is levied on the disbursed portion.

(c) and (d) Finalisation of projects with the assistance of World Bank is an on-going process and at any given time there are projects in the pipeline. At present there are a number of pipeline projects in Health, Irrigation, Agriculture, Urban Development and Social Sectors. These projects are at varying stages of consideration by the World Bank.

[Translation]

New Steel Policy

2692. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI
A.V.S.M. :
SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any New Steel Policy to make viable all the steel plants in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

[English]

Revival of Sick Mills

2693. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified 34 sick mills for revival on Gujrat package pattern of golden handshake for which the Government need Rs. 2000 crores;

(b) if so, the criteria adoped for such an identification and the manner in which this amount is likely to be arranged;

(c) whether there is any plan under consideration to invite private sector for this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith with viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Bhatt Committee on Tiny and Small Scale Industries

2694. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhatt Committee in 1970's had recommended that a separate legislation be enacted for the tiny and small scale units in the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The Bhatt Committee constituted on 25th January, 1972 was asked to identify specific areas where legislation on Small Scale Industries is considered necessary and draft legislation. Consequently, IDR Act was amended in 1984 to make legal provisions for reservation of items for manufacture in Small Scale Sector. The definition of small scale sector is governed by IDR Act. The Delayed Payment Act exclusively for Small Scale Industries was promulgated in 1993 to ensure prompt payment. This act was amended to make it more effective in August, 1998.

Upgradation of Products of HEC

2695. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Heavy Engineering Corporation is negotiating with some foreign firms for upgradation of its products;

(b) if so, the names of the foreign firms with whom the negotiations are in progress and other details thereof; and

(c) the extent of profitability of the product ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (c) Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)'s discussions with various companies are only at an exploratory stage. At this juncture it may not be in the interest of HEC to disclose the names of these companies. The profitability of products would depend upon a variety of factors like technology choice, process and material costs which have not yet been tied up given the very preliminary stage of discussions so far.

Royalty on Transfer of Technology

2696. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the ceiling on royalty on transfer of technology in order to attract state of art technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) As per the present policy, approval for technology transfer is given through Automatic Route by RBI or by the Government. The proposals approved through Automatic Route have standard royalty of 5% for

domestic sales and 8% for exports, net of taxes and for all other cases no ceiling of royalty is prescribed and such cases are considered for approval on merits by the Government.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

2697. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Golden Handshaker/Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which it 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) No such proposal has been received from financial institutions and public sector banks so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fifth Pay Commission

2698 SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to replay given to Unstarred Question No.3247 on December 18, 1998 regarding Fifth Central Pay Commission and state :

(a) whether the decision in regard to parts (c) and (d) of the reply has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The demands relating to the pay scales of Assistants and UDCs are to be considered by the Department of Personnel and Training as the nodal agency concerned. According to the information furnished by that department, there is no proposal presently under consideration to revise the pay scale of the Assistants in the Central Secretariat. The Fifth Central Pay Commission had also not recommended any upward revision of their pay scale.

The demand of the Staff Side in the Departmental Council of the Department of Personnel and Training for increasing the pay scale of UDCs was referred to the Board of Arbitration under the JCM Scheme. The Board had rejected the demand.

The financial implications of accepting the demand for increasing the Transport Allowance from a minimum of

Rs.100 per month to Rs.400 per month will be substantial. The present constraints of resources and the imperative need to minimise administrative expenditure may not permit its acceptance. Besides, the rates already approved by the Government are based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission and it will be premature to revise these rates at this stage.

U.S. Embargo on Women Blouses

2699. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. has imposed an embargo on shipments of women's blouses from India for overshooting the important quota earmarked by Washington under the category;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to resolve the matter with U.S. authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the decision of U.S. authorities in this regard;

(f) whether the Government propose to inquire the matter of mishandling of the quota; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) and (b) The United State had imposed embargo on shipment of women's yarn dyed blouses, falling under category 341-Y, which is a sub-category of category 341, from India with effect from November 4, 1998, as annual level of this sub-category had been exceeded as

per US figures. While adding the special shift of 5% from category 641 to category 341, US authorities did not add the same to the 341-Y segment.

(c) to (e) Government have taken up the matter with US authorities to resolve the issue; but the matter could not be resolved. However, the shipments held up on account of embargo have already been cleared in 1999.

(f) and (g) There has not been mishandling of quotas.

[Translation]

Coal Deposits in Bihar

2700. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of coal deposits in Bihar;

(b) the details of coal deposits in Kusaba Kajak area of Seeki Meral, Vishrampur near Rajhara coal Mines of Palamu district and Mandariya Block of Garhwa district;

(c) whether the Government propose to open coal mines in above mentioned areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The coalfields of the country, in general encompasses more than one district and the reserve estimation is done coalfield-wise. However, categorised reserves of coal deposits in different coalfields of Bihar embracing different districts are given as under:

Coalfield	District	Reserve (in million tonnes)			
		Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Raniganj	Dhanbad	1409.23	547.77	90.10	2047.10
Jharia	Dhanbad	15077.57	4352.49	0.00	19430.06
E.Bokaro	Bokaro, Giridih	2826.28	3179.73	0.00	6005.01
W. Bokaro	Hazaribagh	3165.06	1556.45	34.42	4755.93
Ramgarh	Hazaribagh	367.76	545.15	58.05	970.96
N. Karanpura	Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamu	6325.28	5373.40	2330.43	14029.11
S. Karanpura	Hazaribagh, Ranchi	2542.18	1963.12	1508.67	6013.97
Auranga	Palamu	8.78	2484.92	503.41	2997.11
Hutar	Palamu	190.79	26.55	32.48	249.82
Daltanganj	Palamu	83.86	60.10	0.00	143.96
Deogarh	Deogarh	326.24	72.60	0.00	399.84
Rajmahal	Godda, Sahebganj, Pakur, Dumka	2077.97	8258.55	1377.21	11713.73
Total		34401	28420.83	5934.77	68756.6

(b) The specific location of Kusaha Kajak, Seeki Meral, Vishrampur and Mandariya needs confirmation. However, in Daltonganj Coalfield of Palamu district, there is a block named Singra Meral. The coal reserves from this block amount to 27.62 million tonnes (Proved-2.46 million tonnes and indicated 25.16 million tonnes). Coal reserves of Rajhara area (Central and North and East blocks) stand as 23.63 million tonnes which includes 23.35 million tonnes and 0.28 million tonnes of reserves in Proved and Indicated categories respectively.

(c) and (d) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that the areas under reference have not been covered by detailed exploration therefore there is no immediate plan to open coal mines in these areas.

[English]

Outstanding Dues Payable to SEBs

2701. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have to pay a large amount to various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) of States;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues against each subsidiary of Coal India Limited, as on November, 30, 1998;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited have contemplated any measures to clear the outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited do not owe a large amount to various SEBs except that there is a dispute in case of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) which is under reconciliation. As per the account of coal companies, as on 30.9.98, BSEB owes Rs.164.26 crores after off-setting the outstanding of the accepted energy bills against accepted coal sale bills outstanding for BCCL, CCL and ECL taken together.

As regard the subsidiary-wise details of dues of royalty and cess as on 30th November, 1998 payable to the State Government the information is given as below:

(Rs. in crores)
(Data Provisional)

Royalty

STATE	ECL	BCCL	CCL	MCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	NEC	TOTAL
West Bengal	0.00	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01
Bihar	0.00	1.91	21.29	-	-	-	-	-	23.20
Orissa	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	0.00
Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	4.63	-	-	-	4.63
M.P.	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
U.P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.63	0.63
Total	0.00	1.92	21.29	0.00	4.63	0.00	0.00	0.63	28.47

CESS

West Bengal	483.05	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	483.06
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(c) and (d) Outstanding dues of royalty of all the States as on 30.11.98 has been cleared during the month of December, 98. Insofar as West Bengal is concerned cess dues of Rs. 18 crores is being adjusted every month with the coal sale outstanding dues of West Bengal State Electricity Board, West Bengal Power Development Corporation and Durgapur Projects Limited as per mutual agreement.

Export of Diesel Electric Locomotives to Malaysia by BHEL

2702. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL has bagged orders for export of Diesel Electric Locomotives from Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. M/s. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI). Japan placed an order on BHEL for supply of one 700 HP Diesel Electric shunting Locomotive for their Fertilizer Project in Malaysia.

(c) Sale price of the locomotive was US \$ 4,90,000. Full payment has been received.

Loan to Assam

2703. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced any specific amount for relief to the Government of Assam from the burden of repayment of special term loans granted in the context of militancy; and

(b) if so, the details of the relief amount announced and is being implemented in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The question does not arise as no special term loans were granted to the Government of Assam in the context of militancy.

Grants to Exporters of Handlooms/Handicrafts

2704. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide grants to the exporters for the export of handloom cloth and handicrafts;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the amount of grants provided to them during each of the last three years; state-wise;

(c) whether the Government have also identified any bogus agencies which have been receiving such grants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government against them ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Bank Loans

2705. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan given by various nationalised banks during 1998-99, so far;

(b) the amount of loan recovered during the said year; and

(c) the estimated loan recovery yet to be made by the banks?

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 bank credit of nationalised banks during 1998-99 upto January 15, 1999 was Rs. 172711.8 crore.

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

[English]

Contribution by Private Banks in RIDF

2706. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RBI asks 9 private Banks to deposit Rs. 562 crores in RIDF" appearing in the Indian Express dated October 18, 1998;

(b) if so, the names of banks which have defaulted in the matter and the action the Government propose to take against such banks, bank-wise; .

(c) whether the private sector banks have also not achieved the laid down target in distributing loans under IRDP, PMRY and other rural related schemes of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons for not following the instructions of the Reserve Bank of India by private banks; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those private banks?

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. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that nine private sector banks which had not achieved the priority sector lending target of 40 percent of net bank credit as on March 1998 had been asked to allocate amounts equivalent to the entire shortfall for contribution to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) -IV. The details of the banks and the amounts allocated are given below:

S. No.	Name of the bank	Amount allocated (Rs. crore)
1.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	42.27
2.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	9.69
3.	Benaras State Bank Ltd.	13.42
4.	SBI Commercial and International Bank Ltd.	18.59
5.	UTI Bank Ltd.	324.83
6.	ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd.	22.19
7.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	100.77
8.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	13.15
9.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	26.74
	Total	571.65

(d) to (e) RBI has reported that under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) targets are allotted to banks both in the public and private sector. However, only about 7 percent of targets is given to private sector banks, on which the level of achievement was about 60 percent of the target. Some of the reasons for the low level of achievement under PMRY are non-availability of enough number of viable and bankable proposals among the applications sponsored, fear of addition to the non-performing asset (NPAs) level and poor recovery position under Government-sponsored schemes.

In so far as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is concerned, RBI has reported that separate data relating to performance of private sector banks is not maintained by them. Private sector banks are also required to lend under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) scheme a minimum of 1% of their aggregate advances as at the end of the previous year. This target has not been achieved by the private sector banks. The reasons attributed for non-achievement of the target under the scheme include, inter-alia, preference of capital subsidy linked programmes like IRDP, PMRY, etc. by the borrowers, much higher quantum of loan assistance available in other schemes than the maximum under DRI and low income ceiling fixed for determining eligibility. However, all scheduled commercial banks have been advised by RBI to take immediate steps to improve their performance in implementation of the DRI scheme.

The private sector banks are required to lend 40 percent of their net bank credit to the priority sector. As on March 1998, the private sector banks had, as a group, achieved the priority sector target of 40 percent. However, the above indicated nine banks which had not achieved the target have been given allocations for deposit in RIDF-IV maintained with National Bank for Agriculture and

Rural Development (NABARD). RBI has further asked these nine banks to place deposits in RIDF-IV as and when required by NABARD which will depend on the anticipated disbursements to State Governments under RIDF-IV.

Amalgamation of Banks

2707.DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are preparing a plan for outright sale of its stake in the smaller and profitable public sector banks to the larger and more profitable ones;

(b) if so, whether RBI's stake in the SBI is also being reduced;

(c) if so, the main objectives behind this idea;

(d) whether Narasimhan Committee has also suggested for merger between larger and smaller banks to take advantage of skill and to meet the global challenges;

(e) if so, the time by which this plan is likely to be operationalised; and

(f) whether employees interest have been kept in view while amalgamating the banks?

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.

(b) There is no such proposal presently under the consideration of the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (f) The Narasimhan Committee on Banking Sector Reforms has, inter-alia, recommended "mergers need to be based on synergies and locational and business specific complementarities of the concerned institutions and must obviously make sound commercial sense". The Committee has also recommended that "merger of public sector banks should emanate from the managements of banks with the Government as the common shareholder playing a supportive role". The Committee has noted that "mergers to be meaningful and useful should not be a mere arithmetical merger of balance sheets and staff of the banks but should yield benefits in terms of staff and branch network rationalisation. Unless these benefits can become available, mergers of public sector banks would tie down managements with operational issues". The Committee has also noted that "it would be necessary in this connection to evolve policies aimed at right-sizing and redeployment of the surplus staff.

(e) No time limit has been prescribed by Government for merger of banks since such mergers should emanate from the managements of the banks and not from the Government.

Powerloom Units

2708. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Powerloom units have been closed in various States during each of the last three years, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to arrest the increase in the price of cotton and yarn;

(d) whether the Government have earmarked any amount to various States for the development of textile industry in the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The information regarding closure of Powerloom units in various States is not maintained by the Government.

(c) The prices of cotton and yarn are governed by the market forces of demand and supply and Government does not intervene unless there is unusual fluctuation which has not been witnessed in recent time.

(d) to (f) The Government announced the launching of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) with effect from 1.4.99 under which eligible units of Textile and Jute Industry in all the States would be able to apply for loan from nodal agencies at an applicable rate of interests which will be less than the prevailing market rate. The scheme does not envisages any sector/state specific allocation of funds. In other developmental schemes, implemented by the Government allocations of funds are made scheme-wise and any state fulfilling the conditions of such schemes can be benefited. As such, no state-wise earmarking of funds is generally made.

[Translation]

Reaction of Defence Ministry on the issue of Captive Coal Mining in Chandrapur

2709. SHRI RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

The reaction/decision of the Defence Ministry on the issue of captive coal mining was to be handedover to Ispat Industries in Chandrapur, Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : On the basis of the findings of a Committee headed by Prof. Abdul Kalam, Ministry of Defence have imposed certain restrictions on the mining operations to be conducted in Baranj block in Maharashtra by M/s. Central India Coal Company Ltd. The three most important restrictions are :-

(a) A ban on mining activity within a radius of 3 K.M. from the perimeter of the ordnance factory at Ghanda, and

(b) a restriction of 3 tons per round on blasting beyond 3 K.M., with maximum charge per delay not exceeding 400 g., and

(c) maximum 15 metres depth of hole.

Pending Tax Cases

2710. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the cases relating to realisation of various taxes lying pending during the last three years, year-wise, tax-wise and state-wise;

(b) the number of such cases which are pending in the courts;

(c) the amount involved in these pending cases; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for recovery of the outstanding amount of taxes?

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, year-wise and tax-wise details of cases pending realisation during the last three years, are given in (statement-I enclosed). These details are not maintained State-wise.

(b) and (c) The number of cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts, and amount involved therein, are given in (statement-II enclosed).

(d) The Recovery of tax arrears is a continuous process and includes charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties and enforcing bank guarantees. Periodical reviews and monitoring of cases involving high demands, are also undertaken. Special measures are also taken to get the stays vacated and/or deciding the cases on priority basis, by filing urgent petitions in the Courts. Steps have also been taken to get the pending cases finalised by bunching of cases issue-wise and cases covered by earlier judgements of the Courts.

Statement-I

(Rs. in crores)

TAX-HEAD	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Customs	155.36	162.56	288.44
Central Excise	3155.67	3754.81	5908.20
Income Tax	16536.00	18152.00	21168.00
Corporation Tax	12434.00	15433.00	20062.00
Wealth Tax	951.00	887.00	928.00
Gift Tax	52.00	61.00	90.00
Expenditure Tax	8.00	6.00	5.00
Interest Tax	874.00	898.00	1028.00

Statement-II

TAX-HEAD	YEAR	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT INVOLVED (Rs. in crores)
Customs	1996-97	155	10.53
	1997-98	104	14.63
	1998-99	139	261.41
Central Excise	1996-97	6976	2065.08
	1997-98	6793	2205.34
	1998-99	6663	2314.04
Direct Taxes	as on 31.3.96	62460	This information is not maintained.
	as on 31.3.97	63086	
	as on 31.3.98	62184	

*[English]***Appointment in Oriental Insurance Company**

2711. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of appointments made in each cadre in the Oriental Insurance Company Limited during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of candidates belonging to SCs/STs in the above appointments in each cadre, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs are still lying vacant and the time by which the said posts are likely 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) to (c); The

information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Import of Vanaspati Oil from Nepal**

2712. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the free import of Vanaspati from Nepal is demolishing hydrogenated vegetable oil industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of capacity utilisation of industry during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to put Vanaspati on the Negative trade list to save the domestic vegetable oil industry; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) The concern of the Indian vegetable industry located in the Eastern and North-Eastern States on account of duty free import of vegetable oil from Nepal under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade has been taken up with His Majesty's Government of Nepal as provided under the Treaty. As a result, they have informed that they have raised the export duty on export of vanaspati oil to India from 0.5% to 3%, and have stopped issuing further licenses to new vanaspati manufacturing units and expansion of the existing units. The percentage capacity utilization of the industry during the last three oil years (November-October) has been as below:

Oil Year	Capacity Utilization
1995-96	37%
1996-97	36%
1997-98	30%

*[English]***Women Workers in CIL**

2713. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women working in all the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited subsidiary-wise;

(b) the amount of wages or salary being paid to the women working in these coal companies separately; and

(c) the effective and concrete steps taken by the Government to improve the plight of women working in Coal India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The number of women

employees working in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, subsidiary-wise is as under :-

Company	No. of women employees
Eastern Coalfields Limited	9.697
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	10.816
Central Coalfields Limited	6.297
Western Coalfields Limited	3.671
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	3.127
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	819
Northern Coalfields Limited	413
North Eastern Coalfields Limited	295
Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited	141
Dankuni Coal Complex	20
Coal India Limited (H.Q.)	183
Total	35,479

(b) The average amount of wages salary being paid to the women employees is at par with that of other male employees.

(c) Some of the steps taken to improve the plight of women working in Coal India Limited are as under :-

- (i) Training of female workers for upgradation of skill;
- (ii) Female workers in different groups are taken on excursion to workshops where other female employees are working in technical jobs;
- (iii) Trade Unions and Workers Education Centres are involved in various schemes for the welfare of the female employees.

Extraction of Coal from Kaniha and IB Valley

2714. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the extraction of coal from Kaniha and IB Valley in Orissa;

(b) whether the proposal has been cleared by the Environment and Forests Ministry; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to start the mining activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has planned to work Kaniha OCP in Talcher

coalfields and Government had sanctioned an advance action plan for an amount of Rs. 6.38 crores in October, 1995 for this project. MCL has also planned to work projects in IB Valley coalfields to meet the demand of power sector.

(b) The approval from Ministry of Environment and Forest is awaited.

(c) Mining activities in Kaniha project will be started after completion of administrative formalities, land acquisition and development of required infrastructure. Steps have been taken to provide core manpower for the same.

Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Steel Plant

2715. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the share of Union Government, State Government and other shareholders in Nilanchal Ispat Nigam Steel Plant;

(b) the details of progress made so far by the said steel plant; and

(c) the time by which the commercial production is likely to be started by the said steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The share of Union Government, State Government and other shareholders in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. are as under :-

Shareholders	Share Proposed (Rs. crores)
Union Government:	NIL
State Government:	NIL
Others :	
(i) MMTC (a Central PSU)	100
(ii) IPICOL (a State PSU)	73
(iii) MECON (a Central PSU)	5
(iv) Fils/Equipment suppliers	130
(v) Unsecured loan/Private Placement	50
(vi) Public issue	245
(b) The details of progress made so far is as under :-	
(i) Civil Works:	47%
(ii) Structural Works	25%
(iii) Erection of Mechanical equipment	4%
(iv) Electrical installation	3%

(c) The Steel Plant is expected to start commercial production by April, 2000.

Excise on Defence Equipment

2716. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the indigenous production of Defence equipment components/ancillaries are levied 25% Excise Duty under Chapter 93 of the Excise Tariff and also subject to CST @ 4%;

(b) if so, whether import of these items is permitted at Nil custom duty and exempted from payment of additional countervailing duty;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide to indigenous defence components manufacturers with a level-playing fields and also accord 'Deemed Export' status to those units engaged in production of import substitute; 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) Military weapons, other than revolvers, pistols and arms, namely, swords, cutlasses, bayonets, lances and similar arms bear 'NIL' rate of excise duty. All other arms and ammunitions and parts and accessories thereof attract a tariff rate of excise duty of 24% and valorem. However, all arms and ammunitions and parts and accessories thereof manufactured by ordnance factories and specified public sector units and supplied for defence use are exempt from excise duty vide. Notification No. 62/95-CE and 63/95-CE, both dated 16.3.95. C.S.T. will be attracted only when there is an interstate trade or commerce and the maximum rate of CST is 4% ad valorem.

(b) Arms, ammunitions and military stores when imported for defence use are exempt from import duty including countervailing duty, subject to certain conditions.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration at present for according 'Deemed Export' status to units engaged in production of defence components.

Posting in Foreign Countries

2717. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign countries in which group 'A' officers of Customs and Central Excise are posted;

(b) the number out of them belong to SCs/STs; and

(c) the plan of action to fill up the fixed quota of SCs/STs in foreign postings?

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) Some posts in the Indian Missions of certain countries are manned by the officers of Indian Customs and Central Excise Group 'A' Service for performance of specialised functions of a sensitive nature. No reservation for SC/ST category officers is applicable in the matter of posting against these posts.

Garments Export to EU

2718. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the current quota system of garments export to EU (European Union) in 1998, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme on Garment Export Quota System; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) As per the Garments Export Entitlement Policy (1997-1999), the annual levels of garment products for export to the E.U., the U.S.A. and Canada are distributed in the following systems;

System	% of annual level
Past Performance Entitlement	75
(Out of which High Value Entitlement)	(5)
New Investor's Entitlement	10
First Come First Served Entitlement	10
Non-Quota Exporter's Entitlement	5

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) introduced the Electronic Transfer Scheme (ETS) for transfer of quotas with the help of an on line computer network w.e.f. 8th September, 1998. However, there were complaints during January, 1999 that exporters who had immediate shipments were facing some difficulties because the ETS procedures led to delay in transfers, especially in categories where sufficient quantities were not offered at prices that the transferee considered to be reasonable. To avoid any problem arising from any such delay, AEPC has recently announced relaxation in the Electronic Transfer Scheme ETS permitting mutual transfers without any restrictions for a period of 60 days from 8-2-1999 to 8-4-1999.

Recruitment of SCs/STs in Coal India Limited

2719. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) had issued advertisement on November 25, 1995 for Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates for the posts of Welfare Officers/Personnel Officers (Trainees) and Junior Executive Trainees (Sales and Marketing) to fill up the backlog vacancies of SCs/STs; and

(b) if so, the number of SC/ST candidates recruited for the above mentioned posts ?

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

(b) As reported by Coal India Ltd. 28 (Twenty Eight) number of SC/ST candidates were recruited as per details below :

Welfare Officers (Trainees)	SC ST	14 13
Junior Executive Trainees (Sales and Marketing)	ST	01
Total		28

Tea Cultivation

2720. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey or soil testing has been organised to discover the areas suitable for tea cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the States where such kind of survey has been undertaken;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in Orissa in this regard;

(d) if so, the scope found there for tea plantation; and

(e) the details of the programme formulated for tea plantation in Orissa during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Tea Board has conducted a technical survey in which following states have been declared as non-traditional areas suitable for cultivation of Tea in the country.

1. Arunachal Pradesh, 2. Manipur, 3. Meghalaya, 4. Mizoram, 5. Nagaland, and 6. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Hill District of Assam, North Cachar Hills of Assam, Southern District of Tripura, Orissa, Sikkim, Kumaon and

Garhwal Regions of Uttar Pradesh, Idukki district of Kerala, Kodagu District of Karnataka and Kodaikanal District of Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Preliminary surveys conducted by Tea Board from time to time are indicative of the fact that certain areas in Keonjhar, Kalahandi, Phulbani and Rayagada Districts of Orissa State are suitable for Tea cultivation subject to availability of artificial irrigation in dry months.

(e) Developmental activities of Tea in the state is now being looked after by the Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa (APICOL). The proposals when received from APICOL will be accommodated under Tea Board's New area Development Scheme for which an outlay of Rs. 2.50 crores has been provided in the 9th Plan proposals of the Board.

Tea and Coffee Plantation

2721. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land in West Bengal brought under Tea and Coffee plantation so far;

(b) the production of Tea and Coffee in the state during 1997-98 and 1998-1999, till date;

(c) whether the government propose to bring some more land under Tea and Coffee plantation in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The areas of land in West Bengal brought under Tea plantation in Hectares is as follows :

Year	Area
1996	102,650
1997*	103,100
1998*	103,500

*Estimated

As for Coffee, the same has been planted on an area of 25-30 hectares in West Bengal on an experimental basis.

(b) Production of Tea in Mn. Kgs is as Follows :-

Year	Quantity (Estimated)
1997-98	177.10
1998-99 (April-Dec.)	183.93

The Coffee production is very insignificant in the State amounting to hardly 500-600 kgs. per annum.

(c) to (d) Availability of land is one of the major limiting factors. Every effort has been made to bring additional area under Tea. Several new units have already come up in Chopra and Islampur block of Uttar Dinajpur district and in some pockets in Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Siliguri area. Beside, steps have been initiated to conduct trials in Ajothya Hills of Purulla district of West Bengal. Tea Board has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs for taking up Tea plantation on trial basis in a plot area of 25 acres in Purulia district.

However, the climatic conditions in the State are not conducive to take up Coffee cultivation on commercial basis.

Panel to Study the Steel Funding Proposals

2722. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IDBI has set up a panel to study all the steel funding proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for setting up of such panel; and

(c) the time by which the panel is likely to submit its report?

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) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it has constituted a sub-committee of Board of Directors to draw up a general approach to be adopted in regard to steel projects referred to it for sanction of additional financial assistance. The Committee would submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee of the IDBI.

Setting up of Alumina and Bauxite Mines in Orissa

2723. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a 1 million tpa. alumina industry in the backward district of Kalahandi in the State of Orissa by Sterlite Industries (India) Limited;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has identified the land for establishment of the Plant and whether the Land Acquisition process has been started; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) (a) M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited proposes to set up a 1 million tpa. alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh, District Kalahandi in Orissa.

(b) The State Govt. of Orissa have authorised Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa (IDCO) to acquire land in Kalahandi District, but, the company has not yet filed requisition for acquisition of land.

(c) According to the company, no time frame can be given as yet for commissioning of the project.

Excise on Beverages

2724. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the duty is being collected from small retailers selling beverages through dispensers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated excise duty revenue sought to be collected during the current year;

(d) whether the costs and resources are commensurate with the revenue earned;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the 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) Normally, aerated waters are prepared and sold through vending machines. Aerated waters prepared and sold in this manner are not chargeable to Central Excise Duty. They have been exempted from Central Excise Duty vide Notification No. 37/98-Central Excise dated 10.12.1998.

(b) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Provision of Silk to Silk Weavers

2725. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the silk saree industry of Varanasi has been using imported silk due to inadequate availability of silk;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide the Open General Licence (O.G.L.) facility to weavers to make them available the silk;

(c) whether the smuggled silk seized by the Department of Customs is proposed to be distributed to the marketing institutions of Uttar Pradesh for their benefit;

(d) if so, by when the said facility is proposed to be made available to the weavers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of warp quality silk required mainly by the powerloom industry.

(b) Presently there is no proposal for putting import of raw silk under Open General Licence (OGL). However, the facility of importing duty free raw silk is provided under the Duty Exemption Scheme to exporters. In addition, in October, 1998 the Government has permitted the import of mulberry raw silk of grade 2A and above under SIL with the condition that the CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the CIF value of the imported goods.

(c) to (e) The procedure laid down by Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, for disposal of mulberry raw silk yarn is indicated below :-

- (i) The raw silk yarn ripe for disposal will not be sold in public auction or in tender.
- (ii) The confiscated stocks of raw silk yarn ripe is offered for disposal to M/s National Consumer Co-operative Federation of India Limited (NCCF) at a 10% discount on the disposal value fixed by a joint Pricing Committee (JPC).
- (iii) In the event of M/s NCCF not willing or not in a position to lift the stock offered within a reasonable time, the stocks are offered to Central Silk Board or to any other Central/State govt. cooperative societies and federations at a similar 10% discount on the disposal value fixed by JPC.
- (iv) In the event (ii) or (iii), above failing to lift the stocks within a reasonable period, the stocks are offered directly to individual weavers cooperative societies, at the disposal value fixed less 10% discount.

[English]

Revenue from Soft Drink Industry

2726. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of revenue earned by the Government from the soft drink companies during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 till date?

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) : Sir, the revenue collected through Excise and Customs duty is as follows :-

	(Rs. Crores)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Upto Nov. 98)
(i) Excise duty from Natural or artificial mineral water and aerated water	255.66	387.01	400.34
(ii) Customs duty from Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar	32.40	39.62	14.58
Total	288.06	426.63	414.92

Temporary Employees in CPSEs

2727. SHRI VAIKO :

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be please to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of workforce is on temporary basis in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);

(b) if so, the number of employees on temporary or honorarium basis working in Central Public Sector Enterprises as on February 10, 1999; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to regularise them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (c) As per the available information there are 38,896 casual and daily rated workers as on 31.3.98 in the Central PSEs. The appointment on temporary or regular basis of workers/employees in the CPSEs comes within the purview of the management of CPSEs.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for Infrastructural Projects

2728. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has requested the World Bank for starting to give loans again immediately for major infrastructural projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the World Bank thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Finalisation of Projects with the assistance of World Bank is an on-going process and at any given time there are some projects in the pipeline. At

present there are a number of pipeline projects in Infrastructure Sector like Haryana Power Sector, IREDA-II, PSDP-II T.N. State Highway, Rajasthan State Highway, Orissa State Highway, Mumbai Urban Development Project, Illrd Madras Water Supply, Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation-II, National Highway III Project. These are at varying stages of consideration by the World Bank. There is a continuous dialogue by the World Bank with the Government of India in this regard.

[English]

▷ **Dereservation of SSI Items**

2729. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the PHD chamber of Commerce and Industry has called upon the Government for reviewing the reservation list for small scale industries prepared by Abid Hussain Committee and laying down clear norms and rationale for the purpose;

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

(c) whether any other areas are proposed to be dereserved from Small Scale Industries regime;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of items reserved for SSIs at present?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Reservation/De-reservation of items is a continuous process. The Advisory Committee on Reservation constituted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act recommends from time to time to the Government items to be added to and deleted from the reserved list including making changes in nomenclature of items from the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the Small Scale Sector.

(e) The total number of items reserved for exclusive manufacture for Small Scals Industries at present is 812.

Anti-dumping and Anti-Subsidy Investigation

2730. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Commission has decided to launch anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy investigation on imports of hot rolled coil steel from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The Commission of the European Communities has, in November, 1998, forwarded the Copy of a complaint of EUROFER, alleging that subsidized imports of certain hot rolled coils of unalloyed steel originating in India were causing material injury to the Community industry. Response of the Government of India to the complaint was submitted to the Commission through our Mission in Brussels within the stipulated time. However, the Commission, vide their Note Verbale dated 11th January 1999 informed the Government of India that following receipt of the complaint they had decided to initiate an anti-subsidy investigation. The Commission on 8th January 1999 published the notice of initiation of an anit-subsidy proceeding in the matter. A set of questionnaire in respect of Anti-subsidy proceedings was received by the Government. The Government of India has submjtted the reply on 2nd March, 1999, through its legal counsel.

Simultaneously, the European Commission has also initiated an anti-dumping case on the same product against Indian companies viz M/s Essar Steel Ltd., Mumbai; M/s Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd., Mumbai; M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), New Delhi; M/s The Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO), Mumbai and M/s The Tinsplate Co. of India Ltd., Calcutta, which are already defending themselves legally. The Government has, through the Engineering Export Promotion Council and otherwise extended necessary assistance to the Indian industry.

Modernisation of Coal Mines

2731. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Coal mines where superior grade of non-coking coal is being produced at present; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for the modernisation of these coal mines and their washeries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) There are 339 units in Coal India Ltd. where superior grade of non-coking coal (grade 'A', 'B' and 'C') are produced.

(b) Steps being taken to modernise coal mines and washeries includes :-

(i) Mechanisation of coal loading in underground by introducing SDL and LHD.

(ii) Introduction of longwall mining where the conditions are favourable.

- (iii) Introduction of high production technologies viz blasting gallery, cable bolting, continuous miner etc.
- (iv) Opening of new mines and upgrading of existing open-cast mines with high capacity excavation and Transport equipments.

It may not be necessary to wash superior grade of non-coking coal.

Coal India Limited have however installed two non-coking coal washeries one at Piparwar and other at Bina for beneficiating non-coking coal. Both the washeries are new and as such modernisation is not necessary. Another washery at Gidi has been converted from coking coal to non-coking coal. Modernisation work in this washery (Replacement of Baum jigs) is in progress.

Package for Essar Steel

2732. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced a Rs. 2500 crore additional bailout package for ESSAR steel which envisages investment of Rs.1700 crore by domestic financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Department of Steel has not made any such announcement.

Minar Project of PSUs

2733. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A Minar of Shame: How PSUs drained 150 crore." appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated February 4, 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 INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. SCOPE is a Registered society under the Registration of Society Act. No budgetary support or grants-in-aid are provided to SCOPE by the Government. SCOPE accounts were got audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In their report (No. 4 of 1998) C & AG of India for the year ended March 31, 1997 has pointed out that the project cost had scaled up more than three times from the initial estimates of Rs. 50 crores. C & AG has also observed several irregularities like irregular

payment of establishment charges, inadmissible payment on escalation in delayed civil work and payment of revision on labour escalation formula. Other observations made, include use of spurious fire fighting material, over payment to contractors and non-recovery of amount spent on watch and ward of site.

The C & AG Report is now under the examination by the Public Accounts Committee.

Advisory Committee on International Trade

2734. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an Advisory Committee on International Trade;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has advised the Government for formulation of international trade policy;

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

(d) the extent to which the recommendations of the Committee likely to boost the export of Indian goods in the international market and also remove tariff barriers?

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

(b) The first meeting of the Committee was held at Delhi on 29th January 1999 and the next meeting is scheduled to be held on 30th March, 1999. Discussions in such meetings will help Government evolve appropriate policy responses to multilateral trade policy issues.

(c) The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows: (i) to discuss periodically ongoing negotiations in multilateral trade bodies as well as other bodies in respect of trade related issues, with special emphasis on discussions and negotiations in the WTO; (ii) to review the status of legislation/administrative action on international obligations in the sphere of trade; (iii) to examine, from time to time, non-tariff barriers and tariff barriers against Indian goods and the action being pursued for dismantling such barriers; (iv) to recommend strategies for increasing market access for Indian goods; (v) to analyze the implications of various changes in the global commercial scenario with the intention of recommending suitable policy changes; and (vi) any other policy issues that the Minister of Commerce may wish to place for consideration.

(d) The Committee would be advising Government on a continuous basis. However, any policy initiatives in the complex field of international trade would necessarily have a long gestation period before a perceptible outcome could be estimated. As such, a long term view would have to

be taken of the impact of the Committee's recommendations on India's external trade.

Coal Mines of WCL

2735. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated coal available in different coal mines being operated by Western Coalfields Limited and the expected time till all the Coal reserve can be extracted; and

(b) the details of new coalfields being developed by Western Coalfields Ltd?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that the total extractable reserves of coal in the different coal mines of WCL as on 1.4.98 are estimated at 762.06 million tonnes. It is expected that these reserves can be extracted till 2036-37.

(b) The following new coalfields are being developed by Western Coalfields Limited:-

- (i) Kamptee
- (ii) Pathakheda
- (iii) Wardha Valley
- (iv) Pench Kanhan
- (v) Umrer

Exclusive Marketing Rights under Patent Law

2736. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that exclusive marketing rights to be given under new Patent Law will hike the prices of drugs due to heavy imports and consequently lead to drain on foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve the impending crisis arising out of patents;

(c) whether any study has been undertaken to ascertain the effect of exclusive marketing rights in case of drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMR) under the new patent law will only be applicable to pharmaceutical based on new molecules patented after 1st January, 1995. Since substitutes based on off patent

molecules would be available in the country, it will not lead to general hike in prices of drugs.

(c) to (e) Actual effect of grant of EMR would be known only after introduction of such products in the Indian market and would be dependent upon comparative merits and demerits of these products vis-a-vis existing products.

Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme

2737. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to finance Mormugao Port Trust Project under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost involved on the said project ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) A project of Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) pertaining to construction of a by-pass road from Mormugao Port to National Highway-17 has been sanctioned under the Critical Infrastructure Balance (C.I.B.) scheme. The approved cost of the project is Rs. 30.00 crores. The allocation under the C.I.B. scheme is Rs. 7.50 crores, out of which Rs. 4.50 crores has been released to MPT in March 1998. The project is being implemented by the Border Roads Organisation. MPT have requested the Ministry of Surface Transport for a revision of the cost of the project to Rs. 62.00 crores.

Short Supply of Food and Non-food Items

2738. 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 "Supply constraints fueled-price rise" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated February 8, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for shortfall in the supply of primary food articles and primary non-food articles; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the supply level of these articles ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Price rise recorded last year in some essential commodities, especially pulses, fruits and vegetables was due to their lower production. Production of potato was lower by 60 lakh tonnes (28 percent) and onion by 7 lakh tonnes (16.9 percent). Pulses production had declined by 11 lakh tonnes (7.7 %) and production of oilseeds declined by 24 lakh tonnes.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to keep the inflation down. Apart from ensuring foodgrain supply through TPDS, the states were allocated additional quantities of wheat for open-market sale. A liberal trade policy has been put in place to augment domestic supply of essential commodities such as edible oils and pulses. Additional quantity of edible oil import, over and above 1.5 lakh tonnes for PDS, were authorised to moderate edible oil prices. Government has set up National Crop Forecasting Centre in order to have an advance warning system to forecast the likely supply shortfalls. A high Powered Price Monitoring Board has been constituted for monitoring the prices of essential commodities and for anticipating the need and scope for market intervention. A joint Monitoring Committee with state level participation has also been set up to review the prices and availability situation. A new credit linked capital subsidy scheme for construction of cold storages and godowns has been announced in the 1999-2000. Budget which will help to create additional 12 lakh tonnes capacity of cold storages. It is also proposed to create 4.5 lakh tonnes of onion storage capacity.

Statement Correcting the Reply to Unstarred Question No. 3251 dated 18.12.1998 regarding Appointments in Eastern Coalfields Limited

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : I invite attention to the English and Hindi version of the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 3251 for 18.12.1998 regarding appointments in the Eastern Coalfields Limited. The reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Question may kindly be read as follows:

"Eastern Coalfields Limited has surplus of Overmen. Against the sanctioned strength of 1410, there are 1500 Overmen on the rolls of Eastern Coalfields Limited. There is no separate designated post of Junior Overman."

The revised answer for the part (c) and (d) of the Question may kindly be read as follows :

"Eastern Coalfields Limited has surplus of Overmen. Against the sanctioned strength of 1410, there are 1500 Overmen on the rolls of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

REASONS FOR DELAY :

After preparation of the reply, which was laid on the Table of the House on 18.2.1998, it has now been detected that there was an inadvertent inaccuracy in the reply given to part (c) and (d) of the said question. The delay in correction has occurred as the requisite clarification and confirmation had to be sought from the concerned Coal Company through the Coal India Limited.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Vol.I) (Hindi and English Versions) of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Vol.II) (Hindi and English Versions) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Union Territories without Legislature) for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2594/99]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota and statement showing reasons for delay etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : Sir, I beg to lay on Table—

- (1) A copy of the Draft Notification No. 10(6)97-IP(Hindi and English versions) making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O 857(E), dated the 10th December, 1997 regarding the basis on which an industrial undertaking shall be regarded as small scale undertaking or an ancillary Industrial Undertaking for the purposes of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 under sub-section (3) of section II-B of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2595/99]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Account of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2596/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1997-98.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1997-98, alongwith

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2597/99].

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, 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 Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, 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-2598/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council of India, 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 Productivity Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2599/99]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi etc.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Arbitrations, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2600/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering 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 Engineering Export Portion Council, Calcutta 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-2601/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery 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 Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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-2602/99]

Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources for the year, 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2603/99]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2604/99]

Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Steel and Mines for the year 1999-2000

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy

of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel and Mines for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No.LT-2605/99]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Calcutta and National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Calcutta etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) Sir, 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:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2606/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2607/99]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woolens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts,

(ii) A copy the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woolens Export Promotion Council, 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-2608/99]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles 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 Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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-2609/99]

(7) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2610/99]

Notifications under Sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 etc.

[Translation

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 sub-section (2) of section (38) of the Central Excise Act, 1944 :-

(i) G.S.R. 616 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notification No. 108/95-CE, dated the 28th August, 1995.

(ii) G.S.R. 735(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notification No. 5/98-CE, dated the 2nd June, 1998.

(iii) G.S.R. 740(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notifications mentioned therein.

(iv) G.S.R. 745(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notification 36/98-CE, dated the 10th December, 1998.

- (v) G.S.R. 751(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th Decemebr, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (vi) G.S.R. 25(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 36/98-CE, dated the 10th December, 1998 so as to make applicable the scheme of levy and collection duty on processed fabrics to processed textile fabrics of cotton or man-made fibres.
- (vii) G.S.R. 27(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in two notifications mentioned therein so as to provide that the concessional rate of excise duty on processed fabrics shall not apply to an independent processor operating under any scheme of levy and collection of excise duty.
- (viii) G.S.R. 101 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making a procedural amendment to notification No. 108/95-CE, dated the 28th August, 1995 by prescribing the authorities who will issue the certificate for claiming exemption.
- (ix) G.S.R. 743 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the definition of an independent processor who is covered under the scheme of levy and collection of excise duty notified under section 3A of the CE Act, 1944 to also include such independent processors who are primarily engaged in the processing of the specified fabrics under the above mentioned scheme.
- (x) G.S.R. 744(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 29/96-CE., dated the 3rd September, 1996.
- (xi) G.S.R. 26(E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 41/98-CE(N.T.) dated the 10th December, 1998.
- (xii) The Hot Air Stenter Independent Textile Processors Annual Capacity Determination (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in notification No. G.S.R. 28 (E) in gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 29 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 30(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in notification No. 29/96-CE (N.T.) dated the 3rd September, 1996.
- (xv) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 91(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum
- [Place in Library. See No.LT- 2611/99]
- (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. 754(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notification No. 81/97-Cus. dated the 24th October, 1997.
- (ii) G.S.R. 48(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports to India of acrylic fibre originating in or exported from Japan, Spain, Portugal or Italy.
- (iii) G.S.R. 75(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duties on Potassium Permanganate, when originating in or imported from the People Republic of China, and imported into India, at the rates specified in the nofication.
- (iv) G.S.R. 76(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No 137/95-Cus, dated the 5th September, 1995.

- (v) G.S.R. 100(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th february, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempts imports of Purified Terephthalic Acid from specified exporters subject to provisional assessment and bank guarantees, pendingmn the outcome review investigations initiated by the Designated Authority.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2612/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 -
- (i) S.O. 1007(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian Currency or *vice-versa*.
- (ii) S.O. 1008(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th Novemebr, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (iii) S.O. 1100(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (iv) S.O. 1129(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (v) S.O. 1130(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (vi) S.O. 5(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (vii) S.O. 6(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1999 together with an

explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.

- (viii) S.O. 42(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (ix) S.O. 43(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (x) S.O. 51(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (xi) S.O. 52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (xii) S.O. 74(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (xiii) S.O. 75(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt 2613/99]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 653 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 56/98-Cus., dated the 1st August, 1998 so as to exempt the whole of special additional duty of customs leviable on vegetable oils of edible grade, if imported for the manufacture of "Vanaspati", issued under sub-

section (1) of section 3A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt 2614/99]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 737 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the developing countries so that imports from such countries may not suffer safeguard duty, issued under sub-section (6) of section 8B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2615/99]

- (6) A copy of the Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 713(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 1998, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2616/99]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English Versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2617/99]

- (9) A copy of the following Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1998, together with Auditor's Report thereon :

- (i) Champarn Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Motihari

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2618/99]

- (ii) Sagar Gramin Bank, Agartala.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2619/99]

- (iii) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2620/99]

- (iv) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2621/99]

- (v) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2622/99]

- (vi) Kamarz Rural Bank, Sopore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2623/99]

- (vii) Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2624/99]

- (viii) Pragyotish Gaonlia Bank, Nalbari

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2625/99]

- (ix) Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2626/99]

- (x) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Birbhum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2627/99]

- (xi) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Cooch Behar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2628/99]

- (xii) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2629/99]

- (xiii) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2630/99]

- (xiv) Vallalar Grama Bank, Cuddalore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2631/99]

- (xv) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2632/99]

- (11) A copy of the Consolidated Review (Hindi and English versions) of the working of the Regional Rural Banks for the Year ended the 31st March 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2633/99]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, 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 National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

- (iii) A copy of the Statistical Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Annual Report of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2634/99]
- (14) A copy of Consolidated report on the working of Public Sector Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1997 (Hindi and English versions).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2635/99]
- (15) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Finance for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2636/99]
- (16) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2637/99]

**Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Coal
for the year 1999-2000**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2638/99]

12.02 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary- General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance (No. 2) Amendment Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th March, 1999 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its

recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1999 agreed without any amendment to the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th March, 1999."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.02 1/2 hrs.

**Committee on Subordinate Legislation
Third Report**

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL (Godhra) : Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.03 hrs.

**Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

Ninth Report, Minutes and Two Tour Reports

SHRI KARIYAMUNDA (Khunti) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present :

- (1) the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Ninth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)-Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Northern Railway including reservation for SCs and STs in award of Petty Contracts and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.
- (2) to lay two Tour Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Punjab has given a wrong statement regarding Yamuna Link Canal. A responsible person has said this in the Legislative Assembly. If the Yamuna Link Canal is not completed, Haryana will not get water. It is a question of the life of the people of Haryana.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance later on. Please take your seat.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (KARNAL) : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a an important issue related to Haryana. Please give him time later on.

12.04 hrs.

RE : RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW
COMMISSION ON PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR (Ballia) (U.P.) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to raise a serious matter in the House, which is an unprecedented in the history of Parliamentary Democracy.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the law Commission has submitted a report to the Government on February 26 that the Patent Bill which had been passed by the Rajya Sabha, did not include some vital points. It is against the National interest. They said that it could have been included in the TRIP law, but it has not been done so.

It has been mentioned in the report that there are such circumstances on which we have discussed the issue and had submitted the report after discussion. This report was sent to Ministry of Law on February 26 and they said to them that in our opinion, when the motion will be moved in Lok Sabha, then this aspect should also be discussed, otherwise there would be a great loss to the country. I think that the Law Commission is a respected institution. This report has been submitted unanimously. It is been mentioned therein clearly that discussion should be held in the Lok Sabha on this issue, but I am surprised that the report has not been sent to the Speaker of Lok Sabha. I don't know at which stage, this has been discussed with him by the Government. I have been told that a letter has been written to the Law Commission. My personal opinion is that when such a report was submitted by the Law Commission then at least it should have been discussed by the cabinet. Even if the Cabinet had not discussed it, because they might be busy due to excess work load on pocity of time even then the report should have been sent to the Speaker because it is clearly mentioned therein. I would not like to present this report in the house but I would certainly like to read the forwarding letter, attached therewith :

[English]

"I am sending herewith 167th Reprint on "The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

The Law Commission had taken up the aforesaid subject *suo motu* in view of the fundamental importance of the provisions contained in the aforesaid Bill and notwithstanding the fact that it has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. This unusual step has been taken in view of certain significant omissions in the Bill, which impinge seriously upon our national interest.

The recommendations contained in the Report may be considered by the Government and Parliament while debating the said Amendment Bill in the Budget Session."

This is the recommendatory letter. The very first paragraph says :

"The Law Commission of India has taken up the study of the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998 (introduced in Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1998 and passed by the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1998) *suo motu* in view of the fundamental importance of the provisions contained in it and notwithstanding the fact that it has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha. This unusual step is being taken in view of certain omissions in the Bill. For example, though Article 27 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) entitles the Member-States to provide for certain exemptions, they have not been incorporated in the Bill. The said omissions impinge seriously upon our national interest. There are others as this Report will disclose. Having considered the provisions of the Amendment Bill in depth, and after consulting several experts on the subject, the Law Commission is submitting this Report. The recommendations contained in the Report may be considered by the Government and the Lok Sabha while debating the said Amendment Bill in the Budget Session."

It is specifically said that this Report should be considered in the Lok Sabha. It was given to the House or to the Government on 26th February. We were discussing the Patents Bill only two days back.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to know that if the Government has failed to comply its duties, whether it is not the duty of the Government to follow the etiquette. Whether it was not proper . . . (Interruptions) when I am speaking . please don't intervene.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the norms of etiquettes are not followed, I think at least if any statutory commission, presents its report to the Government and recommended that

[Shri Chandrashekhar Ballia]

it should be discussed in the Lok Sabha, it becomes obligatory on part of the government, whether it take action on it or not. at least report be sent to the Speaker.

Had this report been sent to the Speaker of Lok Sabha, it would have been passed on to the Members as well. I do not want to waste the time of the House by reading out the recommendations made. I do not know whether there are higher and wiser people than the Law Commission who have more knowledge about Law than the Commission itself and whose recommendations the Government considered necessary to accept. In this way, not only the Law Commission but also the Parliament has been ignored. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising this issue because it is a serious one. I know when you will get this Report. I do not want to violate the rules by presenting it in the House. But you and the House should take this issue seriously. Sh. Mohan Singh ji had raised this issue earlier, but the people ignored it at that time.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Sir, While supporting the points made by Shri Chandra Shekhar, I would like to point out that I happened to go through the Report though I did not refer to it in the course of my presentation in the Lok Sabha. The Report suggests amendments to enable the Government of India to comply with the requirements of the judgement of the WTO. For example, the Report says : "Our amendment can specifically incorporate points mentioned within Article 27 of the WTO." So, it was not pleading for non-compliance of the judgement of the WTO. This Report was intended to strengthen the safeguards. I am really surprised as to why the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Industry did not pay heed to it. Why was the Lok Sabha kept in the dark? The Government does owe an explanation for this.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I received the copy of this Report through some unauthorised sources yesterday. I tried to raise it during the Question Hour. The reply of Hon. Minister indicated that the Report was not circulated even in the Government. It is a formality that when some important information pertaining to the nation is being received through law experts and the issue is to be debated in the Parliament at least Hon. Members of Parliament should have been supplied those papers so that they could express their views in that regard. It is really deplorable the way the foreign powers are hounding our India with their interests and the way multi-national companies want to capture Indian market and the way the amendment was made in the Patent Act to put their stamp to suit them.

The Law Commission warned the Government and this country against this amendment. The Law Commission is of the opinion that such an amendment will not be in the interest of the nation. First, the Parliament should have held a discussion on the opinion of the Law Commission.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government of India and this House whether the Government of India would held a discussion on the Report of the Law Commission in this House which has been made public as on date? If the Government do not want to hold a discussion, it would be an example of gross neglect of its duty to wards nation. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that this Report should be made available to the Members and Sir, time should be fixed by you to hold a discussion in this House.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, if the Minister would have mentioned in his speech that these are the recommendations of the Law Commission and the Government has rejected these recommendations because of such-and-such reasons, then also, we would have many objections because the Minister should have briefed the House in his speech. He did not mention anything about the Report of the Law Commission and the Bill has been passed.

Shri Chandra Shekhar has also pointed it out. Is this the way to deteriorate the institutions in this country? The Parliament is the highest institution of democracy? If you keep the Parliament in dark on issues involving national interests, it is a very serious matter. The Hon. Minister is here. I think, the Government must respond to it. What corrective measures are they going to take to correct this mistake?

The hon. Minister must reply to it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Bill that was passed by this House, there are many provisions which are not in the interest of the nation. Sir, the Law Commission has submitted its Report in the month of February. The Law Commission also wanted that its recommendations should be discussed in this House before the Bill is taken up. But that was not brought to the notice of the House which is improper. By doing so, the Government which had by-passed and ignored the House owes an explanation to this House. Although the Bill had been passed by this House, I demand that the Report and the recommendations of the Law Commission should be placed before the House, and we should be allowed to discuss the Report and recommendations of the Law Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Banka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The issue raised by Shri Chandra Shekhar ji in

the House, is a serious matter of parliamentary impropriety. I had got the point earlier. As for our opinion about Patent is concerned, although we are the party supporting the Government yet we have a different opinion. Personally, I had also different opinion in this regard, but now after going through the Report of Law Commission, our doubt has been confirmed. Therefore, I request you to hold a discussion on this issue again despite the fact that the Patent Bill has been passed. The Law Commission had stated that the Report should be sent to you, it should be presented in the House and it should be circulated to all the Members of Parliament. So, this report should be circulated to every Member of the House so that they could discuss it in the House after going through it. It is my request to you. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there is an observation from the Chair also. Please take your seats. Hon. Members, according to the information, I have informally.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister. Do you want to say anything?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : Sir, do you want me to react?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister is on his legs. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a proper thing that the Government have got the Bill passed on the basis of majority by keeping the House in dark. I do not know whether this has happened due to the ignorance or inefficiently of the Government or it has been done by the Government deliberately as the House was not well informed about the Report of the Law Commission and the Patent Bill was got passed. I request you to repeat the Patent Bill and held a debate on it again in the House. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : You let the rest of the House know.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I am not.

[Translation]

Sir, the report about which Shri Chandrashekhar is referring, it is about the correspondence between me and the Law Commission. Yesterday he had asked me a question on telephone. At that time, I had told him that I was ascertaining the facts from them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What are the facts?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I have replied his each and every point and did not ignored any point. When our talks reach any conclusion, I will bring all the results to the notice of the House as you wish. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why has it not been brought before the House?

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Please take your seat. When the speaker is on his legs, you must take your seats. What is this? You please take your seats first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is painful for me that everything in this house becomes a personal thing I want to advise my friend Shri Sikander Bhakht not to lose temper. I also lose temper. But this is not the question of showing anger. I am not asking for your favour for anything personal. This does not relates to you and Reddy Saheb, who is posted there in capacity of a judge personally. This question would not have risen, if the letter would have been written by Reddy Saheb. This question is raised by Law-Commission and you can not deal with the report of Law-Commission at your level. I am aware of your ability. But I think, so far as I know Cabinet should have held a discussion on this report and apprise the Law-Commission of the decision, if any, arrived at by them. But when it is clearly written therein that discussion should be held on it in Lok Sabha, it becomes obligatory on your part to hand over the copy of that report to hon'ble Speaker and you did not do it.

[English]

It is a dereliction of duty of the Government and you cannot teach Parliamentary procedure to me. If there is a definite indication that this should be discussed in the Lok Sabha while the Bill is being discussed, it was your duty to forward that letter and you should have requested the Speaker that this matter should not be raised in the House. But you have no business to say that you will not give the copy to the Lok Sabha Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister. Let the Minister reply

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can one trust this Government . . . *(Interruptions)* Government has committed a gross negligence while ignoring the interests of the nation . . . *(Interruptions)* The country faces danger . . . *(Interruptions)* Patent Bill was got passed keeping Parliament in darkness *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What ever, hon'ble Minister has spoken, would become by and large clear, if you listen to me after him . . . *(Interruptions)* only one sentence is enough to clear his question. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you please take your seat. He is giving a reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This is not in parts . . . *(Interruptions)* I will remain on my legs, if you will try to cover the matter dividing it in parts . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Mohan Singh has already raised this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This point does not relates to a single party . . . *(Interruptions)* This matter concerns the country. If Shri Mohan Singh has spoken, Can I not speak . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh from your party has been given chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Minister has spoken after Shri Mohan Singh . . . *(Interruptions)* If I am given the chance to speak, this point would be clear . . . *(Interruptions)* will we sell out the country? We would talk of propriety . . . *(Interruptions)* You are selling out the agriculture of the country in this way and you will go ahead and sell the entire country itself after it. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : What is this? He is trying to mislead the house by citing the Law-Commission's Report.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. This is zero Hour. Now Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I have already said . . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Unless I am given a chance to speak, I will not allow him to speak . . . *(Interruptions)* we would not allow to sell out the country. We have got full respect to the chair . . . *(Interruptions)* Agriculture of the country would be sold out . . . *(Interruptions)* Would the entire agriculture be sold out in the name of World Trade Organisation? . . . *(Interruptions)* Selling out agriculture means selling out the entire country. It is the report of a Commission comparing five learned judges, . . . *(Interruptions)* That report should be submitted here and discussion should be held on it. Hon'ble Minister has said that talks are being held. I could not derive any meaning as with whom talks are in progress. or under which foreign pressure . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Bill has been got passed against the interests of the country *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote Rule 275 . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that I would like to quote Rule 275 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

Sir, the hon. Member Shri Chandra Shekhar says that the Law Commission's Report has not been placed and the Law Commission should have been referred to before the Bill was considered . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you are forgetting that you are a member in the Panel of Chairmen. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, please give me time. Please ask them to sit down. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, it is not mandatory on the part of the House to consult the Law Commission because Rule 275 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha clearly says :

- "(1) A Committee may direct that the whole or a part of the evidence or a summary thereof may be laid on the Table.
- (2) No part of the evidence, oral or written, report or proceedings of the Committee which has not been laid on the Table shall be open to inspection by any one except under the authority of the Speaker."

Therefore, Sir, as the Law Commission has suggested amendments, another Bill could be brought in future; the amendments could be brought and the Bill could be rectified. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister will reply.
(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, the day I received a copy of this letter . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is a report . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Just a minute. I received a letter from the Prime Minister along with a copy of the report sent to him probably directly by the Law Commissioner. Anyway, the day I received it, I responded to it and I not only wrote to the Prime Minister but also to the Chairman of the Law Commission on the 9th of March. I can read out the letter that I wrote to him, if you like. Shall I do it, Sir? . . . (Interruptions)

I quote :

"I have received a copy of the 167th report of the Law Commission of India on the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998, which has been examined in my Ministry. While we will also consult the Ministry of Law on the recommendations made by the Law Commission, I enclose a note providing our response on the recommendations made in the report.

I totally share the concerns raised in the report regarding the protection of bio-diversity and the need to check exploitation of our national resources and I agree that it is imperative to ensure that due emphasis is given to health care and that medicines are made available to the public on reasonable terms.

I may, however, mention that the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998 does not principally deal with these aspects at all. As it has the limited objective of complying with our obligations under article 70 . . . (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'No' . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.
(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : This is my letter. Please do not say 'no' . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you obstructing the Minister?
(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : This is my letter. Therefore, please listen to that . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you obstructing the Minister?
(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, I do not have to say anything more. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Why are you obstructing the Minister?
(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I think, they are not even allowing me to complete it . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a good procedure. Let him complete. Why is this running commentary?
(Interruptions)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : I quote :

"The issues raised in the report regarding bio-diversity, etc. will be dealt with more appropriately in the legislation being prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Agriculture on bio-diversity and plant variety production respectively.

The Patents (Amendment) Bill, however, does not contain safeguards to uphold the interests of the public. These safeguards relate to price fixation, compulsory licensing."

So, this is the complete letter and details, which have already been sent.

I have not yet received any response from Justice Reddy. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.
(English)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Just a minute. He has already said that he was just fulfilling the obligation to the WTO. He has no obligation to the country and to the Parliament. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, this is not right. What the hon. Minister has said is that he has given a context of the correspondence between him and the Prime Minister. The House is discussing the procedure. You are the guardian of the House. You have to safeguard our rights. While discussing WTO here, I have no information from the Law Commission what recommendation has been made.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (Gulbarga) : The Law Commission report cannot be submitted before the House until the Government takes a decision. Why are you telling this? Will any Government send it? Is this the way? Once you are in power, will you do the same thing? . . .
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Please try to understand the feelings behind the issue we have raised. This House did not know about the recommendations of the Law Commission, this is violation.

[English]

We are not interested in what your Government has decided between the PMO and the Minister concerned.

The hon. Minister could have mentioned this in his speech that Law Commission recommended so and so but the Government has taken decision so and so. The Government is within its right to take a decision but the House should not be kept in dark about the recommendation. That is our point. Our point is what the Government has done, what they have done. Sir, you have to decide that. It is not the Government. You have to take a decision. Your ruling is required why the Government has ignored this. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please sit down. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I am telling you seriously that you are disturbing the House quite frequently. This is not the proper way. This is not good. Please take your seat. You are also in the Panel of Chairman.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, we follow your dictates always yet you did not give us the opportunity. We always sit down following your instructions but that goes against us. This issue is in the larger interests of the nation, therefore, it should be kept within the purview of the House. The Commission had stated that by submitting a report on these clauses, national interest could be safeguarded. Correspondence also took place between him and the Prime Minister . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at this stage, I am not going to give any ruling. We have not yet received any formal information on the matter. I shall look into the matter as demanded by the hon. Members. Now, Shri Surender Singh.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What is your ruling?

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling later.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Is it under consideration?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the next item.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am prepared to place the report on the Table of the House. Will you permit me? I am prepared to give . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, I have called Shri Surender Singh.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is against the interests of the country, therefore, we are walking out.

12.32 hrs.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The government is selling out the country; Patent Laws should be suitably amended, therefore, we are walking out.

*Not Recorded.

12.32½ hrs.

*Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other
Hon'ble Members then left the House.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Surender Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report has appeared in today's news papers.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASWARAJI PATEL SEDAM : He has got no right, the Government has got. The Government would consider it and if it deems fit it will inform the Speaker and will also introduce in the House. So far, the government has not said that it is not considering its . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the action of the Minister and the Government is tantamount to insulting this House. The House has been kept in dark. We did not get the opportunity to discuss the report. We have been deprived of this and it is a violation.

And it is a breach of privilege of the Members of this House. As a protest we are walking out.

12.35 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some
other hon. Members left the House*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Punjab made a statement yesterday in the State Assembly that the S.Y.L. share of water would not be given to Haryana and no further construction work would be undertaken on the career channel on which 95 percent construction work has already been completed and which is to be used to carry S.Y.L. water. I would like to submit that Haryana was given share of water under the Rajiv Longowal Accord as well as Iradi Commission.

12.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Even before that all the water disputes between
Haryana and Punjab were referred to the Centre. The share

*Not Recorded.

of Haryana was hired. This is very unfortunate that neither they would give us our share of water nor would they undertake construction on the career channel?

[English]

The Government of India should intervene and come out with a statement and time-bound programme.

[Translation]

A time-bound programme should be formulated and the remaining 5 percent construction work on the career channel should be carried out and we should get our share of water as prescribed under the Rajiv-Longowal Accord.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to submit in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you endorsing it?

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Yes, Sir, today's all the newspaper have reported a statement made by Shri Prakash Singh Badal which is against the interests of our state and the larger interests of the country. The S.Y.L. canal on which thousands of crores of rupees have been spent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, You only endorse it.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : The same thing the hon. Agriculture Minister had said in reply to a question in this regard that the Union Government would try to arrive at an agreement between the two state governments, but this statement is a violation of that.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to say something on this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you also endorsing the same matter?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this news item has appeared in all the newspapers today that Punjab will not complete the canal which is lying incomplete. Badalji has said that they don't have water.
. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rosaiah, Shri Bhajan Lal is endorsing the same matter. Then I am coming to you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Haryana has not decided about the canal's water. We are not asking Punjab for water in alone. Punjab and Haryana were one State earlier. Their partition took place later on. Moreover, a tribunal was set up following the Rajiv-Longowal accord and a bill was also passed in the Parliament for the purpose. And that tribunal

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

decided about the water dispute. The Punjab government had also accepted its decision and Badal ji demanded two crore rupees from the Haryana government for acquiring land for this purpose. Now he says they don't have water. This is great injustice to the people of Haryana and is atrocious. There is wide spread resentment among people for this. I request you that ask the government to clear its position in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you reacting? What is going on here?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Maj. Gen. Khanduri, please take your seat. The Minister is reacting.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has raised a very serious question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kainth, are you endorsing it?

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : The Hon. Minister should reply. (Interruptions). He has to give a statement. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH (Phillaur) : The statement which the Chief Minister of Punjab has given yesterday . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you endorsing it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Chief Minister of Punjab has stated in the Legislative Assembly yesterday that Haryana had no share of water in the S.Y.L. canal and Chandigarh belongs to Punjab .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You resume your seat. I am here to control the House, not you. .

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude. I have asked the Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Please say something about Rajasthan also. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue which the hon. Members of both Punjab and Haryana States have raised regarding sharing of water, our Minister of Water Resources had previously said something on this matter. Since that issue has been raised again, therefore, I will bring it to his notice and ask him to convene a meeting at the earliest which he also convened earlier and to bring in this issue for discussion. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Sir, very recently in Andhra Pradesh, the circulation of Rs. 500 denomination counterfeit notes have come to light. There is a big racket going on. Tonnes of counterfeit notes have been printed and they are in circulation, which is detrimental to the economy of this great country. A case has been registered in Andhra Pradesh. Some people, who are said to be involved, have surrendered. There was an award of about Rs. 6 lakh declared by the police of Andhra Pradesh on one particular gentleman by name (Interruptions)* He evaded the police. He was finally advised to surrender. He went to the police station and surrendered himself. Anybody in this country can see the treatment given to the accused in the counterfeit currency notes case. He is treated like erstwhile Nizam of Telengana or even more than that, leave aside the treatment given by the policemen, there is a very serious allegation that some of the Ministers - I do not want to name them, it is not proper for me also - are involved in this case. (Interruptions).

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has already requested the Union Government to hold a CBI inquiry. (Interruptions). The truth will come out. How can they name? (Interruptions).

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : I will not allow these things to go on. (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am on a point of order. That is not correct. (Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, you must ask him to sit down. *(Interruptions)* As he is supporting the Government he cannot take the House as his Party Office *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I am on a point of order. . . *(Interruptions)*

12.46 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Konijeti Rosaiah and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, I will come to you. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. I will hear you. Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

12.47 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Konijeti Rosaiah and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU . Sir, I am on a point of order. . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I did not hear what he had said. What was the objectionable thing?

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, kindly go through the records. If there is anything unparliamentary, you can take any action against me. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rosaiah, I am asking him, not you. Please all of you cooperate with me. Let me conduct the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I was a Member of the Legislative Assembly for 25 years. I am not a new man to this procedure. I have not crossed my limits. Kindly go through the records. If there is anything, even a word used

by me is found unparliamentary, then you can take any type of action and even you can send me out of the House. I am prepared to face it. But, at the same time, my appeal to you is that whenever we get up to mention a particular point, this gentleman is allowed to get up, shout and obstruct the proceedings. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, It is not like that. Since he has taken the Minister's name, that is why I have objected. *(Interruptions)* I was also MLA for 16 years. *(Interruptions)* I know the procedure of the House. . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, you will get the chance. We are not here to show our physical strength. It is an intellectual exercise.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, every Member has got the right to make a mention according to the rules. I came to Parliament House at 8.30 A.M. to put this notice in the box so that my number will be on the priority. Similarly, he has got every right. He is a more seasoned man. He has got a lot of pulls also. He can come and take time from the Chair. He can speak whenever he wants. Everyday, he is allowed to mention one or two things. . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me deal with it. Will you please allow me to conduct the House? Kindly tell me what was the objectionable thing Shri Yerrannaidu has said.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, when I was mentioning about some of the facts of the case, he started obstructing me. I did not mention the name of anybody. What I said, you can see from the record and from the Press also. It has been very widely circulated in the country. As a matter of fact, I said, some Ministers are said to be involved and I do not want to go into those details. That is what I said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The moment you said something, he got very much agitated.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me understand from him. If all the three of you talk, how can I understand? I am asking him.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, when he got up and started obstructing, I said : "You cannot obstruct me like this. After all, you are twelve Members, we are 145 Members. You cannot shut us down like this. This is not the way. Every time you are trying to obstruct us." . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, when he said that the Ministers are said to be involved, then only I raised my objection . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I have got every right to raise my voice *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, we have ordered a CBI inquiry and the truth will come out . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : There are allegations even against the Union Finance Minister. What is wrong in mentioning about one Minister somewhere? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Did you mention any specific name?

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : No, Sir. You can go through the record. I have not mentioned any name . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaaidu, I have asked the hon. Member whether there are any names which he has mentioned and he says he has not mentioned any name. Now you can take your seat. We have to conduct the House peacefully.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Okey, Sir. I have to obey your orders.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, rightly, I am trying to help the State Government also in a way. What happened is yet to be known. A thorough investigation is necessary into these affairs. The Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India are the custodians of printing the currency Notes and circulating them. If it is privatised and the people are allowed to print them outside and circulate them throughout the country, that too not one-rupee notes or ten-rupee notes or hundred-rupee notes but the highest denomination of 500-rupee notes, then what is going to happen to the economy of this country? That is why I am anxious to bring it to the notice of the Union Government. I want this Government, particularly, the Finance Minister to respond to this. If the Finance Minister is not here, someone else can respond on behalf of the Government of India and assure this House that necessary steps will be taken to look into these aspects.

According to the discussions in the House of Andhra Pradesh, there are allegations against one Shri . . . *(Interruptions)** He is said to be belonging to the ruling Telugu Desam Party. That is their allegation, not my allegation. I do not want to make a mention of any individual, whether here or outside, but my only point is that a thorough investigation must be undertaken by the

Government. The Government of India cannot shut down their responsibility by saying that a case has been registered and the police is looking into it. That is not the reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, you are demanding the Central Government to look into it.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : I will take only one minute, Sir.

Sir, my earnest request to the Government of India is that they should not keep their eyes closed and should not allow these things to be tackled by the lower level police stations in any State, may be for the time being Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India has to look into this case and go deep and deeper. My information is that these fake notes have been reaching Delhi or they have reached Delhi, they have reached Pune, they have reached Mumbai and they are in circulation there. This is an alarming situation. I want the intervention and a proper reply from the Government of India.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : Sir, there was a Bill in this House for printing of Rs. 1,000 denomination notes. At that time also this was mentioned. I had also raised this point. So, the Government is aware of this. The Minister of Finance had replied at that time *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, you do not have to react. It is for the Government to react if they want.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important point. Some exchanges took place about names being included and names being deleted, but again at the end, when he spoke, he mentioned the name of one individual which has come on the record. My first request is that that name should be deleted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : He is an accused. He is not a Minister. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever it may be, the names will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) : Sir, he is a culprit. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have you finished?

SHRI RAM NAIK : No.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The State Government has announced a reward. He is a culprit, not a Minister
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing of that sort should be there. All those things will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : He has mentioned only the culprit's name (Interruptions)

DR. RAVI MALLU : The State Government has announced a reward of Rs. 6 lakh. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In our House, we do not do that. I do not think that is done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what you have said is correct. The Government is also very serious. That is why the Government of Andhra Pradesh ordered a CBI inquiry into the matter. The issue is very sensitive and the State Government has requested the Union Government also in this regard so that truth can come out. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear the Union Government if you want?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I will draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the information which has been furnished by the hon. Member, for taking suitable and proper action. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is over now.

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD (Muzzaffarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the issue of treatment of a dalit woman Member of Parliament. . . . (Interruptions) This is a matter of the dignity of Parliament. We talk much about dalits here (Interruptions) That dalit woman is not getting proper treatment (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As the House has a tight schedule of business, we shall skip our lunch hour today.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only the day before yesterday, we had

celebrated the international women's day but the irony is that the said dalit Member of Parliament is not getting proper treatment. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the Haj Pilgrims of going from India. Ninety one thousand Haj Pilgrim are going on the Haj Pilgrimage from all over India. Out of them 57 thousand Haj Pilgrims are being sent by the Haj Committee and 34 thousand pilgrims are visiting there through the private tour operators for whom visas were obtained by them. I would like to inform the Government that the Haj Committee is not able to send 9 thousand Haj Pilgrims out of the 52 thousand Haj Pilgrims, therefore the private tour operators are making arrangements for sending 34 thousand Haj Pilgrims. Haj Pilgrims are running around the embassies and on the Delhi roads for weeks together. They are not getting visas. Haj Pilgrims are complaining to the Members of Parliament. I would ask the Government to immediately make arrangements of visas to 34 thousand Haj Pilgrims being sent by the private tour operators. Only one week remains for commencement of the Haj Pilgrimage.

13.00 hrs.

I want to make allegations against the Government that at the instance of the leaders of their allies, Haj Pilgrims are being given visas and at the instance of those who are sitting in the opposition, visas are not given to them. I want to ask the Government through you (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Sunil Khan's speech.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to react on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : Sir, I can understand the concern of the hon. Members. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She is reacting on the point made by Shri Shailendra Kumar.

*Not Recorded.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I understand the concern of the hon. Members. The Government is as exercised about this issue as you are. This year, 91,000 yatris were given permission to go for Haj. Out of that, 66,000 of these were given to the Haj Committee, and 25,000 were given to private tour operators. Out of 66,000, approximately 63,000 were given visas, permission for travel, through the Haj Committee. The leftover quota was given to the private tour operators, which made it from 25,000 to 28,000. We have permission for 91,000. The issue was closed on the 5th of March, after which, we did not want to allow anybody else to travel because you will all appreciate that the logistics involved with the travel arrangements are enormous. However, these 91,000 people, about whom we are talking about, will travel.

As far as the other issue of increasing their amounts or their quotas are concerned, we are, at the moment, in discussion with the Government of Saudi Arabia and we hope that, perhaps, next year, they would increase that amount . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, it is a matter of great concern to the people of Durgapur in West Bengal. It has been learnt that the Government has already decided to close down the Fertiliser Promotion and Agricultural Research Division of the Hindusthan Fertiliser Corporation. A proposal to this affect is being placed before the Cabinet.

After rendering valuable services towards promotion of balanced use of fertilisers among farmers, which attracted foreign collaboraion and aid for fertiliser education projects to the tune of Rs. 98 crore enabling this Division to continue its useful services in a self-sustaining manner for two decades, it is very unfortunate that this organisation would face such a fate. The importance and justification for continuation of the activities of FPARD for the promotion of balanced use of fertilisers cannot be overemphasised. Parliamentary Committees and agricultural experts have also recommended expansion of such balanced fertiliser promotion programmes, which have been carried out by the FPARD.

Under these circumstances, I solicit all possible help and immediate steps by our Minister. So, I urge upon the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers to withdraw the decision of closer and to provide adequate funds to FPARD so that the farmers can get proper training and know-how technology from the scientists of FPARD. This is my submission.

*Not Recorded.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, The Deputy Commissioner of Narcotics, district Neemach, Madhya Pradesh has issued an arbitrary order deliberately due to which one lakh opium growers are facing grave crisis causing. Unrest and anxiety amongst them. The production of opium earns huge foreign exchange. I am afraid that issuing of this order has effected the foreign exchange earnings adversely. Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Finance to revoke the order which talk of delimitation of blocks under a division otherwise this order would create to grave crisis for the farmers.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through this practice I would urge upon the Union Government to make arrangement for the renovation of the sugar mills of Mithilanchal in North Bihar particularly of Rajya, Sakri and Lohat by providing funds from the central Sugar Development Fund as the condition of these Sugar Mills is piliable.

13.05 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair]

The condition of Sugarcane growers in entire North Bihar is miserable. The condition of Motihari, Jagiya, Marhaura, Supaul, Motipur, Guraul Sugar Mills is critical. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to provide necessary funds from the Central Sugar Development Fund so as to improve the deteriorating condition of the sugar mills in Bihar particularly in Mithilanchal region of North Bihar.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : 15 Sugar Mills in Bihar are closed. The Union Government should take every possible measure to revive them. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (Kopergaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulties being faced by the sugar factories. The levy prices for sugar factories for the season 1998-99 are not yet fixed. Though they are not fixed, the Government has already started lifting the sugar of 1998-99 season for the purpose of public distribution. The prices given to the sugar factories for this are the prices notified for the season 1997-98. After the announcement of levy sugar prices for 1998-99 season, the differential amount is to be paid to the sugar factories.

As this puts the sugar factories in great difficulty in getting their claims settled and as huge amounts are lost by them, I urge upon the Government to fix the levy sugar prices for season 1998-99 immediately. I urge upon the Government to henceforth fix the levy sugar prices well

before the commencement of every crushing season. As there is considerable increase in the cost of production of sugar because of increase in wages, transporting, harvesting, electricity, chemicals, packaging material, etc., sugar factories are incurring heavy losses because of giving away the levy sugar at a very low rate.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not read out. Speak extempore.

[English]

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (Kopergaon) : Sir, to protect the interest of the sugarcane-producing farmers, I request the Government to increase the levy sugar price considerably for this season. I would like the Minister to respond to it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I raise a very important issue to draw the attention of the Government of India to it. We all know that manpower is an exportable commodity. In India, Kerala is one of the largest manpower exporting States. Thousands of Keralites are working in various Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, and Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, and other places. The Government of India is imposing a service tax of five per cent on these people. This is inhuman. Our policy says that export restrictions should go. Then, why should it not be made applicable to manpower also? Why should the Government collect this five per cent tax from these poor people?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : They are earning foreign exchange for the nation.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Chaman Lal Guptaji.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the people who are working in the Gulf countries are earning foreign exchange for the country. It is only just and proper that this tax is withdrawn. It is illegal. Nobody can excuse this. I want the Minister to respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, at the moment more than 50 lakh people go on a pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi every year. Katra is the base

*Not Recorded.

camp of Vaishno Devi. Now a days there is an acute shortage of water at Katra so much so that one bucketful of water is being sold for Rs. ten in the hotels since, the Central Government has included in its national agenda an excellent programme of providing drinking water at all the places, I would therefore, earnestly request the Government to formulate an ambitious plan to solve the problem of water in Katra so as to provide drinking water to the 50 lakh pilgrims of the country visiting Vaishno Devi every year.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to say another matter which is related to it that the road from Domel to Katara should be made four lane so that passangers may not face any difficulty.

CAP. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question is about saving the life of a woman M.P. Shri George Fernandes had written to the Speaker and Health Minister on 9th February that it is necessary to send Mrs. Malti Devi to America for treatment. After this, hon'ble Speaker has ordered that Mrs. Malti Devi should be send to America. But this order is not being implemented. Yesterday, when the husband of Shrimati Malti Devi went to enquire, he came to know that this order was laying with Under Secretary. Then he went to the Director. Director provided him a form which was to be filled up by the treating doctor Raina. When he went to Dr. Raina he refused to fill up that form. An MP's husband is being harassed. The reason behind it is that over dose was being given by the Doctor. He is giving 120 mg of Chemotherapy which should have been 80 mg. On February 12th when we sought advice of American specialist, he told that such treatment is not required. Despite all this, he gave 120 mg instead of 80 mg, due to which she suffered heart attack and her kidney was damaged. This is taking place despite of that order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nishad ji, please be being other Members will also speak. Please do not go in details.

CAP. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are talking about a Dalit woman M.P., we are talking about saving her life. But no action is being taken in this regard. Does the Government want that RJD lose it's one member. So that the number of opposition members may be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to send Shrimati Malti Devi to America immediately to save her life. An enquiry should also be conducted into this matter in regard to the delay by the Department of Health Officials and actions should be taken against them. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter relates to the hon'ble Member of the Parliament. . . . (Interruptions) She was given wrong treatment. There should be an enquiry into it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter relates to one of our colleague Shrimati Malti Devi. I know personally that she is suffering from Cancer. However you are also aware that four years ago I too was suffering from cancer but now I am alright. We have tried our best for her treatment, whatever favour was required at personal level we did in Tata hospital, Mumbai. Now this question has been raised. I want to inform that we have made arrangements for her visit to Tata Cancer Institute.

Now, because this question is related to the Ministry of Health. Therefore immediately after the zero hour. I will draw the attention of the Minister of Health towards this matter and I will request him to do whatever he can do in this regard.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House towards a special problem. At Shekhpura station in Bihar. There is a total lack of public convenience, but no action has been taken in this regard. Shekhpura Railway Station should be expanded and arrangements should be made for the stoppage of major trains on this station so that travel facility may be provided to the passengers of Shekhpura district. The passengers have to face difficulty due to unavailability of various facilities like drinking water toilet etc. there. Therefore I request to the Union Government that these facilities should be made available at Shekhpura station immediately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Railways do reply to everybody. Why is he angry with me, please give reply, do something.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the pathetic condition of the workers of Khadi, which is a large-scale village industry.

Yesterday in Rajya Sabha the Prime Minister made a statement regarding subsidy to this industry. I register my protest against this statement of the Prime Minister as it will badly affect this unorganised village industry.

About 60 lakh people are working in Khadi industries all over India. Most of the workers engaged in Khadi industry are women. Now this industry is facing serious crisis because of low market and high price of cotton.

The Government of India is adopting an unfriendly attitude towards Khadi by reducing subsidy. Khadi village cooperatives and other institutions are to get huge amount of subsidy from Khadi Commission. This is one of the reasons why Khadi industry is facing problems.

So, I request the Industry Minister and the Khadi Commission to release all subsidies due to Khadi units immediately without any delay.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the House through you that there is a dental college at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. Strike was going on there for a long time but on 3rd the strike came to an end. Likewise the private colleges in the State such as the DAV college at Solan and the other one at Sundernagar were inaugurated by the hon. Chief Minister Shri Dhumal ji. The problem is that the future of the students studying there have become dark. I visited the health department so many times and requested that permission should be granted to the students studying in the recognised colleges from the dental council to seek admission and to appear in the examinations but till date the same has not been granted. I met Vajpayee ji alongwith the Chairman of the dental colleges to grant them the permission to seek admission and to appear in the examinations and I believe that he might have passed the order but the same has not been done as on date. My submission through you is that there may be some officers in the health department who do not want that this work should be done. I would like to urge upon the government through you that orders should be passed in this regard so that permission may be granted to the students of those colleges to seek admission and to appear in the examinations.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : I would like to bring it to the notice of the government through you that the air service for Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh is not being introduced as the air strip is small on account of which the passengers have to cover the distance of 150 kilometers from Bilaspur to Raipur to avail the air service. Travelling is difficult also. Sometimes they fail to travel by air. Bilaspur is a big industrial district. It is a Commissioner Headquarters. There are the office of the coal mines. There is the thermal power plants at Korba. There is the Spanz Iron company, office and cement factory in Bilaspur and it is also the business centre and the Railway Headquarters is also there. Bilaspur district is a big industrial centre. As the air strip has not been expanded the people can not have the benefit of air service. Therefore, Sir, my submission is that orders should be passed to expand the air strip in Bilaspur district and a fully modern air strip should be constructed and the air service should be introduced again.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent 17 schemes of irrigation to the Environment department of the Union Government for clearance. On one hand we are talking about the expansion of the irrigation area on the other hand these seventeen schemes have been lying pending with the environment department for no reason at all. My submission to you is that the hon. Environment

Minister should be issued direction so that he may ponder over those seventeen schemes seriously and take an immediate decision.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I had written a letter to the Collector of Rewa asking him the details as to how much amount has been allocated during 1997-98 and 1998-99 for the Centrally sponsored schemes and the heads under which this amount has been spent. I had sent him a reminder also but he is not replying to my letter under pressure of a local leader. Not only this a Sarpanch had to commit suicide due to the neglecting attitude of the Collector towards the people's representative. He had given a notice in writing that if he was not paid heed to, he would commit self immolation.

I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that a common man has the right to information but a Member of Parliament has not been able to get the information. The Collector of Rewa has not been responding to his letters. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he should at least make such an arrangement that we people get the reply of our letters.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, none of the women Members are present here but I am trying to draw your attention to a problem concerning women.

I want to draw the attention of the House to the alarming rise in rape cases and the inadequacy of the existing laws. In recent times, there has been an alarming rise in rape cases. You just have to open the newspaper and see some reports there. Even little girls are not spared. In view of this alarming rise, I would demand from the Government that they update the rape laws which are very old.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has gone on record that he would even recommend death sentence. All of us know that death sentence in modern world is not feasible. Anyway, we would like severe punishment, short of capital punishment, to be given in such cases.

The other aspect is the procedural delay because of legal wrangling. This should be taken care of. I would demand from the Government that the existing laws on rape must be updated so that women can get justice and justice is not delayed but it is done on time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the Samajwadi Party had given a call for a bandh in Bundelkhand district of Uttar Pradesh. The Samajwadi Party workers who were in the procession

draged out and beaten up the shopkeepers who had opened their shops. They are creating anarchy in the entire State. The vice president of Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Uttar Pradesh was beaten. The same sort of incident took place in Uri and Jhansi. They are trying to creat anarchy to defame the state Government of Uttar Pradesh. I urge upon the Union Government that talks should be held with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, none of the hon. Members from the Samajwadi Party is present here. . . (Interruptions) It is not proper to speak against any party . . . (Interruptions) Hon. Mishra ji has . . . against a party. . . (Interruptions) It should be expunged from the proceedings. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Atrocities are being committed against the traders. . . . (Interruptions) The Samajwadi Party workers have beaten up the traders . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Jalandhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know, I never rise in the 'Zero Hour', unless I am deeply concerned about a situation. Ever since I demitted office this is the first time I am drawing the attention of the House to an issue which is of grave concern to all of us, irrespective of our parties.

I am not getting up here to criticize the Government or to criticize any party, but to express my deep concern about the rising crime in the capital. There is hardly a day when one does not pick up a newspaper and see on the front page, on the second page and on the third page that the crime report is not increasing. Once the situation is let go out of control in the capital - here again, I am not blaming anybody, please do not look at it in the partisan sense - I am expressing my opinion as a concerned citizen. I think, this is time when all of us are called upon to sit together and stem this. We know, in the world, that there are several capitals that had become mafia capitals later on; then the disease is difficult to tackle. It is already a menace.

Sir, here, I draw your attention and the attention of the nation. This is extremely a very difficult situation. We had often expressed our concern about various States and I am not commenting on that. But please save the capital first. Unless we can save the capital, things will be difficult to tackle.

In the same context, two things are called for. One, of course, is the concern, the type of cultural atmosphere that is prevailing and the role of the media in that. Media I mean, the electronic media; and the type of culture that the media is inculcating about violence, about crime and about rape; and what our younger generation is learning from that. There is no policy framework.

[Shri Inder Kumar Gujral]

Another dimension of it is what you would have seen very frequently now. I see a great deal of sadness as a parent and as a grand parent. It is about the buses carrying school children getting into accidents. When I was in Office, I had taken a meeting. I had called the Delhi Administration and I had drawn their attention. I said that special rules must be made for buses which are carrying school going children. I have also written to the Chief Minister of Delhi about this two weeks ago and unfortunately, she has not chosen to acknowledge my letter.

I have stated three things in that letter. One is that the drivers driving buses carrying school children should pass through a special test of driving and the Government must lay down rules to the effect that ordinary drivers are not qualified to drive a bus carrying school children; and the special test must be so made that the other malpractices cannot creep in.

The second is this. All of us may have travelled abroad and sometimes we would have noticed that there is a big signboard on every bus carrying school children saying that it is a school bus and also it carries a light at night. 'Overtaking a bus carrying school children is a crime' must be another rule which should be made. Any bus which is carrying school children to school or back home cannot be overtaken by anybody. For this, I have made the rules, but unfortunately, they have not been implemented. Again, I am not blaming the parties. So, it should not be understood in the partisan sense. I am saying this as a concerned citizen and as a person who has done something in the public life of this nation.

I suggest through you, Sir and through this House that we should unanimously raise our voice of concern. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, the incidents of looting, snatching and rape are increasing in Delhi. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Every time you stand and shout, it has become your habit. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Former Prime Minister have said something, which is being recorded, please listen carefully.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You would also be listened to.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the hon. ex-Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral ji has expressed grave concern about three issues. He has, in detail, expressed his views about it. One

is about the rising crime; and from that angle, he said how we can save the capital.

His second point is about the effects of electronic media and his third point was about the school buses, that drivers should be properly tested etc. I hope that this concern is shared by all of us. I will communicate this to the Home Minister for proper action.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to add one more point to what has been mentioned by Shri I.K. Gujral.

Delhi has been considered to be the most polluted city, vehicular pollution-wise and otherwise also. I think it is a very serious matter. In addition to all those points which have been mentioned by Shri I.K. Gujral and Shri Ram Naik, pollution may also be added. Some special efforts and measures should be taken to reduce pollution. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Sir, the world famous Dal lake in Srinagar, Kashmir is in a shambles. It is a privilege that Shri I.K. Gujral is present here. The previous Government led by Shri I.K. Gujral had committed itself to conserve that lake and allotted a sum of Rs. 290 crore. This Government is not only sluggish about this project but also dragging its feet. When the Gujral Government committed Rs. 290 crore, the elections were round the corner. So, the Cabinet could not say that this money should be provided. But the Planning Commission gave Rs. 87 crore directly. Out of that, Rs. 27 crore were given to the State Government. But today what is the position? The present Government wants to go through the proposal afresh. The previous Government accepted this proposal in principle. Since the elections were announced it could not be implemented. The people of Kashmir fell miserable about it. This lake is very important from the national point of view also because it attracts tourists. It has been already included in the national conservation list by the Ministry.

I would like to urge the Government to make a statement tomorrow or thereafter that the previous Government's commitment would be accepted by this Government also and money would be provided. The Minister is present here. He can make a statement here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot compel him. If he wants to make any statement he can do so.

SHRI RAM NAIK : This Government is also trying to improve the condition in Jammu & Kashmir. This Government has already taken several steps to improve the condition in Kashmir. If the hon. Member has got any specific proposal, he can submit it to the Ministry. . . . (Interruptions) This would be conveyed to the Government. They would examine it and see what can be done about it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I would request Shri Ram Naik to convey the point to Shri Vajpayee which I would like to make now. It is about the KBK project for Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi which are the most backward areas of Orissa. As you are aware, Narasimha Rao's Government had sanctioned a seven year plan outlay of Rs. 4,557 crore, but Vajpayee's Government has increased the outlay to Rs. 6251 crore. It is most unfortunate that the project administrator of this project has written a letter to the Chief Secretary of Orissa on the 25th of February, that he does not want to remain in this post because he does not have any legal, administrative or financial powers. He says that just to satisfy the Central Government he has been appointed by the State Government in this post without the provision of any money. He has also said that, such a situation is created that doctors are not available in the villages because of the existence of mobile healthcare unit. He has also said that Suk-Tel project is creating more problems than it solves. He says that no money is available for the project. Then, where is the money going? What is happening to the money? It is the most problematic area of Orissa. I would like to know what the State Government is doing if the project administrator says that the project is not worth the paper on which it is written.

SHRI RAM NAIK : As the matter concern with Planning and since I am the State Minister for Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation, I will look into this complaint.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA DWIVEDI (Banda) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the matter, raised by Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra is concerned with my Parliamentary constituency. I would take only one minute to add something in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat as I have not allowed you. It is not possible to accommodate everybody, every day, if everyone would be allowed to speak, then it would create problems. It may be possible that some members may not get a chance. If any member raises an important issue, I will give him an opportunity to speak.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.) : You have given a second chance to many hon'ble Members, who spoke yesterday and they are speaking today also. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, a large number of people are working in Grade II and III in Food Corporation of India. They are not getting any promotion

for the last twenty years, whereas the officers are getting promotion within four or five years. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shashi Mishra which submitted its Report in 1994. But no follow up action has been taken in this regard. So, there has been a great resentment among the employees of the FCI.

Moreover, the management of FCI is not negotiating with the majority union. FCI Employees' Union represents the majority of the employees of the FCI. In spite of that the management is negotiating with minority unions violating the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. There are a large number of casual workers. A number of godowns have not been departmentalised. As a result, there the handling work still remains a contractual work and all of them still remain contract workers. They are getting the pay which is less than even the minimum wages. I demand that the direct payment system should be introduced in all the godowns and the stagnation which is there, due to which the Grade-II, III and IV employees are not getting promotions, should be removed. They should be given promotions. The recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose, which has submitted its report also, should be implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

13.41 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not proper. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : What is this, some Members would speak everyday during the entire session and some would not get even a single chance? Isn't it an injustice?

*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to conduct the House. The House can not be run according to your dictats?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing, except Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu, will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN Please resume your seat.

13.42 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

13.42 1/2 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to increase the number of opportunities for appearing in Civil Services Examination of 1999 for candidates belonging to General and OBC categories.**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government after increasing the retirement age of Government servants by two years also increased the maximum age limit for appearing in the Central Services and All India Services Examination by two years. In the sequence of this decision, the maximum age limit for Civil Services Examination, 1999 has also been increased by two years i.e. for the General category it has been increased by two years, i.e. 30 years from 28 years, three years relaxation has been given for other Backward classes and five years for S.C. and ST's but the number of attempts to appear in it, have not been raised. Therefore, the increase in this age limit will in no way benefit the candidates belonging to General and OBC categories. If the Government intends to provide the benefit of raising the maximum age limit to the general and OBC categories, it should increase the number of opportunities for then (which is now 4 and 7 respectively) for appearing in the above examinations and advertisement for the Civil Services Examination 1999 should be re-issued accordingly so that candidates could appear in the above examination by availing the benefits of the said concession.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : The additional amount of Rs. 1 crore, declared by the Government, has not yet come. . . . *(Interruptions)* Since the Minister is present in the House, my humble request to him is . . . *(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Janardan Misra says.

*(Interruptions)**

- (ii) **Need to provide funds to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of embankments on both sides of Sharda river to check recurring floods in Sitapur Parliamentary Constituency**

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA (Sitapur) : Sir, floods play havoc in the country every year. The flood caused huge losses in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1998. Floods played havoc in my parliamentary constituency, Sitapur, this year. All the village in Biswan, Laharpur, Mohamudabad, Sitapur tehsils were affected by the floods caused by the rivers Sharda, Ghaghra, Chouka, Siwani and Sarayan in Sitapur district. As a result of which the buildings get collapsed crops get destroyed and people there are facing starvation. At the time of flood the Sarda river changes its course and washes away the village falling in its way. As a result of which several villages are washed out every year by this river and the crops also are also washed out. The Government spends a crores of rupees on relief and rehabilitation every year. If embankments on both sides of Sharda river are constructed, it will check erosion, and provide much relief to the people of the area for a permanent solution of the Problem. Lakhimpur, Behraich and Sitapur districts would be benefitted from it. In 1994-95 an action plan had been formulated after conducting a survey in this regard, but no further action was taken in that.

I, therefore request the Minister of Water Resources to save the people of the area from being ruined by constructing embankments on both the sides of Sharda River. Required funds may also be provided to the State Government for this purpose.

- (iii) **Need to give B-2 Status to Jamnagar City for the purpose of House Rent Allowance**

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (JAMNAGAR) : Sir, I am raising an urgent matter of public importance under Rule 377 in the House with your permission. The Government employees are not being given H.R.A. as per B-2 class city in Jamnagar city of Gujarat despite having a population

*Not Recorded.

of about 6 to 7 lakh though the criteria of population for conferring B-2 class status on a city for the purpose of granting H.R.A. is 4 lakh. The C.C.A. is being given there since 1.1.1989 by treating Jamnagar as a special case. Whenever the Members of Parliament and the Institutes give their representation to the Union Government, it is replied that the population of Jamnagar city was around 3,75,000 as per 1991 census. But the year 1991 has passed long back and the year going on is 1999. Therefore, H.R.A. should be given as per B-2 class of a city to the employees serving in Jamnagar city by treating it as a special case.

Reliance industries, ESSAR industries and other industries have been set up there very recently. These industries have invested about Rs. 40,000 crore there and have inducted about one and half lakh labourers from outside. Besides, the population of personnel belong to Army, Navy and Air Force is also there which has not been counted in the said 1991 Census because the Census officers were not allowed to enter in the defence areas for Census for security reasons. Jamnagar is the biggest industrial city in Asia. House rent is highest in Jamnagar in Gujarat. The House rent is Rs. 12/- per square feet there. Lakh of tourists from the country and abroad visit world famous pilgrim centre Dwarka and Okha Bet, the Birth Place of Lord Krishna every year. Despite all these facts, the Government employees are not being paid H.R.A. as per B-2 class status to Jamnagar.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to pay H.R.A. to the Government employees by treating Jamnagar as a B-2 class city.

(iv) Need to increase the amount of honorarium being paid to village health guides

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Sir, about 30,000 village health guides have been working in rural areas in Madhya Pradesh for the last 21 years who are being paid only Rs. 50 per month as an honorarium this amount is very less even in comparison to the monthly salary of the fourth class employees being paid in the central government offices which is more than Rs. 4000. The matter was discussed with the Union Minister many times but only one reply was given that the matter with regard to the village health guides was being reviewed and the final decision would be taken after receiving the review report.

Therefore, I request to the Prime Minister to take decision in this serious matter at the earliest and without any delay so that 30,000 employees may be saved from starvation.

(v) Need to make airport at Pallokala in Khiri district, UP operational early

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Sir, the airport constructed by Airport Authority of India near Palia-Kalan town in the proximity of famous Dudhwa National Park in district Kheri has been completed now. But still it is not being utilised.

I request the Government to make it operational at the earliest by removing all the obstacles coming in this way.

(vi) Need to provide land belonging to Archaeological Survey of India and also adequate funds to State Government of Bihar for construction of building to instal 'Asthikalas' of lord Buddha at Vaishali, Bihar.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Sir, Vaishali in Bihar state is the work place of Lord-Buddha, birth place of Lord Mahavir and glorious place of historical importance of Lichchhivi Republic. In the excavation, work done there, 2-3 thousand years old coins, utensils, idols of dieties and the Asthikalas of Lord Buddha have been found and kept in Patna Museum. The State Government has prepared a plan to construct a building for Rs. 3.5 crores to keep the Asthikalas of Lord Buddha. But the land where the Asthikalas is to be kept, belongs to the Archeological Survey of India. It is necessary for the Government to pay attention to develop Vaishali in view of the thousands of Japanese tourists and Buddha-followers from other countries visiting Vaishali every year.

I, therefore, request that land should be taken away from the ASI for installation of sacred 'Asthikalas' of Lord Buddha and adequate funds be sanctioned for construction of building there. The tourist site should be developed in such a manner so that it should have all the facilities for the foreign tourists. A mango grove (Amravatika) should also be developed there after the name of 'Amrapali'.

[English]

(vii) Need to lift ban on export of Sandalwood.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, in 1992, Government of India banned the export of Sandalwood as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The ban has resulted in the accumulation of a huge stock.

The ban is causing a loss to the tune of more than Rs. 1000 crore per annum to the State Exchequer of Tamil Nadu.

Only dead Sandalwood trees are extracted, cleaned and then sold to the public. This provides a lot of employment opportunities to the tribals in remote areas. Sandalwood tree regeneration is quite adequate and if

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

protected properly, extraction of sandalwood from the natural sandalwood areas would have no adverse impact on the environment.

Since Indian Sandalwood is not available in the international market, Indonesian/Australian Sandalwood which is inferior in quality is being sold in the international market. This has resulted in our produce going out of circulation in the international market. It will be very difficult to gain entry into the international market once we lose it and this will cause irreparable loss to the nation.

Besides the money getting locked up in the godowns, storing such a huge pile of stock causes a major threat by way of fire hazard.

Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has sent a letter to hon Prime Minister on 6.1.99 and hon. Minister for Environment and Forests who has promised to look into the matter but so far no favourable decision has been communicated to the Government of Tamil Nadu. Hence, I demand this Government to kindly look into the matter and a quick favourable decision may be taken to lift the ban on Sandalwood export.

(viii) Need to take steps for promotion of ancient games in the country.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, though our country is giving importance to some games like Cricket, Tennis, Football, Hockey etc., yet we are failing to give proper recognition to many games of Indian origin. There are several games which are being played in our rural areas by utilising our limited resources. These games are related to our culture, history, geography and Indian conditions. Such games should also be given adequate importance and recognition.

Nadan Pandu Kali is such a game of Kerala. It was played in all places including rural areas and both the young and the aged were participating in it. But this game is now fading as no Sports Council or authorities are interested in it.

Several other games like Thalia Pandu, Kuttium Kocum etc. are also such games which are being forgotten.

Similar games are there all over India.

I request the Sports Ministry to take serious note of these ancient games which have our domestic small. A sports cell may be created to give recognition to such games of India.

(ix) Need to ensure proper utilisation of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in Hailakandi District, Assam

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, the grants given by the Central Government under the

Employment Assurance Scheme for Hailakandi District of Assam has not been properly used during the years 1996 to 1998. On-the-spot study of some of the Schemes under the Employment Assurance Scheme has revealed that only 20 to 30 per cent of the works has been done and that 70 per cent of the money of the Employment Assurance Schemes has not been utilised properly. The D.R.D.A., Department of Hailakandi has also not displayed any signboard mentioning the nature of the Schemes for information of the general public.

The D.C., Hailakandi has also not supplied the details of the Schemes/Projects taken up under the Employment Assurance Scheme during the period from 1996 to 1998 despite request made to him.

The Schemes for the year 1998-99 have also been finalised without consulting the local Member of Parliament or without asking him in the meeting during the last session. During 1998, a number of unspecified Schemes were taken up without mentioning pinpoint of the Schemes. In this connection, both myself and a Party MLA of Hailakandi jointly lodged a complaint with the Secretary, Rural Development and Employment, Government of India demanding a CBI enquiry or an enquiry by a Central Team in the month of June, 1998. But our complaint was referred to Government of Assam against whom we had complained. We have not received any reply from the Assam Government.

I request the Union Government to immediately stop the work being taken up under EAS during this year in Hailakandi to avoid misappropriation of Central grants and also order a C.B.I. enquiry into the funds spent under EAS during 1996-98.

13.59 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-CONTD.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further consideration of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri *to speak now.*

[*Translation*]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, A.V.S.M. (Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I have risen to support the Motion of thanks on the President's Address. First, Smt. Sushmaji and Shri Panja ji put forth their views from one side. They spoke on the special achievements and thereafter two veteran leaders of the Opposition expressed their views.

14.00 hrs.

It is my misfortune that I could not hear the full speech of Shri Sharad Pawar ji and could hear only the last part of it and had gone to attend a meeting. I heard the entire speech of Shri Chattarjee Sahib. It is the job of the opposition to highlight the failures and shortcomings of the Government and thereby putting the government in the deck. But it is quite astonishing to hear such things from which are raise and misleading those who never followed any principles yet talk of them, prefer I detenate on the achievements of my government in last 11 months, I would like to elaborate on the two points raised by two very senior leaders here in the House.

14.01 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Firstly, in last few days delebarate, attempts are being made to create an atmosphere regarding corruptions. Several allegations are being levelled against this Government and our leaders. Our party and our Government do not lag behind any other party or Government in its fight against corrupting and there is no need to give any statement in this regard. History is testimony to the fact taht we have always tried to wage a war against corruption sincearly we feel grieved to hear suggestions from those who are neck deep in corruption and turn a blind eye on bigger issues. Nobody will be in favour of encouraging corruption. On one hand the issues of corruption raised by Shri Guruswamy and Admiral Bhagwat episode are being discussed, on the other such a thing has happened here in the House due to which our heads are down in shame.

Referring to the leaders, meeting Shri Somnath has said that Admiral Bhagwat levelled allegations against the Government and the Government allowed a discussion on that issue under compulsion. I would like to know from Shri Chaterjee that when a discussion was going on in regard to bogus voting in this House or in the meeting, what stand had he adopted at that time. It is a matter of moral turpitude and our character assassination. Till we are fully absolve of this allegation bogus of voting, it would be a matter of shame for us. But what to talk of having a discussion on that, we were not even allowed to take up the matter. Therefore, I would like to say that these people are adopting double standard and that is not a good thing. If we are involved in corruption, you just prove that and give us punishment but do not adopt double standard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people are talking of bogus voting in the country today. Why don't we clarify that? Why are we evading that? You just get it clarified. If it is wrong, the people of this country want to know that if bogus voting takes place in this House and if the bogus voting has taken

place, the most stringent steps should be taken. About electoral reforms, it is said that this House discuss over that and this House would also discuss over bogus voting. What fundamental right do we have to discuss about all these matters. I am telling about all these things with deep anguish and concern. When it comes to moral turpitude, there leaders keep quiet. They maintained a studied silence in that meeting and that discussion could not be initiated. I want to request again that to maintain the dignity of the Lok Sabha, if the issue of this allegation is sorted out sooner, it would be better. I would also like to make another humble submission that before lending allegation, against others, one should also search one's conscience. One should put one is own house in order first before accusing others.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, respected Sharad ji had referred to 2-3 points which I want to clarify. He has levelled this allegation against the BJP Government that the women's reservation bill has been put into jeopardy. It is a matter of great surprise. The hon. Members know that unruly scenes were witnessed in this House own this issue. It is a matter of shame for the country. What our collegues of the Congress party were doing at that time when certain Members were bent upon to beat each other? They were sitting quietly. When we were going ahead with the Bill. They added one more condition for passage of the Bill. They said earlier the Bill would be passed in its original form but when they perscribed that things were not normal in the country, they added one more condition and that condition meant to put that bill into cold storage. You might have added that condition out of your political wisdom or political maneuchuring but at least don't level any false allegation. Due to opposition of the Congress party, that Bill could not be introduced that day because they added such a condition which could have defeated the very purpose of the Bill and the complete redrafting of the Bill would have been necessiated and you are levelling allegation against us today and talking about it at length. This double speak is not good. At least I did not expect it of respected Sharad Pawar ji. He had cited an idiom 'a figure among ciphars' in some context. I also want to like another idiom, in that content that the case of the women's Bill is just like a thief threatening a policeman. You have committed the lapse and now you are showing your anger towers the BJP and the Government.

The other thing he said, was about Bihar. I admit that I don't know what happened at the higher level but as far as I know, they had accused that the BJP did not consult them. Aright, they should have been consulted, consultation should have been done with all the Members of the opposition but why don't they look to their own faults? Their party president had publically said [*English*] This Government has lost the moral authority to rule [*Translation*] what

[Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri A.V.S.M.]

does it mean? And she is not merely a president but she is such a president that no congressman could ignore her wish. [English] They dare not defy her. [Translation] And therefore if the people thought that it was the desire of the congress and congress has endorsed it, then perhaps they are not in the wrong as they are thinking. They are also a party to that. Now they are saying that they said only that we had no moral right, they said about administrative right. Don't try to play with words. The congressmen are very expert in economic bunglings but they are equally expert in playing with words also, we could know about it today.

These manipulations will not work. You cannot befool the people, you will have to pay for it.

Thirdly, hon'ble Sharad ji had discussed Atalji's visit to Lahore. He had very unwillingly admitted or I felt so that he did a nice job, but he did not desist from adding that he should not have reacted in that manner when allegations were made regarding Jammu and Kashmir by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Even I may be personally in agreement with the suggestion made by him but the situation in which he had levelled the allegation, was not mentioned. The day Pakistani Prime Minister made a statement regarding Jammu and Kashmir, Jogi ji, the spokesman of congress unleashed a tirade and asked the Prime Minister of India to state the issues discussed there and said that injustice is being done to India and the country's policy on Jammu and Kashmir is being compromised. This was stated by your spokesperson. I heard him on television. You first ask us to give an answer and when our Prime Minister gives an explanation, then for that also you put the blame on us. You brief your partymen. As we are discussing Jammu and Kashmir, I would like to tell the House and the congressmen here that for the present situation of Jammu and Kashmir and for the half portion of the Jammu and Kashmir which is not with us only the congress party is fully responsible. I would like to put forth two points in the House. When Pakistanis had intruded in Jammu-Kashmir in 1947 and the Indian army was deployed there then by the end of 1948 they were flushed out from there, and in December 1948 the situation was such that the entire Jammu and Kashmir could have come back in our hands. Towards the end of December 1948 the army had asked, and that is on record, that they should be given 96 hours within which they would capture the entire Kashmir. Pakistanis had fled away and only the forces were to be sent on the land and mountains to take physical occupation. The then Prime Minister of India did not allow us 96 hours. Had the army been granted those 96 hours then the Pakistan occupied Kashmir of the Jammu and Kashmir would not have been

there. Entire Kashmir would have been ours. What did your Government do? They forestalled the army, called them back. And not only this they went to the U.N.O. and delivered a speech on plebiscite. Who is responsible for the present situation in Kashmir? Today we are spending crores of rupees. The deployment of the army in Jammu and Kashmir and other expenses. The congressmen are responsible for this. We have inherited this problem of Jammu-Kashmir from them. Today when we endeavour to solve this problem, they level undue allegations on us. This problem has been created by you.

Mr. Chairman Sir, in 1971 we had 90 thousand prisoners of war with us, and every prisoner of war had ten members in his family in Pakistan. The late Shri Bhutto was under pressure in Pakistan. At that moment we could have got the agreement done on our terms, they were helpless. We had 90 thousand prisoners of war. The Indian army had shed its blood and a lot of people had died. How did you utilise the sacrifice made by them. Ten lakh people were affected in Pakistan. What did our leaders do then. I am sorry to reiterate, and I am surprised that our leader, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi was a great statesman. Why this opportunity was lost? There must have been some compulsion which we do not know but at least we should try to understand it.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : If the Government were had committed a mistake in 1971 then why you did not quit the forces.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : You don't have adequate knowledge about Army so this question is not worth replying. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I have fought the war in 1971 in Jammu-Kashmir region wherein many of our colleagues were killed in action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Armymen do not get killed, they attain martyrdom.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Thanks, I correct myself. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not blaming. I wouldn't have replied it if this topic had not been mentioned here. I am correcting the record, by putting forward the facts. Today the entire nation should lend its support in improving the situation of the Jammu and Kashmir. But when we are trying to do so, then instead of praising our efforts whole heartedly, you are not appreciating it, genuinely and trying to make out faults there in. This is not a good thing. Shri Sharad Pawar ji who has been Defence Minister, is well aware of the situation; I thought that he will appreciate it whole heartedly. It was a historical and important moment, the entire world is applauding it but we are politicising the issue and we are sidelining those issues which are in national interest, this is a matter of concern.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee had cited many things, he had levelled allegations against us; He had the privilege, he can do so. It is a political procedure. But there are few points on which I would like that they should think about in their own party and do some introspection. He said that the BJP did not have commitment to principles. He stated sarcastically referring to political behaviour and political morality that what this Government have done in the last 11 months. Many times he referred to our national agenda in a taunting way; he made his speech very emphatically. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is bad luck of this country that today such people are trying to preach the BJP and the nation about patriotism and principles who themselves have suspicious behaviour. I want to say with great dismay that those parties which have their roots in foreign countries and which bore doubtful character regarding national interest in 1962 China's war are preaching us about morality and nationalism. It is not a right thing. Those who were making speeches yesterday, it is their nature to give more importance to an international party at the cost of national interest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he had delivered a speech about development. He was taking note of eleven months of our rule and were asking that what we have done during our tenure, I will try to say something in this regard. But you are in power in West Bengal for the last 25 years. What is the scenario there, today?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I got an opportunity to visit sunderban area of West Bengal last year. Today these people are talking about development, they are making the local people drink arsenic water which is causing their deaths.

14.15 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY *in the Chair*]

If you go 150 km away from Calcutta towards Sunderban, you will find that people lack electricity, potable water, and other basic facilities. These people are asking us as to what we have done in the last eleven months.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee had asked about what we had done during the last 11 months. We will provide them the details in this regard, but I want to ask him and his Government that what they have done in West Bengal during the last 25 years? You should go there and see yourself the development you have carried out there. I think if they get any chance in future they will find place in the Guinness Book of World Records. In 25 years, they have turned the whole electoral procedure a full proof art of bogus voting which could find place in the 'Guinness Book' in the near future. They have brought destruction in the name of development and they have worked for remaining at the helm through bogus voting so

that no one can defeat them by any means. It is their only achievement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Chatterjee had called our party a principle less party and have said that we are beating about the bush rather than sticking to our national agenda. Sir, If we want to have a debate on this issue then it can be a marathon debate, but I want to ask him only one question that time and again he talks about socialism and propagates in follow its principles, why are they going to foreign countries to mobilise funds against their established norms? Hon'ble Chatterjee Saheb himself is the Chairman of one of such organisation and why is he visiting abroad, why is he roaming around to mobilise funds what has happened to your principle of socialism. Why a senior leader of his party issues statement everyday that Congress Party should form Government? There was a cartoon published in a newspaper that it's 9 O'Clock in the morning and now a statement will come from Mr. so and so that Congress should form the Government. You go through newspapers, such news frequently appears in there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that they should read out their own and the congress election manifesto, what they have said in their manifesto and what the congress has said, if you compare them they are full of contradictions but here they talk about coalition Government, why is it so? When you talk about principles then follow these principles also, otherwise you should continue the path of political expediency. . . (*Interruptions*) I am trying to put forth the facts. If you feel pinched, I'll not say anything, but Mohan Singh ji please read what they have said about you. Therefore, I am saying that if you are talking about the principles then come to the principles otherwise carry on with the political expediency. Why do you try to deceive the people by talking about the political expediency? Therefore I am urging upon you that when you have seen that the Bhartiya Janta Party is doing good work, the government is running smoothly and we are becoming more powerful then you have lost your temperament and asked the congress to form the Government and save us from these people. Now you are supporting the congress. You yourself are doing the same. You have forgotten about yourself and have bent upon teaching us and started making speeches.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thirdly article 356 has been quoted there and we have been, reminded of our principles and have been told that as to how we have been opposing it always and now how we have dismissed the state government of Bihar by using this article. In this regard I would like to submit that you had given only 36 hours to the Kalyan Singh Government to prove its majority. You forget that and you tried that the majority might not be proved since 17 out of the 19 Members of Legislative

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Assembly were from the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, who could not reach Lucknow from their areas within 36 hours. But it was proved, and later on the Governor recommended the hon'ble President to impose article 356 there. At that time there was your government. Now the same thing comes up again you talk about the principles and go in for the political expediency, it is not good, particularly it is not good on the part of senior members to do so and we did not expect such a thing from you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Somnath ji has talked about many other things except principles. I would not like to talk about other things since he is a renowned and able lawyer and I know that he has the art to do the wrong thing right and the right as wrong and he is capable to do so as a lawyer but, I would like to submit one thing that such things may happen in the court but not in the court of a people. Such arguments are not acceptable in the court of the people when you go to the court of the people, it will be clear.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can understand the problem with the congress, other opposition parties and of hon'ble Somnath Chatterjee since they did not expect that this 18 parties government could run and work in such a way. Today, that government is running and doing good work in the interest of the nation, taking such action and concrete steps which a government with absolute majority could not take during the last 50 years. Now they are pretering and tuming. They have lost their temprament and under it they have lost their mental balance. They are taking such steps as in panic which are not in the interest of their own party. I would like to cite an example of it. The manner in which the congress took its decision regarding Bihar is an example of their got panicked likewise the manner in which the communists are flattering the congressmen by leaving aside their principles and self respect. It's result is that the government is running smoothly doing good work. They are doing all this as they have lost their temper.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a point was raised with regard to the price rise I would like to submit not much but only this that the manner in which the price rise was manipulated at the time of elections in four states, an effort was made to hike the prices of salt, the same was unearthed. The society knows very well about such political doings.

I would like to enumerate the achievements of this government briefly. First of all, I would like to thank the government and the coalition parties that the Bill regarding creation of separate Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chattisgarh states, which was there in the National Agenda, has been introduced in the last session and I hope that all these three Bills would be passed during the session.

There are some special achievements in my view. Out of these, the first and foremost is the Pokhran Nuclear test. On behalf of myself and countrymen, I would like to submit that the Bhartiya Janta Party has taken a bold step which the various governments, although willing, could not take during the last 10-15 years. Even being a minority and coalition government, we have taken this bold decision. The government have taken unprecedented steps without caring for any international pressure, which is a thing of pride and the future generations would always thank this government for taking this step. I want to convey my heartiest congratulations to our scientists, and the people working in DRDA and Armed Forces for this work. As has already been stated that we do not want to use our weapons against anyone. There are minimum requirements for the security of our country and we have used. Our atomic power for this purpose. As a result of it another vast capability has emerged in the country. We, were threatened of imposing economic sanctions but we have faced this challenge with courage and now the world has known that India could not be threatened by any sanctions. There is tremendous improvement in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The way, tourists have visited Kashmir in huge number, is a good start. It is an achievement of the government and we hope that they will march ahead in future and the situation there will improve normacy.

This Government have constituted a National Security Council and we hope that it will function well. The historical visit of our Prime Minsiter with regard to Foreign Affairs, the historic visit by the Prime Minister is a courageous step and it has been welcomed by the entire nation and the world. This visit was specially in a circumstances when the relations between India and Pakistan were not good. At that time taking such a step and improving relations is a big achievement of our country. For it the more we praise the government, the less it is. I once again congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for it and hope that with this visit the bi-lateral relations between India and Pakistan would improve and come to a good end.

It is good that our relations with China are also improving and I hope that we will achieve success in improving it further. It is fortunate that senior leaders of other countries also visited our country.. The Hon'ble king of Nepal was our Chief Guest on 26th January, 1999. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited our country and then the king of Bhutan visited our country in oct. 1998. This is a good start to strengthen our relations with our neighbouring countries.

The other big achievement is with regard to Cauvery Water Dispute. The dispute which could not be solved at various levels in count, by negotiations, has been solved by our Prime Minister. He has solved this issue by calling the representatives of all the four states surprisingly, in all

those four states, Bhartiya Janta Party was not in power, so that it could be said that they would have made agree by putting pressure on them. We hope that many such disputes which have been discussed today during the Question Hour would be resolved by the government in this way. Resolving Cauvery Water Dispute is an a great achievement of our government.

As far as the economic condition is concerned, other speakers have highlighted but I would like to bring to your notice two more points. The way the economic condition has deteriorated at international level, during one and a half year, keeping those circumstances in view, it is a great achievement of our finance Minister and the Government that they have saved the country from bankruptcy. It is a big achievement that even in those critical international circumstances, our country strenghtened their the financial condition and controlled it, Otherwise properous Nations like Brazil have become bankrupt when the run of foreign money was there. They have even tide over the financial crisis specially in those circumstances when there were devastating floods, land sliding, untimely rain and other natural calamities during the last ten months, which had never been there during the decade. The way the government and the Finance Minister controlled the financial situation despite heavy loss of crops, is a great achievement. About prices I would like to say that the prices were made to rise artificially at the time of four elections perhaps that was also a political weapon which was used at that time but when the salt weapon was used, the consiracy was exposed and the people came to know as to how the prices are be soared up artificially.

The hon'ble leader of Opposition had levelled a charge that nothing had been done for the farmers. But I would like to remind them that the national forecasting centre, which has been mentioned in para 19 of the Presidents Address is the brain child of this government during the last eleven months, why it was not done during the last 50 years and why this was not done earlier? The way the hon'ble Finance Minister has made arrangements for big cold storages in the country, is in the interest of farmers and the nation. The achievements which were not made during the last fifty years, have been made this year.

Under the Cbairmanship of hon'ble Indrajeet Gupta, a Committee has been constituted on electoral reforms and we fully hope that electoral-reforms would take place as per the recommendations of the Committee

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, there are several achievements worth mentioning but due to time-constraint, I would be brief and like to say that the major achievement of this country, at present is this that our Prime-Minister is such a person, that not only India but the entire world feel proud of him. He is such a person who does his duties selflessly, who

has deep concern for the interests and progress of this country. He is completely an honest person, who has no other interest except the welfare of this country. Such a person, who we have luckily got as our Prime Minister, is the major achievement of this Government.

Once again while supporting to Presidents, Address. I conclude my speech and hope that every member would agree with the Presidents-Address.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the much funfare with which our sister, Sushma ji moved the motion of thanks on Presidents-Address yesterday the address lacks the very spirit and the funfare.

I would like to thank his excellency, the President of India for delivering such a bouing and lengthy speech before the two Houses of the Parliament. Despite his ill health. I has been claimed in this speech that this Government is functioning in accordance with the National agenda prepared by it. I wold mainly point out about three things included in the Agenda. The alliance partners of the Government its have their own agendas and all of them always remain in waiting for an opportunity to put pressure on the main party who is running the Government is functioning like a tortoise and have an Oscilating stand. It announces one policy and subsequently withdraws it. This has been going for the last one year. This Government is therefore, not functioning according to the agenda announced by it. But I am not talking about the entire agenda. I want to read out only three points of the agenda at the moment, on which Government has not moved an inch during the last one year. No. 74

[English]

"We are committed to total eradication of illiteracy. We will fomulate and implement plans to gradually increase the Governmental and non-Governmental spending on education upto six percent of GDP. This is to provide education for all. We will implement the constitutional provision of making primary education free and compulsory upto fifth standard."

[Translation]

It is something strange to make the education upto fifth standard free and compulsory. I have moved a private-member bill in this regard on which discussion has been going on for the last three sessions and Government is not prepared to make any commitment there on. That bill is meant for implementing this national agenda. Government has not announced any time-bound-programme in this regard so far. As I have stated earlier in my speech that the primary education is much more costly in our country in comparison to even the richest countries of the world.

[Shri Mohan Singh]

I would submit that the nursery education in India is the most expensive in the world. As per the U.N.O. report 14 percent of world population lives in India and out of the world population of poors, 20 percent reside in India. In terms of the Human resource development India ranks 139th among 175 nations and yet the Government claims to make primary education free and compulsory upto Fifth standard through this agenda, we would like to bring into the notice of the Government that as much as 30 thousand per month fees is charged for nursery class. These are a number of such schools in Delhi charging 30 thousand tuition fees for nursery class, I would like to know as to what steps the government have taken to check it.

The second point in their agenda is-housing for all, the government will endeavour to construct 20 lakh additional housing units each year for the weaker sections of the society under the national housing scheme. This you have stated in your agenda. The first step in this direction is to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling Act. With the repeal of this Act, the government does not have any land undecides control in the Urban area, then how dues this Governments propose to construct 20 lakh housing units for poor sections of society?

You have also committed to accord full statehood to Delhi. This is 20th point in the agenda. All the five Bills for creation of five news states have been introduced in the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : We shall formulate Indira Awas Yojana.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Orders have recently been issued to construct two housing units in each block. All the houses which collapsed due to the floods would be reconstructed under the Indira Awas Yojana and directions have been issued to construct 110 housing units in each block of the country. The government must explain as to how it propose to construct 20 lakh housing units.

The government also claims to have strengthened emotional integration in the country and this process has been set in motion with a view to bringing the people of the North Eastern region into the main stream and with this sole purpose the national games were organised in Imphal. I do not want to say more. But Shri Panja Sahib who had risen to support this motion has contradicted it in his speech which Smt. Sushmaji had applauded so much. He stated that he had gone to the north-eastern region and in Assam he found that paramilitary force was standing at all the roundabouts. This was stated by Shri Panjaji in his own speech. So the national games were organised in Imphal under tight security cover of military and paramilitary forces. An I.A.S. officer Shri Basarat Pal

who belonged to a poor shepherd family of my state and was posted there, was killed for ransom. If the government claims to have brought the people of N.E into the main stream through emotional integration there after all this then who would believe it? Emotional integration can not certainly be achieved by attacking and demolishing the places of worship of minorities and by evoking their religious feelings. The sister organisations of the ruling party are out to disturb the emotional integrity in the country and still if you claim it then who is going to believe you?

I was surprised to hear for the first time in the President's Address :

[English]

"The Government is firmly committed to uphold secularism which has deep roots in our society and polity."

[Translation]

I would like to ask as to what was the need for including this sortend in the President's Address as any person can become Prime Minister and Union Minister after taking oath of the Constitution. The secularism is an integral part of our preamble to the Constitution of India.

I want to know as to what is the significance of including that statement in the President's Address on behalf of the Government which hold office after taking oath of the Constitution. What is the spirit behind it and I want to bring in the cognizance of this House what the Director General of the Gojarat Police has said in this context, has the government of India is upholding secularism in this country and that is a living example of it. As per the Constitution of India, the right to conduct census is vested with the Union Government only and accordingly national census is conducted by the Government of India all over the country once in a period of ten years and religion-wise castes is also conducted. All the religions groups are taken into account, we take these aspects separately but for the first time one State Government is conducting its census on this basis. I want to read the order which the Director General of Police has circulated for conducting that census.

It is in regard to ascertain the total christian population. All the District Collectors and Police Commissioner have got this circular issued by the Director General of Police of Gujarat which is about to conduct census of the Muslim and Christian population and the following information is asked for :

"What is the total Christian population? What are the places they live at? What are the places where their missionaries are functioning? What are the countries

they get incentive from? What are the countries they get grant-in-aid from and the amount of grant? What is the Christian population in your district, talukwise, villagewise? Furnish the information regarding name, addresses, telephone number etc. of their prominent leaders. Has many class-war between the Hindus and Christians took place in your district during the last five years? What was the outcome of those cases in five courts? How many Christians are involved in criminal cases? How many criminals are there in this category? You are requested to send name and addresses of such criminals. What tricks are being followed by the Christian missionaries in your district? What sort of activities are they doing? How are they expending their activities. How many vehicles and of what types have they got? How many of them have got licenced arms? When these licences were issued? What arrangement have you made for their safety? You are requested to send the details of all Christians who are involved in such activities and they have also issued the same order for Muslim as well. In a country where the credentials of minorities are doubted by the Government, are secularism of that Government is in question. This is what I want to say. Therefore, if the Government think that there will be emotional integration in this country by way of Prime Minister's Lahore visit and relations of India and Pakistan wants improve, I think then they are just day-dreaming.

I want to make one more point that the last point made in the President's Address, what is that last point all about? It's a matter of great regret that an august office like that of the President, who is the custodian of our Constitution, the whole programme of the Government is carried out in his name, who has been made to tell a lie for which this Government owes a heavy responsibility and what has been said through him is as follows :

[English]

"There was a near-unanimous recommendation from the MLAs for dissolution of the State Assembly (of Goa) to enable early elections. Bihar has witnessed a series of massacres of innocent people in recent times, many of them targeted at Dalits. These mass killings have brought immense pain and anguish to all of us. The first duty of any Government is to protect the life and property of citizens, especially those who are poor and socially oppressed."

[Translation]

The President was made to say this thing but this Government did not dare to present it in the Upper House of the Parliament and defend it and get it passed in the Upper House. But that was done by you. Despite that you say that you would uphold it. The Supreme Court has given

a decision in the Bommai case. As per the said decision no State Government could be dismissed by the Union Government under the Article 356 on the basis of deteriorating law and order situation in any state and involvement of Ministers in corruption and scams. This is a clear decision given by the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court in the Bommai case.

Despite being aware of that verdict you dismissed the Government of Bihar. But the second aspect of that verdict was that the full constitutional bench was constituted with regard to not merely the dismissal of the Government of Karnataka. It was not constituted with regard to the governments of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The verdict of the Supreme Court with regard to these three State Governments is that the principle of secularism is the essence of the Constitution. If any State Government violates this principle or causes any damage through any of its activities, then it is the duty of the Central Government to dismiss such State Government, this is stated in that decision. In principle, you should have dismissed the Government of Gujarat, instead you dismissed the Government of Bihar. You have brought disgrace to the Constitution of India and the President by mentioning it in his address. Therefore, I would like to state that this government has violated the Constitution and its Articles. It has been stated in the national agenda that a Judicial Commission shall be constituted to review the Constitution of India, wherein the noted scholars and constitutional experts will be appointed. However, even after one year, nothing has taken place. Why have you not constituted it? When the Minister of Home Affairs was asked this question in October and July he replied that it will be constituted in October. When it was asked in October he replied, that it will be constituted in December. When he was asked in December then instead of giving any reply he kept quiet? This Government is staying all those human norms for which the Bhartiya Janata Party and its allies have been fighting in the last 50 years. I remember very well, Chaubey ji is sitting here. He was with us in the prison for 20 months. We have been struggling together to establish democracy and keep the dictatorship at bay. Virendra Singh Ji has also been there. We were in prison together for 20 months . . . (Interruptions) But where did it all start from, it started when a junior person was appointed the Supreme Court judge by the Union Government superseding his three seniors. At that time you had levelled an allegation that efforts are being made to end democracy and bring in dictatorship. But, now the Union Government is trying to suppress the Judiciary to the extent that a High Court Judge cannot give an explanation in his case. The Government cannot even wait for that much time till the judge leaves the court and not to serve him the dismissal notice there and then. Although only the hon'ble President has the right to dismiss a judge.

[Shri Mohan Singh]

The notice should have been served by the hon'ble President, however, a Minister of this Government serves him the notice in the Court itself and the judge is compelled to leave the Court after getting the notice there and then. He pleads for natural justice in front of the world that he be given a chance to plead his case. He was dismissed in the court itself without being heard. What is happening? The people who struggled to bring order in the judiciary, who strived to restore the status of the judiciary, today these people are thwarting the judiciary and by passing their jurisdiction. You reiterate that you will flush out corruption. I do not have any reservations on this movement. I have been reading in the newspapers, for the last few months that the Prime Minister has declared his assets. He has stated that ours will be the only Government in the history of India whose all the Ministers will have declared their assets within one month after taking Oath. But no body is obeying the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister fixed the 31st as the deadline before the end of this year that all the Ministers may please declare their assets. But this is the only government in the parliamentary history of India and the world which does not have collective responsibility, which it violates one by one. The Prime Minister does not have control on any one of his Minister. Has any of his Ministers declared his assets despite his declaration. Everything will be open when they will give exact declaration of their unaccounted and vast assets. This they do not wish to declare.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : This is not true, we have declared our assets.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Alright, you have given and many other persons have given. Honest people would have given. I don't want to say anything to anybody. You have brought up in our courtyards, you would have given. But I am talking about the entire cabinet, about whom the hon'ble Prime Minister had made a declaration. This government have ruined all the assumptions till date. They enthusiastically propogate the achievement of Lahore visit of the Prime Minister. I don't want to go into the details of the allegation, which was levelled two three days ago. When our partymen said that Pakistan is our brother and the partition of Pakistan took place under the conspiracy of imperialist Powers. Therefore, there should be good relations between India and Pakistan. At that time by passing the motion in the conferences of your party, you used to appeal the world that the Pakistan was a terrorist state and it should not get the recognition in the world. When you used to say so, even at that time we advised you that it was not a terrorist state. There may be few such politicians there who want that India and Pakistan whose vested should be on war path because it serves

their vested interest. But the people of India and Pakistan are brothers, therefore to sustain their brotherhood the government of India should give some assistance to them. When we gave this statement, you said that those who said so were tutors. Some of your organisations used these words.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : We agreed to what you said.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : If you agree to it you should implement it. The Government of India should take initiative to secure the interest of our brother belonging to the minority section of the society in India only then our mutual relations could be improved. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The reference made by the hon. Member regarding removal of a high court judge by the President of India is subject to the consideration as to whether it should go on record or should be removed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, the hon'ble Member had said in his speech by mistake that the President had told lie in his speech. Therefore I want to draw your attention Mr. Chairman, Sir, towards this thing and request to you get expunged the word 'lie' from the proceedings. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PRAMAJAM (Badagara) : About the 'truthfulness' there is a ruling given earlier in the Lok Sabha on 26th April, 1995, which is correct.

[Translation]

SHRI BASHISHT NARAYAN SINGH (Bikaramganj) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's Address. Hon'ble Shri Mohan Singh ji discussed few weakness of the government earlier. Mohan Singh ji has the ability of presenting the things in such a way that even a statement far from the truth seems to be quite close to the truth. I want to express my dissentment on his two statements. He has given a comment on the Lahore visit of the Prime Minister and secondly he has discussed the role of the coallision parties. I would like to present my view by expressing the dissentment on these two things.

Today collision politics has become a reality in the politics of the country. We may agree or not, but every

vigilant person of the country would agree to it that there is no alternative of the coallision politics in the coming time. There are some advantages and disadvantages of the coallision politics. There could be a solution of the regional diversity in it.

As far as the question of making a comment on the Lahore visit of Prime Minister is concerned, I just want to say that no one can say that the relations between India and Pakistan would certainly improve as a result of Prime Minister's visit, but it could certainly be said that the Prime Minister of India has taken a bold step after so much years of Independence.

He has tried to normalise and improve the relations and to give new direction to them. They have got some meaning. Do you want that there should be an in the cerimony, hostility and enemy should increase? Should all these things be remain as they are?

A Statesman has a role to play and his bold decision not only play the role of awakening the people of the nation but it also creates a good effect on the minds and hearts of the people living abroad. And this has been made possible by the visit of India's Prime Minister. At the moment the chiefs of India and Pakistan were meeting at the border. It seemed that the age-old hostility has given way to good will and love. This is not a little achievement by any means. I want to request the oppsition parties that they should try to understand it. It is an attempt in the right direction. It is not necessary that its outcome is underlined clearly right now but the significance of this attempt should be accepted.

Today, debate is continuing on the President's address and country's Budget has also been presented in the House. I think there had not been taken any such initiative earlier results of which proved good. When I heard it from the Hon. Finance Minister and when it was reported in the newspapers that the country has a good foreign reserve, I felt happiness. The entire country could express satisfaction over it today. Being a member of an ally party I will not go on making mention of good deeds of the alone. Many such decisions have been taken which could have been taken earlier. The decisions which would have been proved good for the country were not taken earlier. This time good efforts have been made to give fillip to the agro based industry. Special attention has been given on this in this budget. I thank the government for this time and again.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to thank the Government to the fact that specially for the Labour Commission has been constituted. It will submit its report in regard to protection of interests of the organised and organised labourers. Not

only this, for the protection of the interets of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, three times more funds have been provided in the budget. I want to appreciate the Government for this act. The country is facing economic crisis today. I would like that Members of both the treasury and opposition benches should think over this matter with a cool head. When the Hon. Finance Minister says or it is reported in newspapers that the fiscal deficit is increasing, certainly its a matter of concern. Better management is required to contain it. I am raising the issue of increasing fiscal deficit knowingly in this House no doubt, we have good foreign reserve but the fiscal deficit is increasing. More stringent efforts are required to be made by the government than it has taken. Stringent efforts are required to be made not only at the central level but also at the state level to observe fiscal austinity. How the Government expenditure should be reduced so as to tide over fiscal deficit. But where are we heading to today? Some signals came to the fore in this country before this Government came to power at one time the prices of onions sky-rocketed, at other time the prices of salt increased and after that prices of mustard oil had risen to a new height. Similarly the petrol prices also increased. The steep hike in the onion prices led to change of government. Which is that power which it creating chaos? The Government will have to take long-term well thought political and administrative decisions to deal with such conspiracy. When the prices of onions increased, a hue and cry was raised but when its prices are coming down, nobody says that onion prices have down. We should also discussed this topic today. However, the government has announced that a cell has been set up in the department of food which will monitor the prices. Similarly a cell already exists to control the prices of agricultural products. I agree with Shri Mohan Singh and Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji that there should be a uniform policy to fix the prices of farmars produce and the products manufactured in factories only then the prices of commodities could be controlled in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit one thing before the Finance Minister and the government through you. The multinational companies have entered the country in a big way. The multinational companies have also made their foray into many items produced in our country. Even the Rajasthani Bhujia has also not been spared by them. They could also start the production of sandal soap, a quality soap of mysore. They are posing a danger to the country. I want to say this only that if they talk about development and globlisation in the world, some concrete decision should be taken to save the identity of India. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee could take initiative by visiting Lahore first. The foreign reserve of the country could increase by the decision of this government.

[Shri Bashisht Narayan Singh]

We should always be alert to the pressure of the foreign countries. We should not show any helplessness under the foreign pressure which may provide opportunity to the foreign companies to enter into the sector in which we are producing goods because it might be a blow to the identity and culture of India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the intelligentsia and intellectuals are sitting here. I want to say one thing to the chair and the Members of all the parties that there are only some issues which are clear in the country after so many years of independence. There is a need to formulate a policy or create a consensus. Everyone admits that the number of unemployed persons has gone up, there has been a price-hike, the corruption and politics are ruining political life and the regional heterogeneousness has increased in the country and all know that there are several states, like Bihar from which I come, where the funds provided under centrally sponsored schemes are not utilised. It is because matching grants would not be provided there and as long as the matching grants are not provided, the centrally sponsored schemes will not be implemented. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will finish my speech within two minutes.

Today, what kind of situation is in Bihar. There all the public undertakings, be that at Hatia, Barauni, Agajher or Sindari are on the verge of closure. If Bihar is neglected special schemes are not implemented and a policy is not formulated for the backward states, it would be disastrous. After the entry of multinationals in the country, prosperous states will become more prosperous and the poor states will be more poor. There is a need to give special attention to these points. With this, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that there are a large number of hon. Members who are waiting to speak and our time is also restricted. Therefore, I wish to confine my remarks to only two or three aspects of the whole canvass which was covered by the Rashtrapathiji's Address. It is not possible to comment on all those aspects in this short time. So, I am only going to deal with two or three matters and it does not mean that I do not have any comments on the other matters which I cannot cover.

Due to constraint of time, I wish to, first of all, refer to the meeting which was held yesterday with the leaders of different parties by the hon. Speaker and a meeting which was attended also by the hon. Prime Minister, by the Home Minister, by the defence Minister and so on. There was a discussion as to how the matter of the dismissal of the Naval Chief should be handled by this House. Suggestions were made and as far as I understood it, Sir, finally there was a

proposal which originally emanated from a former Prime Minister of this country, Shri Chandra Shekhar, namely, that a small committee of five or six or seven people should be set up and that committee should be asked to go into the question of what should be the parameters of any discussion which the House may decide to take up on this issue of Admiral Bhagwat's dismissal; what are the matters which should be, or could be, included in the discussion, and what are the matters which should not be included.

No final decision was taken as to actually how the matter is to be dealt with. I was rather surprised this morning to read in the press that our young Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kumaramangalam, has gone into a long interpretation which he himself has given of what was decided or not decided yesterday. I am sorry to say that matters which he has formulated do not actually represent what happened in the meeting. As I said, no final decision was taken. We had asked in that meeting as to what should be the scope of the committee which is proposed to be set up, what should be its terms of reference, what should be its composition, how it should function and all that. None of these matters was finally decided or settled.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, this matter has been discussed during 'zero hour' for the past three days. The Chair took the decision to discuss this issue with leaders of all parties. Some decision has been taken in the meeting with the leaders. The subject before the House now is Motion of Thanks on the President's address.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not follow exactly what you are hinting at. But what I want to say is that on this subject, because nothing was finally decided, we are at liberty to raise the matter until some final decision is taken. There is nothing to prevent me or anybody else from giving our views on this subject. Therefore, with your permission, Sir, I propose to make a few comments on it. I am not going to say anything which may be amounting to leakage of defence secrets; I am not going to say anything which may come within the scope of classified information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can refer to it without going into the merits of the case.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Merits of the case will be decided later on but I am certainly going into some questions of principles. My basic point is that we are not interested in the individual, I am not at least. I do not care whether it was Shri Bhagwat, or some other gentleman, or anybody else. Any individual can become the Chief of Army Staff or the Chief of Naval Staff. I am not concerned with the individual. I am very much concerned with the institutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Indrajit Gupta, you are a very senior Member. The Chair took a decision on this and the

Prime Minister has also announced that whether this matter is a subject to be discussed on the floor of the House is something to be decided after consultation with the leaders selected by the Speaker. However, you are discussing whether the dismissal of the Chief is reasonable or not. So, this discussion cannot be allowed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter on which hon. Speaker took a decision was whether there should be a separate discussion under Rule 193 or Rule 194. Nothing prevents any hon. Member from raising this matter in the course of his speech. Kindly see the proceedings.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : If your understanding or interpretation of yesterday's meeting is that this matter will not be allowed to be raised in the House at all, then I am sorry. I have nothing to say and I will sit down. If a grave matter like this is to be removed from the . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : On the side of the Government it has been stated, as far as my knowledge goes, that it has to be decided whether dismissal of the Naval Chief is a subject to be discussed on the floor of the House. It is yet to be decided.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : No, I beg to differ, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : After perusal of some records by the leaders nominated, they have to come to a conclusion whether it is to be discussed on the floor of the House or not. A discussion cannot be allowed into it at this stage. At this stage it is not fair on my part to allow a discussion on the dismissal of the Naval Chief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : The question that arose in the last three days was whether a substantive discussion under a particular rule or another rule should be allowed by the Chir. That does not prevent any hon. Member while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the President to touch upon any subject concerning the governance of this country. Equally, when the Budget is debated, surely, we will discuss matters relating to Defence also because the Budget covers all the Departments of the Government. On the Budget discussion and on the Motion of Thanks to the President, everything which concerns the governance of the country, can be discussed, and nobody can stop an hon. Member speaking on this subjects.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Regarding this particular issue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : A substantive motion is being discussed. There is a separate substantive motion,

and it is not that he cannot refer to the Defence at all . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue before the hon. Speaker was whether a substantive motion should be allowed or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, that is the issue.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is only that issue which the hon. Speaker has addressed. Nothing prevents any hon. Member from raising such of these matters during the course of his speech here. How can he be prevented? It is our right . . . (Interruptions) The issue before the hon. Speaker was whether the substantive motion should be allowed or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : While this issue was being raised in this House by many Members and the leaders, from the opposition side the same was objected to by many hon. Members of ruling party.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, you kindly read the Speaker's ruling. The hon. Speaker has stated that he had received notices under Rule 193 and Rule 184. Mentioning that only, he gave the ruling. He did not give the ruling that nobody else should make a mention of this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under Rule 193 and 194, the subject is not yet allowed to be raised in this House. It is yet to be decided by the leaders concerned whether it is to be allowed or not.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : No. How can you say that?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am not speaking under Rule 193 or 184 . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, give me one minute. I will explain the situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, I tend to agree with the hon. Members on the other side insofar as this limited question is concerned. Shri Indrajit Gupta is like the father of this House. He is the seniormost Member of this House. He knows very well how much in the scope and the ambit he can go ahead and speak. It is not a question of Rule 193 or 194 at the moment. The major reason is that regarding subject of dismissal of former Naval Chief, there are certain areas which are sensitive and on which, maybe, information need to be considered classified which might affect the point of view of national security as well as morale of the Defence forces.

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

15.18 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR]

Therefore, it was decided by the leaders that they would look into all these matters. But that does not mean that Members cannot refer to the subject. That would be unfair, I think on our part, to say such a thing. And, I am more than certain that Shri Indrajit Gupta-ji knows exactly how to handle it, far better than I know.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, when the hon. Rastrapati-ji has delivered such a lengthy and detailed Address, surely, we have to remark on the fact that it has omitted to make any mention whatsoever, of the very serious development which has taken place, as a result of the dismissal of the Naval Chief. There is no mention of it, and that is what I am pointing out. What I have said just now, Sir, of course, I agree that the discussion should not cover any matters which can be called as coming within the ambit of classified information or amounting to Defence secrets or anything of that type. I do not propose also to go into any such things. But I certainly say, Sir, because somebody here had said earlier today that the action which was taken against the Naval Chief was under the Navy Act. Powers under the Navy Act have been utilised in order to take this action. I wish to state, Sir, after all, I was also for a short while a Member of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, when I was the Home Minister, and I know very well that when the question of appointment of a senior officer, mainly of the rank of Chief of the Defence forces is concerned, one has to be very careful to see that no rule or no act is violated.

It is true. I wish to point out that under Rule 134 of the Navy Regulations, it is stated quite clearly that the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Navy has to be appointed on the recommendation of the Chief. Chief makes a recommendation. The Appointments Committee is not bound to accept that recommendation. That is also true. For some reason or the other, they can say that they will not accept it in which case some new names have to be put forward, or a new panel of names can be prepared and the Chief has to be again consulted and then a final decision can be taken. But this is unprecedented that the name of a person which is not only not recommended by the Chief, but to which the Chief has got serious objection, such a name is imposed on him and he is supposed to agree to that whether he likes it or not. That also is not permissible under the Navy Rules.

So, what I wish to point out is that as far as the public knows, thanks to the press, we do not have any other source of information. I hope I will be allowed to say this. Everybody knows it. As I pointed out earlier, from the end

of December when this removal of the Chief took place, we have not had any official version or statement by anybody on behalf of the Government. Neither the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Home Minister nor anybody has taken the House into confidence. This is my complaint. We talk a lot about the right of information and that people in this country should be given the right of information by a statute. A statute has been prepared for that purpose. But it is strange that the Parliament which is the sovereign body in this country is being denied the right of information on such a vital matter.

I do not think the Chief of Staff of any of the Defence Services can be expected to function with a Deputy under him on whom he has no confidence. As I said earlier, he is an operational commander. He is not a Navy *chaprasi* or a peon or a cook. He is an operational commander with thousands of men under him and it is one of the Services which is responsible for the defence, for the security and safety of this country. How many times in our history it must be acknowledged that this country has been defended, protected and saved due to the dedication and the courage, the valour and the sacrifice of our armed forces? Everbody knows it. If anything is done now which will weaken that understanding, which will weaken the position of the discipline and morale of the armed forces, it cannot be countenanced.

My main complaint is that Parliament has been kept completely in the dark. I do not suppose it will be given any further official information now during the course of this discussion either.

All I wish to say is that the Defence Minister has stated publicly, not in the House, but stated publicly in the press and in the media that this Chief whose services were dispensed with had become a security risk. It is an extremely serious charge to make.

If a person in that position becomes a security risk, it is a danger for the entire country and if he has become a security risk, why was no action taken against him earlier? It should have been, if he is guilty of treason, if he is a traitor to the country. Obviously, action should have been taken much earlier, charges should have been framed against him, inquiries should have been held and he should have been an opportunity to defend himself if he wanted to. But none of these things was done and now after he is suddenly dismissed, hon. Members raise this issue. It is not only hon. Members who are curious but there is widespread curiousness about it in the country. Many senior defence officers and also retired officers—there are dozens of them, I can give the names but it is not necessary now—from Army, Navy and Air Force are issuing statements, writing to the Press and expressing their misgivings as to the damage that this action will do to the morale of the Armed Forces.

I think, one of the few institution left in the country which can really claim to have preserved its discipline and morale throughout this period when we are every day talking about corruption and things that are happening in our society is our Armed Forces. This was an institution on which one could rely. So, we have to be very careful to see that no action is taken which will be subversive of the morale and discipline of the Armed Forces.

I am not going into those allegations of corruption or whatever there were which the former Navy Chief has also brought against the Minister of Defence and the Ministry of Defence. I do not propose to go into those allegations just now. If a separate discussion is held on that matter, then, many hon. Members may speak on it. But what I am saying is that these charges which he made have neither been contradicted-they were made publicly-nor denied, nor refuted by the Minister of Defence. This, in my opinion, amounts to a contempt of Parliament. You cannot get away like this. You must say, 'I contradict these charges; I deny them; I refute them. They are baseless; they are unfounded.' He must say something or the other. He has not said anything. He has said, 'I propose to ignore them.' You cannot ignore them. These are matters which are affecting the entire future of the defence structure of this country. Therefore, when we are talking about the achievements of this Government in the last one year, I regret to have to say that this one action which they have taken, or rather the way in which they have done it, the way by which it was done, will ultimately amount to destabilisation of the whole structure by which this country has managed to survive all these years.

This is a serious matter. I repeat again that I am not out to defend Shri Vishnu Bhagwat or anybody else but I am certainly very much concerned to defend the institution of the Office of the Chief of the Army or Navy or Air Force, whichever it may be and to see that the forces, who are also kept in the dark as we have been kept in the dark, are saved or protected from being demoralised, weakened and, if I may say so, politicised because some game of politics is also going on. This is a very serious lapse in the Rashtrapati's Address that it has been omitted. Of course, it has been deliberately omitted by those who drafted this speech for the Rashtrapati. They do not want any mention of it to be made. But it is an unprecedented action. Never in the years since the country became independent has such a thing taken place. Therefore, I wish to put on record that we have very strong objections to the way that this whole affair has been conducted and handled. The House and the country should take serious note of it and see to it that no such thing is allowed to happen in future. I do not know this wrong, which has already happened, can be rectified or remedied. It is up to the Government to decide if it wants to.

The second point, the major point which I wish to raise also concerns the destabilization of the country. A few days ago, I read a statement by the hon. Home Minister. I now cannot recall exactly as to whether he made it in the course of a reply to some debate in the House-not in this House, maybe in the other House-or in reply to a Question, but he is reported to have said that the fact that our country is a shelter or is a home for so many millions of people who belong to different cultures, different religions, who speak different languages or have different origin, is the strength of India. India has survived; and the strength of India is that so many people of all these different cultures and religions are living here together as fellow-citizens. I fully share this view. It is the concept of unity in diversity which we have always followed from the very beginning.

A pluralistic society, a society which we have always said that India's traditional image, is this image of secularism and of unity in diversity. If this image is broken, if this image is weakened, if anything is done to shatter this image and if it is pursued and carried on, ultimately, I am afraid, it will lead to destabilization of our society and of the country.

My complaint against this Government-the BJP Government-is this. I do not believe that the Prime Minister himself personally is responsible for many things which is happening. We all know that this Government is not free to function, as it likes. The Prime Minister is not free to function. He has to keep one eye behind him all the time-not one eye behind him, but two eyes-at those who are supposed to be his allies, his friends, his partners in this Government. That has already been referred to; they have their own demands, they have their own ideas and they have their own programme, and when it does not tally with what the official programme of the Government is, they do not hesitate to put pressure on the Government and threaten the Government that they will withdraw or do something. It is a form of blackmail until their demands are conceded. There is a constraint. Any Government would not be able to function when this kind of a thing is going on.

The second thing is that this Vishwa Hindu Parishad which is not a part of the Government, which is not formally a part of the BJP, but certainly they are not anti-BJP or they are not anti-Government which has come to power on the basis of the principle of Hindutva, is also coming for the Government on various issues. They are not speaking in the same voice. They have criticized the Prime Minister on various counts. One of them being that the BJP has suffered losses in the recent elections because they say that the Government and the Prime Minister are retracing their steps from the principle of Hindutva, because of that, they had lost their hold among the people and because of that people are voting against them-the implication being that they should return to that old way, the

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

old outlook and the old method, that is, of putting forward a very virulent and positive kind of communal stand which alone can get them support and votes among the Hindu masses.

They have done many things. It is said that all these attacks and atrocities which are taking place in many parts of the country against minority communities, especially against the Christians at the moment, did not begin with the Christians; it began of course at the time when this Government was not there. It began with the demolition of the Babri Masjid. At that time, none of the leaders of the BJP or any of the allied organizations condemned what has happened.

I think, it certainly denigrated our traditional image in the eyes of the world. Now, the guns have been turned against the Christians, the community which represents only 2.6 per cent of the entire population and cannot pose any danger to any other community. Naturally, the Prime Minister, as Prime Minister, has condemned these attacks. He has said that those responsible would be brought to book and punished. But he does not come out openly and fearlessly against those organizations which are responsible for these attacks. If the BJP leadership contends that the BJP is not doing it, then we are willing to accept that. But what about other organizations, like the VHP and the Bajrang Dal which are directly participating in instigating people? Is it not the duty of the Prime Minister to come out openly and condemn them. He has never done that. Neither the Prime Minister nor the Home Minister did that. Rather they try to defend them saying that there is no evidence and proof. This is a serious blow to our traditions of secularism and pluralism on the basis of which India has survived for so many years.

Many people in this world could not think that this country could survive. Our former rulers, the British, were confident that once they are turned out from here, this country would fall to pieces and break into pieces. But it did not. We are proud of that fact. The basic reason is we are a tolerant country with a tolerant people who have learned to live with people of other religion and culture. That is the secret of our success. Nothing should be done to break that concept or to weaken that concept.

The killing of the Australian and his children has already led to adverse comments against us in many countries. The matter has been raised in the Australian Parliament and it has been raised in the British Parliament also. They are saying that the Government of India should be asked to see that such things do not happen again. If this continues, then I am afraid that not only our country would be defamed and discredited but also the whole idea of composite society which we have built up for over

thousand years would be destroyed. If that is destroyed, then this country will go to pieces. We will not survive as one country. That is why I am saying that this is something which is threatening the country with destabilisation.

Therefore, I would like to emphasize these two points. One is the attack on secularism and pluralism, and the other is the dangerous tinkering with the morale and discipline of the armed forces. These two matters have not been dealt with adequately in the President's Address. One has been not tackled at all.

Therefore, I consider it my duty to point this out so that we can collectively take steps to see that such matters are not allowed to continue so that our country could be saved.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice for short duration discussion on the atrocities on minorities. It was listed in last Friday's List of Business. Since you told me that there would be a discussion on atrocities on minorities under Rule 193, I did not insist for that as I thought I could speak on that subject under Rule 193 . . . (Interruptions) Now, I insist that we should have a discussion under Rule 193. I would be able to prove in the House as to who did it. Why can we not have a discussion on this subject? I belong to the State of Orissa. I have all the facts with me. If a discussion on atrocities on Christians is allowed . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed it in the BAC. Please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the Members on the other side have always been saying as if we have done everything. We have all the facts. You may kindly allow a discussion on it . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have already discussed it in the BAC. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Every day they get up and say as if the Sangh Parivar is the culprit . . . (Interruptions) When are you going to allow a discussion on this? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

You should allow them to have discussion on it, otherwise they will raise the matter everyday . . . (Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

[English]

Sir, this is very unfair. You have still not given any ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Baxer) : I want to know whether my name is in the list or not . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : This matter is discussed every day in the House. Why not discussion on Sungh Parivar be held once for all? Fix the time, we are ready to participate in the discussion. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : A thing which has been proved throughout the country. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, this is very unfair. You have still not given any ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your party leaders. We have discussed it in the BAC.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : What is the need to discuss the matter which has been proved countrywide that atrocities are being committed on the minorities . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : We have given a notice on the subject . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing except what Shri Virendra Singh says will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support and say something on the Presidents Address. Smt. Sushma Swaraj has moved the motion of Presidents address in this House on behalf of our Party. Shri Ajit Kumar Panja spoke in support of the motion and afterwards I heard the speeches of the leader of Opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Mohan Singh while the speeches were going on, one Member from the opposition

had raised the issue of Patent and Swadeshi. Today, I am compelled to take-up the issue of Swadeshi because I remember when you were in the ruling party and Sardar Manmohan Singh ji was presenting the budget, I used to sit in the opposition. I remember, that when Sardar Manmohan Singh ji had presented the budget proposals, he had said that he was presenting that budget to realise the dreams of Gandhiji's India. It was said then that picture of Hindustan would altogether change within three years and the every village of Hindustan will be that of Gandhiji's dreams. Not three but eight years have elapsed and India could not become of Sardar Manmohan Singh Ji's dreams India could not be made Dreams of Gandhiji's dreams. Go to the villages and see yourself, what is happening in the nation of poor masses. Multinational companies have come up there. It is known to everybody. I was not here, when country was celebrating the 50th anniversary of India's Independence. I was listening to your leader-Raoji when he was delivering speech from here that we have to fulfill the dream of 'Gram-Swaraj'. He was talking about the 'Charkha' of father of the Nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi that India would become reliance in this manner. At that time it seemed to me as if Duryodhan of Dwapar-Era was doing 'Cheerharan' of 'Draupadi' and Ravana of 'Treta' Era was reciting Shlokas from the Vedas. During whose Prime ministership, if, Shri Manmohan Singh ji presented the budget, and the dreams of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Ji India was being shattered in this country and you were present here at that time and now you talk of dreams of Swadeshi. You put question to us as to what has happened to the Patent Bill. When Shri Sharad Ji was Defence Minister, he never referred to Gandhi ji. . . . (Interruptions)

You please do not teach us. What does Swadeshi mean. We are not under any compulsion but Swadeshi is in our nature. Shri Mohan Singh was talking about our Government's policies, and visit to Lahore. You had been a disciple of Shri Lohia Ji. When Pt. Deendayal and Dr. Lohia used to say while delivering a speech in the Allahabad ground used to ask as to when that day would come, when a confederation of India and Pakistan would be formed. I do not agree with several things but you were in the group of Disciples of Dr. Lohia, when you were working for S.Y.S. I remember, you used to say that a confederation of India and Pakistan should be formed. It was none other than BJP, leader, Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee, who had realised the dream of forming a confederation of India and Pakistan. You were talking about the Patent-Bill whose dream it was? Who thought about it? A discussion should be held on it? Today also it has been discussed and in future also it would form part of discussions. My submission is that it would not make any difference if we or you get the Patent Act enacted there are instances of several democratic countries, when a bill was passed by a majority by the Parliaments, but it was

[Shri Virendra Singh]

scrapped subsequently when it was found that it was not in the interest of the nation the public refused to accept it, no matter it was the Government of Germany, France on the Parliament of India must understand one thing that if the 700 members have been empowered to decide destiny of this country it does not mean that they have been given every right to enact laws as and when they want to do so and the crores of people of this country would follow those laws blindly without raising a voice of protest.

It was Shri Jagjivan Ram who had moved the Motion for Emergency. A legislation was enacted. However, lakhs of people got themselves arrested against this draconian law. When the Janata Party Government was formed Shri Hegde was General Secretary, this act was repealed. We may pass the Patent Bill but if this law is not in the larger interests of the country then it would be ultimately altered despite our passing it with majority. The masses would come on to the streets to oppose it. 700 Members of Parliament have got the powers to determine the destiny of this country but they can not push the country to disaster. Shri Chidambaram Sahib, I would like you to tell you . . . (Interruptions) Shri Chidambaram Sahib, where are you going? It is you and Shri Manmohan Singh who have compelled me to say all this . . . (Interruptions) I am simple villager, you are learned and know more. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I heard what you have said in translation. Kindly hear me for a minute.

There are two things. The Patents Bill was opposed by the Left Parties and they have continued to oppose the Patents Bill. I am glad that your Government has come around, after three years, to pass the Bill and very eloquently, the Bill was supported, defended and pleaded by your Minister and others. Now, I do not know whether you share their views or you have your own view. But please remember that the three-year period which your party had taken is costing the nation great. Three years of learning process by your party is costing the nation greatly. Now, all that you are saying virtually negates what the Finance Minister has tried to do in his Budget. The last Budget was rooted in Swadeshi. For this Budget, I compliment him because he carefully avoided mention of the word *Swadeshi*.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : You might be knowing our Finance Minister well, but I know him more than you. When the 'Swadeshi Jagaran Manch' was constituted our Finance Minister had toured across the villages of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to enlighten the people about Swadeshi. . . . (Interruptions) tomorrow, it is stated for discussion. The top bureaucrats of army administration

police or any other organisation who had been trained on public money, are working in M.N.Cs on fat salaries. That time, who cares for the House.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Who appointed Mohan Guruswamy? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Why do you keep the vegetables cutting knife in the sheath? . . . (Interruptions) The announcement made by the Prime Minister (Shri A.B. Vajpayee) that no compound interests will be charged from farmers is a welcome step. It has made the farming community happy. The Finance Minister should follow the suit and announce waiving of the compound interest on the Loan extended to the farmer for crops and agricultural tools.

15.53 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

I also support the measures being taken by the Government to strengthen the agriculture sector and irrigation facilities. Which has been mentioned in the Presidential Address. Shri Mohan Singh ji while speaking on the irrigation policy stated that he could not appreciate this government as it had not done anything worth appreciating. But I would like to submit that the Cauvery accord is the extraordinary achievement of this government. When discussion was going on the Tihari Dam issue. He stated that decision had been taken thereon. I feel that you have been opposing the Government for the sake of opposition. Shri Sharad Pawar ji is not present here in this House but Shri Shiv Shankar ji is present here. They must be knowing as to what they did for farmers during Narasimha Rao government. During that Government, the farmers were charged the compound interest on loans and this decision was taken when Shri Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister. I could give figures but I do not have enough time for it. If you want to ask personally I would furnish you relevant figures.

I would like to say few words about the National Agriculture Policy. The Government headed by the BJP announced to formulate the National Agriculture Policy. A little while ago, Shri Bashist Narayan Singh was speaking. I would like to remind Shri Mohan Singh Ji the words of Shri Lohia that factory goods and the agriculture products would be evaluated by the same parameters. Many people do not know as to which products are agriculture ones and which manufactured in the factory. Factory goods are those which are produced by the factory owner. I had a discussion with the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the Agriculture Policy. Consensus was reached during therein. He had assured that similar standards will be followed for the assessment of the factory and agriculture goods. You could have at least appreciated it. You were here only to oppose this stand.

You were saying that Dashrath Pal Singh was murdered in Manipur. He belonged to a poor family. He was an I.A.S officer from my parliamentary constituency. He was killed by the militants in Manipur. Militancy has not started during our regims. It has been going on for so many years in our country. It is not fair to blame a particular party for this. Entire House and the country should stand unitedly against it. Today Dashrath Pal Singh has been killed, tomorrow somebody else may be killed. You cannot be absolved from this merely by blaming the Government.

Mohan Singh Ji also mentioned about judiciary. He said that a judge was compulsory retired. His party men had launched the 'Halla Bol' movement in the Allahabad High Court. At that time the High Court Judge had stated that the Smajwadi party's 'Halla bol' movement had virtually attacked the judiciary. Where had your socialism and the attack on the judiciary gone? The present state of affairs in the Allahabad High Court is such that if a villager goes there to fight his case he is not even issued a pass. He keeps gazing. He has to pay to the touts for getting his pass. It is not proper to retire somebody compulsorily. You ask your partymen to learn this. Please do not make the administration weaken by launching 'Halla bol' movement.

The discussion with regard to Bihar was also taken place there. It was even mentioned in the President's address. There was a lot of uproar on the proclamation of the President's Rule. The Congress Party said that the President's Rule should not be imposed there but this Government must go. This was stated by the Congress Party's President.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : She said that the Rabri Devi Government should resign owning the accountability for the atrocities on the Dalits. . . . (Interruptions) This did not mean that Article 356 should be imposed there.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha) : I have heard it on the Star television news. Shri Shinde, your General Secretary, has said;

[Translation]

The Government of Bihar should be dismissed.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : The provision for the President's Rule is there in the Constitution but some criteria should be fixed as to when and where the Presidents, Rule should be imposed. If it is not being used properly then it should be removed from the constitution. Article 356 is highly debated Article. I do not know whether Article 356 is justified or not? 16.00 hrs. On which ground and how it could be imposed? Criteria for it's imposition should be laid down. In federal form of Government, it is written in the Constitution that when the unity and integrity of the country is threatened then President's Rule will be

imposed there. Otherwise, there is no other alternative to it. If there is an anarchy in the state or the federal structure is being threatened then proclamation of the President's Rule is the only option left. If there is violence in the state then this House has to consider to impose President's Rule. If the President's Rule is imposed in any state on the basis of the number of murders then what will be the criteria if similar incidents occur in other states also? A lot of discussion has been held on Bihar, therefore, I do not want to say anything about Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rights of Panchayats and Municipal Corporations has been mentioned in the Presidents' Address. I want to congratulate the BJP Government for fulfilling the Late Bapu's vision of India. Unless we strengthen Grampanchayat's and Municipal Corporations this House couldn't be strengthened.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, electoral reforms are being suggested, that we will check bogus voting. I would like to ask Mr. Shiv Shankar that on Bihar issue in Lok Sabha bogus vote was cast in the name of Mr. A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury who was not present in the House. Hon'ble Speaker he has said himself that Shri Choudhury is not present but bogus voting was cast in his name. This is on record. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is in the Rules that same issue should not be raised time and again.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not gone through the 'Rules'.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Shri Virendra Singh ji, I want to tell you that I won't blame him for casting bogus vote as he has supported a person who himself wins election through booth-capturing. The name of Mr. Laluji should also figure in it.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps you do not want to listen about Bihar I am going to conclude. I want to ask Mr. Shiv Shankar that does not he want to come out clearly from this bogus voting episode in Lok Sabha. If bogus voting takes place in Lok Sabha then how will you stop the people indulging bogus voting. If you behave like this in the House then the people of this country will not honour your recommendations and without setting an example how will you stop them from bogus voting. We have high expectations from people like Messers Indrajit Gupta, Somnath Chatterjee, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Basudev Acharya. Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Advani might talk much about electoral reforms but if the Congress casts a bogus vote in the name of Shri Ghani Chaudhury then bogus-voting could not be stopped in this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I conclude by saying one thing that I support the motion of thanks on the Presidents' Address moved by sister Sushama ji.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (Chhapra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are having a discussion on the motion of thanks on Presidential Address, in this regard I have been listening to the Members from both sides. As far as I am concerned, I belong to Bihar and Virendra Babu is my relative also. One hon'ble Member has made some remarks, I have heard him too carefully. It is becoming a tradition to talk about article 356 and Bihar, Biharis and humiliation of Bihar. I want to say that to understand Bihar is to understand the nation. It will be a matter of sorrow to think about Bihar not as a part of this country and to talk about disgress to Bihar and make it a matter of debate in the House.

You might have noticed that Bihar has a major contribution in the making of the country. Bihar has a courageous role in making this country big and proud. But Biharis, Bihar and traditions of Bihar are made but of ridicule. I want to say that Mr. President has mentioned the Article 356 in his address. The leader of opposition has highlighted this fact that according to Government statistics other states are facing more law and order problems, Bihar is on 6th position. Therefore, question arises as to why you have imposed President's Rule there? President's Rule has not been imposed on the question of Law and Order. It has been imposed due to political mentality. When you saw there a government of the poors and you conspired in Delhi to destabilise this Government. Number of speeches you may make, we are not ready to accept them.

You may have heard one thing. A debate in Lok Sabha was going on when creation of Uttaranchal came out during the course of debate. When 'Uttaranchal' will be created a referendum will be conducted in Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar to know the Public Opinion. I want to say that when the Uttaranchal is being carved out you wish to know the public opinion. Similarly, why do not you conduct a referrendum in Ranchi, Dhanbad and Tata Nagar in case of Vananchal? Why it is being forced there? By doing this you are adopting double standards. You were saying that the Government have done many good things in 11 months. If you have done well then the BJP is in Power at the Centre and Allies of the BJP are at the helm in several states, you could have strengthen your position.

Had you worked well you could have formed the BJP government alone. But due to shooting up of onion price, price rise in general and as a reaction against your government you have to loose power in three states. Therefore, do not think that you are becoming powerful rather you are becoming weak.

You talk about the foreign policy. Merely diplomacy has been done by your government. You want to bring together the people and the leaders of both the countries by introducing a bus service but try to unite the hearts.

There is no objection if you go to Lahore by bus or if both the countries are united but what would happen if you close your eyes on the issue of minorities and the riots take place daily in the name of Christians? The Pakistani newspapers have published the reaction that the plebiscite which Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru used to refuse, the same plebiscite proposal has been made today by someone. Secondly it has been said that Advani ji and Atal ji should set it right. The same statement has appeared in the newspapers, therefor I would like to submit that it appears from our foreign policy that all the non-aligned countries with whom we had good relations and which were headed by Shrimati Indira Gardhi and which used to get strength and respect has been hurt. Today, the non-aligned countries do not have that much faith in us. Therefore, all the past things should be incorporated in our foreign policy and the country should be strengthened. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED (Anantnag) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had been listening to the views of the Hon. Members on the President's Address for the last two days. I think that the people voted for the BJP as an alternative during the last elections. I would not like to point out the things incorporated by the BJP in its manifesto. There are few such things in it which can affect the unity of the country. I am happy that due to coalition partners they have prepared a national agenda for governance. Some of their points were about our country and some other were about foreign country to which they used to give much importance in their election programme. I would like to remind the hon. Members that an investment of three billion dollars was to be made by the state government of Maharashtra in collaboration with 'ENRON' which was discussed here much, many agitations were launched but this government had to withdraw that agitation and they also felt that the economic policy discussed by the Congress and which was opposed by these people, has to be followed by them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second other lovely thing was that of the formation of new states be that the issue of Vananchal, Uttarakhand or Chhatisgarh. I know that they are also aware of the condition of the country. They might have felt that it is a vast country and there are many problems. They have opened a pandera box. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : It was there in the manifesto of the Janta Dal and you were also agreed to it.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED : Have you any work to do except duplicity of administration you also know what resources you have. What would be the benefit of the formations of more states. I would like to submit that history is a witness that Tamilnadu was the best state, the

administration of which was quiet ideal. Kamraj ji was the Chief Minister there and there were four Ministers in his cabinet.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, being small or big of any state, is not that much important but what is important, is the system, what the system they adopt you have opened the Pandora's bore. You have created a fugs over Udham Singh Nagar. Your enthusiasm of creating a new state has weakened.

And the second thing is that your party during canvassing said that your government would be with a difference. You would bring changes in the system as also bring about transparency in the system as well. You would provide more autonomy to media, T.V. and radio. But you could not maintain the autonomy provided to the media during the United front government and one of the Members of the Board has complained that your Minister interferes in their affairs. Therefore, with humble submission, I would like to tell the hon. Members of the BJP that incumbency problem is always there with all the governments. It takes three years. In one of our states, the West Bengal, the CPM government is in power since 1977. I am not going to accept it that somebody said something and I accepted that. This is the incumbency factor. People have frustrated under your government within five months.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are proud of farmers of our country. The nature has endowed us with natural resources in abundance. The land of this country is so fertile that our farmers could feed the whole world by producing so much of foodgrains by way of green revolution. Our farmers grow plenty of potatoes, sugarcane, onions etc. but marketing and storage facilities are not available for them. Essential commodities were not available in your regime and it seemed as if the country was facing famine and this has happened. You have seen that there is no problem of production here but it was a case of mismanagement. I don't want to say that the BJP is a party of businessmen as has been said today. This all happened due to hoarding but you have seen in a short span the elections which had been held in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, your party faced defeat. I don't want to say that your party has lost peoples faith within four-five months.

As regards law and order situation in Delhi, it has been determining. Delhi is the heart of country and one can see from newspapers that the crime graph is going up alarmingly. This should be seen, how the situation could improve. Similarly in the President's Address it has been mentioned that attacks on Christians or Christian missionaries are only aberration. There has been communal riots, communal disturbances but we were the loss we have suffered due to these, we had major suffered at the these murder of Graham Stainley and his two

children and the attacks on Churches in Gujarat all these incidents have proved a setback to the image of India all over the world. I want to say what Sharad Pawar ji has said about Christian population in India that they are well mannered. You can see the example of Kerala State, the national census shows that the growth of population in Kerala has always been below the national average. The growth of population there is not increasing but on the contrary it is declining. I was pained to listen to the statement of the hon. Prime Minister when he visited Gujarat to see the situation there himself. He said that there should be a debate on the issue of conversion. What I want to say that the Christian Community has not got its own separate identity. If they are living in any tribal area, they follow the same culture as is followed by tribals. Wherever they live, they do not enforce their identity on others. Their population is also very less. The sort of campaign is being launched against them, everybody is aware of that. The Bajrang Dal and the Vishva Hindu Parishad has launched a campaign particularly in tribal areas. This is true that the condition of the tribal Christians who are educated, their economic condition is better than others. We should see to it that the poor who are living in tribal areas, should be provided education and imported training and an economic package should be announced for them and a movement should be launched to ameliorate their economic condition we are proved of it that the contribution of the Christian missionaries in the field of education and health services has been of great significance than any other organisations. The figures which the hon. Home Minister has furnished about the assistance received by the Christian institutions. I am of the view that this assistance must be came since that amount is spent for the upliftment of our country. Children are provided education with that money.

I want to tell you that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was very critical, proxy war was there, but if any institute in the town was running, that was only VISCO Memorial convent. They never closed that institution. We do not have even a single example, which shows that they have converted anyone. It has been said by to the President that it is an aberration. I would like to submit that whatever organisation may be there, it raises many doubts, as the incidents that took place in Orissa as well as in Gujarat, the hon'ble Home Minister said that an enquiry would be conducted in this regard. As far as the killing of Shri Sten is concerned, the Supreme Court Judge has already been appointed to findout the truth and to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

In the President's Address North-East has also been mentioned the insurgency started there after the independence, whether it was Nagaland, Mizoram or any other state. But the then Congress Government not only comba

[Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed]

the insurgency there effectively but also tried to start dialogue with them. The talks were held with Shri Lal Denga, who was a leader of Mizoram. Similarly, when there was disturbance in Assam, an accord was signed between Shri Rajeev Gandhi and A.G.P. As it is being said that the situation is quite disturbing there Shri Devegowda had initiated talks with N.S.C.N. It was heard that the Prime Minister had talked with them in Paris. I feel, whether it is a problem of Bodos or of Nagaland, insurgency should be dealt with by the security forces. On one hand, you have announced an economic package for the North-East, on the other hand, a dialogue with them must be started. But I would like to say that such an incident took place there for which Shri Sinha, who has been appointed as a Governor there, has submitted a report to the hon'ble President. It says :

[English]

"Infiltration may lead to cessation in North-East. Mr. Sinha, retired general of the Indian Army apprehended that if the influx was not checked, they may sway the Assamese people and may sever the North-East land-mass from the rest of India. . . ". . . Sustaining the theory of demographic change of the State, the Report points out, the Muslim population in Assam has risen from 24.68 per cent in 1951 to 28.42 per cent in 1991."

[Translation]

The figures of many districts have been given where the Muslim population has increased. During the Government of Shri V.P. Singh, there was AGP Government in 1985 for the last 4-5 years. AGP came to Power on the issue of Illegal immigrants. When we conducted the enquiry, not more than 5 to 7 thousand people were found there as illegal migrants. I would like to submit that the report of the hon'ble Governor is a confidential report, which has been released in many papers. It appears that wherever Muslims reside in our country, if their population increases, they would demand a separate country. Why Bangladesh being a Muslim dominated area separated from Pakistan despite the Muslims there? The Muslim population was there in both the sides or can it be done on the basis of religion merely. We have seen all this. If the Union Government and the hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Advani ji want to stop infiltration or insurgency, there is need to start a dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh as our Government started the fencing work on the borders, but creating a tense atmosphere there will create hurdles in dealing with the situation. While Smt. Sushma Swaraj welcomed the Cauvery decision yesterday at the same time, she discussed the major nuclear blast at Pokhran. I want to submit that Smt. Indira Gandhi accomplished this task in 1974, when she was the Prime

Minister of India. India is such a super power, and our scientific and technological structure is so advanced that Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri Narsimha Rao could have accomplished this task simply by pressing a button. But why did not they do it? You got power, but you did not make a mention of as to who had made you powerful. Who had brought this country on the forefront of scientific and technological advancement? Why did you take the initiative? Every citizen of the country had to say with proud that India achieved a milestone. But the fallout of that blast was eight rounds of talks which took place between Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Talbott. India is a big country. When China, America, England and France can have atom bomb, why not we? But the people have started saying that the sub-continent is just on the verge of nuclear flash point. The superiority which we had with Pakistan in conventional forces, you have brought it at par, People throughout the world say that we should avoid nuclear flash point. I want to leave it to you as to how they put conditions even after signing CTBT. I would like to say that the fallout of the nuclear blast had not been explained in the right manner. I think that our Prime Ministers bus visit to Lahore and Lahore declaration is a major step towards reducing the hostility between the two countries. But the Kashmir problem is a major irritant creating an atmosphere of hatredness. People, Worldwide are coming under one roof. We see today that European countries are coming together. America is united, Asians are uniting. Keeping in view the atmosphere prevailing here, the number of confidence building measures, adopted are good in the long run. But this path is full of bundles. This is a zigzag path. Decisions have been taken earlier also. Tashkant agreement was signed, Smt. Indira Gandhi had made the issue of Kashmir bilateral by signing Shimla-Agreement. If there is any issue of conflict as there is any problem between the two countries, it will not be raised at any forum outside. . . (Interruptions)

I have been allotted sufficient time. I may be allowed to continue when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee paid a visit there one of the parties called for a total bandh. But I would like to submit that both of the countries have got friendly relations and the atmosphere of hatredners. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : Please use respectable words for the Prime Minister of the country. You may call him 'Atalji' or 'Pradhan Mantri Ji' please address him respectfully.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED : I would like to say that people there are opposed to head of the Government, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit by bus. But, he is a lucky man, as he belongs to this party and if Congress Party would have taken this step in place of BJP, the BJP must have registered its protest.

You must remember the time when the Shimla Agreement was signed and Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee had reacted by asking why the actual line of control (LOC) is there. I say that it is the power which changes ones views. It was BJP which made the Article 370 an electoral issue. When our Prime Minister visited Kashmir, he announced that the Article 370 will not be revoked. It was only after coming into power that you realised the importance of running the Government. I am happy to know it. Therefore I do not want to remind you of what is given in your election manifesto, rather I want to remind you of the concensus evolved by you with your allies about which you have forgotten. We are avoiding the issues which divide the nation by drawing the attention of the house to issues of the poverty and unemployment prevailing in the state. I want to say, that the people say that the country is caught in a mere, but I say the people of Kashmir have differed most in the Indo-Pak enmity. I share the views of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister that the situation is improving in Kashmir and it has also mentioned by the President has said in his address.

[English]

"Owing to the sustained pressure, vigil, and concerted actions of the security forces and the State Administration and active cooperation of the people, there has been a conspicuous turnaround in the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir during 1998. This is reflected, among other things, in the recovery of tourist traffic, which had virtually dried up in the preceding decade. The Government will continue its efforts to strengthen peace in the state. . ."

[Translation]

I want to submit that when this Government was formed and Shri Advani ji became the Home Minister, we supported active policy and advocated to heart pursuit to militants being provided training them. Our security forces have been fighting with the militancy for last 11 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please finish your speech.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED : I have been allowed to speak for forty minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Today your party has got one hour to speak. Yesterday, the leader of the opposition party had taken one hour and fifteen minutes. Today, total eight hours have been fixed for this subject. Four hours has already been spent on it. Out of which your party has 30 minutes and you have spoken for 25 minutes. Therefore, you have only five minutes to speak.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED : I want to ask what improvement has been seen in the condition of Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

Deployment of security forces has increased during the last year. There is an increase in the number of security force personnel who lost their lives during the last year.

[Translation]

A large number of our security forces personnel have lost their lives during 1998-99 as compared to the previous years. [English] Instead of Kashmiri Pandits moving back to the valley, many of them are leaving. [Translation] and those who are still there, about them BJP is saying that they have become Muhajirs and refugees in their own country. The Kashmiri Pandits who are residing in the Valley have also started moving to Jammu.

In 1996, the elections were held there and it created a better atmosphere. The people of Kashmir had voted against the militancy and bringing normalcy. But the state Government has failed to consolidate the things. So far as the infrastructure like the roads, drinking water, the electricity and hospital has crippled. Now an excuse is being made that there is no funds available despite the fact that the widows whose husbands have been killed either by the militants or by the security forces, have been provided Rs. one lakh to each. Some days back the Government presented its budget in which tax was levied on the Kerosine, diesel and LPG. The State Finance Minister said in the budget speech that the Union Government was not helping him and therefore there were no funds available. The most important thing about Kashmir issue is that [English] this problem cannot be solved through blood.

[Translation]

You have been facing the situation for last 11 years. The Home Ministry has provided the dates of last ten years in which it has been stated 70 thousand civilians were killed.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : During the last 13 years you were also Home Minister.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED . About five thousand security forces personnel have been killed. We say that Kashmir is an integral part of India. But the number of foreigner who were killed will not be more than hundreds.

[English]

You cannot solve this problem through the bullet.

[Translation]

Wherever such a problem cropped up the Congress opted for negotiations. You people will have to decide whether we need Kashmir or Kashmiris. If we want Kashmir

[Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed]

to remain an integral part of India, then the Kashmiris will have to be taken in confidence. The Army officers there say that the challenge we posed was to contain the militancy. However, [English] we cannot solve this problem through the bullet.

[Translation]

This issue will be solved through political process and with good administration. There are about 1,50,000 educated unemployed youths. If it is a national problem, the all parties should try to solve it collectively. I feel sorry to state that till National Conference Leader Dr. Farukh Abdullah was with the leftists Kashmir's issue was given much importance but the Kashmiris still feel offended, a healing touch is required, they are helpless. I would like to say that the Prime Minister visited and some Ministers also visited but no political leader has visited them. Last year, the Congress leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi visited Parankot and Udhampur. An encounter took place in Srinagar in which hundreds of the houses were burnt. The local people narrated the problems and the scenes. Ten lakh compensation was given in Parankot, ten lakh in Pahalgaoon. The people are so poor that they cannot afford to purchase utensils and books for their children. My submission is that when the Prime Minister can hold talks with Nawaz Sharif ji he should not have any reservations to talk to his own people. This issue cannot be sorted out by deploying security forces only healing touch is required. The former Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujaral had announced Rs. 8000 crore package for Punjab, likewise this Government had announced a package for the North-East and for West Bengal but this Government did not do anything. Kashmir which is in turmoil, the condition there is very bad. The Hon'ble Prime Minister went there and assured the people that Article 370 cannot be deleted. Shri Narsimha Rao ji stated about Kashmir that :

[English]

The sky is the limit.

[Translation]

This issue cannot be sorted out through the gun rather it can be sorted through negotiations. We have to bring those people back in the mainstream who have been separated from us.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Sayeed was earnestly urging to solve the issue through negotiations and not through bullets and I too agree with him. However, in the backdrop of the experience

of last 50 years in India and especially what has been done by the previous governments particularly those headed by the congress party on the issues of minorities? Was it through negotiations? Were the people being won over through love, affection and persuasions? No? In fact, people were being terrified and intimidated to garner their votes and support? Their votes and support were being ensured through vote bank politics and dubious means. Today the government headed by the BJP has completed its one year in power and during this period, we have earnestly endeavoured to instill confidence in the masses and strengthen the social harmony as a result of which mutual relations among Hindu-Muslim, Sikhs and other communities have improved. Earlier, political parties had desired a wedge between Hindus and Muslims and there was unknown fear in them from each other. But this did not happen this time. This has naturally caused convene to the people sitting on the other side as they have gathered votes on the heap of dead bodies in the last 50 years but the government headed by the BJP and its allies have staunch faith in the strength of persuasion and negotiation and they believe that the hearts of the people can be won over permanently through it. . . . (Interruptions) You raised the issue of Gujarat and Orissa. You may go through the past proceedings of the House especially the issues concerning the minorities and you will find the mention of killings of people belonging to the minorities and looting and arsoning of their houses and property rendering large number of people homeless and the modesty of women being outraged but to the dismay of our opponents, this is not happening today. They are no more scared, they look more confident and they are feeling to be in the main stream and number one citizen of India. But now, you people feel terrified and scared. We would like that the feeling of fear and dread in the minorities goes off for ever. Be it Gujarat or the issue of minorities or any other section of the society, if a wedge is put between the communities by the unscrupulous political parties then it does not harm any particular political party or a government. But it causes irreparable harm to the entire society and the countries and brings disgrace to all. We again emphasis here in this House if a Hindu is killed, then blood which sheds is not of a Hindu but of an Indian and similarly if a Muslim or a dalit is killed he should be viewed as an Indian. The day we change our attitudes and stop tarating the people on the basis of caste creed and religion, I strongly believe that thinking of the people would change and narrow attitudes of the people would also crumble. Whenever we are let down before the word, it is not the Congress Party, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janta Dal, Communist Party, Shiv Sena or BJP which is let down, but all the parties as well as the nation hang our heads in shame. Therefore such sensitive issues would need to be dealt honestly. We need to give thought such issues so as to how the national affairs may be managed and the confidence is

created. Such sort of confidence has been built after our party assumed power. The Hindus and the Muslims are not scared of each other. The mutual distrust among upper castes and lower castes has been wiped out. The Assembly elections are likely to be held in four-five states in the month of November. Mostly these states have predominant Christian populations. Whether it is Goa, Sikkim, Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh, huge number of Christian population are living there. They thought of developing fear among the Christians to get their votes, they have to stop creating such environment. Now these things can't work for 50 years we got rid of the slavery of Britishers, but if we will find the people in the narrow mentality, if we will play the politics of votes, then it won't produce good results, we have to think honestly on the sensitive issues. The discussion should be held on the functioning of the government. We hope that the discussion should be held on those issues and those issues should be welcomed. The prices of houses, land has come down tremendously in the metropolitan cities. The price of gold and silver have also fallen. You may ask that how the commonmen, poor people are concerned with it. I want to say that the corrupt people got hold of it and the Government of India have taken stringent action against them. Such people are either sitting at home or are imprisoned, therefore these prices came down. Still we have four years to rule, and even one year of our regime is not completed. During these four years, those people would get a lesson, who were making the efforts infringe the nation through communalism and corruption. Such people would be shown their right place.

The prices of salt and onion has risen to Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 per kilograms. On such issues our congress colleagues used to wear garland of onion around their neck. As the garland of marigold and roses were not available in the country. The price of onions came down, immediately after the completion of Assembly elections. The prices of few things go up then such people are requested to wear garlands of such things also. The confidence of people has certainly built due to our work. The people in the country are confident that we are marching ahead on the path of progress.

Earlier the issue of Kashmir was being discussed. There is an atmosphere of terror in Kashmir since long Shri Sayeed and Shri Soz knows it very well that in whose regime it happen and why it has happened and even they were around those people. They knew it very well that who is responsible for that.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Congress Party is responsible for it.

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : During 10-12 years, first time I saw in the News papers that the people came on

the roads on the basic issues and there were strikes. Earlier there were strikes in Kashmir in favour of Pakistan. Earlier the flags were burnt and the Pakistani flags were hoisted there.

Earlier people used to go on strike to support the terrorists. Today they go on strike on the issues of tax, livelihood and other basic problems. This is a big achievement. It is a good thing whether you accept it or not. We have been connected with student movement from the very beginning. Most of the people know that when the public come on the roads with such issues it seems that a voice is being raised on the basic issues and the people are concerned about it. It has given confidence to the public and the atmosphere of fear has come to an end. The people have fully dissociated from the terrorists.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, the Prime Minister went to Lahore by bus. It was not only a simple visit by a bus but it had also created an atmosphere of happiness. When our delegation visited Pakistan, its aim was not to please Pakistan and have political gain. We strongly took initiative for friendship. Earlier there used to be statements from Pakistan, that if India ever tried to attack Pakistan. The letter would give a befitting reply. It also stated that it could destroy half of India from its city Karachi itself. Today no such statement is being made. There is no love without fear. We have shown our power to the entire world. Through Pokhran test we showed to the entire world that India can also do what the other countries do. Earlier the political parties which talked of minorities painted. All Indian Muslims as Hazı Mastan and Dawood Ibrahim during the three months we painted the Indian Muslims as Abul Kalam the Scientist. By conducting Pokhran Test, we told to the entire World that Indian Muslims were not like Hazı Mastan and Daood Abraham, rather they are like scientist Abul Kalam. The entire World knows what you did and what we did. . . . (*Interruptions*)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : Don't insult such a great scientist. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : We glorified Shri Kalam Ji. He became famous after Pokhran test. But you are becoming famous by joining hands with Daood Ibrahim.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : You just see the report of Shri Krishana Commission. . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say only this that the issues which the country are facing today are neither of any political party nor any particular Government. All the people should be concerned in this regard. I know that some people are responsible for it and some people realise it and therefore have concern in this regard. Such people often realise it. They may not accept this fact due to some political reasons and may not be

[Shri Mukhtar Naqvi]

serious to that concern in this House. When such issues are there, the people should show concern in the house and out of side.

In my opinion today the situation is improving in the country. Today, the progress is being made in all the areas. All the people should appreciate this government and it should be welcomed. In view of this, I think that all the people should welcome and support President's address.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the revered President of India for having read out the voluminous Address, the lengthy Address, very patiently. It has created a unique experience amongst the Members of Parliament as well as the nation.

The Address failed to identify the area of alleviation of poverty or controlling the population and so on. The President's Address is nothing but a policy note of the Government.

Sir, straightaway, I want to go into the subject. As far as the nuclear policy is concerned, in the President's Address, at page 2, para 4, he has mentioned that :

"India will never use her nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear nation and will never resort to a first strike against any nuclear weapons nation."

Here, it is emphasised that nuclear bombs are meant for warfare. I have here another Address made by the same hon. President of India on 26th January, on the Republic Day. This is the Republic Day Address. At page 5, para 2, he has mentioned that :

"And we believe as patiently as ever in the complete and comprehensive disarmament including abolition of all weapons of mass destruction.

Sir, here, he has stated and pleaded for the abolition of weapons of mass destruction. The first one, the President's Address, is a policy note of this Government, whereas the Republic Day Address is a reflection of the hon. President himself. There is an ocean of difference between these two. This Government believes that nuclear bomb is meant for utilising in the warfare, whereas the President of India is pleading for the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction.

In the same Republic Day Address, the hon. President of India has quoted the sayings of the Father of the Nation, who has mentioned that we should "wipe every tear from every eye." By quoting the late revered Father of the Nation, hon. President had shown his feelings and expressed his true spirit.

Sir, recently, there was an air crash in Delhi itself wherein some of the defence officials and also some civilians lost their lives. When a journalist approached a lady who was crying, who had lost her two children and an old mother, she narrated to him, "I have not only lost two children but also my three year earnings amounting to Rs. 3,500. "Here, Sir, I want to refer to the three year earnings of herself as well as her husband. Two Indians, who are poor, were able to earn only Rs. 3,500 within a span of three years. So, what would be the total earnings of a poor person per year? It comes to Rs. 583 per year per person. This is the economic condition of poor Indians. As far as this President's Address is concerned, is there any mention about poverty alleviation?

There is no mention of an effective programme for poor people of the country in the President's Address. The Indian economy is deteriorating day by day. The economy is deteriorating so much that the poor are becoming poorer and the poorer are becoming the poorest.

Sir, population of the country is increasing day by day. Is there a single line mention in the President's Address about population control? No. The President's Address has failed to mention this issue of population control. In the recent National Development Council meeting, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu said :

"I am sure that the Central Government is appreciative of the forward-looking population policy of the State. But the commendable performance on the population front seems to be bringing in some unintended harm to the State. Wherever size of the population is taken as the criterion either for computing Central Excise or for delimiting the parliamentary constituencies, the State is likely to be placed at a disadvantage. For instance, if the 2001 census figures are to be taken as the basis, Tamil Nadu would be losing quite a few parliamentary seats and this would amount to penalising the progressive population policy adopted by the State. I suggest that 1971 population figures should form the basis of all such criteria in future. Just as the number of voters varies from State to State for Assembly constituencies, I once again suggest that number of voters in Lok Sabha constituencies should be allowed to differ from State to State keeping the number of Lok Sabha constituencies in the State at the present level, irrespective of the population changes in future."

Sir, with what anguish and feelings did our Chief Minister say this? The anguish is that the States which are strictly controlling their population are being penalised. We were having 41 Lok Sabha seats. Today we have 39 seats only because of our active implementation of population control measures. If they take the latest census figures as the basis for delimitation, we should definitely be losing three or four seats. Is it an incentive being given

to the States which are effectively controlling their population growth? In fact, you are putting those States at a disadvantage. This is a matter which has to be addressed seriously.

A lot of friends from Tamil Nadu belonging to the parties which are in alliance with the BJP, are under the impression that their National Agenda for Governance will be implemented fully, I feel sorry for my friends. This Government is known for its doublespeak and double standards. They are not going to solve our problems. As far as this matter is concerned, I address all the Members coming from Tamil Nadu cutting across party lines. Every one of us should demand that Tamil language, a classical language, should be brought on par with the official language. Our party, the DMK party, has resolved and made various requests to the Central Government to effectively bring an amendment to ensure that all the regional languages are brought on par with the official language.

So, I want to know as to whether this Government will bring in a Constitutional amendment so as to see that all the regional languages will enter into the Constitution of India as official languages.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Why did your Government not do it when you were in power?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the BJP Government in their Election Manifesto pleaded for 'Hindutva'. What is Hindutva? They say, 'It is the cultural nationalism.' Here I differ. It is not only me, everybody will differ, I think. Nationalism is nothing but a population held together with certain ties of language, tradition and culture.

Sir, my State's culture is different and Kerala's culture is different even though we form part of the the same language family. Though We, in Kerala, Andhra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu form part of the same language family, but at the same time, we differ from our own culture.

My food habit is *Idli, Dosa and Vada* while that of Kerala, it is *Payire, Puttu and Pappadam*. My traditional dress is known as *Dhoti* whereas their traditional dress is *Mundu*.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : But you are wearing here *Safari* and you are saying that your traditional dress is *Dhoti* . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BALLU : So here, culturally, we differ. Even though we form part of the same family, we culturally differ. Hence, by language, each and every State has got a different culture. Each and every State has got their own regional language, their own State Official language.

Sir, here the plea of this Government, the plea of this BJP . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Your culture differs with the size of the Dosa . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I want to respectfully mention to my friend Shri Satya Pal Jain and others from the Treasury benches . . . (*Interruptions*) Shri Jain, it is the most sensitive subject. If you want to play in the language issue, definitely India will not be integrated. It will be disintegrated. Take it from me . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not react to them. Please continue.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I want to remind the history of the whole world. The language is a peculiar weapon, the most sensitive weapon. You know, what happened in Pakistan. Pakistan was divided. Pakistan was disintegrated from India on the basis of religion. But religion has not integrated them together. What made them to divide into Pakistan and Bangladesh is simply 'language'. In Pakistan, their language is Urdu and in Bangladesh, their language is Bengali. It is because of the issue of official language only that the nation had been divided into two.

You take, for example, Malaya. Malaya was divided into two nations-Singapore and Malaysia. Previously, it was Malaya. In Singapore, their speaking language, their official language is Chinese while in Malaysia, their speaking language in Malaya.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever I speak, I am sorry, you ask me to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken double the time that was allotted to you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, Sir. If you are not interested, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief and conclude.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, similarly, Russia has been disintegrated into 16 States. Ugoslavia disintegrated into four States-Serbia, Croatia, Basnia and Macedonia. Czechoslovakia disintegrated into two countries-Czech Republic and Slovakia. All the disintegration took place because of the language issue. But Germany has been integrated. West Germany and the East Germany have integrated themselves into one country-Germany. It is because of the language only, German.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : What did you do when you were the Minister in the UF Government? . . . (*Interruptions*) Your Government did nothing when you were the Minister . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the other day, Shri George Fernandes, on the argument advanced by the Congress party, said :

Shri T.R. Baalu]

"It is in your (Congress) Election Manifesto that you will use Article 356 against Bihar, If come to power. And, we have done this."

Sir, the Congress had told in public that 'if they come to power, they may use Article 356 for Bihar as well as Uttar Pradesh.'

But cleverly Shri George Fernandes said : "You only asked for using Article 356. So, we have dismissed Bihar Government." What happened to Uttar Pradesh? He has not used Article 356 against U.P. But one thing. What is happening now clearly shows that hereafter nobody in India, whether they or x or y or z on the Treasury benches, may not have the guts to use Article 356 against any State in India.

Coming to minorities, Christian minorities are always on the attack.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party has six minutes. Now you are going to consume three times of your Party time.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Christian schools were demolished. Bibles were burnt. Churches were attacked. The social worker, Shri Graham Stains and his two young children were burnt. This is not only happening in that particular State. It is a day to day happening in Gujarat, UP, Maharashtra and Orissa. The Government is doing nothing to stop the menace.

There are atrocities on Harijans. Prime Minister visited the affected area. He said that the question of conversion has to be reviewed and has to be discussed once again. . . (*Interruptions*) Shri Satya Pal Jain, you can understand the mindset of the BJP. They are very much against minorities. Article 25 of the Constitution says that professing, practising and spreading religion is permissible in India, whoever it may be. But what is happening now? Prime Minister wants to have a review of this issue. Home Minister is not at all looking into the state of affairs. In this case; I want to politely say that it is not a Christian issue. It is not a Muslim issue. It is totally a political issue on the part of BJP. If you allow the BJP which is a Fascist Party, a day will come on the issue of minorities, of language, this Government will disintegrate the entire nation and hence this Government should pack up things and go. . . (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I on behalf of the Shiv Sena support the motion of thanks moved in the House on the President's Address. At the very beginning, I want to tell the congress that it mentions the name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar very often, the leader of the opposition also mentioned his name

many times and said he made a significant contribution in framing the constitution and the congress party begs votes in his name but I want to tell them that the constituency from where I am elected, Baba Saheb Ambedkar also contested election from the same constituency and it was the congress party who was instrumental in his defect.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mohan Rawale ji, you should also tell this fact that when the Congress Ministry was formed, Baba Saheb was made a Cabinet Minister despite the fact that he was not a member of the congress party.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I had been listening to the speech of Shri Sharad Pawar, the leader of the opposition. . . (*Interruptions*) the depth and enthusiasm with which Sharad ji was speaking, it seemed that he was speaking to please the Christians not only in India but the world over also. How much influence his leader has on him, he will tell about that. I have also been influenced by him. There has been change of heart in me also after hearing his speech. It seemed to me that you would change the name of the Indian National Congress as the Italian Congress. . . (*Interruption*) I am just telling you that under whose influence you are.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I would like to request you that using any word for the Indian National Congress or for any party is not proper. The word the 'Italian Congress' which he has just mentioned should be removed from the record. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : This was his suggestion only that you just change the name. If you don't want to change, its O.K.

[*English*]

If you want to change, you change, otherwise, do not change. He is not insisting.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : If need be, we will ask you for suggestion but right now, we don't need it. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I had said that there is change of heart in me. . . (*Interruptions*) The debate is continuing here. . . (*Interruptions*) I listened to the speech of Shri Indrajit Gupta. Shri Gupta said that this matter was raised in the Parliament of Australia. Those who killed them, the strongly condemn their act on behalf of the Shiv Sena. Strict action should be taken against him but nobody from that side said that conversion should be checked. There was a tribal Minister named Kartik in this House. He had said that conversion is the mother of all ills. You should know the reason behind this. If Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee has said that there should be a debate on this matter, what is wrong in that? Shri Sharad Pawar ji has said that for whom's attention they want to draw by holding a debate on this issue. Debate should be held on this issue. Kartik, who had been a Minister from the tribal area, said that conversion of tribals should be stopped. . . .
(Interruptions) Smt. Indira Gandhi had made a statement that there may inflow foreign funds in the country and the CIA was hatching a conspiracy. She was of the view that missionaries were using these funds. They also tried to convert Mahatma Gandhiji as a Christian. Speaking among missionaries in Calcutta, Mahatma Gandhi said that he was in a dilemma at that time as to which religion, the Hindu or the Christian should he embrace. When I regained my composure, I felt that my deliverance is possible by embracing the Hindu religion only. Since then my faith in the Hindu religion became more stronger. We all know that efforts were made to convert Mahatma Gandhi to a Christian. Indira ji received an information that thousands of dollars were pumped into India under the programme of compact for regime. I want to tell this thing and Shri Sharad Pawar ji said if forcefully conversion takes place in the country, their population would increase. I have got the figures to prove it. In 1961 the population of Hindus increased by 20.3 per cent, while this percentage was 25.6 for the Muslim population and whereas the increase was registered at the rate of 27.4 percent in the case of the Christian population. Similarly, the increase was 23.7 per cent for the Hindu population in 1971 and that of the Muslim population it was 30.8 percent.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramula) : He should give the name of the document.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : This is from the 'Growth and Distribution of Population' . . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : He should give the name of the document from which he is quoting. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please tell the name.

[English]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : If you want I will give these papers document to you. It is from 'Religious Freedom and Conversion in India'. This is a Government of India report on 'Growth and Distribution of Population by Major Religions in India'. The figures are from the Census of India, 1961; Census of India, 1971; Census of India, 1981; and Census of India, 1991.

[Translation]

If you want to go through it, you can do it. They are not having that much courage. But they are speaking today.

They have stated that dalits are converting to other religions. Dalits are poor people. Can Christians dare to convert anybody from Muslim community? Today, SC and ST people are in large number . . . *(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking after a long gap. I have under gone by-pass surgery. Please keep it in mind. Please give me chance to speak. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : President address is the policy-statement of the Government regarding which motion of thanks has been moved you have to speak on it.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : They are levelling allegations against our Government. I am stating the figures. . . *(Interruptions)* If you look the North-Eastern states, the figures during mid 1981-91 regarding Christian and Muslim population are astonishing. The population of Christians was 1323 in Tripura in 1941. It became 10,039 in 1961 and in 1981 it became 24,732 and till mid 1982-82 their number become 30,050 and 1985 afterwards 1024 tribals were converted into Christians. Is it foreign money, which is working behind this conversion? When we got freedom, they were ready to leave. But in the past independence era, when Congress Government came to power their number started increasing in this manner. During the last mid October-December, the Christian Missionaries got received 70 percent of the private foreign donation the missionaries received 14 crore rupees more than in excess of Rs. 19.8 crores during October-December.

I would like to speak about Lahore visit. Shiv Sena and BJP had difference of opinion about it. I do admit it, but we opposed it because there is terrorism in our country more than 50,000 people have been killed only in Kashmir. Bombs are being blasted countrywide. ISI and Pakistan are behind it and terrorism. Shiv-Sena Chief., Shri Bala Saheb Thakre had said that first of all terrorism should be stopped and only then they should start talks. It clearly indicates one thing that they had tried a lot, but, could not achieve success. We respect Shri Atal ji. He is holding talks to invite Pakistani Premier to India. Shiv-Sena does not intend that talks be not held between the two countries. We want to improve the relations between the two countries. But all these things should be done only after the terrorism is controlled. For the same reason we had raised a voice of protest against holding cricket test match. Earlier our team got qualified for Davis-Cup finals played in Israel. At that time, we had boycotted it and in South-Africa also, we followed the above suit.

Shri Sharad Pawar is not present here at present. He said that mosque was demolished some years ago in the name of Hinduism. In Bombay, the big metropolitan city of the country, riots broke-out due to the Hinduism. When riots were taking place in Bombay, this is reported by them, Nobody stated in the report presented

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

by the Congress Party that Shiv-Sena had attacked. I would like to tell this House that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had visited a place named Radhabai Chal at Jogeshwar in Mumbai. At that time Congress was in power. Nine Hindus were burnt alive in Radhabai Chal the present leader of opposition was Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Their Government was in power and no Chief-Minister belonging to their party could visits the place. Minister of Defence could not go there. Our Government was discussed in 1993.

They toppled Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Governments by imposing Article 356 but as many as 300 persons in Gujarat and 338 in Maharashtra were also killed during the Congress Party's rule but none of the Governments were dismissed. . . . (Interruptions) You read the Shri Krishna Commissions report, we too have got 22 reports, we have raised this matter in our party and our Chief Minister have also raised this matter. There are several other reports also. The leader of the opposition is not present here, the some charge was levelled on the leader of the Shiv-Sena Party under the report of the Madhav Commissions as was made out against Shri Bala Sahib Thakarey, it was the Congress Party's Government there at that time then why did they not arrest Shri Bala Sahib Thakarey and . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude. Your speech has already concluded. I am saying all this in his interest.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I will take only five minutes to conclude. I have to make my last point. Please tell what your Ex. Chief Minister, did. You must tell, the Congress Party had given the report to our Member of Parliament. At that time, the Commission had not blamed the Shiv Sena for riots. If it is proved contrary than I shall resign otherwise you should be resign. . . . (Interruptions). How many more days you shall continue to discuss on the issue of the Babari Musque. This was merely a structure. We read in history that foreigner Muslims demolished as many as 3000 Hindu temples but not a single Hindu demolished any Mosque. This is to be noted down. It was our temple and peoples emotions and sentiments were attached to its. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : No Muslim or Muslim ruler had demolished any Hindu temple. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You will also get a chance to speak then you can say whatever you want to say. Recently they have developed a affectionate hand for foreigners therefore, I would like to tell him that a foreign IAS Naval officer had mentioned in gazett of Lucknow in British rule that it was temple ideal and a mosque was

built after demolishing it. It was written by him and we naturally here genuine sentiments. So far, as many as 1,75,000 people have laid down their lives for this cause. What is wrong in its, they have just been demanding that their temple be reconstructed.

I would also like to raise two-three issues pertaining to my parliamentary constituency. Some time ago, I had asked a question from the Finance Minister about Mumbai city during the Congress Party's government and the Minister had given the reply that 17,944 crores of rupees were being collected from Mumbai through taxes. I had made a demand at that time also and I again make this demand to the Prime Minister during the President's Address that one thousand people daily came to Mumbai and live in slum areas and the Mumbai city has to bear the expenditure for providing basic amenities as well as drinking water, power, education health services etc. therefore, our city must get minimum 1800 crores of rupees which is just 10 percent of the total revenue collected from this city each year.

17.34 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I have been time and again raising my voice in this House on the issues concerning the mill workers. Most of the NTC mills are in my constituency and Mumbai. They are not provided cotton and other raw-material. The Union Textiles Minister is present here. These NTC mills are not provided even necessary working capital owing to which the efficient worker find it difficult to run these mills. The former Union Textile Minister had once said that the NTC mills are getting sick and running into losses due to rampant corruption. I would earnestly request the government to chalk out a rehabilitation programme for revival of these sick NTC mills. If the government formulate a good revival programme their, the efficient workforce of these mills are very easily turn these sick mills into profit earning mills. I am a son of mill worker. My father worked in a mill for 46 long years. There are several private mills in my area and I would make an earnest appeal to the government.

There is a Swan mill in the private sector in our area whose labourers have not received their wages for the last 60 months. Likewise the employees of the Khatau mill have not been given their salaries for the last two years. I would like to urge upon Shri Kanshi Ram Ranaji, who is present here to take similar steps as were taken by the previous Government with regard to them so that those people can be given their wages.

The labourers working in the unorganised sector get lower wages in comparison to those working in the organised sector like NTC. My demand is that the

employees in the unorganised sector should also get the same wages, gratuity and other benefits.

I would like to tell the House for the number of riots that occurred during the congress regime. 3402 incidents took place from 1976 to 1985 in which 3168 people were killed. I have with me the figures of the following years which show that more riots took place during their regime, while not even a single Hindu-Muslim riot took place in Maharashtra during the regime of the BJP and the Shiv Sena.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : It is true, there was none.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Shri Sultanpuri ji seconds it. I would like to thank him. I have with me the figures from 1991 to 1996 also. I can prove that more riot occurred during their regime and non they try to teach us.

Yesterday, Shri Sharad Pawarji had made an appeal to the Government with regard to sugar. I would also like to suggest that the Government should impose 60 percent custom duty on the sugar imported from Pakistan, Mexico and Brazil.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to put forth my views. The Shiv Sena, my party and I support the motion of thanks on the President's address.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, I wish to make a few points. In accordance with the Constitutional practice and procedure, the hon. President has made a customary Address to the Members of both the Houses of Parliament.

The Government has not brought out any concrete plan and programme for the solution of various problems faced by the country. The optimistic statement of the President has to be translated into action. The credibility of the Government would be measured and judged only by its performance and achievements. This Government failed on all fronts during the last 11 months. Parties with different ideas and ideologies and different election manifestoes have joined together to form the Government. Thus, they face difficulties to arrive at collective decisions on matters of national interest. A lot of time is taken to patch up their differences and arrive at decisions. They lack united stand. The problem of this vast country is the problem of 100 crore people of this wide and vast country. People are facing several problems like poverty, unemployment, shelter Public health, water illiteracy and population explosion. Concrete policies and programmes have to be evolved to tackle all these problems. The industrial growth has declined as also the investment in the industry. There is rise in the prices of essential commodities. The prices

of PDS items have also increased. There is also an increase in the prices of LPG, wheat, sugar, etc. They have failed in all the sectors, except the agriculture sector.

In para 50 of the President's Address, it is stated that the Government have arrived at some agreements with the SAARC countries including Sri Lanka. I wish to point out here that cash crop planters of Kerala, Kanyakumari District and of some other places are severely affected by this agreement. It is because there is import of certain items like rubber from Sri Lanka and Malaysia. Due to this, there is a crash in the price of rubber. As planters are severely affected due to low prices of rubber, so tapping is not done by them. So, a rectification has to be made in this matter so as to enable the planters to get suitable prices for the rubber and other cash crops.

Sir, ours is a multilingual, multi-religious and a multi-ethnic society. We have to preserve unity in diversity and integrity of the nation. As per the provisions of the Constitution, one has the right to profess, practice and propagate religion. It is the Constitutional right of every citizen of this country

The President has stated that the Government is committed to the principles of secularism. The sentiment expressed by the President is welcome. But follow up actions practice and other happenings in this regard are different.

The recent tragic incidents in Orissa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other States would show that there is a wound in the principles of secularism in the country. There are incidents of attack on Christians and their institutions, schools, dispensaries and also churches. The Bibles were burnt and the new testaments were also burnt. Nuns were gang-raped. The religious priests were massacred. The Australian missionary, Stairtes who was a doctor of leprosy, and his two sons were murdered while they were sleeping in a van. These crimes were done in the name of a religion, i.e. Hinduism which preaches and expected to practice tolerance. But these atrocities cannot be hidden from the world because there are press reports. These atrocities were condemned by Australian Government and also the other Government world over.

In my native village, we have living together with full peace, harmony and with perfect co-existence. The religion should not divide us, rather it should unite us for the constructive effort and contribution.

A proposal is made for the debate on conversion. I would like to say that at the time of framing the Constitution, these aspects were fully debated. There is a constitutional provision to profess, practice and also propagate his or her religion. The propaganda that there is a large scale conversion to Christianity is a misconception and it is

[Shri N. Dennis]

wrong. In 1961 census, the Percentage of Christians in the country was 2.4. But as per 1991 census, the percentage has declined to 2.32 so, this large scale propaganda is a misconception. In spite of the fact that Christianity was here right from the first century, from the time of St. Thomas and 300 Years of British rule, the percentage of Christians is only 2.32. The contribution of Christians in the fields of education, health and social service is very high. This is not done for the sake of conversion but it is with service motive that these contributions are made.

Protection of minorities is protection of secularism democracy and also unity and integrity of the country. So, strict action has to be taken against the culprits. The Government has to preserve the Constitutional rights of the minorities also and make them feel that they are secular in this country.

Regarding our relationship with foreign countries, we should have a united stand and our national interest is more important. The Lahore visit of our Prime Minister is a welcome step. But nothing concrete has emerged out of this visit except the reiteration of the spirit of the Simla Agreement but it is unfortunate that on the date of the declaration of peace, 25 innocent persons were massacred by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. There is no progress in the solution of Kashmir problem and other outstanding problems of these two countries. We have to maintain good relationship with our neighbouring countries and other countries so as to enable us to cut our Defence expenditure as is done by Japan.

Sir, there are one or two more points which I would like to speak on, if you would allow me.

Regarding Pokhran nuclear test, it is stated that it is an achievement of the Government but the outcome is that there was counter-nuclear test by Pakistan and western countries rose against us and imposed sanctions against our country. Thus, we face economic and other problems.

About family planning programmes, we have to implement it effectively. Because of explosion of population, our developmental activities are not progressing. I would like to elaborate on that point but due to paucity of time, I am not doing so. But as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, my friend has stated that due to strict implementation of the family planning programme the previous 41 parliamentary constituencies are reduced to 39 constituencies. But it is understood that two or three constituencies would be reduced in the coming delimitation exercise. So also is the case with Kerala. I would like to say that instead of giving incentives, there is punishment

for possibility for reduction of seats. That has to be stopped and protected. At least, the present position of 39 seats has to be continued in respect of Tamil Nadu and in respect of Kerala and other States which have effectively implemented the Family Planning Programme, their present position has also to be maintained.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I call Shri B.M. Mensinkai to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am calling out the name of those Members whose parties have not participated in the debate.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, my name is there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, your name is also there. Major parties have almost exhausted their time. Shri B.M. Mensinkai, please proceed. I will give you five minutes.

*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwad South) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Address delivered by the Hon'ble President of India to both the Houses of Parliament on the 22nd day of February, 1999. While supporting the Address I would like to give some valid and very important suggestions to the Government of India through you Sir.

Our Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee visited Lahore by bus very recently and he has spread the message of universal brotherhood. I am very happy about this visit of our Prime Minister. I request the Prime Minister to visit Bangladesh also to spread the message of peace and harmony.

The principle of Britishers was to divide and rule. The formation of Pakistan and Bangladesh is the result of the policy of the British rule. Now, our Prime Minister's responsibility is to bring these countries together and to create a congenial and peaceful atmosphere all around. By doing so there will be a huge reduction in the defence expenditure. This amount can be utilised for the upliftment of poor people of this country.

More than 70% of our population consists of cultivators and they live in rural areas. They should get scientific remunerative prices for their produce. This fact has been highlighted at para No. 19 of the President's Address. I thank the Hon'ble President for this. There is no mention in the Address about deteriorating values of life due to faulty system of education in the schools and colleges. The Centre has to concentrate on good education. Girls and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

boys should be given compulsory education upto higher secondary stage. Women should be preferred for the posts of teachers.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Deputy-speaker, Sir, a very important discussion is going on in the House. But there is no Cabinet Minister present in the House now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, one Cabinet Minister, Shri Kashiram Rana is very much present here. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, there are as many as four or five Ministers present in the House. Please do not interrupt him. We do not have time.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, there is no humour in the House. We cannot keep sitting monotonously here.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, a dull House has been converted into a lively one by him. We must thank him for that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is lively now. Shri Mensinkai, please continue.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Baalu raised a point regarding population control. I have moved an amendment on that issue. We should establish a system of education in school and colleges where moral values are imparted to our younger generation.

Women are demanding for 33% reservation in the State Assemblies and Parliament. In fact they should demand for 50% reservation as they constitute 50% of the total population of the country. In fact, our leader Shri Ramakrishan Hegde introduced this idea of reserving 25% seats in the Panchayat in the year 1983 and later it became an Act in the year 1987 in Kamatake state when he was the Chief Minister.

Ours is a secular nation and we have the right to freedom of religion on our Constitution. I would like to suggest an amendment here. Instead of "freedom to practice and propagate religion" it should be "freedom to practice religion". If this is not done, conversion would continue and communal disturbances including killings may also continue.

Sir, I have suggested 8 amendments to the President's Address. Since all these items have been incorporated in the national agenda of our ruling party, I withdraw them

and wish that my proposals will be considered by the Government for implementation.

The Government of India should implement austerity measures very rigidly. It should immediately check huge and unnecessary expenditures particularly in Government offices.

Mahatma Gandhi preached and practiced simple living and high thinking. We should follow the path showed by the father of our nation. His policy regarding prohibition of liquor consumption should also be implemented strictly throughout the country. Lakhs of families in each State can be saved from ruin by introducing prohibition. The introduction of credit cards to farmers is an important achievement of the Government.

The task force on infrastructure, set up under the aegis of the Planning Commission has finalised the blueprint for the construction of a six lane national Integrated Highway Project with an East-South corridor linking Silchar to Saurashtra and a North-South corridor linking Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This is another achievement and I congratulate the Government for this.

18.00 hrs.

Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers should be linked with southern rivers and the water should also flow towards southern rivers. In fact it is late Shri Morarji Desai who proposed this idea when he was the Prime Minister of India. The Centre should make an earnest effort in this direction.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Mensinkai, please conclude.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Sir, I will take two, three, four minutes and conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You take two minutes. Please continue.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Sir, I am constrained to say that the President's Address has not highlighted the importance of judiciary. Justice delayed is justice denied. Thousands of cases are pending in almost all courts of this country. The poor people are finding it almost impossible to come to the courts. The Government should take immediate measure to solve this problem by amending procedural laws.

The allocation of funds is faulty. A meagre amount is allocated to villages even though 70% of the population of our country lives in rural areas. There should be equal distribution of funds and at the village level this should be done through Panchayats.

Population explosion is another major hurdle for the progress of our country. This affects the planning process and thereby increases poverty of the people. This aspect

[Shri B.M. Mensinkai]

has been included in the national agenda. Stringent measures have to be taken by the Government to check the increase in population with immediate effect. Otherwise very shortly our country's population would touch 100 crore mark.

There is rampant corruption in administration and public life. This would definitely affect the values of life of the community and it increases the gap between rich and poor. The Government should find immediate solution to wipe out this menace. The Government should amend the Constitution if necessary.

Another menace which is spreading like cancer in our country is lottery ticket. I am sorry to mention that there is no mention in the address about banning lotteries throughout the country to improve the moral values of life. I urge upon the Government of India to ban the sale of lottery tickets throughout the country without any further delay and to save the lives of crores of poor people who have become mad after the lottery tickets.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir in the President's Address, I found that three areas were not focussed which, I consider, are very important. Before I go into the problems of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, I would like to highlight those three areas which have not been focused in this Address. The first one is, judicial reforms have not been given any focus. Justice, in this country, is the costliest thing for the common people and thousands of cases are piling up in various courts. The President himself was concerned about it and in a seminar he said that he was feeling concerned about the large number of cases that are piling up in courts, in the lower courts, in the High Courts and in the hon. Supreme Court of India.

In this Address, I saw that the problems in the Judiciary are the reforms that the law-givers must think have not been in focus.

Next is the population. Population explosion has taken place. I wish those well who were born all these years and up to this moment. Our resources are very vast. But since we do not have economic democracy, may be 20 per cent of population- children belonging to that strata of population - can enjoy an egg in the morning with the breakfast. But the 80 per cent of the population go without that. There is no breakfast for the children of India. In fact, no studies have been conducted to look into the layers of poverty. And this poverty is basically born out of terrible explosion of population. This has not been in focus.

I wish my friend from Shiv Sena in Maharashtra well. He was quoting from a document that has been prepared

in the Library. It was somebody's article. In fact, he did not quote it. I will not go into debate. But for his information, he should know where the population explosion has taken place in recent years. That means for the last two decades the population is continuously increasing in areas known as the Hindi-belt. In Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the rate of population was the highest.

It should be no surprise to this august House that Kashmir is a Muslim majority State. We are just close to Kerala so far as family planning is concerned. Population explosion is a terrible thing in the Hindi-belt or the cow-belt. You refer to them like that. So, we must focus our attention. I will invite Shri Mohan Rawale to have a discussion on that. He was quoting figures here only to suggest that the Muslim population was increasing or the Christian population was increasing. It is a misleading thing.

As per the Constitution of India, we were to universalise education by 1960. We have failed miserably. We are entering 21st century with a very large section of population who will be illiterate. It is because the drop-out rate in school is enormous. This House has neglected universalisation of education. I am saying it with a sense of responsibility because I am here for the fourth time. There was a recess for me. For one term, I was in the Rajya Sabha. But I have noticed that the Lok Sabha has neglected education. There are some gimmicks in the Budget. But the real thing is : Does India want to universalise education? I have seen it in the Budget proposals and in this Address also. The answer is no . We are not serious about universalisation of education. If this Government or this House wants to do something tangible for the downtrodden and the poorest of the poor, it is education, the universalisation of education.

Now, I found the three things, which I said, missing in this esteemed Address. I want to invite the attention of this House and particularly the Treasury Benches to what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir State. There was no mention in this Address about the self-rule or the autonomy within the parameters of the Constitution of India. We must not feel too much happy. We are happy that militancy has been controlled in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to caution my respected sister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who is not here. She took all the credit for normalisation of the situation in Kashmir. She took credit for the BJP. I have no quarrel with the BJP on that. Let the BJP Government take credit where it belongs to it. I gave the credit to the hon. Prime Minister for normalising relations between India and Pakistan. He was very serious about it. He continues to be very sincere about it. For the normalcy that has come, some credit must go to the people of Kashmir, and the armed forces. But the people of

Kashmir who have rejected *atankwed* wholeheartedly, there was no mention in her speech about them. When she gave credit to the BJP Government, she should have given some credit to Dr. Abdullah. Anybody can have any number of differences with him but he fought a battle, his party fought a battle and we got normalcy. Along with normalcy, we must think how to resolve the crisis. There is no dispute on annexation. It does not behave people to say all the time that Kashmir is atoot, Kashmir is an integral part of India. Yes, it is an integral part of India. There is no compulsion for a Maharashtrian or for an Andhrite to say that Maharashtra or Andhra is an integral part of India. You must have conviction, not by just saying that it is an integral part of India.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir joined the Union of India for good. We are as much an integral part of India as Maharashtrians, Andhrites, as tamilians or as people of any other State. As far as autonomy is concerned, we have a dispute with the Central Government, and not with the people of the rest of the country outside Jammu and Kashmir State. So, the urges of the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be answered well in time. There is a lot of room in the Constitution. Shri Narasimha Rao, when he was the Prime Minister, made a statement in the Upper House, the Rajya Sabha, "Short of giving *azadi*, sky is the limit within the Constitution of India". So, the people of Jammu and Kashmir want accommodation with the parameters of the Constitution of India. They should not be denied that. That should be gone into by this government, and by stalwarts from all other parties.

*Then, I found another thing missing in the Address. The President did not talk of migrants, particularly, the Kashmiri pandits. They are refugees in their own country. It is not a joke to be a Member of this august House. How long will you give these arms? You can increase the number of arms from 1800 to 2500 which is not a solution to the problem. This House is the last hope of the people of India and the last hope for the people of the Jammu and Kashmir State. You must devise a method whereby Kashmiri pandits-because there are muslim and other migrants also-who have become refugees in their own country must get back to the Valley of Kashmir, to their homes and hearths with dignity. That dignity can come only when this House ensures their security. But this Address did not focus attention on that problem.

Then, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are a number less people who have become orphans. There are number less people who have become widows. There is a village near Kangan where there are only three men, the rest of the people are either women or their children. This Government would be well-advised to institute a survey and see what is the number of orphans, what is the number of widows, where are the places where they live, and what

are their problems. There is a Rehabilitation Council in Jammu and Kashmir State. That had been instituted for those children who have become orphans at the hands of the militants. I had raised a question in this House regarding the orphans, the widows, and their children. There are sons and daughters of even militants also who were killed. We cannot differentiate or discriminate between the children of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the children of militants. They are our children. They are orphans. This Government must go into this question and provide adequate funding for rehabilitation of orphans and widows of Jammu and Kashmir State, for their sustenance, and for their future security. This problem has not been recognised.

Now, there are some specific problems. I did not hear when Mufti Mohammed Sayeed was speaking.

[Translation]

I did not hear Shri Mufti Sahab fully, but when I was coming, he told me that Farukh Sahab is displeased with the people. I would like to tell that Farukh Sahab is not displeased with the people, but this Government have created some problems for Farukh Sahab.

[English]

I will raise this issue when the Budget is there. I wish Shri Sinha were here but some senior people are here and they can bring this to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister, to the hon. Home Minister and to the hon. Finance Minister.

There are more than two lakhs of educated youth who are unemployed. There is no mention of that in this Address and they are not bothered about it. Pakistan used our educated youth to become fodder of across border militancy. The Government should take notice that we have more two lakhs of educated unemployed youth. Kashmir is a very small place and we have more than two lakhs of educated unemployed people. They should not become fodder for any mischief from across the border.

We have tremendous potential for hydraulic power and this Government refuses to provide counter guarantee, so that we could produce more energy. This should not have happened. If Mufti Sahab were here, I would tell him that yes, the Central Government has created a difficulty which is broadly known as financial crunch in Jammu and Kashmir State. It should not have happened. I am told that even the PTV is doing the drama on their Television. Why did this Government create that situation?

The financial crunch has touched the lowest of the low levels when there was no pay for the staff of so many Departments. For the *Karamcharis* of so many departments, the pay was not available - not for one month but

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

for four months. That was the depth of the financial crunch. Why should this happen?

Some projects were there. Shri Baalu had raised a question that there was no Cabinet Minister presented in the House. But I spot Shri Rana sitting in the House. So, it is Shri Rana's duty to report it to his senior colleagues. There were two prestigious projects. One is a rail project that they would take rail to Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Deve Gowda laid the foundation stone at two or three places. Then Shri Gujral went there and laid foundations at two or three places. Those stones are there but the rail is not moving beyond Udhampur. It has not even moved to Udhampur. I have heard it. It must be painful to Shri Chaman Lal Gupta and his other colleagues that it has not gone to Udhampur for the last fifteen years. They are not to blame for that.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, A.V.S.M. : This Government will take rail there in five years.

It is not the matter of five years. You do not want to take rail there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Maj Gen. Khanduri, please do not provoke him, otherwise he will continue for some more time. There will be a problem then.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : A project was prepared by the Government of India. I hope he would realise that Shri Deve Gowda was also the Prime Minister of this country, So was Shri Gujral. They approved a scheme within a sum of Rs. 2, 500 crore. The Government can take a rail and spend this money within a matter of four years, five years or six years. But they cannot say that they would take the rail there, and that this was their intention and never fix a time schedule for that.

What is happening? I am not going into the details. A sum of Rs. 200 crore was provided initially in the Budget. After two-three months, a sum of Rs. 125 crore was slashed down. By the time I am speaking to you, Rs. 75 crore were not spent. My hunch is there, Shri Nitish Kumar will say when I raise this question. It is less than Rs. 40 crore that were spent on the acquisition of land.

I raised a question. If you spend Rs. 100 crore annually, what is the time span for taking rail to Kashmir? You tell me. The people of Kashmir are very eager that rail should come there. They offered their land. They want to welcome the rail in the Valley and the rail is very important. If people are interested in real integration then the rail must move from Srinagar to Delhi everyday. There

is no goal and this Government is dragging its feet on that. That is dangerous.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, since you are about to ring the bell, I will not go into details.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But the fact is that the time allotted to you is over.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : There is another project. Shri I.K. Gujral had committed a sum of Rs. 291 crore for conservation of the Dal lake. Now, this Government is dragging its feet even on that. That is the world famous lake and it attracts tourists. If income is generated through tourism, the major share will go to the Central Government and it will not go to the State Government. Sir, the Dal project is also in a shambles. I raised it in the 'Zero Hour' also. So, we have so many problems.

Sir, a very wrong signal has gone to Kashmir. I would urge the hon. Ministers who are sitting here along the side of Shri Kashiram Rana that they carry this voice to the hon. Prime Minister of India, the Home Minister and the Finance Minister that a very wrong signal has gone to Kashmir that this Government is not interested in the economic development of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and particularly, the Kashmir Valley because the Dal projects is there and rail is wanted in Kashmir. If you are wanting rail there and if you are wanting to conserve the Dal project, it will be a credit point to you; wherever you are in credit, everybody will give you the credit wholeheartedly.

So, Dr. Abdullah deserves your compassion and your support but as of now, the financial crunch has left him high and dry. If you want that the State Government should not perform due to financial crunch and that is your national interest, you can continue this attitude. But tomorrow if the Finance Minister rises in his seat, he must give a new signal to Kashmir and give a commitment to Dr. Abdullah and his Government that they will help the State Government to overcome the difficulty in finance.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, on 22nd of this month, the President addressed Joint sitting of both the Houses. Any Presidential or Governor's Address is a reflection of the programmes and policies of the ruling party. Mr. President had read out the policies of present government and the programmes implemented out previously, agriculture and development of villages have been figured predominantly in it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is well known to all that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. 80 percent population of this country is either doing agriculture or they are agricultural labourers. Everybody talks about agricul-

tourist and farming but nothing is done for their welfare and upliftment. The present Government have not implemented any policy for farmers so far. There was a long discussion that a new 'Agriculture Policy' will be formulated and implemented. What are the details of this policy? What will be this policy? How it will be implemented and what kind of facilities will be provided. In this regard the poor and farmers of this country are being misled by mere slogans. The farmers need only four things. First of all they need water, second electricity. Third, fertilizers and seeds and Fourth, remunerative price of their products. This Government has not formulated any policy in this regard. These have not been figured in the Presidential Address. Recently, Potatoes and Onions were much talked about items. When a farmer brings its crops in the market then he gets meager price for his produce when it reaches in the hands of the businessman, it is hoarded by him, therefore consumers have to buy these things at higher rates whereas farmer has to sell on lower rates.

This Government neither have any policy on determination of price nor it has been mentioned in the Address when there is a question of giving remunerative price to farmers for their crops and when they start agitation for it then other issues are also raised if the farmers are paid more then the consumers have bear all the burden. But when it comes to industries nobody cares for the consumers. After all, what ever is being produced in factories, poor people also purchase them as well, But nothing is done for determination of price for the goods produced in the factories. When it comes to paying more prices of produce to the farmers then everybody makes hue and cry as how people will get foodgrains, how will we eat? Gross injustice is being done to the farmers.

The statement of the Hon. Finance Minister has appeared in today's newspaper also. He has challenged that he is not going to reduce the prices of fertilizers and diesel. It is very sad. On one hand he says that we would improve the condition of the farmers and would go for rural development but on the other hand their nerve is being broken. Subsidy is much under discussion these days that it should be withdrawn as the economic condition of the country is very miserable. The total burden of the fiscal deficit is being passed on the farmers. Benefit of subsidy meant to be provided to the farmers on fertilizers is not at all given to the farmers and the subsidy is given to the factories at the cost of farmers. The farmer is not getting any subsidy directly. For example, I would like to submit that out of the total fertilizer plants, some Plants like IFFCO, KRIBHCO and N.F.L. are in the Government Co-operative Sector. Go through any of the data of the last ten years, you will see that different rates are fixed for different plants for various types of fertilizers and they

are determined by FICC. What is the criteria for determining the prices of fertilizers. The price of private sector fertilizer plants is 8400 rupees per tonne. Some other has 4800 rupees per tonne and the rate of IFFCO and KRIBHCO is 4500 rupees per tonne so see the variation in the different rates. It appears that there is something wrong and there is some sort of irregularity somewhere. The Government gives crores of rupees as subsidy but the same do not reach to the farmers, the subsidy is being given to the factories. There is also a big bungling in the retention price fixed by the FICC the retention price is fixed taking into consideration the 90 percent of the production cost and 12.5 percent profit. Please check the production record. 130 percent production is done by each factory. The profit of the excess production is recovered by the factory owner from the government in the share of subsidy but it is said that this has gone to the farmers. Recently the rate of per bag has been increased by 17 rupees. That way the burden on the farmer has increased. On one hand it is said that the farmer is being more prosperous but on the other hand he does not get any benefit and has become over burdened.

Recently there has been heavy floods in different states of the country. At some places the people die of drought and at others they die of floods but this Government did not show any sympathy towards, these people and no relief was provided. Particularly, our state Haryana was not provided any assistance and not even in a small measure. Anti-farmers policy is being adopted I would like to warn this Government that the farmers is the biggest partner of this country, he is the owner of the country and if the Anti-farmer policies are went on this country would be ruined.

It has been mentioned in the President's Address that our country is at number three in the production of wheat Today we are at number three but if the same anti-farmer policies of the government are continued then next year we will be at number 9-10 because the farmers are not getting any support, he is going to ruin. His financial position is not strong, therefore I would like to urge upon the Government through you that . . . (*Interruptions*) Just now only the case of the farmer has been taken up. Please give me a chance to speak.

Recently you might have heard about an hotly discussed issue in the country, the issue of adulteration in the oil. Many people lost their lives due to that. The Government conducted a raid and all the oil mills were closed, due to the closure of the oil mills the crop of mustered could not be sold and the price of mustered went down. The farmer was ruined because of the hoarders but the farmers paid the price for it. If broke the nerves of the farmer. Therefore, all these policies are anti-farmer.

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

So far as industries are concerned big claims were made to promote these but the day the multinational companies entered our country all the indigenous industries shattered. Ask in any state, the loss and low production in these industries is beyond explanation. The issue of small industries was also raised here. Go to Ludhiana or Panipat, more than 20 thousand small handloom factories, where the poor people work, have been closed down but the government did not give any incentive. There has been a reduction in the inflow of foreign capital. All our brothers belonging to the backward class, whether he is blacksmith, carpenter, potter, washerman or a goldsmith, their business has been ruined. Capitalists and the Multinational companies have made the poor people unemployed and made them to sit in their homes because they neither have jobs nor agricultural lands.

Secondly, even today we were not allowed to make our point properly during the zero hour. It is published in the Newspapers today, that the hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Prakash Singh Badal has given a statement in the Legislative Assembly that they are not going to allow Haryana to construct SYL canal and won't supply their share of water to Haryana as they don't have any surplus water. This is a burning issue. We want to congratulate Shri Vajpayee ji that he has solved the Cauvery issue. He has done a tremendous job by resolving the dispute of four states. But this issue pertains to only 2-3 states. Viz, a Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. It is lying pending for the last 32 years. The Cauvery issue was different as the water was flowing with in our states, whether a state way take more or less, but it is an injustice with us that our water, the water of our nations, the water of Haryana is flowing to Pakistan and there is no-one to listen to us.

The Government have not taken any initiative on this issue. Almost one year has elapsed but this problem has not been solved by the Union Government by conducting any meeting of the Chief Ministers of these four states. We condemn Badal Saheb for his statement. We are his younger brothers, he should behave like an elder brother and we should get our due share.

As for as the question of Law and order is concerned, many hon'ble Members have spoken in detail about the law and order situation prevailing in the country. You just see, what happened in Orissa and what happened in Gujarat. Even in Haryana, the law and order situation has deteriorated during the last two and half years. A gang of liquor mafia had emerged there. This Haryana Gang is involved in 50 percent of the incidents, happened in Delhi. The acts of Gundaism rape and murder has become the

order of the day in Haryana. No one is going to listen about these incidents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sangwan ji, you should know that Law and order is a state subject.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : I know it. If it is a state subject then why the issue of Bihar was raised here. Article 356 was invoked there, but no one raises voice about our state as BJP is supporting that government. As long as the question of trade and business is concerned, the Delhi is the capital of the country and the entire trade and business in the states around Delhi i.e., Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan, have been shattered. The reason behind it is that Traders get more grant here from the centre being a capital of the country and the rates of the taxes are very low. Therefore the foodgrains from the surrounding states to come the Delhi Mandis. All the Mandies of Haryana have become defunct, traders are sitting idle because of variation in tax rate which has ruined our traders. This Government does not have any policy, which could be beneficial to the poor and the country. Therefore, I oppose this motion.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, this is a normal tradition that when such a debate takes place on the motion of thanks on the President's Address, the hon. Prime Minister is used to sit always. That was the tradition of this House. If not the Prime Minister, may be at least one or two senior Ministers used to sit. (*Interruptions*). I am not telling the rank of anything.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister of Railways is here; the Minister of Textile is here.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA : But it is for the first time that we are seeing this kind of a thing. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I must respond. As it is, yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister was here for a long time. Now, the Cabinet Minister is here. But if you see your rank, your Leader is not here, your Deputy Leader is not here. Why? Are they not supposed to take part? (*Interruptions*). One has to be pragmatic. What is this going on? (*Interruptions*). There are no senior or junior. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Sir, I would like to know whether I will get a chance or not. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Paranjpe, you will have to sit late. Please resume your seat. I will call you whenever your chance comes. Please cooperate with me. I am going according to the time available.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : But not according to the seniority of that list. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I have got my own priority. Accordingly, I am going.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, President's Address is the policy and the statement of the Government.

[Translation]

We know that the government announces its policy and programmes through the President's Address as to what it wants to do in the next year. It makes President to say what it wants to say in the joint session of Parliament. We have gone through the President's Address and I want to begin my speech from where the Address ends. The government has mentioned the use of Article 356 in the Address but did not mention that it had tried to invoke Article 356 just last year and the President had invalidated it by treating it as improper. Despite that, these people do not desist from doing misdeed. They tried to invoke Article 356 again and they had to withdraw the President's rule consequently because they did not dare to take it to Rajya Sabha. They got it passed in this House on number basis.

Such an example of imposing illegal and improper President rule in any state is not there in the history of Parliamentary system. We brought an amendment that this particular clause should be removed from it and they should apologize to the country for the misdeeds they have committed and assure that they would not do this kind of deed again. They had imposed the President's Rule on the basis of the killings of scheduled castes and others. The law and order situation should be tightened so that such kind of killings may not take place in any part of the country again. We expected in the President's Address that the Union Government would provide some assistance to the State Government in this regard and would formulate policy and cooperate the State Government. In response to our question, a reply was given by the Home Ministry that the State Government of Bihar had demanded thirty companies of Para-military forces, but only four companies were provided. Recently a fax has been received from there that the State Government has demanded that there should be para-military or Rapid Action Force to suppress the terrorists and extremist armed

with modern weapons the nations parts of the country. They always seek the opportunity to discourage the State Government so that they may impose the President's Rule.

One of the examples of legal system is in my knowledge. Since states have limited resources, and if the Central Government does not attend to the difficulties of the state governments, then who is there to see to their problems. Not only that in the case of para-military forces also that central government adopts a discriminatory and indifferent attitude, but there are several such cases. Such as I am telling you about one of such examples. The 73rd and 74th amendment to the constitution during the times of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and it was stated that one third of total seats would be reserved for women in the Panchayats. At several places, it was left to the discretion of the state government to provide reservation to OBCs and SCs. State-Governments could enact the Act for reservation, as they deem fit, as per 73rd and 74th amendments to the constitution. The Government of Bihar has provided reservation to OBCs, SCs, STs and women according to 73rd amendment to the constitution and later on this matter was taken to the High Court and the Court quashed this provision of reservation. Thereafter an appeal was made to the Supreme Court and this matter is still subjudice. Now the Tenth Finance Commission, has said that 2.25 crore rupees would be allocated to Bihar for Panchayati Raj which is being allocated to other states of the country. It is being argued that in Panchayat elections have not held there. Therefore we would not allocate money for this purpose. I think that they are in enmity with the State Government there. They do not like it, thus, they dismissed it. It seems that they are in enmity with the ten crore population, Panchayati Raj System and Bihar state. The apex court of Public is the government itself. I want to submit that state government has incurred 30 crore rupees for holding elections. Ballot boxes were already prepared. But the matter being sub-judice the elections could not be held therefore the fault does not lie with either the state government or the public of Bihar or Panchayats? The Tenth Finance Commission had stated that 2.25 crore rupees should be provided every year for the state having population of ten crore. They have withheld the funds for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and still not ready to release it. Have they got any answer to it, and if they have, they should tell as to whether the fault lies with the government of Bihar or the public of the state when the matter is sub-judice and that provision under the concerned Act was quashed by the Supreme Court. This matter is lying pending with the Supreme Court. The funds, which should have been provided as per the Tenth Finance Commission have been withheld in the process. If there is any person who is all in all in this Cabinet should come forward and tell, as to what is the fault of the government

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

of Bihar on the Public of Bihar. Coal and Minerals are extracted from mines. There are explored there mineral mines also. The concerned committee of the Government on it recommended that backwardness in the coal-producing states is due to the royalty given to them on the basis of weight of the coal and minerals and they suffered huge loss on this, account, thus, it recommended that the royalty should be given on ad-valorem basis. This recommendation was made in 1997 and 1998 has also passed and this is the third month of the year 1999, when we are talking about it. . . . (Interruptions) They should tell as to why the justified recommendation of that committee is not being implemented the loss being suffered by the states on this account would be calculated later on, but the Government of Bihar is suffering worth 1000 crores annually. They are stating that Bihar is economically a backward state. I want to prove it that regional disparity is aggravated due to the step-motherly treatment of the Central Government being meted out to Bihar which is economically a backward state and this crisis is deepening as it has not been given justice by the central government. Fifteen percent of the budget provisions is given out of Central assistance Budgetary provisions for Bihar should be made on the basis of this formula and the Central government is not giving share of Bihar government, thus doing injustice to it.

In the draft documents of Ninth-Five Year Plan, it was stated that villages would be electrified. Eighty five percent villages have been electrified country wide and 15 percent of the villages are yet to be electrified. But only 50 percent of villages are electrified in Bihar. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in REC, which is a public sector undertaking had sanctioned 40 crore rupees, for rural electrification in 1996-97. It was stated therein that state governments, approval is needed for the purpose. The State Government gave guarantee too on 31 March, 1998, even then the amount has been withheld can any Member of the Cabinet give answer to this point. The reason why the amount sanctioned by the REC has not been released so far. Bihar is already a backward State and that would accentuate regional disparity. . . . (Interruptions) It is a threat to the National Integrity and Centre-State relations . . . (Interruptions) The Sarkaria Commission has recommended to strengthen the Centre-State relations but they have put that also in jeopardy. They also turned a blind eye to that in the appointment of the Governor. They had said that the political person would not be appointed as Governor, but a political person has been appointed governor in Bihar. The hon. Home Minister gave a statement that a political person would be appointed Governor in Bihar. And later tendering of apology etc. . . . (Interruptions) Since time allotted to me is very short, I will conclude soon.

Foundation stone has been laid at Barh and North Karanpura for a two thousand megawatt power plant. An hydro power plant of 732 megawatt capacity has been sanctioned to be set up at Karo. The techno-economic committee, the Feasibility Committee and the cabinet have given their clearance for it. But this Government has withheld funds as a result of which the work has not yet commenced on it. The Union Government had set three conditions for it which were fulfilled by the State Government. The work on the 732 megawatt, the Kol-Karo hydro-Power project has also not yet been undertaken. But they are on a foundation laying spree as if they have done a great job for Bihar. The EIA and the ICIC have recommended that Sindari unit in Bihar is the best factory in Asia and the work for its revival should be undertaken. . . . (Interruptions). If we see over all the scheme of water supply is pending with the Union Government. And the Union Government is not prepared to provide funds for that. The Union Government has to release 22.5 thousand crore rupees to the State Government. But the Union Government has not released the same but at the same time the Union Government advocate that they are doing good work and for the betterment of the poor. . . . (Interruptions) under the targeted public distribution system each family was to be provide 10 kg. ration at half of the price each month. But they backtracked on it and increased the prices of foodgrains. The quantum of foodgrains had to be increased from 10 kg to 15 kg but this was not done while we have a huge buffer-stock of foodgrains. They increased the prices of many essential commodities. Recently, they have increased telephone rentals. Before that the prices of urea were increased. They have made no provision for farmers in the budget. It was said that India would be on the top in milk-production. The milk-production should be at least 220 grams per capita but it is still 197 grams per capita whereas it is as high as 900 grams in America.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government had decided that one lakh cooperative dairies would be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan. They just set it aside. They could not achieve the above target.

Sushmaji in her lively speech said that the people of the country were elated after the Pokharan tests and these tests have boosted our morale. I want to ask Sushmaji why her party was defeated in elections in Rajasthan after the Pokharan tests? The people those gave a befitting reply to them. She said that after the Pokharan tests, the country would be in an advantageous position. . . . (Interruptions). You might have gone through the statement made by Pakistan. They have said until the Kashmir issue is resolved, there would be no further talks. . . . (Interruptions). Much has been talked assert the Prime Minister's bus visit to Lahore in this House. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude, you adorn the chair, so you are aware of all the rules.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : After the Pokharan tests, they themselves patted on their back. Their this move led to estranged relations with the neighbouring countries the President's Address is just hollow. There is nothing new in that and that will not resolve the issues and it would lead to poverty, unemployment, inequalities and disparities. The attacks are taking place on the minorities. First time this communal Government was displaced in just 13 days. Now 11 months have passed. I request the House that this time this communal Government should be shown doors during the 13th month of their governance. This Government should be brought down and otherwise it poses a great danger to the country and problems would increase. Farmers, labourers and youth are getting discouraged today and with these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All the major parties have exhausted their time. Members belonging to the smaller parties are left and I shall give them five minutes each.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All parties have exhausted their time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : All parties have been given enough time but when the turn of the small parties comes, you restrict time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, you will also get your chance accordingly. You are not going to be discriminated against.

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved yesterday regarding the President's Address. Several leaders have put forth their views since yesterday. Apart from criticising one another, nothing concrete has emerged.

19.00 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair]

Mr. Chairman Sir, I am basically a military person. I entered politics later on and have been elected to this August House four times. I have got different views. I would not like to indulge in useless issue as to who did good work and who bad work. I am proud of being citizen of India which is considered as one of the great republics of the World. Fifty years have elapsed since India's

independence. I have lived in pre independence era of India as well. I have seen 50 years of independence during which we have had both achievement and failness. It is a matter of great pride for me that I was a soldier in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA) and took part in the Burma battle against the Britishers and received battle injuries in both of my legs. It was my great fortune. I have never accepted any pension or land or any other concession as I alway deemed it as my pious duty. Netaji had exhorted "Tum Mujhe Khoon Do, Mein Tumhe Khoon Doonga" (you give me blood, I shall give you freedom) I joined the INA and gave my blood. There are mixed feelings of pride and grief. Several of my associates laid down their lives in Burma war and when I recall their memories, I feel that their dreams still remain unfulfilled and India has not been built as they had dreamt of, development and progress have taken place but on a very snail part. I have been associated with the Britishers and have seen them from a close quarter. Yet our country is ones despite its shortcomings. Therefore, I would not like to praised the Britishers much.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would take few minutes to conclude my views. The achievements of this 11 months old government are before everyone. I would not like to speak on the issue of Kauvery as it has already been discussed at length. I would definitely like to say a few world on the nuclear explosions. There are two aspects of nuclear explosions. First, the western powers which are quite advanced in the field of Science technology, were quite sure that nothing could be hidden from them and they can know any activity in the world with in a minute. However, India undertook such huge nuclear explosions and these big powers could not get even smell of it. It proves that India is unique in itself. Secondly, many affluent nations of the world called us beggars but now the rich countries have realised that we also stand an equal level with those six nations and today the world acknowledges our supremacy.

Mr. Chairman Sir, when I go from Delhi to my constituency, generally people ask me that how things are going on in Delhi. Although they are well informed through the media i.e. TV, radio and News Papers etc. but there is a general opinion that there is something else than what meets the eye. I have to quote a cherished memory of the Satynga :

"Ahilya, Draupadi, Sita, Tara aur Mandodari,
Panch Kanyam Smaranetam Mahapatak Nasham".

thereby meaning that the names of these five great women i.e. Ahilya, Draupadi, Sita, Tara and Mandodari are so solemn and sacred that all the sins are undone. Today, there are five ladies in the Delhi Darbar also. Their names are Mamata, Mayawati, Jayalalitha, Rabri and Sonia

[Shri Dada Baburao Paranjpe]

Gandhi. I salute them all and our lifelong celebrate Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee gives them due consideration, it is good. It proves one thing that we will not be able to bring one party rule Multi Party rule will go on and we will have to work in coalition.

Mr. Chairman. Sir, I belong to Azad Hind Fauj and would like to tell you about their plight. 36,000 applications were filed for pension out of which 24,000 got pension and 8,000 soldiers are running from pillar to post for pension. They are above 75 years I am also 77 years old. I see their condition likewise in 1946 the Nayaks went on strike in Mumbai and Karachi. It was a revolt and the Nayaks were dismissed in thousands, they were fired. Today, a lot of them are wondering about. Most of them have died. But I would like to request you through this august House that a special committee should be constituted by the Union Government to look after this entire pension related work so as to bring some relief to the INA soldiers who fought for independence. I have seen that people were killed in thousands. My own regiment had 1001 personnels. Out of which only one and a half survived. I was half alive and half dead and there was another man who came a live. There were two wheels of the chariot of the country's independence. One was the path of Ahimsa-preached by Mahatma Gandhi. We sacrificed everything pension, lands for those who walked on that path, but I would humbly put forth my request that justice should be done with the soldiers of the Azad Hind Fauz. With this I would like to congratulate hon'ble Atal ji that they have very effeciently completed almost twelve months. There is a general opinion in the country among the personnels of the Azad Hind Fauz that Shri Atal ji will complete five years, with this confidence. I would conclude.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's Address is not only disappointing, but it does not deserve any comment not merely from the Opposition but also from the treasury benches. I know all the Members from ruling coalition are now supporting it. The eleven month old Government under BJP has shown nothing but its incompetence and inefficiency in dealing with the problems facing the common man. The Government has absolutely no right to blame or to take exception stand of the Opposition parties. Under a democracy and under the Constitutional provision failures and it is the duty of the Opposition to oppose, expose and depose the Government which is in power.

But the Government should also bear in mind that it gets more cooperation from the Opposition than from its own allies. Had your allies been associating or cooperating with you, you would not have been put to such a pathetic

position. When the BJP was in the opposition, the slogan they shouted all the time was - especially the present distinguished External Affairs Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh was shouting this slogan - "Probity and accountability." Where is probity and accountability so far as this Government is concerned?

Here, you made the President to speak and I quote :

"Parliament, as the country's apex elected body and beacon of the world's largest democracy has the greatest responsibility to channel the national energies towards these efforts."

This Parliament is the beacon of the world's largest democracy. It has a very great responsibility. Have this Govt. given any consideration or respect to this Parliament? What is happening? Everything is conveyed through the Media. Even if you dismiss the Chief of the Naval Staff, we have to read it in the newspapers and learn it from the Media. The Minister of Defence has not even the courtesy to come to this House and say what he has done. Is this the respect that he shows to the Parliament of this country? Is this the respect that he shows to the Parliament of this country? Is this the responsibility that he has fulfilled towards parliament and the country? Till the Members of the Opposition raised it, the Minister of Defence did not utter a single word in this apex elected body. Is this the way they are showing their probity and accountability to the people of this country?

All of us know the fashion in which they take decisions. After imposing President's rule in Bihar, the great leader, administrator, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Defence-and even Shri Nitish Kumar may have also joined them and took a decision : 'The Governor is a political man; we want an a political Governor.' If you want an apolitical Governor, you should have appointed somebody else. But what did they do? The spokesman of the Government and the Minister of Home Affairs went to the Press and announced that they were going to change the Governor. Why was it done? Presumably, the Minister of Home Affairs may have intended to give a signal to some of his people who were keeping a "hidden agenda". The Governor who came here with his bag and baggage has been sent back. Is there any instance in independent India where a Governor has been dealt with in this manner, where a State has been dealt with in this fashion? What is their probity and accountability? Is this the manner in which they are going to treat the democracy of this country? This Government has neither probity, nor accountability, nor respectability and nor even the responsibility to the people.

I would like to say that I am a member of a minority community. My party is also representing a minority community. We are proud of it. We do not want to hide anything. Our record is very much open and transparent.

For the last fifty years, my party Indian Union Muslim League has been working for the well being of the largest minority community in the world, not only in this country, the Muslims. What is the manner in which they have dealt with the Muslims? Is it not a fact that the Bajrang Dal and the BJP - please do not get angry with me - are responsible for all these things? The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is a good friend of mine. I also have personal respect for him. He cannot always believe that he is still the old President of the BJP who has taken the *rath yatra*. He has now occupied the position of the Minister of Home Affairs. The constabulary is under his command; the security forces are under his command. He publicly says, 'I know Bajrang Dal; they are not like that.' What is the signal that he has sent? When Shri Khurana was holding the position of a Minister, he did say something about the Bajrang Dal and its involvement in Orissa. I do not want to deal with that because it is now seized by a Judicial Commission. I am going to refer to it but I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs how he could give a good conduct certificate to a body on which aspersions have been cast by the Media, officials and everybody. . . . (Interruptions)

I do not have time but I would like to refer to what has been compiled by one of the leading news weekly of this country, *Frontline* in its issue dated the 12th February, 1999. How many attacks have taken place on minority communities-Christians and Muslims- in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa and all other places? There is no need to list out all the incidents. I myself know what happened in Gujarat. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN You have only one more minute to conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, enough time has been given to everybody. At least in fairness, I should be given some more time.

Nobody has mentioned these things here. I was in Gujarat after the attack on minorities on the 15th August 1998 when the Country was celebrating the Independence Day. People of Sanjeli, people of Randhikpur and people of Nadiad and people of Nandenpeda had been attacked. I visited some of those places. Their houses had been robbed and ransacked. These things happened in numerous other places also. In Randhikpur alone, 400 families belonging to Muslim community had to flee their places. I went to the Home Minister. What happened thereafter? In Sanjeli, the police had to resort to 50 rounds of firing to control the mob that had collected under Bajrang Dal and VHP there. They had ransacked, robbed the houses. At the same time, there was a ray of hope, that is, those who were attacked had been helped and assisted by no less a person than a member of the Hindu

Community, a former sarpanch. That is India! He came and told me what his fellow-Hindus have done. I do not want to blame all Hindus. I only want to blame the ultra-communal and fascist elements who have no sympathy for the minority community in this country. One cannot treat the minorities as second class citizens. Whichever country that had persecuted the minorities, whether it is France whether it is Spain or whether it is Germany, they had been destructed and relegated and alienated from the comity of nations. That is what history teaches us.

How many places of worship of Christians had been burnt? In Kapadvanj near Gandhinagar, there were two instances where bodies of Christians were exhumed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : I want to say that in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena Government packed many people from there. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : What is being said here is totally distorted. . . . (Interruptions) Will you please tell me the name of the place in Gandhinagar? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Harin Pathak, please take your seat. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, he cannot speak anything and everything here. He cannot make any sort of allegation against anybody here. Will he name the place in Gandhinagar where it happened? Not a single incident has been reported in Gandhinagar. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Okay, do not worry. I will tell you (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ahamed says.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, please address the Chair.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, when a motion was moved by Shri Arif Mohammed Khan under Rule 193, I clarified the position, that such incidents never had taken place at Gandhinagar. . . . (Interruptions) It is a total distortion of facts which is being said here. It cannot go on like this. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, my time has been taken away by him. So, I may be given some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please conclude.

*Not Recorded.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I want to say only about this country. In Maharashtra, in the name of Bangladeshis, the Shiv Sena people packed the Bengalis discribed as Bangladeshis his and sent them out. At the border, an Opposition MLA from the RSP, Shri Ghosh came and told that they are our countrymen and he did not allow them to go. That is India that we have!

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I would like to say that we cannot live in isolation. We have to live together.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, please take your seat. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Shri Ahamed, Will you please yield for a moment? . . . (Interruptions) Will you say something about the thousands and thousands of Pundits from Kashmir who have been thrown out of their houses? Will you say something about the burning of their houses? Are you going to say a single word about them? In the last 12 years they have been harassed. Are you going to speak a single word about these things? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : In many places in our country, minority Muslims and minority Christians had been killed. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Are you going to speak about the minorities in Kashmir? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, he does not have any tears for them in his eyes. He is shedding crocodile tears. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resuem your seat, Shri Ahamed.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I have genuine tears and not crocodile tears like others. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have already called the next Member to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I am concluding.

The Government cannot treat the minorities as second class citizens. It would be resisted. They are the people of this country. They are born in this country, they live in this country and will die in this country.

I support the Prime Minister's Lahore visit. That was a positive, realistic and pragmatic step. The Prime Minister

deserves congratulations and compliments for his bold and courageous decision to go to Lahore. The Pakistanis should realise what the Prime Minister has said when he visited the Minaret of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said that prosperity and unity of Pakistan is in the best interests of India. That itself is a no-war declaration from India. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, please conclude. Otherwise, nothing will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : I hope the Pakistani leadership would definitely respond favourably and also positively to the initiative taken by the Prime Minister of India. . . . (Interruptions)

* MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, First of all I would like to thank you. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should conclude in five minutes.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : As you have given me a chance to express my views on the Motion of thanks to the President Address. I feel that President Address is far from the truth and it does not indicate any concrete programme. It is in our constitution that compulsory education will be given to the boys and girls upto the age of 14, But the number of illiterates has been increased very much in our country. Illiteracy has emerged as a curse. We know that we could not lead our nation towards progress unless we remove illiteracy. Even though the BJP and its Allies might glory by themselves that they have done a commendable job by conducting Pokharan Test. But I think that this is a trick of achieving cheap popularity on their part. i know that after conducting the Pokharan Test you people might have thought that the ruling party has done a great job for the country. Have you ever considered over the condition of farmers who provide us food grains? Have we been able to provide them water for irrigational? Have we been able to provide them housing facilities who produce 720 lakhs tonnes of milk? Have we been able to give them safe drinking water who provide us food grains? These questions need our attentions. We have made a lot of development in agricultural sector. I thank our farmers because they have been instrumental in bringing about Green Revolution. We feel our selves honoured but have we ever tried to look into their conditions?

The condition of labourers also in our country is still very pathetic. A little while ago Shri Rawle was mentioning in his speech that industries are in red. Many industries are facing closure in Maharashtra. Likewise, it is happening in other parts of the country. The apathy of the Union Government is responsible for it. Our Union Government is not making efforts for revival. Therefore, I accuse the Union Government because they have not paid their attention in this direction so far even though they are praising themselves that they have done many things in eleven months. I feel that it is a duty of the Union Government to look after factory labourers who are starving and who could not afford education expenses of their children and running from pillar to post to find a job the Union Government will have to take the responsibility to revive those factories also.

Today, the population of our country is growing rapidly day by day but it has not been mentioned in this Address that how its growth would be controlled. If you will not control it then despite of all your efforts you will not be able to lead the labourers at the grass root level to the path of progress.

We talk about secularism. Hon'ble Minister Shri Naqvi from the ruling party has said that we want to treat people from all religions equally, we want to treat look at them as an Indian. I respect his emotions, these are good thoughts, but I urge upon him that if his leaders, allies and sister organizations could also think likewise then I will feel that they will come to right track.

Sports have not find a mention in the President's Address. Recently, National Sports were organized at Imphal. Boys from our country are so talented but the Union Government have not worked out any plan for their selection. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to consider this issue, so that not only at the national level but at the international level also the Indian participants could perform well and bring glory to our nation.

How unemployment could be removed? Unemployment has been mentioned in the Presidents Address but measures and initiatives to be taken by the Government have not been referred to tide over this problem. Therefore, I do not support the President's Address, but on the contrary I strongly oppose it.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my sincere gratitudes to the Hon'ble President for delivering his Address. It is quite unfortunate that those who moved the Motion of thanks to the President's Address and those who supported it, are conspicuously, absent in this important discussion. I agree with Shri Ram Naik Ji, who has left, but the person who moves the Motion should be present, because the President's Address is very important for any Nation but

we are taking it very lightly. Now Shri Nitish Kumar ji has come. Once the wife of a person died in a village. His mother would always ask him to get married again so that the number of persons in the family would become three. He got married, but often few days his mother died as a result the number of persons in the family again came down to two. Earlier Shri Kashi Ram Rana and Shri Ram Naik were there. Shri Rana left and Shri Naik come. This way the number remained two and the number of members of council of Ministers has never gone beyond two.

If the Bhartiya Janata Party- a coalition of 18 supporting parties, has delivered the goods common men, we would have congratulated them, but the people's perception is that they have failed miserably. . . . (Interruptions). Yesterday I had congratulated you and I will congratulate you tomorrow again. These people are from the socialist background, they may have a different point of view, various parties may have various view points, but today I don't want to get into any discussion in this regard.

The Nuclear tests have been conducted second time. In 1974 also, nuclear tests wer conducted under the Stewardship of Mrs. Gandhi and all the countries of the world had appreciated, but we would like to make it clear that his Government does not deserve entire credit for this as a Government which has been in power just for three months, can not accomplish such a task. Therefore, the credit must go to the Scientists and technicians of this country for it.

You have come again, that is good. I was narrating a story of a village, which I would repeat to you later on when you meet me separately. My story was that two remained two but now they have become three.

I was trying to draw your attention towards the fact that I would congratulate Mr. Vajpayee for taking a courageous step to conduct the nuclear tests. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj ji stated Yesterday that at least our Prime Minister mustered courage to conduct the nuclear tests. However it was not a question of courage, the international scenerio was such that several countrnes possessed huge stock pile of nuclear weapons and were declared nuclear powers. Therefore India had a legitimate right for going nuclear and demonstrated its might by conducting nuclear tests first in 1974 and again in 1998. The Government certainly deserved kudos for this great achievement but what happened in the country in post-tests period. I don't want to get into any details as to how many countries slapped sanctions on India and their fall out and repercussions. The President of the Telugu Desam Party on whose support this Government depends stated that all the projects sponsored by the World Bank and other schemes based on the foreign funds had been shelved. Now we will have to borrow from the Market, as other countries would not be interested to invest in India.

[Shri Motilal Vora]

[English]

"The termination of credit and guarantees by US. TDA Grant pending - two million dollars. Exim guarantees pending - four billion dollars; lending will be struck. The rest is national based on proposal on interest shown. OPEC potential insurance and finance 10.2 million dollars national interest; cost rise for US partners in big core sector projects."

[Translation]

This Government has not been able to elaborate so far as to how many countries imposed sanctions against India and to the extent India has obtained relaxation so far. Shri Jaswant Singh may negotiate to Mr. Talbott to any extent but the US has put a condition that until and unless India puts its signature on the CTBT., the US is not going to lift any sanctions against India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that :

[English]

"The United States, Japan and certain European countries (other than the United Kingdom and France) have announced suspension of bilateral aid. Such aid, as promised in the course of the last meeting of the Aid India Consortium, amounted to about three billion dollars and a similar amount was expected this year. However, this year's meeting which was scheduled to be held in Tokyo in June has been suspended because Japan has refused to play host following the blasts and no other country has been willing to host either. Japan is India's largest bilateral donor with annual commitments exceeding 1.5 billion dollars."

There are a number of countries . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have already spoken for seven minutes.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am apprising this Government for their knowledge as to what are their shortcomings in the last nine months and the Government has not given any attention to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude. We would have to accommodate all the Members.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Yes, Sir. I would agree that we should accommodate all the Members.

[Translation]

The hon'ble President has mentioned in his Address that there is peace and tranquility in the country in the post-tests period and the people belonging to different

castes and religions are living in peace and harmony as to religion has been a great cementing force in the country and people have great faith in it. The incidents occurred in Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are a blot on the country. I would like to raise the issue of Gujarat. The widespread hostilities and excesses inflicted against the Christians in Gujarat in 10 days period are unprecedented as such incidents have never occurred in any State of the country in 51 years of India's Independence on that scale and magnitude. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARAT KUMAR THAKKAR (Vadodra) : Whatever he wants to reveal in the House, is an attempt to mislead the House. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting? He is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Motilal Vohra.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am not at all yielding. I am giving all the details here . . . (Interruptions) Sir, about the incidents of violence against Christian tribals in the Dang district between 25th December, 1998 to 3rd January, 1999, 16 Church halls were burnt, demolished and destroyed, there were 8 cases of Churches damaged and attacked, and if you want further details, I can give it. But there is no time to do so. There were three incidents of school institutions attacked and destroyed. One of them was Deep Darshan School and Boys Hostel of Ahwa town which was damaged on 25th December, 1998. There were six cases of houses and shops damaged and looted. There were nine cases of tribal Christian individuals attacked, beaten up and injured. This is the real picture of the BJP-run Government in the country. Though the matter is *sub judice*, I would say that in Orissa, the matter is pending with the Wadhwa Commission and if you see who were the persons involved, you may find that they belong to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, I am on a point of order . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : The Congress Government in Orissa could not protect the Christians there

*Not Recorded.

... *(Interruptions)* That is why, Shri Gomango had to leave Lok Sabha and go to Orissa. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Deo, why are you wasting the time of the House?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you wasting the time of the House? Allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILA VORA : I want to remind the House as to what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of this country, said in the Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 1955 about Christianity. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Motilal Vora, please conclude. I think it is your concluding remark.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I am finishing it within three or four minutes. Sir, you need not remind me about it. I will sit down immediately after three or four minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please finish it within two minutes.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : All right, Sir. I will abide by that. I always abide by the direction of the Chair.

I want to quote what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said in Lok Sabha about Christianity. He said and I quote:

"Christianity is as old in India as the religion itself and that, as a religion, it found its roots in India before it went to countries like England, Portugal and Spain...

Christianity is as much a religion of the Indian soil as any other religion in India."

This is what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said about Christianity in the Lok Sabha.

Now, I am coming to the other things.

[Translation]

The Prime Minister's Lahore visit has been quite fruitful. This visit was initiated with the Bus diplomacy. The relations between India and Pakistan which has turned sour, would improve. The Shimla pact was signed during the regime of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, then Lahore Pact has been signed, nevertheless, the intentions of Pakistan are not clear.

Sir, the I.S.I. agents attacked in the Ramgarh section of Jammu Kashmir two days before and destroyed our posts and injured our Army personnels. Yesterday Mr. Vajpayee has stated that the Government of Pakistan should also remain sincere to the Lahore declaration. Though the President's Address contains several points, but after

seeing the deeds of the Government I would say that it is absolutely directionless. The Government reduced the price of foodgrains for the people living below the poverty line. . . *(Interruptions)* but what about the middle class people. You have effected a hike of Rs. 400 per tonne in the prices of urea. I would say that this Government does not have the right to remain in power even for one day. As long as the Government remains in power, it will continue to weaken the social fabric of the society. There is great need of communal harmony in the country. . . *(Interruptions)* There has been large scale involvement of the Vishwa Hindu Parshid and Bajrangdal. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHIR V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Sir, the Member from our Party has to speak. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name is there. He will get a chance. Why are you disturbing the proceedings? Do not worry.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Respected Chairman, I thank you very much for giving this opportunity to me.

Sir, in spite of our great reverence to the Rashtrapathiji, we cannot support the Motion moved by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj on the Address delivered by the hon. President. It does not mean any personal disrespect to our hon. President of India.

It is an irony of history and a tragedy of India that we have this Government at the time when we are going to observe and celebrate the Golden jubilee of our Republic. This Government has scant respect for Parliamentary democracy, secularism and federalism. This Government has been out to trample upon the constitutional propriety, democracy and secularism. It is the winter of our discontent and the darkest night of this country in the history of our Independence. But I am very optimistic because I remember the romantic poet P.B. Shelley who said: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

On this occasion, I would like to remind the hon. Treasury Bench Members that Shri Raj Narain defeated the greatest Prime Minister of this country, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She was referred to be the only man in her Cabinet and that woman Prime Minister had actually been defeated by Shri Raj Narain from the constituency which had been inherited by Indira Gandhi, that is, Rai Bareilly. I remind all of you this because I wanted you to remember that the people of this country are very great. The people in this country have belief in democracy, parliamentary democracy and secularism. Whenever the verdict is necessary, it has been given by the people quite often.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

I am sorry, I do not see Shrimati Sushma Swaraj there. I wish she were there because she is not in a very enviable position. I do not envy her. I was envying her for some time. But now, she is not in an enviable position. I am really sorry that she was given this very unenviable and unfair job. This is not the first time. She had been given this unfair job at the time of Delhi elections, that is, to give a cosmetic face lift to the ex-Delhi Government, not the present Government. What happened? She felt miserable in the role and she had been thrown out by the people of Delhi. This shows that we still have a bright future. That is why I have quoted that if winter comes can spring be far behind?

I have actually prepared for all the points to be commented upon but for constraint of time and Mr. Chairman. . . *(Interruptions)* Do not disturb me. If you disturb me, I will take more time.

Yesterday, when Shri Somnath Chatterjee spoke on our party's behalf, he spelt out certain unpalatable truth and the people were very intolerant. This shows the tendency of the Treasury Benches. That is a sort of fascist tendency of intolerance towards any right to speech, right to faith and hearing. Regarding the right to faith, I wanted to make a reference, specially. In the Address made by the hon. President, he said the following in para 8. I am quoting the same for your information.

"The Government is firmly committed to uphold secularism, which has deep roots in our society and polity." . . . *(Interruptions)*

He has mentioned this. Do not get angry. He has mentioned it on your behalf. This, according to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, is the policy document of this Government. I disagree with that statement. But still, I quote her because she said that it is the policy document. Nothing to worry. Nothing to be intolerant from your side. Then, the hon. President continued. I quote:

"The recent incidents in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa have caused us anguish and concern."

"I wonder whether anybody on that side has any concern for this. Then the hon. President continued. I quote:

"However, these have to be seen as an aberration".

This is untruth. This is not a fact. I repeat, this is untruth because it is not an aberration, not an incident which had just casually happened. It is a dubious scheme. I repeat that it is a dubious scheme of the minorities of India. Especially, in recent days, it is against the minority, Christianity. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is your opinion. . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Yes, it is my opinion. I have the freedom to express my opinion.

MR CHAIRMAN : Shri Harin Pathak, please do not disturb.

PROF.A.K. PREMAJAM : I repeat, this is not an aberration. It is a dubious scheme because on the eve of Christmas day, in Gujarat, in a place called Dang, with which you are more familiar than a person coming from Kerala, Christians have been treated in the most intolerant manner, to say the most moderate word. They have been treated so shabbily by the so-called Hindus. I am a Hindu by birth. But I do not subscribe to the view expressed by "these Hindus" by this demonstration of intolerance towards the Christian community.

What happened on December 6, 1992? Our hon. Home Minister of the present day was actually responsible for that. I am not going into the details. Starting from there, it is not a hidden agenda but an open agenda. The hon. President, I repeat, the hon. President is forced to use all these words. It has been. . ." by these people, which is a policy document.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it should not go on record, because it is unparliamentary and it should be expunged from the record. . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I am reading from the President's Address. At the very outset, I have said that I do not mean any irreverence to the hon. President. Why is he getting impatient? Yesterday, when Shri Somnath Chatterjee spelt out some unpalatable truth they could not digest them. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, that word should not go on record.

MR CHAIRMAN : If there is anything objectionable, I will see.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to disturb her. But she should not use such words.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I withdraw my words. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : She has withdrawn. Please take your seat.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, what is there to thank this Government? What is the policy document? Actually,

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

this Government is a bundle of contradictions and a mixture of opposites headed by the B.J.P. and held under the weight of pressure tactics. Those pressure tactics come in the form of packages.

Sir, there are two beautiful cartoons in today's daily, *The Hindu*. I have brought the newspaper here. I hope you will all look into that cartoon which beautifully illustrates the pressure tactics.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what are those packages? She should explain. . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I need not mention them. They are, Mamata, Samata and Jayalalitha and he knows them. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The House should know what are those packages which she is mentioning. . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, there are two beautiful cartoons in today's daily, *The Hindu*. They will illustrate beautifully what our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee is undergoing. He is under pressure. When he, the poet with imagination and vision, became the Prime Minister, he lost his imagination and vision. There is only pressure of packages.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I will take only one or two minutes. Sir, Delhi has become a satellite of two cities, Chennai and Calcutta. It is no longer the capital. When the British were here, the capital was transferred from Murshidabad to Calcutta and again in 1911, it was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. But now, Delhi is just moving around as a satellite town to Chennai and also Calcutta. . . *(Interruptions)* Sometimes, it is moving to Washington, sometimes to Paris and sometimes to London.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is not very clear. What is the package for Chennai and what is the package for Calcutta? She has to clarify. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please take your seat.
(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir I represent South Chennai constituency. So, she should clarify what is the package for Chennai.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can seek clarification from her afterwards. Now, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, why is he interfering in her speech? She is the main speaker. Why is he disturbing her. You should ask him not to disturb her. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, why are you disturbing? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, do not waste the time of the House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Premajam, please conclude now.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I will mention only one point and conclude.

Sir, they have been mentioning the name of Sita, Tara and what not, I do not know. I do not remember those names. I remember the women folk in this country, including myself. But not a single word has been mentioned in the President's Address about the Bill to empower women and which will reserve 33 per cent of the seats to women of this country in all the law making bodies. They are very particular about Sita and Tara but they do not have any regard for the women living in this country. But I am particular about them. They form 50 per cent of the total population.

I want to say something about saffronisation of education.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called Shri Raja Paramasivam.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : With all the vehemence at my command, I oppose this Motion moved by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who has been put in a very precarious position and pushed to a corner.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAJA PARAMASIVAM (Pudukkottai) : Hon. Chairman Sir, I support the motion of thanks moved in this august House to thank the President for his Address to both the House of Parliament and I am speaking on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

Last May on 11th and 12th we conducted nuclear tests at Pokhran as was rightly decided by our beloved Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. Our country finds itself in the nuclear club now. In the comity of Nations we have now proved that we are an emerging super power. The bold initiative taken by our Prime Minister has taken us to new heights. I wish to congratulate and put on record our deep appreciation for this feat of proving our nuclear capability. The Government and Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee have to be complemented for this endeavour.

On 20th and 21st February last, our Prime Minister undertook a bus journey to Lahore in Pakistan. I would like

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri Rajā Paramasivam]

to go on record to have complimented our beloved Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee for his new peace initiative to normalise the ties between both India and Pakistan. This bus journey from Delhi to Lahore in Pakistan is an attempt to ease the tension thereby averting any warring clashes between these two countries anymore. There is no doubt that this yet another bold initiative will usher in a new era of friendship. We all fell proud with our country's friendly gesture made explicit with the bus journey undertaken by our Prime Minister. Our Leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi congratulated our Prime Minister and in her message of greetings showered encomiums on the bold initiatives of our Prime Minister and stated that this achievement would find place in the annals of history in golden letters.

In these 11 months the Union Government headed by Shri Vajpayee has taken several measures to make the country feel proud. We have created a conducive atmosphere to ensure a better international relations. Our country has won respect in the world community.

Similarly this Government has ensured near normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. The terrorism is not raising its ugly head as often as it used to. The terrorists, activities have been contained. Law and order situation has greatly improved there. People there could lead normal life and tourists have started thronging the place. Because of the steps taken by the Union Government the local people who had to migrate away from Jammu and Kashmir have started returning home to their original place. It is also my bounden duty to point out the fact that international tourists have started visiting Kashmir as the Government has ensured a conducive atmosphere again.

The dream of many leaders of our country to widely link the length and breadth of our country with world-class roads is being accomplished now. The 6-lane National Express Highway project linking Kashmir with Kanyakumari, Silchar with Saurashtra has been launched. The major metropolitan cities like Chennai, Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi are being linked with a 4-lane Super Highway in its first phase. We would like to congratulate the Government for initiating these steps. These improved road links will help promoting commercial activities and thereby the economic prosperity. At this juncture I would like to point out the need to take up the linking of Ganga with river Cauvery as this would greatly help our irrigational and drinking water needs for a long time to come. It is true that many new industrial ventures are being taken up and the Government is keen to improve the industrial production and the productivity. It is also true that ours is basically an agro-economy. This Government is giving new direction through its agricultural policy to improve food grains production in a big way. We may soon be at the first place as far as food grains production and enhanced

production of agricultural products. I would like to point out that our country will soon be topping the list of the largest milk producing countries in the world touching a new height of producing 7.20 lakh tonnes of milk.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, the Business Advisory Committee had decided that the House will sit upto 8 o'clock everyday. It had also been decided that the reply will be made after the Question Hour on Monday. That being so, I understand that there are three members who are left.

So, may I suggest that the reply may be made on Monday at 12 o'clock. Let us complete the discussion in 20 minutes or half an hour tonight. Therefore, the House may be extended by half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the sense of the House that the time may be extended till 8.30 PM?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI P.R.KUMARAMANGALAM : Tomorrow, the Railway Budget will be taken up at 11 o'clock and it will continue till everything is completed, namely, the reply, voting, appropriation, and so on. Let's take the train to the rails tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think there will not be any derailment tomorrow.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Hon. Nitish Kumar can reply on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Paramasivam, you please finish within one minute.

SHRI RAJA PARAMASIVAM : When the heights of the bunds are increased the water level in the fields increase. When the irrigation water level increases the food grains production also increase. The increase in food production improves the life conditions of the people. The improved living conditions ensure good governance. This is stated in ancient Sangam Tamil Literature. In the light of this the Union Government is taking several steps to revitalise our agro-economy and to ensure rural development, strengthening our Panchayati Raj Institutions. I wish to congratulate the Government for taking various measures in this regard.

I would like to point out that there were 9 Ministers from Tamil Nadu in the United Front Government and they all failed to raise their voice for Tamil language and the people of Tamil Nadu. Only our able leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has come forward to enhance the status of Tamil language by pressing her demand to accord official language status to Tamil. She had put forth six demands when this Government came to power. The first one to

have Sethu Samudram project is being taken up by this Government now.

The Government has now earmarked funds to complete the feasibility study. I urge upon the Government to allocate more funds to go ahead with project during this year itself. Likewise our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had emphasised the need to legislate and ensure 33% reservation for women. She had also reiterated her demand to give constitutional safeguard to 69% of reservation for all the socially backward classes. I wish the Government take upon itself to meet her demands as set out in our national agenda for governance.

Once again I express my support to the motion of thanks moved in this House to thank the President for his Address to the Parliament. With this, I conclude my speech.

20.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir as you are aware, the Business Advisory Committee had decided that the House will sit up to 8 o'clock everyday. It had also been decided that the reply will be made after the Question Hour on Monday. That being so, I understand that there are three Members who are left.

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MR. CHAIRMAN : I think there will not be any derailment tomorrow!

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Hon. Nitish Kumar can reply on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Paramasivam, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

Shri Shailendra Kumar, Please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an

opportunity to participate in the discussion on Mr. President's Address. We are going to enter into the next century and every government talks of providing food, clothing and shelter whichever party may come to power. Every Government announces to accelerate the pace of public welfare and economic development and to strengthen the country by insulating it from internal and external dangers. Still the loss of life and property is caused due to natural calamities like flood, hurricane, earthquake and cyclone etc. from time to time. I would like to thank Army, Armed forces and all the voluntary organizations.

Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members who have spoken before me have told the truth that a feeling of insecurity is growing amongst the minorities everywhere whether it be Gujarat, or Madhya Pradesh or Orissa or Uttar Pradesh. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : Why are you dragging Uttar Pradesh for no reason at all?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I am mentioning Uttar Pradesh here because recently the district administration has ordered that the dead should not be buried in the Ayodhya area. Some graveyards belonging to the minorities have been acquired using tractors for making the area clear of all constructions. . . *(Interruptions)* This matter has already been raised in the zero hour. A feeling of insecurity is there amongst the minorities. Everybody knows that Shri Dara Singh who is a member of your organization has not been arrested so far.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : It is not a correct. He does not belong to our organization. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : You must be aware of it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of unemployed persons has increased through out the country. Almost are the Hon. Members have expressed their view from time to time that the unemployed persons should be paid unemployment Allowance. But we have found that this government is not creating any employment opportunities for them. On the other hand prices have increased. The hoarding and blackmarketing have reached to the extreme limit. Adulteration is also there. This is open to every body and it is not at all hidden. Recently, the Government have increased the prices of the food grains and other essential commodities being provided to the poor people at cheaper rates. The price of diesel has also increased. All the hon. Members are aware that diesel is such a fuel on which the future of the farmers of the country depends as the irrigation is done by the farmers by running pump sets and the food grains are produced thereby. Secondly, I would like to say that 11 projects relating to irrigation and water

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

resources are pending with the Central Government for consideration. If the Central Government takes a decision in this regard, and these 11 projects are cleared development can take place in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the same manner farmers are not being paid their outstanding amount of sugar cane arrears to the tune of Rs. three crores are yet to be paid in Uttar-Pradesh. The Farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce, we have to make necessary arrangements for that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the funds provided under the Prime-Minister Rozgar Yojana should be enhanced. Prices have gone-up. Today's youth cannot start his business often that meagre money. On the other hand, minimum wages are needed to be raised under the Minimum Wages Act. In the same manner many honourable Members have given suggestions for development in the field of education. I would, like to say that girls should be given free education upto Graduation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Intermediate colleges are not there at block level in rural areas. My submission is that Intermediate colleges should be opened at block level. You have set up Finance Development corporation for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities, but I want to say that the people of all these communities are not really benefitted from these corporations as the middlemen and the touts usurp these funds. We have to ponder over it. You have set up Rural Women Development Commission and National Commission for children. I think that they should function in proper manner and they should provide free education to women and children. Elders be made entitled to travel free throughout the country and avail health facilities as per their aspirations and need. Regarding electoral reforms, I am against prescribing any qualification and criminalisation politics. Gram-Panchayats should be strengthened and through Panchayati Rai system and they have to be given rights to make them financially sound.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while concluding I want to submit one point and that is regarding the Bus visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Atal ji travelled upto Lahore from Delhi by bus which is being much hyped by this government. I would like to say :

1. "Atal ji kya yeh aapko sujhi,
Bus ki diplomacy.
na hyocracy se chalti,
Desh ki diplomacy.
2. Na esse ghat jayegi,
Dilli Lahore ki duri,
Jab tak na ghati hai,
Donon ore dilon ki duri.

3. Vigat Pachas Varshoan mein kewal
nafrat hai failayee,
Hindu-Muslim bhed-bhav ki,
hi nit alkh jagai,

My speech with these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri A.F. Golam Osmani, you kindly conclude your speech in five minutes.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Hon. Chairman Sir, I will certainly try to finish my speech within that time. I want to finish my speech decently.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, while I was going out of the House yesterday after hearing the deliberation of our eminent Parliamentarians in this House about the Presidential Address, I saw a foreign delegation who must be coming from several countries, standing before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. It really struck me that they still come to see Mahatma Gandhi because those western countries must have seen that picture of Graham Staines with his two minor children. With that reflection in my heart, I felt that was the difference between the first Presidential Address to the 12th Parliament and his second Address.

What was the moot point? One is Pokhran, about which I would not say much. About the social unrest that has taken place since 11 months, that has disturbed us. Graham Staines is an example.

Look at the Gandhiji when Naokhali was in unrest, he took that strenuous travel. When there was unrest in Bihar he took trouble to go to the remotest villages to soothe the feelings of the people. Why is this change in social atmosphere? What was the reason? I suddenly find that Christianity has become an issue. We understand-it is not justified-that there is a difference between the Hindus and the Muslims in this country for historical reasons. But the Christian missionaries working in this country, specially men like Staines who worked for 35 years with lepers had to be killed brutally. I am not associating the name of any political party with that.

But intolerance is raising its ugly head in our country. Today, while sitting in this House, I heard an hon. Member telling that the organization which pioneered our freedom movement should change its name. It should be named "Italian Congress." May I remind hon. Members of this esteemed House that that organization the Indian was first national organised congress by Octovian Hume. Have we forgotten the contribution made by foreigners to our freedom movement as well as to our cultural movement? Have we forgotten that great lady, Annie Besant who was associated with our freedom movement? Lastly, have we forgotten that lady who was associated with the cultural movement on

the side of Swami Vivekananda Christened as sister Nivedita? We mention it proudly. So, we should take note of all these things.

What is the qualitative change that has taken place in between the first Address of the President and the second one? Unless we in unison fight out these ugly things, whether we sit in the Opposition or sit in the Treasury Benches, there will be very hard days ahead for us. After all, what is India? Even if we suffer because of food scarcity or for want of very many material comforts, still, we can endure. But when your soul is affected, when your image is distorted before the foreigners and in the world over, then, it is very difficult for us. The foreigners have a certain image about India. Even till now, they go to see the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. So, through you, Sir, I appeal to the Members of the Treasury Benches who are instrumental in making this Presidential Address to take stock of things because they have got greater responsibility than us.

Sir, in conclusion, I would just mention what Shri Baalu has said. He has said that he cannot understand that type of Hinduism if some community is responsible for this type of atrocities. Also, I, being a Muslim, do not understand that type of Hinduism. I understand Hinduism in the light of this type of saying.

"Yada yada hi Dharmasaya Galanirbhavati Bharat,
Abhyuthenamadharmayasay Tadatamanam
Sarjamayaham.
Paritranaaya Sadhunam Vinashaya cha puskartam,
Dharamsansatha panarthaya Sambhavami Yuge yuge."

So, that is the type of Hinduism that we try to understand.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I and Hon'ble Members, today I rise to speak before you from my heart in somewhat incorrect Hindi language. I hope that hon'ble President, Prime-Minister and the Cabinet-members would listen to us carefully through you and came out with some immediate solutions to the issues which are before us and take concrete steps. In North-Eastern states, Bodoland is a serious matter of North-Eastern. A policy decision should be taken to solve it. The government has not stated anything in this regard.

It is not only me, but lakhs of people in the North-Eastern India who are feeling this agony. I, therefore, want to request through you that unless the issue of Bodoland is resolved, it is difficult to bring peace in the North-East and to build up confidence among the people whatever efforts the Government may make or whether policy may be made for development. I, therefore want to submit that

the demand of Bodoland should be accepted without making any delay to give a chance to lakhs of tribals of India to instill faith in Christ.

[English]

I would like to request the Government of India to adopt a very clear cut, positive and pragmatic policy to resolve the burning Bodoland tangle on a permanent footing by creating a separate State of Bodoland which is very justified and which is our birthright.

Apart from this burning demand, I would like to appeal to the Government of India that there have to be a lot of clear cut decisions and an agenda for the well-being and development of the tribal and Scheduled Caste people of the whole country. But no such clear cut policy has been announced by the hon. President of India in his Address. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take a concrete decision for ensuring safety, security and all round development of the entire tribal people, the entire Scheduled Caste down-trodden people of this country. What we have been observing for the last eleven months is that the tribals who have been converted as Christians are being killed brutally. If this is the case in our India how can the tribal people survive?

So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to undertake concrete policy measures to ensure development, safety and security of the tribal people. I would like to appeal again to the Government of India to adopt a concrete and positive policy and concede the Bodoland demand immediately in the best interests and for ensuring the existance of the Bodos and to ensure unity and integrity of India, particularly in relation to the North-Eastern region.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bijoy Handique. Please be very brief; try to conclude in five minutes.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Within five minutes I cannot cover any point fully.

While opposing the President's Address, I refer to one point just to place on record my protest.

The Government has, in the Address, enough inkling to open another chapter of harassment of and violence towards the minorities, religious and linguistic as well. The Government is considering scrapping of the INDT Act. We have made our position very clear over the years that we are against the influx and harbouring of foreigners. But on the plea of detecting the foreigners and sending them out, no genuine Indians will be allowed to be harassed. This is our stand.

Assam has had enough of this terrible experience. We have always been advocating judicial processes to detect foreigners and that is why this INDT Act was passed in

[Shri Bijoy Handigue]

Parliament in 1983 so that it is the Tribunal and not the police which will decide the issue. We still remember that lakhs of Indians were served notices alleging that they were foreigners. But only a few thousands were identified as foreigners and the historical causes of this situation in the wake of the partition of the country involving both Hindus as well as Muslims cannot just be wished away.

There is another factor which sense of justice and fair play cannot support. According to the provisions of the INDT Act, the burden of proof lies on the complainant to procure evidence that the person suspected is a foreigner. The moment the Act is scrapped, the complainant's job will be only to produce a list of persons alleging that they are foreigners and his responsibility ends there. And the persons who are alleged to be foreigners have to move from pillar to post to secure proof that they are genuine Indian citizens. Even at the time of signing the Assam Accord, the INDT Act was accepted. We are committed to detecting foreigners in accordance with the provisions of the Assam Accord. Our commitment still stands. This sort of injustice and harassment mainly on religious grounds strikes at the foundation of a pluralistic society we desire to build. Thus, today, the greatest danger exists to the pluralistic concept of polity to which our nation is committed. In spite of the limitations and imperfections in the concept of the nation state mostly in the Third World, there is no alternative model and the unifying role that it has played in history cannot be denied. Moreover, the greater the degree of pluralism in a society, the greater is the need for unity to manage it. India is a quintessential example of such a state. Pluralism is the very essence of democracy. The majoritarian identity is alien to the concept of pluralism. No pluralistic State can embrace the majoritarian and ethos as the national ethos and the predominant culture as the mainstream culture. So, secularism is the only visible humans and democratic alternative available for managing multi-religious pluralism. In a multi-religious society without secularism there cannot be real democracy, liberty of thought, expression and belief and equality of status and opportunities to all citizens.

Sir, I hope the Government listens to the voice of reason and see to it that the foundation of a pluralistic society is not shaken and does not collapse. Let this 21st Century, the new millennium carry this message.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Be brief, please conclude within 2-3 minutes.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH : I fully support this motion of thanks moved on the President Address.

Under the leadership of the most popular son of Bharat-Mata at present, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, our Government have not done anything till now, for which we have to repent.

"Suraj karto nahin
Dosti taraon se, Andhiyare se,
Pani Karta nahin Dosti,
Sholoan se, Angaroan se,
Sher Marta nahin,
Kabhi Jangal ke Siyaraon se.
Rashtrabhakti samjhauta karti,
Naf.in kabhi gaddaraon se.

As I have got limited time, I want to put fourth my point of view in brief. Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was the Home Minister in the Government of V.P.Singh. He is not present here now. I want to remind them the moment, when they were talking about Kashmir.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, time is over. You either get concluded or give us time to speak.

20.32 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Shri Mufti Mohammed was Home Minister, the office which used to be held by Sardar Patel and now Shri Advani ji is holding this office, be freed five Pakistani terrorists which were apprehended here for getting his daughter Rubia released, who was abducted by them.

The soul of Sardar Patel might have been shaiding tears in the haven at that very moment. How come, he could utter out these words to our Home Ministers. : "Chhar To Bole so Bole, Chhalani Bhe Bole, Jisme 72 Chhed" (It is like the pot calling the kettle black.)

This Government under the stewardship of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji has restored peace and tranquility in the country and enhanced its prestige. When we got defeated by China, in 1962, the progress and development of next 100 years was adversely affected. We went in for nuclear explosions, not to attack any one but to defend our country and to use it as a deterrent against those countries which may think attacking India so that they should think 100 times before attacking us. So, India is a super power now.

The Cauvery river water dispute was lingering on since the British period. From Pt. Nehru to Shri Gujral Sahib several Prime Ministers have come and gone, but none ever attempted to settle this complicated dispute. But Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has settled this dispute. The

honourable Member of Parliament belonging to the Haryana Lokdal was saying that their problem was not resolved. I would request him to have patience, their problem would also have been resolved, had they not withdrawn support to this government. When the Cauvery river dispute involving four states has been resolved then, the water dispute between two states will also be resolved.

When we undertook nuclear tests in Pokhran, Pakistan got agitated and went in for six nuclear explosions. But it is political maturity and Statesmanship of Shri Vajpayee that he tamed such a country and its Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif by undertaking a bus trip to Lahore.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri Nakli Singh ji, please conclude.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH : I will just conclude. Those who have patriotic feelings should support this Motion. What is patriotism, I would like to explain it. Once a tree caught fire, the tree was burning and a passerby was passing through that was asked the birds sitting on that tree :

"Aag Lagi is Brachh Mein, Jala Jata Hei Paat
Ae Pachhio, Tum Kyon Jalo, Jab Pankh Mile Saath."
At that, the birds replied to the passerby
"Phal Khaye Is Brachhe ke, Aur Gande kine Paat
Dharam Hamara Yahee hei Jalein Ise Ke Saath."

We can learn patriotism from these lines. Therefore, while supporting this motion, I would conclude with a complet

Tej Kar Talwar Ko Kuchh Arman Rah Na Jaye
Bismil ke Upar Tera Kor Ahsan Rah Na Jaye?

Therefore, I would make an earnest request to the entire House to pass the Motion of thanks to the President's Address with a thumping majority" *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, there are only two Members to speak. They may speak for five minutes each.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please cooperate with me. Let us hear them. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Sir, I have listen the speeches of almost all the Members and now I feel that our struggle is in the final phase. First, I would like to say that we must not make comments against each other. All such comments have been recorded in the proceedings of the House. The leaders belonging to various parties such as the BJP the Congress Party etc. Have been blaming each other. But no mention has been made about the hilly areas. The sources of water like rivers in the hilly areas

of states like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and UP are at lower level but farming and agriculture is done on the mountain slops. The people belonging to the hilly areas plant trees and do forest farming. They plant apple trees and other fruit bearing trees to sustain themselves.

Sir, a mention has been made in the President's Address to accord priority to agriculture and small farmer but the people living in the hilly areas are not to be benefitted formal. We have got vast resources and hydro power projects could be set up in the hilly areas. I would like to tell that as much as 22000 Megawatt Power could be generated in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh. But if the Government wants to make are of Coal resources available in the state is not good because it is our property. I would say that the Government should setup more hydro power projects like the Bhakhara Project which provides cheap power to the country. I would also request the government to setup more hydro power projects in the state where water resources are available. Our people are carrying agitation for it. In the last speech, it was said that separate states in UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh will be created, But no mention has been made about our state I would demand that the areas of Garhwal along the Himachal border should be included in Utrakhand so that the people of these areas are not required to go to Lucknow and there grievences are readdressed at the local level. Udham Singh Nagar should be included in Utrakhand as well as parts of Hardwar and Dehradun should also be included in Utrakhand. . . *(Interruptions)*

As far as the government is concerned, I would say that injustice is being meted out to us. The Congress Government in Himachal Pradesh has filed a petition in the Supreme Court claiming that a sum of Rs. 1500 crores is outstanding against Haryana and Punjab. At the time of division, Himachal Government had reached an agreement with Haryana and Punjab for giving 7.2 per cent of power to Himachal Pradesh but only 2.2 per cent power is being to given to the State. Our remaining 5 per cent power is being consumed by there two states and Members belonging to these state talks much hear in the House. Now you have your government both at the Centre and in the state therefore, you should ensure recovery of our sum of Rs. 1500 crores. Today there is peace and tranquility in Himachal Pradesh and people are living happily there without any enmity against any body. You people did not allow the Parliament to function for 13 days. On the issue of corruption and did not let the assembly carrying out its proceedings smoothly. . . *(Interruptions)* I would say that whatsoever government is formed, it must pledge not to support the corrupt people you people did not allow the parliament to function for 13 days and four crores of rupees were seized from underneath his pilow, yet you people have made him a Minister how is it not corruption? I would

[Shri K.D. Sultanpuri]

say that Shri Shanta Kumar who is leader of the BJP in the state. . . (*Interruptions*)* and (*Interruptions*)* I would like to say that (*Interruptions*)* An FIR, has also been filed against him for corruption. Yet he has been made Chairman in the state. What would your workers might be thinking? We have received complaints and we are expressing our sorrow only at that you should monitor your people as to which people have been acquitted. Not that, he is Shri Shanta Kumar's men and . . . I would again request the government to ensure recovery of the amount of our state. There is no mention of our state in President's Address. . (*Interruptions*) with opposition to the President's Address, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Will have to go to jail if fair inquiry is conducted.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : If you could send him to jail then I would instruct you to conduct an inquiry against him. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : If inquiry is conducted will have to go to jail.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : If you could send him to jail I will instruct you to conduct an inquiry against him.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The names of the people, who are not members, mentioned by both sides will not go on record. You are all senior members and you should know how to behave.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the President's Address. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has done some wonderful works. Janasangh came into being in the year 1951. I am seeing the Prime Minister from that time. He had come to our Tumkur town 15 years ago. At that time he was staying in the House of a very popular educationist of Tumkur. The educationist felt very proud and said that he was the host of a future Prime Minister of India. I reminded the Prime Minister about this incident when he had come to our constituency, Tumkur, four months ago and he smiled. In fact, many prominent people of our country were expecting Atalji to become Prime Minister. Now it has become a true fact. The Prime Minister is leading the country in the right direction according to the expectations of the people.

I have participated for 19 years in the discussion on the Governor's Address in Karnataka. I have participated for 5 years in the debate on President's Address. Now,

*Not Recorded.

**Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

during the regime of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji this is the second year that I am speaking on the motion of thanks to the President for his Address. While participating in the discussion we may have to use some harsh words. This may create some confusion in the minds of the people of our society.

Sir, Kumaradhara river originates in Sakaleshpura, Coorg. A dam has to be constructed across this river and the water should flow towards Tumkur and its neighboring districts. This would enable irrigation of a vast area in my constituency. This is a long pending demand of the people of my area and I hope that the Centre would take immediate measures in this direction.

Many farmers in my constituency depend upon drop irrigation to cultivate their lands. Centre should come forward to encourage drip irrigation in this area. The subsidy that is being provided to farmers is not at all sufficient and therefore it should be increased at the earliest.

Substantial amount is being allocated for the development of rural areas. Unfortunately the entire amount is not being utilised for the purpose of rural development. Sometimes this amount is diverted for other purposes. Very recently, more than 600 crores of rupees was taken back by the Finance Ministry from Karnataka R.D.P. Minister. This amount was allocated for rural development and it could not be utilised by the State. Announcement will be made at the time of Budget Session about allocation but unfortunately the entire amount is not being utilised. There are no proper roads and school buildings in rural areas. There is an acute shortage of drinking water in villages in Karnataka particularly in Tumkur district. Most of the people in my area live in 'Jhuggis' and 'Jhopdis'. Unemployment is another serious problem in villages. When such is the situation how allocated funds are diverted for other purposes? This is nothing short of cheating the public. I have raised the issue of drinking water problem on several occasions in this august House.

Economically poorer sections of our society are the sufferers of this problem. In fact, it is the moral responsibility of the Central Government to provide drinking water to all villages in the country. I, therefore, request the Centre to allocate sufficient funds to Karnataka for providing drinking water to the rural people.

Sir, there is a language Committee and it intends to propagate Hindi throughout the country as a national language. There is no sincere effort in this direction. Several years ago Hindi was taught as one of the subjects in high schools in Karnataka. Students were also learning the language with interest. Now, neither there is any interest among students nor there is any encouragement from the Government of India in this regard. Most of the Hindi teachers' posts are vacant. These vacant posts have to be

filled and other facilities should be provided to the students to learn Hindi. This would enable us to strengthen nation's integrity.

The officers and other employees who are working with the Ministers and other important organisations are not rendering their services satisfactorily. I am pained to state this. I am experiencing this for the last 26 years. There are no proper responses to our telephone calls. Even MPs and MLAs are being neglected by these people who are working in the offices.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mallikarjunaiah, please conclude.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH : Sir, please give me two minutes only.

Sir, thorough changes have to be made in offices and other organisations which deal with the public. Alert officers and responsible employees are the need of the hour. The Government should bring in reformation in the working system of all offices throughout the country. I hope the Centre would make thorough changes in these offices such that they can cater to the needs of legislators and the common people.

Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this motion of thanks. Jai Hind, Jai Karnataka.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the last. To begin with I want to recite one complet:

"Usa Kalam Ko Khuda Rosanai na de,
jo Sajayan to likhe, rihai na de,
Usa bulandi se mafiphooz rakhe khuda,
jis par aaho phugan bhi sunai na de."

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU : "LOK SABHA SE JALDI JUDAI NA DE" i.e. May not grant departures from Lok Sabha soon.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : It seems that you are more concerned about parting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This discussion is to be completed before nine p.m., otherwise you will have to take the responsibility of arranging the dinner.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : I will conclude very soon. I am on my legs to speak on the President's Address. I oppose the motion of thanks. Since the BJP Government has come to power in India and the situation which has emerged in the country, have resulted in a setback to the country's image. Unemployment has increased, communal violence has also increased. This Government has failed on each and every front and its results are before all of us. During the last November when elections were held in Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and some other

places, they faced debacle in these elections. The National Agenda which they had drafted was actually a hidden agenda on which they are acting upon. The reality is that this is not the Government of the BJP but it is the Government of the RSS. They act upon their advice. The nuclear tests which were conducted in the Pokharan range resulted in a setback to the country's image. These tests led to price-rise and all the development work which were going on with the assistance of America, Britain and Germany came to a standstill. We are in an embarrassing situation today as they want to sign the CTBT we could get relief before that also.

So far as the administration is concerned, situation is so bad that 240 workers and leaders of the Samajwadi party have been killed. Besides in Delhi, where the central Government. . .

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Were the mafia men, who got killed, were your workers.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : What I want to say is, that crimes and atrocities have been committed on the minorities in this country. Atrocities are being committed on the Muslims and Christians on a large scale presently. Muslims have been tolerating this crime since India's independence. Lakhs of Muslims have become a prey to it but crimes are being perpetrated now against Christians in Gujarat and Orissa, that should be regretted and condemned as well. There is no mention of all these things in the President's Address. When he was reading his speech, I had obstructed him and requested him to provide at least Rs. 2000 for providing education to Muslims and minorities but he did not make a mention of it. As long as minorities are not imparted training and provided education, till then neither poverty could be alleviated nor could there be law and order and peace. A lot of crimes have been committed on Muslims in this country. They have been meted out injustice to the extent that obstacles have been created in the way of providing them education. If private schools are opened, schools for minorities are opened, these schools are not given any assistance and all sorts of obstacles are created in its way. If Muslims want to offer namaz in mosques, they are not allowed to do so. Thousands of mosques are not in the possession of Muslims and these mosques are misused. The Bakarid is approaching. This time they say that we would not allow sacrifice. I would like that the Government should look into this matter lest it should malign the image of the Government. If sacrifice of goals is stopped it could lead to communal violence. It is a big festival of the Muslims, which is celebrated all over the world. On this occasion people not only from India but from all over the world undertake the Haj Pilgrimage. Today, the matter of the Hajis was raised that they are not getting visas and they are running around for getting visas. They are facing a lot of

[Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq]

difficulties. They are here in Delhi for getting visas. The number of the Hajjis is 20-30 thousand who have not been issued visas as yet.

I would like to urge upon the Government to give these people a chance and security arrangements should be made at all places on the occasion of Bakar Id. Assistance should be given even in the field of education.

With these words, I would like to thank you and hope that BJP will however, change its policy, the manner they are functioning in Delhi. And will prove that everybody living in this country enjoys right to equality and they should be treated an equal footing.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (Gulbarga) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Shri Vajpayee ji's policy with regard to Pokharan tests is repeatedly discussed and often a mention of the sanctions imposed is made in the House. A self respecting nation has to face some or the other crisis. And adversity become blessing in disguise for a great statesman. Likewise, I feel that our country's economy has improved due to these sanctions. The non-resident Indians living in the other countries of the world have invested Rs. 10 thousand crore in three weeks in the name of Resurgent India Bond besides, the value of rupee had been declining in comparison to Dollar for the last ten years. It has not gained so much stability so far. The value of rupee has increased by 30 paise. I have worked out that the Union Government has been able to save approximately Rs. 30 thousand crore in an year. It is a matter of great pride to achieve such a stability at the international level. The people have started thinking about the industry, unemployment and providing jobs to the youth. I would like to put forth only this point that this Government has tried to allocate 58 percent funds for the rural people which will generate employment opportunities in the villages. With the construction of about 10,000 km national highways and linking the eight metropolitan cities, constructing Diamond highway, super highway and incurring an expenditure of Rs. 36 thousand crore approx. during the coming three years will enable the Government to generate employment opportunities for lakhs of people. Likewise 20 lakh houses are to be built every year. This will also generate employment opportunities for the people. A provision of Rs. one lakh seventeen hundred crore has been made for the industry through which many industries can be revived. Similarly, for women education a provision has of Rs. 100 to 160 crore been made. And by making a provision of Rs. 55 crore in the field of science giving incentive to large and small scale research units, is a very important work. Despite all this, it is being said about the Vajpayee

Government that it can fall anytime, however we are satisfied that inspite of all adds it is functioning well as only those flowers blossom which thrive in the cradle of thorns. Our opponents may criticise the government. Only that tree is stoned which bears fruit. Shri Vajpayee ji is like a fruit tree in this country. Even if people criticise his government, his government will work for the welfare of the people.

I would like to say something, in the end that "Jako Rakhe Saiyan Mar Sake Na Koye", one who is protected by God, cannot be harmed by anybody. In the national politics many people will assume the role of Vishwamitra to create trouble for this Government but Shri Vajpayee's grace will reach new heights like the sublimity of king Harish Chandra's truth. With these words, I support the motion of thanks on the President's Address and conclude.

21.00 hrs.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would also like to put forth my two points on the motion of thanks moved by Smt. Sushmaji on the President's Address. Sir, you have seen that the 50 year old democracy of India is passing through phase of various new experiences at the door step of millenium. We have to face the results coming out of the prejudices with which some of our political bretherens have come into power and changed the priorities in accordance with their prejudices. Today we have seen that the sources that were the outcome of the change in the foreign policy, are no longer there and a lot of pressure is being put on our country and our national polity. We noticed the direct impact of that policy in signing of the Agreements under the influence of the WTO by acquiring a compromising attitude. The way the government got the Patent Act passed it will have far reaching affects and we have to bear its long term consequences. History is being repeated. The manner in which the Britishers came to India, destroyed the economy based on small scale industries on which half the population of the country was dependant and set up a new economy. They made the arrangement for exporting raw material from here for their factories and made India their market for finished goods. Today, it seems that similar conditions are being created when the country and its entity will be seen as a consumer again and there is a likelihood that our psychological, cultural, financial and social self-reliance will get a blow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the other hand, we find today, that these social powers are creating instability in the society. There is such a spurt the crimes that criminals feel quite protected in the persons while the complainants are not secure in their houses and the witnesses in the court or in the streets. These are such issues which put a question mark on the will power of the government

Providing personal security to the citizens is a primary challenge and touchstone for the Government. All of us are aware that due to the prevailing situation of administrative inefficiency, our public representatives whether they are MP, MLA, or Pradhan they could not function upto their full strength as a public representative of respective areas. The sense of insecurity and lawlessness prevailing in the society is a matter of great concern, while facilitating lawlessness and in security problem, 80 percent time of a common man and the Government goes waste so that we could provide a common man with maximum security. And as a result of that we suffer great loss because we are left with no time to do appraisal, implementation, study and data collection of our policies. Our parliamentary institutions are heavily paying for it. They are losing their importance. Today we have to consider on it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all know that administrative officers and officials are committed to the constitutions. But present scenario is witnessing changed in commitments. The commitments are being associated with particular leader. Caste or power group. Particularly I would like to point out that level of administration in India is deteriorating irrespective of the present or earlier incumbant of the Government. If we explore the reasons behind it, we will find that the performance of the administrative officers is becoming poorer day by day. I feel sorry why the Government have glossed over it. These issues have not been highlighted in the President's Address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as women are concerned, I have to say that we have been defamed as anti-women. But I feel, if a woman is not given her due place in her family, if her services to the family is not appreciated properly and if the government and society does not provide her social and economic security in return of her contribution then upto whatever extent we might uplift her. Our accomplishments will remain undone. Women who constitute half of the population of India are not getting their due security and place in the society. Though our mothers and sisters have made many accomplishments but despite of these they are not getting due social and economic security and recognition in their families.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, those house wives who look after their families upbringing their children and look-after them as primary institution, the Government should made some provisions to give such women some sort of allowance so that they could get proper award and honour.

As far as our farmers are concerned, more than 80 percent of the population of our country depends on agriculture but we all see that agriculture sector has been discriminated. Today agriculture does not has even 1/6th of the facilities, services, market and managerial facilities

being enjoyed by industries despite of the fact that 80% population of the country depends on agriculture. As on date it is clear that in the context of present liberalization policy, those illiterate farmers adopting absolute technique and those who are in the unorganized sector How they could stand up before the big players. This question needs to be pondered over urgently. I am afraid that if cost of cultivation goes up likewise then people will migrate towards towns, in such a situation what will be the fate of whole system, we donot have any way out for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Today big corporations are ready to make foray into Indian markets and they are looking for exclusive marketing rights. Therefore, we should keep it in mind that the Indian consumers are not educated and united like the American and European consumes, how they will stand up before such heavy weight multinational companies. If we leave these consumers belonging to unorganized sector to their fate, then how their interest will be protected? These questions need to be considered in depth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The major part of Indian population is illiterate and unaware of consumer behaviour and we all know that most of the Indian population is inflicted with it and we also know that most of the problems are due to the unemployment not because of population. Today, many of our youths are unemployed, they have working ability, imagination but they are not getting opportunities, We should think that how we could create opportunity for the population of 100 crores, Indian youths belonging to the age group of 18 to 28 years possess the spirit of delligence and imagination and their potential should be utilized by us. In this phase of liberalization a boy of 16 gets employment in foreign country whereas in India a youth of 30 is unable to get employment. These questions need to be pondered over seriously. I hope, the Government will consider every point raised by me seriously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak and I conclude with these words.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Nepal Chandra Das. Shri Das, you have to take only two minutes. He is the last speaker on this debate.

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the President's Address. I come from Karimganj Reserved Constituency which is very backward in all respects. But I would confine my speech only to some probomes of Assam and other North-Eastern States.

[Shri Nepal Chandra Das]

Even after 50 years of Independence, nothing has been done by the Central Government in the North-Eastern States for industrial development, with the result that the educated youth and the unemployed youth, particularly of Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland have joined the insurgent groups, resulting in increased insurgent activities in the North-Eastern States.

I would like to particularly draw the attention of the Central Government as to how the North-Eastern States have been deprived of the FDI share. Out of total investment of Rs. 7,399.11 crore of FDI share in India from 1991 up to December 1998, the share of Assam is only Rs. 1.5 crore, that of Manipur is Rs. 3.19 crore, that of Nagaland is Rs. 3.68 crore and that of Tripura is Rs. 0.68 crore. This has been done on the plea of insurgency of these States. Barak Valley is a peaceful area in Assam. Then, why FDI has not been made in Barak Valley? I request the Central Government to look into it sympathetically so that in future, the North-Eastern States, particularly Assam is not deprived of FDI on the plea of insurgency.

The Members of Parliament from North-Eastern region are happy at the proposal the Finance Minister made in his Budget speech offering a ten-year tax holiday for the investors to set up any type of industries there. I request the Central Government to come forward and increase this ten-year period to twenty-year period for attracting more investors and also for the benefit of the existing industries established in North-Eastern region. Some of the existing industries in the region have already become sick while others are facing impending sickness for one or the other reason. I request the Central Government to provide adequate financial assistance for all such industries to restore their health and achieve profit from tax relief for another twenty years.

Regarding irrigation in Assam, I would say that though Assam is a river irrigated State, it is lacking in irrigation facilities. Not more than 12 percent of land in Assam and even less than 6% of land in Barak Valley of Assam is covered under irrigation projects till today. There are vast possibilities for undertaking small, medium and lift irrigation projects. If adequate irrigation facilities are provided, Assam will not remain at the mercy of other States for rice and will become self-sufficient. I suggest that the Central Government may please look into this matter and provide special grants for taking up small, medium and lift irrigation projects in Assam, particularly in Barak Valley.

Sir, the houses of SC/ST and other poor people in rural areas who are living below the poverty line are mostly in dilapidated condition. Most of these people are homeless too. After fifty years of Independence, this is the condition prevailing in our rural villages. Although the Government is giving money under Indira Awas Yojana for the poor people, the money is not being utilized properly and is not even reaching the poor people due to lack of proper selection of beneficiaries. The meetings for selecting the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana are held without consulting the local MLA or MP or their other representatives. So, the Government should look into it so that the MP and MLAs of that constituency must be involved in the selection of beneficiaries.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The list of all the speakers is now exhausted. The reply to this debate would be on Monday.

21.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Saturday, March 13, 1999/
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