

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fourth Session**  
**Part-IV**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

*(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 1 to 12)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates  
(English Version)

...  
Wednesday, May 7, 1997/Vaisakha 17, 1919(Saka)  
...

Col./line	For	Read
3/23 (from below)	SHRI RAGUNANDAN LAL BHATIA	SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA
9/8 (from below)	SHRI P. CHADAMBARAM	SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM
13/7 (from below)	SHRI R.L.P.....	SHRI R.L.P.VERMA:Mr.
55/17 (from below)	SHRI RAJESH RANJAN DAS ALIAS PAPPU YADAV	SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV
96/21	(c)	(d)
96/23	[After (b), add the following: (c) the reasons for the current shortage; and	
256/1 (from below)	YERRANNAIDU	SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU
265/3	Empoyment	Employment
303/8	on	one

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 7, 1997/Vaisakha 17, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[ SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair ]

### INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, with your permission, may I introduce to you and through you to the august House, my colleague Shri R. Dhanushkodi Athithan, Minister of State in the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports in the Ministry of Human Resource Development?

11.01 hrs

[Translation]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Secretary-Level talk between India and Pakistan

\*441\* KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Secretary level talk has been resumed between India and Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed therein;

(c) whether the issue of instigating terrorism by Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI was also discussed during the aforesaid talk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary talks were held in New Delhi from 28-31 March, 1997. During the talks, India conveyed its readiness to discuss all outstanding issues between the two countries and its desire to develop cooperation on a broad range of economic, commercial and cultural areas as well as encourage people-to-people contacts and consider specific confidence building measures.

(c) and (d) During the discussions we expressed our strong concern about Pakistan's support for terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and the proxy war it has instigated.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of India and Pakistan want to have very cordial relationships with each other. But to have a cordial relations, we

have to improve our relations on economic, commercial, political and cultural front. When we were having secretary level talks between the two countries during the tenure of Shir Deve Gowda ji, we were also witnessing several blasts. On the one hand they were holding dialogue with us but on the other, they were causing bomb blasts in Jammu i.e. they were taking us into their arms but at the same time stabbing us into our back. It is very good sign that we have started holding talks with Pakistan. I am very happy over this development and I want to quote a couplet in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not say a couplet, please ask the question.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question lies in the couplet itself which is:

Idhar Chilman se Ham Jhanke  
Udhar Chilman se Tum Jhanko  
Aao Laga do Aag Chilman ko  
Na Ham Jhanke Na Tum Jhanko.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, through you, want to ask the Prime Minister as to whether issues pertaining to the Line of Actual Control, Jammu-Kashmir and Siachin were discussed during the talks or not?

My second question is as to what is the position of the Government in respect of the statement made by Sh. Farooq Abdullah in which he has said that POK land should be given to Pakistan?

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I will reply to the second question first. So far as any statement made by anybody about the position of Kashmir which is different than the official position of India, it is not acceptable to us. This is one point which is very clear. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Therefore, any statement made by anybody is not our position.

So far as the discussions are concerned, as my colleague has said, the two Foreign Secretaries did have initial discussions on various situations. As the talks progress, we will see how the situations develops. As you know, next week I am meeting the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Male. So, I would suggest, Sir, if you kindly permit me and if my hon'ble friends agree, we do not go further into this at this stage.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The Prime Minister is a very sensitive man. Very often it is reported in the news papers that still there are many Indian Army officers (POWs) languishing in Pakistani jails. The Prime Minister must be feeling their pain and anguish. I want to know from him or to whether he would take-up this matter while holding future rounds of talks with Pakistan as he has discussed the issue of fishermen during his previous talks?

My second question is that whether like India, Pakistan is also offering the Visa facilities to the Indian citizens visiting Nankana Sahib, Katararaj and Prahladpuri etc.?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : So far as the first question about prisoners in Pakistani jails is concerned, when I met, as Foreign Minister, my counterpart, this issue was discussed and the reply given to me was that they were satisfied that there is nobody in their jails. But all the same, my counterpart, that is the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, had asked me to send him the list, and he was also willing, at the same time, to further examine it. He said they are not interested in keeping anybody in that category in jails. About the fisherman, a statement has already been made. We, both have agreed. (Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : What about the pilgrims who go to Kathasraj, Nankana Sahib and Prahladpuri?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him answer. Do not disturb him.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Regarding Visa for the pilgrims what did the Pakistani side offer? It is because that still there are some difficulties for the pilgrims going to Kathasraj and Prahladpuri from India. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I was not speaking on that point, I was speaking about the prisoners in Pakistani jails

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I asked you to listen him fully only then ask your question.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Your second question relates to Indian pilgrims some of whom go to Panja Sahib and some to other pilgrimages. Facilities provided are not adequate enough and we have discussed it many a times. We will discuss to improve it in future also. On their part, they are saying that they have been extending facilities.

[English]

SHRI RAGUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Sir, there is a great change in Pakistan since Mr. Nawaz Sharif came to power. He has been able to deal with the fundamental forces very nicely. He has been able to curb the powers of the President also. So, in this situation, the efforts made by our Government to improve relations with Pakistan are commendable. Secretary-level talks were held. In a statement, he has mentioned that there would be certain specific confidence-building measures also. Could he please let us know what were those specific confidence-building measures which he has offered to Pakistan?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I do not think we have reached that stage where we should offer measures. We have discussed the generalities. We have to think and identify such mutual steps which would enhance the prospects of confidence-building measures. I hope when the Foreign Secretaries meet, such measures will come.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, there have been occasions in the recent past that in the old forum like WTO, India and Pakistan had to fight together because of certain mutuality of interest. May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether any endeavour has so far been made during the current dialogue or in the recent past to work out areas of

common concern and mutuality of interest so that a common stand as far as possible can be taken in such international fora?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Of course, what my hon. friend has said, I confirm that we have a common stand on WTO, But I think we should hasten slowly because we are, now, in the process of initiating a dialogue. One round has taken place at the Foreign Secretary-level. As a Foreign Minister, I had met Mr. Gohar Ayub. I will, now, be meeting the Prime Minister. The situation between our two countries is such that as I said, we have to hasten slowly.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Prime Minister has said that Kashmir is an integral part of India but he has also said

[English]

"anybody is statement" Dr. Farooq Abdullah is not anybody. He is the Chief of Minister of a State.

[Translation]

He is repeating again and again that Line of Actual Control should be made the issue .....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already replied.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : It has not been replied at all. We want to know as to whether America is fishing in the water.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do not you ask your own question?

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : We know that Kashmir is an integral part of India but I think that whole of Kashmir is ours and we have passed a resolution in Parliament in this regard. We must take it into account.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already replied to this question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : If a Chief Minister of any state speaks like this, why should not he be asked to clarify his position?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I think, I made my statement very categorically. And whatever Resolution has been made by Parliament, we honour that Resolution.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, people to people relationship between India and Pakistan is gaining a very positive momentum for the last few years. It has been evidenced on many occasions such as when cultural delegations led by individuals like Shri Dilip Kumar, musicians visited Paki-

stan. I can give you the example, Mr. Prime Minister—there was fear in our mind whether Pakistan would like us or not—that when the Indian football team has been to Peshawar, it was the Pakistan political leaders in the Government who came in the street, embraced our players for scoring the goals and expressed their goodwill. So, on every part, it was found that the goodwill was still there. But unfortunately whenever an initiative is taken by the Government, some international forces, by their own design, try to see that Indo-Pakistan relationship is not further gaining momentum. The contribution made by the late Lal Bahadur Shastri, who laid his life in Tashkent, was for a fast durable peace in Pakistan and India; followed by Shrimati Indira Gandhi's initiative in the Shimla Agreement; Shri Vajpayee, when he was the Foreign Minister, did a tremendous job to improve the relationship between India and Pakistan, and finally, in the SAARC Summit led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs. Bhutto had to say that India's intention was the best one so far as Pakistan was concerned.

May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether in his next process which he is likely to do with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Male, he is convinced or hopeful that it will be within the ambit of the Shimla Agreement?

Secondly, in view of the growing democratic development in Pakistan by taking away the powers of the President and all these things, is the Prime Minister fully convinced that the time has come that the international pressure, which has come from time to time to frustrate the relations between India and Pakistan will be totally stopped this time and will the Government of India, under no circumstances, submit to any kind of manipulations, machinations and power games in the sub-continent while deciding the relation between India and Pakistan straightaway?

We have full confidence in the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral, who is having personal, political and diplomatic experience. He is going to make a breakthrough and the nation should not question anything at this moment and should not embarrass him.

I would like to know whether the Shimla Agreement would cover the ambit of his discussion while he meets the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, while I think my young friend for complimenting me, on one point, I would not like to comment. That is, whatever is happening internally in Pakistan, whether the Constitution is amended or not amended, I am not going to comment on that. That is their business.

So far as the bilateral talks are concerned, the Shimla Agreement emphasises the bilateral talks. And, I think, the two rounds that have taken place at the Foreign Secretary level, at my level as the Foreign Minister and third that might take place in Male is within that ambit.

### Retirement Age

\*442. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended for raising retirement age of Government employees from 58 to 60 years;

(b) if so, whether implementation of this particular recommendation is likely to increase the number of educated unemployed; and

(c) if so, 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes Sir. The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended that the age of retirement of Central Government employees (except those in the Armed Forces, Central Police Organisations or on extension) be raised to 60 years with effect from a prospective date to be notified by the Government. The Commission has also recommended that since the present age of superannuation of Central Government employees has acted a bench mark for determining the ages of superannuation of other categories of employees, judicial officers, constitutional authorities etc. the Commission expects that its recommendation would lead to a suitable re-adjustment in order to maintain the present relativities.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Pay Commission are under the consideration of the Government.

### Pay Commission

\*451. + DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the inordinate delay in adoption of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) whether the Government have received threats from the Central Government employees to go on strike at any time on this issue;

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

(d) the expected date of adoption and implementation of the report; and

(e) the financial implications on account of implementation of the recommendations of the above commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There has been no delay in the consideration of the Report of the Pay Commission. In accordance with the established procedure, the recommendations are required to be scrutinised by an Empowered Committee, which has already met thrice. The views of the Staff Side are also required to be ascertained. A meeting has been held with them. The report is being processed further.

(b) and (c) The Government has not received any notice/threat from the Government employees to go on strike on this issue.



(d) The Government is taking steps to ensure that decisions are taken soon on the recommendations of the Pay Commission.

(e) The Commission has estimated an expenditure of Rs. 8800 crores per annum if all its recommendations are implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since Q.Nos. 442 and 451 are identical, I am allowing both Questions to be taken up together.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : My question is very clear about the impact of raising the retirement age on the employment situation in the country. We are going in a big way for liberalisation and we are also going in a big way on the disinvestment side. There is a certain shrinkage in the opportunities for employment in the Government sector and the private sector has not been able to fill the gap. When this is the situation, is it advisable for the Government to raise this retirement age to 60 years? I would like to have the definite views of the Government.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : The impact of the proposal to raise the age of retirement on the employment situation in the country is being taken into account while examining the proposals of the Pay Commission. I would like to inform the hon. Member that this aspect will be taken into account while arriving at a decision in the matter.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : There is another angle to this situation, that is reservation problem. After a lot of trouble, a lot of study and a lot of struggle, we have been able to get reservation through Mandal Commission in addition to whatever reservations are available to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If the Government raises the retirement age to 60 years, for two more years there will not be any filling up of vacancies now reserved for the backward classes under the Mandal Commission recommendations. That would have a cascading effect in the sense that the eligibility age of getting into Government service will not be postponed by the Government and to that extent many backward class candidates will not be able to get into the service because of age bar. When this is the impact, I would like to know the Government's view as to how they are going to deal with this reservation problem under Mandal Commission if they raise the retirement age to 60 years.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : I might assure my friend that all the points that he has made will be kept in mind when the Government takes a decision.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, since the question is addressed to the Prime Minister, I would like to broaden the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you intend to change the question?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : No, I would like to broaden the question. All the questions with regard to the age of 58 years or 60 years are the questions related to urban areas. There are several schemes of the Government for rural sector which also put a limit on 60 years, like the insurance scheme for agricultural labourers, after death, where the limit is 60 years. Now, why that limit is put there, I do not know.

About the retirement age whether it is 58 years or 60 years, the Committee of Secretaries would make its recommendations and that will be discussed. My question is, in this connection, why is it not being done that the age limit of the people receiving insurance benefits, etc. in the rural sector under various schemes be moved above 60 years? Would you agree to it?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I thought the question was focused on the Pay Commission. But all the same, since Shri Chatterjee is a free thinker, I will keep that in mind.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, enhancing the age of retirement is a very serious question. Any recommendation of the Pay Commission will have an impact on the States. In Kerala the retirement age, even today, is 55 years; in some States, it is 56 years and like that. I will be happy if you can have a uniform retirement age throughout the country.

My question to the hon. Prime Minister is, before accepting these recommendations or enhancing or changing the retirement age or even without changing the retirement age, will the Government of India consult the State Governments and recommend to the State Governments to have a uniform retirement age throughout the country and as Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee said, will it consult the State Governments on every thing? There should be uniformity regarding the retirement age in the public sector, private sector as well as in Government service. Now the disparity makes the things different.

My question is, will the Government consult the State Governments and take a uniform policy in this matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is with regard to Pay Commission.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am talking only about the Pay Commission's recommendations.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I have only said and my colleague has already suggested that the Pay Commission's report is under consideration by various Committees as to what would be the fall out and various other aspects; naturally everything will be kept in mind when we come to a final conclusion.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pay Commission should have submitted their report by now but they have failed to submit it so far. It is a much awaited report for the people. I want to know as to how long people have to wait for its final submission by the Government. Further, what are you going to do for creating job opportunities for youngsters. Will you let me know the time by which you are going to implement those recommendations? I also want to know the time by when and the date from which the report you would be effective?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no question of delaying it. It is only two weeks back that I have assumed the charge of the Prime Minister.....(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : But the same Government is there.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The Government is always there but everything will be decided by the committee.  
....(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Now you make an announcement.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : What announcement?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : By when and the date from which it will be implemented?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can not ask that.

[Translation]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I tell you with due respect that I will ask the committees looking into various aspects to finish their job early.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Minister has told that the Government has not received any notice/threat from the Government employees to go on strike. But I know that both grade I and Grade II employees of the Department of Home, Department of Defence and Department of Health have given several representations to the Hon. Minister. So are any representations by these respective Ministries received and what is the present status of the thinking of the Government?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is true that we have received a number of representations from a number of employees' organizations. In fact, they run into more than hundred. Each one of these representations has been forwarded to the Empowered Committee. The Empowered Committee is looking into those representations.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : In the Empowered Committee, are they all people belonging to the Indian Civil Service or is it consisting of people from Department of Health and other Engineering Services?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : All categories of employees belonging to many, many departments have represented. Offhand, I cannot say whether this particular association has represented or not. I will find out and let you know.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Are they represented in the Committee.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is asking whether other than IAS officers, are there other Members or not?

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : It is that only the Indian Administrative Service is represented?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Empowered Committee consists of the Secretary of Department of Expenditure as the Chairman, Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Secretary, Department of Revenue, Secretary, Department of Posts who is not an IAS officer, Secretary, Department of Telecom who is not an IAS officer, Secretary, Department of Health, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology who is not an IAS officer, Member

(Staff) Railway Board who is not an IAS officer and Deputy Controller and Auditor-General who is not an IAS officer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has said that he is going to increase the retirement age from 58 to 60 years. It will be implemented from the date, the Government takes a decision in this regard. It was repeated several months ago but due to the delay on the part of the Government, a final decision has so far not been taken which is affecting hundreds of people who are retiring daily. The hon. Finance Minister has himself accepted that a large number of representations have come to him from employees. I want to know from him as to whether he has given any time limit, to say two months or three months or six months to the Empowered Committee for submission of their recommendations?

My second question is that a bonange has been given to IAS officers but other categories of employees including the Armed Forces personnel and ex-servicemen are not happy with Pay Commission's recommendations. So, whether you would like to include at least a representative of Armed Forces personnel so that their views are also known to the Committee?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, no decision has been taken about the retirement age. Such a decision can be taken only after the Empowered Committee has made its recommendations to the Government and the Government has considered the report at the highest level. It is, therefore, not possible to ask anyone to implement it unless government takes a decision at the highest level.

As regards the Armed Forces, the Pay Commission's report deals with the Armed Forces. The Secretary, Ministry of Defence is a member of the Empowered Committee.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : He is an IAS officer....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have no doubt in my mind.....(Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Who represents the Armed Forces? The Secretary, Defence is an IAS officer....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : So what if he is an IAS officer?

[English]

Please, you cannot disturb like that. Let the hon. Minister answer. Do not do like that.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Problem remains the same. IAS officers are not giving due weightage to Armed Forces. Therefore my request is only to include some Armed Forces's personnel in place of the Defence Secretary.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have no doubt in my mind that the views of the Armed Forces, particularly of the Chiefs of the three Services will be more than adequately represented and articulated in the Empowered Committee. I will ensure that their views are heard and articulated in the Empowered Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sharad Pawar to ask the question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Thank you Sir. I have got the reply.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I am on question number 442. It is the same question. You have linked the two questions together.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. The Government has categorically stated here that the increasing of the retirement age is under the active consideration of the Government. This has got a very large implication in our society. All the youth organisations in our country have expressed their anguish and their reservation regarding this recommendation of the Pay Commission. So also, the educated unemployment in this country is growing up and recruitment in all the Government Departments is banned. Where will our unemployed youth go? If the retirement age goes up, it will have very serious effect on the employment opportunities in our country.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that before taking any decision in this regard whether the Government will call the representatives of the political youth organisations of this country to have a meaningful dialogue with these organisations.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Senior citizens also can be called....(Interruptions)

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, as we have already stated earlier, before a final decision is taken all the points will be seriously examined. Regarding youth also, they can make the representations to the Empowered Committee.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, for the first time in this Pay Commission's report a recommendation has been made to abolish three-and-a-half lakh posts. I think it is beyond their competence. It is not related to pay. As referred to in his question by Shri RameshChennithala just now, in the face of growing unemployment, the Government being the biggest employer, if the Pay Commission has recommended to abolish three-and-a-half lakh posts, it will have an adverse impact on the younger generation seeking employment in this country. So, it is a very serious aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I think it is beyond the competence of that Committee. I would like to know whether the Government will reject that outright or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir as I said and as the Prime Minister has said, all the recommendations of the Pay Commission are being considered by the Empowered

Committee and we expect to receive the recommendations of the Empowered Committee. How is it possible for a Minister or anyone to stand up in the House today and say; "we accept this or we reject that"? We will keep all points of view in mind.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak. I wanted to say something about 33 percent reservation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am giving you more.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is going to accept the Pay Commission's recommendations but today the country is faced with the increasing problem of population and unemployment. Just now almost every member has expressed his concern about the problem of unemployed youths. Whether the Government have considered the option to encourage voluntary retirement for it will increase the job opportunities in the country. Whether Pay Commission has made any recommendation for encouraging the voluntary retirement from the Government Service.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : She wants to know whether there is any provision for increasing the voluntary retirement in the Government service.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there is no proposal at present to introduce the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Government employees.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Whether you will make any provision in this regard, for it would increase the job opportunities for our youths?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I take note of the hon. Member's suggestion.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, unemployment is a serious threat to this country. As the hon. Members have observed, I also oppose the proposal for enhancing the retirement age from 58 years to 60 years. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to enhance the age limit in the Central Government.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already replied to that question.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : No, Sir; he has not replied. I would like to know whether the age limit for joining the Central Government service will be increased, because it is very difficult to get a job at the age of 35 years or 38 years. I want to know whether it will be enhanced to 40 years or 42 years and whether such a proposal is pending with the Government.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN : Sir, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

### Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project

\*443. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of power in megawatt being generated by the kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project and the target of power generation fixed at the time of setting up of this project;

(b) the number of families displaced and the number of displaced family members out of these to whom jobs have been provided by the Government so far;

(c) whether the Ganga water is getting polluted by this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement R.N. Sengupta Committee Report;

(f) if so, the time by which the report is likely to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

#### Statement

(a) The Installed generating capacity of Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) is 840 MW (4x210 MW). All the units are under commercial operation. During 1996-97, this station generated 3318.3 Million Units against a generation target of 3200 Million Units.

(b) The number of families displaced due to acquisition of land for Kahalgaon STPP is 171. Out these, 20 persons have been given jobs in NTPC. In addition, 38 persons have been engaged with contracting agencies.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The quality of effluents emanating from the Kahalgaon STPP viz., ash pond effluent, main plant effluent, are within the statutory limits prescribed by the Bihar State Pollution Control Board

(e) to (g) This Ministry is not aware of the Sengupta Committee Report

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very important question and I would like to dwell into its background.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not make a speech in the name of background.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Sir, this question had been raised in Legislative Assembly of Bihar and also sent to the Governor of the state. Villagers had staged dharna for 190

days and also observed fast unto death but this problem could not be solved. As you all are aware, work on Kahalgaon Thermal Power Station was started in 1982-83. In 1985, the then Chief Minister Shri Bindeshwari Dubey called a meeting with the management and displaced persons in his chamber. In this meeting all the controversial issues were resolved but so far the decisions taken therein have not been implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : This problem have not been solved so far. Thus I have raised it in Lok sabha, so that poor and backward harijans, who are affected by this project could get justice. A movement was launched for it. This Super Thermal Power Station was set up to generate power upto 1840 megawatt but only four units with a capacity to generate only 840 megawatt could be installed. The land of poor people was acquired for it. Kahalgaon area of Bhagalpur is famous for agriculture. The land of poor people had been acquired 12-13 years ago but so far the proposed power plant with a capacity of 1000 magawatt has not been set up. 840 families were displaced for this project where as the Government has given an incorrect reply that it has taken a decision to provide employment to 171 displaced families. A penal list was prepared for it. So far on the basis of one member per family 20 persons have been provided job whereas remaining 151 families are still in the waiting. I would like to know by when members of these 151 families will be provided jobs. Secondly, pollution being created by it....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask the question you have already taken 7 minutes.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : I am saying that by when these 151 families will be rehabilitated and given employment.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the feasibility report was prepared earlier and the target was 1625 M.W. and 30 M.W. by the Bihar Government. The original target was 2800 M.W. When they submitted the detailed project report, the target was reduced to 1800 M.W. because Farakka and Kahalgaon projects come in the same field. That is why they reduced it. Now the proposal for coal linkage has gone to CEA for clearance.

As regards, the rehabilitation of 150 persons to which the hon. Member is referring to, the Kahalgaon and NTPC authorities are doing the rehabilitation as per the policy and norms prepared after discussion with the World Bank and the Bihar Government. Out of 2086 persons, 1586 persons have been rehabilitated. A sum of rupees two and a half crore has been spent on the compensation of land. We are giving them jobs of supervisor, workmen and we are also allotting shops to them. Out of 2062 persons, 1550 persons were given direct jobs or petty contracts. We have spent Rs. 2.5. crore for social development. Whatever we have implemented so far is as per the recommendations of the Rehabilitation Committee. We are doing it in consultation with local union leaders and the Bihar Government.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, as regards the people who have not been rehabilitated so far, the Government will give it high priority and see that they are rehabilitated.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the water contaminated by ash emanated by this Super Thermal Power Project is spreading in the area and has rendered 1000 acre land of farmness uncultivable. This area is famous for production of Litchi, mango and wheat, thus such an area should have not been selected for setting up Thermal Power Plant. It has destroyed thousands of acres of cultivable land. The silt in bottom of Ganga can cause dreaded epidemic of joundice. Whether the Government will take effective measures to check pollution and provide drinking water. Though the hon. Minister has not responded to several problems raised here but hon. Prime Minister has given assurance in this House. I demand that a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to inquire into the facts regarding the *dharna* staged by the affected persons for 190 days and callousness of officers who have not taken any action in this regard. Report of this proposed Committee should be presented in the House.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you say the Committee can be constituted for it. But it will be better and immediate action can be taken if MPs elected from this area, be they from any political party, conduct a study in this matter and tell me the facts.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister of Power that Uttar Pradesh is facing acute shortage of power. Around Rs. 600 crore of R.E.C is due on Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh and the state is unable to pay even the interest accrued on this amount. For the last 2-3 years the work in the sector of power production has come to a standstill.

I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to whether the loan due on Electricity Board of Uttar Pradesh will be waived off in the same way as loan of Punjab has been .

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not relate to the original question. This question relates to Super Thermal Power Projects

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the land is acquired by the Government for setting up a network of factories, raining the mines and in the same way land of Kahalgaon was acquired for Super Thermal Power Project. A provision of providing employment to the persons displaced from the site of Kahalgaon Thermal Power Station was made but so far only 20 persons have been given employment in this project. Various Public Sector undertakings have different type of provisions in this regard. Like Coal India provides employment to one person for acquiring 3 acres of irrigated land or 2 acres of unirrigated land. I would like to know from the Government as to what is the provisions for providing employment to land losers in Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station. How many persons were to provide employment for how much land for 2 acres or 3 acres of land or one member of the affected family.

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, the total land acquired earlier....

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : That is not my question. My question is, what is your policy?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has asked as particular question. Do you have the answer?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Earlier, when the NTPC acquired the lands, there was no policy at all with regard to land oustees. When we have gone to the World Bank for taking loans, the World Bank told that the NTPC should provide jobs and basic facilities to the land oustees. For the rehabilitation of the land oustees, a survey was done and it is under consideration of the World Bank. According to that, for the land that we acquired, we have to give compensation.

SHRI REMENDRA KUMAR : I am not asking anything about rehabilitation. I am asking a very specific question. What is the norm for giving employment to land losers, whose land has been acquired by the NTPC? There should be some provision of this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is, are you providing employment to those people?

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Yes, Sir, we are providing employment to the land oustees depending on their qualification....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister said that they have certain norms for providing employment.

SHRI REMENDRA KUMAR : Can the Minister not state the norms for giving employment to land losers? The Minister is not stating the whole facts about giving employment to the land losers, whose land has been acquired by the NTPC.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The hon. Members might keep in mind what I had said earlier. In this particular project, there are only a few people left, who have not yet been employed. I had requested the hon. Members, and that includes him, Sir, that if all the Members tell me how many people are still unemployed, I will look into it very favourably.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

#### World Bank Aid

\*44. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and other foreign agencies have provided any assistance to Rajasthan and other States to undertake water supply schemes and sanitation schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those places where work has already been started under these schemes; and

(d) the details of progress made in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The schemes for which external assistance is being provided by the World Bank and other foreign agencies are as under :

Sl.No.	Water Supply & Sanitation Schemes (WS&S)	Cost (Rs. in crores)	External Assistance (Million)	Agency	Year of Completion/ expected date of completion
1.	Hyderabad WS&S	337.80	US\$ 89.0	World Bank	31.03.1998
2.	II Chennai WS (New Veeranam)	421.40	US\$ 69.4	World Bank	30.06.2002
3.	Mumbai Sewage Disposal	1003.80	US\$ 192.0	World Bank	31.12.2002
4.	Functional Improvements to Chennai WS&S systems	572.09	Yen 17098	OECF Japan	30.06.1999
5.	Bangalore WS&S	1072.00	Yen 28452	OECF Japan	31.12.2001
6.	Kerala Urban & Rural Water Supply	1787.48	Yen 11997	OECF Japan	31.12.2003
7.	Maharashtra Rural WS&S	319.58	US\$ 109.90	World Bank	31.12.1997
8.	Karnataka Rural WS&S	447.20	US\$ 92.00	World Bank	30.06.2000
9.	U.P. Rural WS&S	783.38	US\$ 59.60	World Bank	2002
10.	Integrated WSS & Community participation for Rajasthan	253.01	DM 135.00	Kfw (Germany)	

(c) The names of the places where the work has already been started under the above schemes are as under:-

- (i) Hyderabad and Secunderabad.
- (ii) Chennai
- (iii) Mumbai
- (iv) Chennai
- (v) Bangalore
- (vi) Pattuvam, Meenad, Cherthala, adjoining villages, Thiruvananthapuram and Calicut.
- (vii) Satara, Pune, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Thane, Aurangabad, Beed, Latur, Buldhana and Chandrapur.
- (viii) Bangalore, Mandya, Mysore, Shimoga, Dhakshina, Bellary, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar, Belgaum, Tumkur and Hassan.
- (ix) Tehri, Deoria, Jhansi, Bijnor, Dehradun, Pithoragarh, Nainital, Chamoli, Uttar Kashi, Pauri, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Almora, Hamirpur, Banda, Mirzapur Sonbhadra and Allahabad.
- (x) Churu and Hanumangarh.

(d) Since water supply and sanitation are State subjects, the schemes are implemented by the concerned project authorities. The details of progress made in each of the towns and villages individually is not monitored by Government of India. However, as per available information, the schemes mentioned in reply to part (c) are under various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister has given details of the Drinking water scheme and Sanitation Schemes taken up with the assistance of World Bank and other foreign agencies. I would like to know about the nature of this assistance. Is it a loan or simply assistance for these schemes or we have to pay interest on this assistance. What is the criteria for selection of these schemes. A large area of our country is pining for water even 50 year after the Independence. I would like to draw your attention towards Rajasthan. A major portion of this State is facing acute shortage of water. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the nature of this assistance, interest to be paid by the country on it and criteria of selecting these schemes.

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : As far as this question is concerned, normally two types of loans are being provided. The World Bank has got a major lending agency in the urban water supply and sanitation sector. It has got two lending windows, the International Development Association and the International Bank for reconstruction and Development. We get assistance through both these agencies.

If the loan is given under the IBRD agency, the rate of interest normally charged is between seven per cent to 7.5 per cent and it is repayable in 20 years.

If the credit is given under International Development Association, no interest is charged and the term of repayment is for 35 years with a grace period of 10 years. But a service of 0.5 per cent is made under IDA credit.

As far as the loan samples and the mix of these two components is concerned, they will decide whether to give the loan under one particular component or mix of both the components depending upon the project. As far as the assistance we are getting is concerned, normally they have been mixing both these IDA and IBRD components. This is one part of it.

The second part is what the criterion for selecting the location is. The criterion for the selection of the location is mainly dependent upon the State Government. The State Government, depending upon its own necessity, suggests as to which project is to be taken up. When once the project is suggested by the State Government, it is the Union Government which will take up the issue of which Ministry is concerned with it, the Ministry of Rural Development or the Ministry of Urban Development, depending upon the location of the project in the rural area or in the urban area and then the project is processed by the concerned Ministry. The project will be taken up normally depending upon the necessity and the need expressed by the concerned State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Mr Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has told that central Government does not monitor the schemes launched with assistance of foreign agencies whereas Central Government gives guarantee for efficient implementation of those schemes. These are important schemes and I feel that in the absence of any monitoring by the Central Government these schemes are not completed in stipulated time. In the reply he has mentioned the estimated time but so far no project has been completed within the stipulated time and by the time of completion of these schemes the cost of the project escalates three times of the original estimate.

I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to monitor these schemes with a view to ensure their timely completion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Budaniaji, please ask the supplementary question.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : I am asking that. In 'd' part of my question I have asked about the details of the progress made in this regard. But hon. Minister has not given the details of progress. I would like to know about the progress of drinking water schemes of Churu and Hanumangarh districts of Rajasthan which are taken up with assistance of German Government. How the Government is monitoring it from time to time. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Churu Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan and I am familiar with the problems of the area. The people of Churu and Hanumangarh are pining for water. They are compelled to drink water containing fluoride, which causes several diseases and die an untimely death. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action is being taken for timely completion of drinking water schemes of Churu and Hanumangarh. What is the present position of these schemes. Whether the Government propose to expand these Drinking water schemes of Churu and Hanumangarh.

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Regarding the first part of the question of the hon. Member about the monitoring system of the Union Government with regard to such schemes which are funded externally, I would like to say that this is not Centrally-sponsored Scheme to have a regular monitoring of the Scheme from the Union Government. So, the Union Government will facilitate obtaining the loan from the external agencies. When once the loan is obtained, that will be handed over to the State Government and the State Government will nominate one particular agency even to carry out the whole work. It may be some Sewerage Board or Water Board or some such thing and it will carry out the work. As such, normally, we will not be keeping a regular monitoring system from the Union Government because it is an externally-aided Fund and the State Government will carry out the work. The State Government will take adequate care of it. But we have been getting the progress report now and then as to what is the total expenditure that has been incurred with regard to this Scheme. It was not regular earlier. But now I made it a point that I should get the information at least once in six months so that we can keep track of all these things. We have just developed some monitoring system, monitoring in the sense to watch the progress of the expenditure because all these Projects are primarily the Projects of the State Governments.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, it is really a very important question. But there are four Projects that have been proposed by the Rajasthan Government. Two Projects are already under implementation and two Projects are yet to be started. The particular reference which the hon. Member has made is with regard to Churu and Hanumangarh Districts. The Government of Rajasthan has reported that Integrated Water Supply, Sanitation and Community Participation Project for Churu and Hanumangarh Districts of Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs. 253.01 crore is under implementation with

assistance from AFW Germany. The amount of assistance is DM 135 million. The Project envisages drinking water supply in 325 villages and two town; sanitation measures in two town; community participation and involvement of women in transition of the Project. The Project Agreement was signed in June 1995. The Project concerns the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. The details can be obtained. If the hon. member is so particular, I will pass on the details. I have got the total details as to what are the stages of the Project. I can send a copy of the total details to the hon. Member mentioning what is the stage of each project.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, this is a question which relates to drinking water in the country. Fortunately, it has been possible for us to supply foodgrains to ourselves. But unfortunately it has not been possible for us to supply drinking water to all the people in all parts of the country continuously throughout the year.

Some small schemes have been made by the State Governments and implemented, and they have given some relief also. But we have found that those small schemes are not really helpful and fully helpful. Money is being wasted and what is being done is also not able to supply drinking water continuously for a period.

So, we would like to know whether the Government of India has any foolproof long-term scheme, plan and policy to supply drinking water to the people in all parts of our country, and if yes, what is that scheme and if yes, in what period of time, it would be possible for us to supply drinking water to ourselves.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Sir, the question is primarily with regard to external assistance to some of the projects. But however.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is also for other States.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : I am not disputing about the States because it is about 'Rajasthan and other States'. So, it is related to the World Bank assistance to certain projects. However, this is a very important aspect which the hon. Member has asked.

As far as this particular question of providing drinking water to all parts of the country is concerned, in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government, out of the seven areas that have been identified as 'priority areas', 'providing drinking water' is also one of the areas. As far as the rural areas are concerned, the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment is dealing with it and to my knowledge, subject to correction, they have increased the allocation under the Rural Water Supply Scheme this year. Particularly, wherever there is a problematic area, immediately they have been attending to it under the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission with all the drinking water schemes. The priority has been attached to this particular aspect of providing drinking water both in the rural areas as well as urban areas. So, the Government is at it. The Government is very much interested in solving this problem of drinking water in all parts of the country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the 7th point of the details given in reply to this question, hon. Minister has told about the funds provided for supply of drinking water in rural areas, and sanitation schemes of Maharashtra. He has also said that this work will be completed by 31.12.97. In 'C' part of the reply he has told that work on this project has been started in Satara, Pune, Ahmed Nagar, Sangali, Thane, Aurangabad, Beed, Latur, Buldane and Chandrapur of Maharashtra. Sir, I come from Beed Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. In this area no work on this project has been started whereas hon. Minister has said that it will be completed by December 1997. I do not think that it can be done. In my district you can see women bringing water from far away. There is no facility of drinking water. I would like to know as to whether the time bound programme formulated by you is feasible in view of the fact that so far work on this project has not been started?

[English]

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : I beg your pardon. It is with regard to Item No.7?

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, kindly answer it briefly, otherwise the Question Hour is going to be over.

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Sir, I will give a very brief answer. As far as the Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme is concerned, the project was conceived with an outlay of Rs. 319.58 crore and we have received a report from the State Government that about Rs. 5.06 crore has already been spent on that. So, the scheme has been initiated by the State Government, it must have been at various levels but the scheme had been implemented even in 1991 itself.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there is a huge time-lag in getting the schemes submitted for external funding clearance. You have taken more than two to three years. What are the reasons for it?

12.00 hrs

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : For want of time I will not be in a position to give a detailed reply. Primarily when once a scheme is processed and submitted to the World Bank, they will send their reconnaissance team at four stages. The first stage is project identification, the second stage is project preparation, the third stage is pre-appraisal and the fourth stage is appraisal. So, their teams will come. Because any lending agency, any financial agency will have to look at the economic viability and the technical feasibility of the project. They will be sending the teams at different stages. Once they get convinced, then only they will release the funds. It normally takes not less than two years for the final sanction to come.



## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]***Beedi Workers**

\*445. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of beedi workers at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of various schemes introduced by the Government to provide loans for the construction of houses and other facilities to those worker; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries of such schemes in each State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The total number of beedi workers in the country are estimated to be around 4.36 million. The State-wise details are given in Statement-I

The Central Government implements Build Your Own House Scheme (BYOHS) for beedi workers, who own their own land/ plot, under which interest-free loan of Rs. 10,000/- repayable in monthly instalments in nine years for constructions of one house is provided and subsidy of Rs. 3,000/- and additional subsidy of Rs. 1,700/- to those workers who adopt small family norm is also provided. Besides, under the Group Housing Scheme, the beedi workers are entitled to a loan of Rs. 6,000/- per house and subsidy of Rs. 1,000/- per house, recoverable in quarterly instalments spread over a period of nine years, which is given to the Cooperative Society. In addition, there are two other schemes where no loans are provided but subsidy is given. In Economically Weaker Sections Housing Scheme subsidy is provided for 50% of the actual cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 9,000/- Under the scheme for Construction of Worksheds/Godowns by Cooperative Societies of beedi workers subsidy is provided upto Rs. 75,000/- for each or 75% of the actual cost of construction for both whichever is less. The other facilities available to these workers are given in Statement-II

The data regarding number of beneficiaries of these schemes are not maintained state-wise. Region-wise break up of the number of beneficiaries is given at Statement-III.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of the total number of beedi workers (Estimated)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of beedi workers estimated at present
1	2	3
1.	West Bengal	4,75,000
2.	Assam	7,725
3.	Tripura	5,000
4.	Orissa	1,60,000

1	2	3
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7,50,000
6.	Andhra Pradesh	6,00,000
7.	Rajasthan	1,00,000
8.	Gujarat	50,000
9.	Karnataka	3,60,876
10.	Kerala	1,36,419
11.	Maharashtra	2,56,000
12.	Bihar	3,91,5000
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4,50,000
14.	Tamil Nadu	6,21,000
Total		43,63,520

**Statement-II****A. List of Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers**

1. Static-cum-mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2. Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3. Scheme for domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4. Scheme for treatment of beedi workers suffering from Cancer.
5. Scheme for treatment of beedi workers suffering Mental Diseases.
6. Scheme for treatment of beedi workers (including Ghar Khata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.
7. Grant of financial assistance to beedi workers for purchase of spectacles.
8. Maternity benefit scheme for female beedi workers.
9. Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to beedi workers.
10. Re-imbusement of expenditure as financial assistance to beedi workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-imbusement of expenditure as financial assistance to beedi workers in respect of kidney Transplantation.

**Social Security**

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

**Housing**

1. Build Your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of beedi workers.
3. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of beedi industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.
4. Group Housing Scheme.

**Education**

1. Award of scholarship to the children of beedi workers including Gharkhata beedi workers.
2. Composite scheme for Financial Assistance to the school going children of beedi workers for supply of one set of dress, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- per day to female children of beedi workers on the basis of attendance in schools.

**Recreation**

1. Establishment of Audio-visual sets/cinema vans/ exhibition of films.
2. Organising sports, games, social and cultural activities for beedi workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for beedi workers.
4. Supply of T.V. sets to the beedi workers industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of Community Hall in beedi workers housing colony with colour T.V. sets.

**B. Assistance under Welfare Funds : Subsidy per unit**

S.No.	Item	Assistance Available
1.	Financial norms for purchase of medicines in the dispensaries.	Rs. 4/- per patient per Visit in Allopathic and Rs. 3/- in Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2.	Scholarship for children studying in class V and above (upto post graduate/ professional course)	Rs. 250/- to Rs. 3000/- p.a. per head.

3. School uniforms/ Text books Rs. 125/- per head. and stationery to the wards of beedi workers studying upto class IV.
4. Rate of increase in number of scholarship. No restriction.

**C. Housing schemes for beedi workers**

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Assistance available
1.	Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Housing Scheme.	50% of the actual cost of construction subject to maximum of Rs. 9000/-
2.	Build Your Own House Scheme (BYOHS)	(i) Interest free loan upto Rs. 10,000/- (ii) Subsidy of Rs. 3000/- (iii) Additional subsidy of Rs. 1700/- to those workers who adopt small family norms.
3.	Construction of Worksheds/ Godowns by Cooperative Societies of beedi workers	Rs. 75,000/- for each or 75% of the actual cost of construction for both whichever is less.
4.	Group Housing Scheme	(i) Subsidy- Rs.1000/- per house. (ii) Loan- Rs. 6000/- per house.

**Statement -III****Statement of Beneficiaries under various Schemes during 1995-96**

Allahabad	Bangalore	Bhilwara	Bhubaneswar	Calcutta	Hyderabad	Jabalpur	Karma	Nagpur	Total
244576	493582	283117	492355	353737	901618	891125	781875	291730	4733733

**B. Details of Beneficiaries under Various Schemes During 1996-97 (Provisional)**

Allahabad	Bangalore	Bhilwara	Bhubaneswar	Calcutta	Hyderabad	Jabalpur	Karma	Nagpur	Total
329456	532596	242868	-----	378192	911809	908731	673416	253823	4238894

**[Translation]****Prices of Crude Oil**

\*446. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:  
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale changes have occurred in the international market of crude oil from January to April, 1997;

(b) if so, the prices of crude oil during the above period in international market;

(c) whether the increase in prices at international market has cast its impact on the Indian consumers during the above period; and

(d) if so, the reasons due to which the Indian consumers do not get the benefit of minimum prices of crude oil prevailing in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) and (b) Oil prices in the international market are highly volatile in nature and these are driven by market forces viz. demand and supply fundamentals, political development in major oil producing/exporting countries viz. resumption of crude oil exports by Iraq towards and December, 96, abnormal variations in weather conditions etc. in various parts of the world market sentiments etc. prevailing at the given point of time.

The average prices of market crude oils viz. Dubai, Oman and Dated Brent in the international market as published by Platt's crude oil market wire for the period Jan. 97 to Apr' 97 are USD 18.69/bbl, USD 19.57/bbl and USD 20.20/bbl respectively.

(c) and (d) The existing pricing of the petroleum products is administered according to which some petroleum products like SKO used by the vulnerable sections of the society are subsidised. Original Oil Economy Budget for the year 1996-97 had estimated that net import bill would be approx. US\$ 7342.5 million. However, as per revised OEB, the import bill for year 1996-97 is now estimated at US \$ 9321.6 million approx.

Oil Pool Account maintained by OCC is estimated to be deficit of Rs. 15,000 crores by 31.3.97 and this is projected to be Rs. 24500 crores by 31.3.98. This amount represents outstanding dues payable to the oil companies by OCC. Government is exploring various options to contain this deficit.

[English]

### Haj Pilgrimage

\*447. SHRI RAM NAIK :  
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the approximate number of Indians who went for recent Haj Pilgrimage and the number of persons who died or were injured and missing due to fire at Mecca and Mina.

(b) the efforts made/being made to provide relief to the families of deceased and injured persons;

(c) whether there are instructions for crisis management either to the Indian team or the Indian Embassy;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the result of the relief measures made in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have sent a team to Jeddah to find out the facts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP):

(a) The total number of Indian nationals who went for Haj pilgrimage this year is approximately 81,000. Of these, 53,664 came through the Central Haj Committee. The balance of approximately 27,000 came through tour operators, from other countries or were residents in Saudi Arabia. The fire at Mina on April 15, resulted in casualties among Indian pilgrims. As of today the total number of identified dead is 94, the number of reported missing is 122, and the number of injured persons receiving treatment in Saudi Government hospitals is 147. In addition, another 269 persons were injured in the fire and its aftermath. Of this number 172 are receiving treatment from the Indian medical mission in Mecca. The total number of injured is estimated of approximately a little over 400.

(b) Government have announced wide ranging relief measures to the families of the deceased and injured persons. These include ex-gratia payment of rupees one lakh to the next of kin of the pilgrim killed in the fire and to the permanently disabled and free treatment to the injured in Government hospitals with financial help as may be required. The embassy of India in Saudi Arabia and the CGI in Jeddah were directed to provide immediate financial and other relief to the injured and to those who were rendered destitute in the fire. Government has offered to fly back to India by a special charter flight the injured pilgrims who were medically fit to travel. Government also offered to the next of kin of the dead to transport the bodies back to India free of cost. Those who have lost their travel documents in the fire are being issued duplicate documents expeditiously and free of cost. Government also mobilised the service of the Indian community in Jeddah and distributed clothes and cash to the needy pilgrims including the injured. Materials required to treat the injured i.e. bandages, cotton wool and ointments were airlifted to Jeddah by the Government of India. Several of the injured who were discharged earlier after receiving treatment in hospitals have since returned to India. Others are awaiting their assigned return flights for India as per the Haj charter schedule. These pilgrims continue to be under observation by the Indian medical mission deployed in Mecca and Madina, and are being rendered necessary medical care until their scheduled flights. Names of injured pilgrims on each return flight are being conveyed in advance by Air India office in Jeddah so as to facilitate their reception on arrival in Delhi and other entry points, as well as prompt medical attention to them and movement to hospitals and clinics as required. Reception of the pilgrims on return is being handled by the concerned State Haj Committee in coordination with MEA, Air India and immigration and Customs authorities. Prime Minister has appointed a two-member Ministerial Committee consisting of Shri. C.M. Ibrahim and Shri Maqbool Dar to deal with the implementation of relief measures. The relief measures are being implemented on an immediate basis through special arrangements created with the framework of Haj Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs for processing and disbursing relief amounts.

(c) and (d) All Indian Missions/Posts abroad have standing instructions and guidelines for emergency and crisis situations. The nature of the tragedy in Mina was of a kind

In which these guidelines have a limited applicability. However, as soon as information about the fire and its impact on Indian pilgrims was made known to the Government on the afternoon of April 15, our Mission in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah were issued instructions to take all possible steps for relief and assistance to the injured pilgrims. The mission set up control rooms in Jeddah, Mecca and Riyadh to collect and disseminate the information on the casualties, and to co-ordinate the relief work and to handle enquiries from the relatives of the pilgrims. On the night of April 15 itself, food and drinking water was arranged for over 5,000 pilgrims. On subsequent days, a comprehensive routine was developed by the mission to (i) visit the morgue near Mina with relatives of the missing/dead to help identify the dead; (ii) daily visits to all the hospitals in Mecca and Mina by the Indian medical mission to ascertain position regarding the Indians injured; (iii) setting up of a special dressing room for burns in the main dispensary at Mecca; (iv) making arrangements in all the nine branch dispensaries in Mecca for the treatment of the injured; (v) daily visits by doctors of Indian medical mission to all the buildings housing Indian pilgrims in Mecca; (vi) rendering assistance to indigent pilgrims through the Indian pilgrims Welfare Forum, Jeddah, which is a voluntary organization of resident Indians.

(e) and (f) A four member team comprising of three MPs and one former MP with experience in Haj matters visited Saudi Arabia from April 25–May 1 to enquire after the welfare of the pilgrims particularly the injured, and next of kin and to advise on further relief measures as well as to take stock of the overall situation regarding missing pilgrims. The team visited the site of the fire and the injured pilgrims receiving treatment in the hospitals, met other pilgrims and had discussions with the Saudi officials concerned with the Haj arrangement and Indian Ambassador and the Consul General. The team's recommendation for immediate disbursement of financial relief to the injured being treated in Saudi Arabia and grant of ex-gratia relief of rupees one lakh to the permanently disabled have been accepted. The teams report including its other recommendations are under the consideration of the Government. Earlier an official team led by Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs visited Jeddah on April 17-20 to assess the situation and to supervise relief measures required.

#### Foreign Exchange

\*448. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have surrendered foreign exchange during the last three years as required under Section 14 of FERA;

(b) whether the Government have set up any machinery to identify the law violators;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons identified and prosecuted during the above period;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check illegal accumulation of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Data in this regard are not being separately generated.

(b) to (d) A separate department namely the Enforcement Directorate is there to deal with the violators of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973 (FERA). Number of persons prosecuted in the courts for violations of the provisions of the FERA during the last three years are as under:

Year	Number of prosecutions launched
1994	264
1995	202
1996	101

(e) The Government, through its enforcement agencies, keeps a regular check on illegal accumulation of foreign exchange.

#### Currency Notes and Coins

\*449. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of currency notes and coins of different denominations which are in circulation in the country;

(b) whether the Government monitor the position of currency notes and coins of different denomination;

(c) if so, the details of the currency notes and coins which are in short supply; and

(d) the steps taken to fulfil the demand of such denomination currency notes and coins?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The currency notes and coins

in circulation at the end of March, 1997 are as under :

Denomination	Currency notes	Coins (in million pieces)
Re. 1	3201	8960
Rs. 2	2765	1444
Rs. 5	3480	963
Rs. 10	10056	—
Rs. 20	378	—
Rs. 50	7122	—
Rs. 100	6081	—
Rs. 500	495	—

(b) The Reserve Bank of India monitors the position of currency notes and coins in different denominations.

(c) There is a general shortage of currency notes and coins of various denominations due to the limited production of note printing presses and mints.

(d) The note printing presses at Dewas and Nasik are being modernised to augment their capacity. The Reserve Bank of India has set up its own note printing presses at Mysore (Karnataka) and Salbani (West Bengal). With the modernisation of the Government presses at Nasik and Dewas and full capacity production at the RBI presses at Mysore and Salbani by the year 1998-99, the supply position of notes will improve considerably. Reserve Bank of India is also, as a one-time measure, getting currency notes (Rs. 100-2000 million pieces and Rs. 500-1600 million pieces) printed abroad to meet the demand-supply gap till the year 2000. Government mints at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai are being modernised. The supply position of coins will improve after modernisation by March, 1998. Government has decided to import coins (Re. 1 - 700 million pieces and Rs. 2-300 million pieces) to improve supply position.

#### Indians in Kuwait and Iraq Jails

\*450. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in jails of Kuwait and Iraq as a result of Gulf war between them;

(b) the details of charges against these Indians; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to get these Indians released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Right to Information

\*452. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group constituted by the Government to study the issues connected with the right to information and promoting open and transparent Government, has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government;

(d) the steps being taken to implement these recommendations;

(e) whether the Chairperson of the Press Council has also drafted a Bill for right to information and whether the draft has been sent to the Government; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(e) and (f) A draft Bill on Right to Information received from the Chairperson of the Press Council was made available to the Working Group on Right to Information for consideration during its deliberations.

#### Violation of Customs Rules

\*453. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreigners arrested in India during the last two years and upto March, 1997 for violating customs rules and smuggling;

(b) the names of the countries to which these foreigners belonged;

(c) the corresponding figures for the years 1994 and 1995; and

(d) the details of the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) 372 foreigners were arrested in India during the last two years and upto March, 1997 for violating Customs Rules including smuggling. 196 & 168 foreigners were arrested in the year 1994 & 1995 respectively for similar violations.

The arrested foreigners belong to various countries including Afghanistan, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Malaysia,

Italy, Nepal, Nigeria, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Phillipines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Spain, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Switzerland, Turkey, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkmenistan, U.K., U.S.A., Uganda, Vietnam and Yemen.

Intelligence agencies and field formations of Customs are alert to detect and prevent smuggling of goods and violations of Customs Act. Strict vigil is being maintained at all International Airports/ports and sensitive areas of the borders to prevent smuggling and apprehend the offenders including foreigners. Specific measures taken include surveillance and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-Ray machines at Airports/ports and Land Customs Stations. A number of vehicles have been provided for anti smuggling operations throughout the country. Further, two helicopters have been positioned since July, 1996 in the West Coast for Anti-smuggling work cum surveillances. Training is being imparted to the officers to improve their skills and abilities.

All cases of smuggling and violations of Customs Act/Rules which are detected are followed up by proper and timely investigation adjudication, and prosecution against all accused including foreign nationals.

[Translation]

### Decline in National Savings

\*454. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various savings schemes launched by the Government have received a serious set back due to high interest rates offered by Private Companies and financial institutions;

(b) whether a decline of 11 percent in National Savings Schemes has been registered alone during the current year in comparison to last year;

(c) whether Government rates in all deposit schemes are half to one and a half percent lower than the rates offered by the Private Companies and institutions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The gross collections in the various small savings Schemes launched by the Government of India show an increasing trend over the years. The actual figures for 1996-97 are not yet available.

(c) The Small Savings Schemes launched by Government of India are not comparable with the Schemes offered by Private Companies/Institutions. Each saving instrument is designed to cater to different requirements of small savers.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Organisation of Islamic Countries

\*455. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that organisation of Islamic countries at its meeting held on March 24, 1997 have agreed to support Pakistan on its Kashmir Policies and in liberating Kashmir from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of countries who attended the meetings and signed the declaration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The OIC at a Special Summit in Islamabad on March 23, 1997 adopted a Special Declaration on Jammu & Kashmir. This document makes observations about J & K and calls for action which echoes Pakistan's well-known views on the issue.

(c) The meeting was attended by OIC countries, whose names are given in the attached Statement.

### Statement

1. Jordan
2. Azerbaijan
3. Afghanistan (seat vacant)
4. Albania
5. United Arab Emirates
6. Indonesia
7. Uganda
8. Iran
9. Pakistan
10. Bahrain
11. Brunei Darussalam
12. Burkina Faso
13. Bangladesh
14. Benin
15. Turkey
16. Chad
17. Tunisia
18. Gabon
19. Gambia
20. Algeria
21. Comoros
22. Djibouti
23. Saudi Arabia

24. Senegal
25. Sudan
26. Syria
27. Sierra Leone
28. Somalia
29. Iraq
30. Oman
31. Guinea
32. Guinea-Bissau
33. Palestine
34. Kirghystan
35. Qatar
36. Cameroon
37. Kuwait
38. Lebanon
39. Libya
40. Maldives
41. Mali
42. Malaysia
43. Egypt
44. Morocco
45. Mauritania
46. Niger
47. Nigeria
48. Yemen
49. Mozambique
50. Turkmenistan
51. Tajikistan
52. Kazakhstan
53. Surinam
54. Guyana

[Translation]

#### **Increase in the cost of Passport**

\*456. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cost of passport and increase in the cost made during the last one year;

(b) the reasons for continuous increase in the cost of passport;

(c) whether the Government propose to simplify and streamline the procedure for issuing passports and to reduce its cost; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) There has been no increase in the fees for various passport services including issue of fresh passports since July, 1993.

A number of steps have been taken to simplify and streamline the procedures for expeditious issue of passports which, *inter-alia*, are:

- (a) upgradation of office facilities including computerisation leading to faster screening and processing of applications;
- (b) simplification of passport and miscellaneous services forms;
- (c) issue of passports without any further wait for police clearance in cases where police reports are not received during the prescribed time-limit of four weeks;
- (d) a thorough scrutiny of applications at the acceptance stage itself to check their completeness/correctness in all respects;
- (e) augmentation of staff strength to reduce and clear pendencies;
- (f) provision to issue passports in cases of emergency/urgency on out of turn basis on the strength of Verification Certificate issued by an authorised official ;
- (g) expansion of the list of officials authorised to sign Verification Certificates;
- (h) introduction of passports valid for 20 years; and
- (i) automatic reissue of passports on expiry without fresh police verification.

There is no proposal to reduce the fees for passports in view of the constant increase in the cost of production of the passport booklets.

#### **Use of Indian Languages**

\*457. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have given option to answer questions in all the competitive examinations for recruitment to different services in Indian languages;

(b) if so, the names of all these services;

(c) whether the resolution to this effect passed by the Parliament on 18 January, 1968 has been fully implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Government intend to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Recruitment to various services/posts under the Government is done through a number of recruiting bodies like UPSC, SSC Railway Recruitment Board or through Departmental Selection Committees etc. Medium of examinations conducted by these bodies is decided by them in consultation with the respective administrative Ministry/Department keeping in view the provisions of the Resolution of 1968 as also the specific requirements of the service/post for which selection is made. As regards UPSC and SSC, the two main bodies for making selection for various services/ posts

under the Government with which the Ministry of Personnel, P.G. and Pensions is concerned, the extent of use of Indian Language(s) in the examinations conducted by them is indicated in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) The question of extending the option for writing answers in the Indian languages in the other examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission was examined by the Expert Committee whose recommendations are currently under consideration of the Government. In view of importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Government's effort is to seek a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holding wider consultation with the State Governments and others. The process of consultation is still not over.

### Statement

*Indian languages permitted for answering question*

	UPSC	SSC
Examinations in which option is available to answer questions in English, Hindi and other languages included in the VIIIth Schedule	Civil Services (Main) Examination	-----
Examinations in which option is available to answer questions in English or Hindi only	Section Officers Stenographers Grade/ (Grade I) Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (Option for some papers only)	Assistant Grade (Main) Examination
	Grade I (Under Secretary) Limited Departmental Competitive Examination for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes	Clerks Grade Examination (for Group 'D' staff)
		Stenographers Grade C Examination (for essay paper)

- NOTE : 1. For all the other main examinations conducted by UPSC requiring descriptive answers, use of only English language is permitted
2. All the other major examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission and some examinations of UPSC are of objective type pattern requiring tick marking for which medium for answering the questions is not relevant.

[Translation]

#### Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline Project

\*458. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ambitious project for laying the gas pipelines from Oman has been suspended;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to revive these projects in view of the huge amount spent therein; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the project is proposed to

be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The feasibility study for the Oman-India gas pipeline project is yet to be completed by the Oman Oil Company. Although the Government of India has not spent any money on the feasibility study, attempts are being made to expedite the feasibility study in view of the importance of the project. A joint working group has been formed by GAIL and Oman Oil Company to expedite the feasibility study and to identify possible sources of funds for the project.

(d) It is not possible at present to indicate a time frame for the implementation of the project.



*[English]***Non-plan Expenditure**

\*459. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not provided any amount by way of non-plan expenditure during 1997-98 for Public Sector Undertakings like Scooters India Ltd. (SIL), Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) and Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. (BYN);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which expenditure towards the salary of employees and other maintenance charges are proposed to be met during the year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Non-Plan loans provided in BE 1997-98 for HEC, HPC, etc.:

(Rs. in crore)

PSU	Non-Plan loan in BE1997-98	Remarks
1. Scooter India Ltd.	..	The Company does not need Non-Plan support from Government in 1997-98 due to improved performance. It earned a profit of Rs. 1.09 crore in 1996-97.
2. Heavy Engineering Corporation	18.00	
3. Hindustan Paper Corporation	..	The Company has not sought any Non-Plan support from Government as it expects to earn an operating profit in 1997-98.
4. Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	9.70	This comprises Rs. 5.70 crore for Triveni Structural Ltd. and Rs. 4 crore for Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd. both subsidiaries of BYNL. The provisions made are as per the requirement of funds envisaged in the sanctioned BIFR scheme.

(c) No difficulty is envisaged in meeting the expenditure towards salary of employees and other maintenance charges, of these PSUs. The expenditure to the extent required will be met from their own internal resources.

*[Translation]***Foreign Ministers Conference of NAM Countries**

\*460. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :  
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NAM Ministerial Conference was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the number of countries participated in the conference;

(c) the details of the decisions taken in this conference;

(d) whether any declaration was made regarding withdrawal of Israel forces from all Palestinian territories;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the benefits likely to accrue to India by the NAM conference;

(g) whether it has improved the possibility of India entering the UN Security Council as a permanent member; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 129 countries participated in the Conference, including 99 Member States, 6 Observers and 24 Guests.

(c) Apart from restating the views of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on international issues, the Conference adopted declarations on Security Council restructuring, on Agenda 21, and on the Middle East Peace Process, and a communique on Palestine.

(d) and (e) The Conference reiterated the demand for the withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and other Arab lands, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967.

(f) The Conference has reinforced the Movement's unity and sharpened its focus on major issues. Since non-alignment is an important element of India's foreign policy, the strengthening of the Movement benefits us.

(g) and (h) The Conference made it clear that Non-aligned countries would not accept a partial or selective expansion of the Security Council to the detriment of developing countries. This is a gain from India's perspective.

[English]

### Investigation in Indian Bank Scam

4928. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of investigation made in Indian Bank Scam, Chennai;

(b) the total amount involved in the scam; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that 14 cases pertaining to Indian Bank have been registered in various branches of CBI. CBI have further reported that the amount involved in 14 cases registered by them is Rs. 295.95 crores.

Indian Bank has reported that all the Non Performing Assets need not be construed as loss as all of them are not entirely unrecoverable.

(c) Reserve Bank of India have introduced certain changes in its system of on-site examination to ensure continuous and focussed supervision on banks. A system of quarterly off-site surveillance has also been put in place to pick up early warning signals. Recommendations of Rashid Jilani Committee to streamline the internal control in banks and the system of audit have also been advised to banks for implementation.

### Canstar Capital Scheme of Canara Bank

4929. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canstar Capital Scheme of Canara Bank has submitted the poll results to SEBI on their move to unilaterally modify their contractual obligation,

(b) if so, the reasons for delaying decision on the issue by SEBI; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Canbank Investment Management Services Ltd. have reported that they have submitted to SEBI the results of the postal ballot in respect of the resolutions set out in the notice dated 10th September, 1996 seeking linking of repurchase/redemption of Canstar units to net asset value.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of SEBI.

### Buildings on Agricultural Land

4930. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 5 dated November 5 dated November 20, 1996 regarding "building on agricultural land" and state:

(a) the number of cases under process and the number of cases in which legal proceedings have since been finalised;

(b) the steps taken to expedite the disposal of cases;

(c) the number of buildings out of 2714 plots on agricultural land that have been demolished and the land converted for actual agricultural use;

(d) the number of unauthorised colonies that have come up on the agricultural land without getting the land use changed;

(e) whether there is any proposal to regularise the sale-purchase of Gram Sabha plots allotted to the people of weaker section but sold out to others after making certain levy on the sale purchase as had been done in the case of DDA flats earlier; and

(f) if not, the reasons for following discriminatory policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Regional Passport Office

4931. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he paid a surprise visit to the Regional Passport Office at New Delhi on December 26, 1996 to see for himself and listen to complaints about the difficulties faced by applicant's for passports;

(b) if so, the major complaints about the applicants difficulties and problems that came to his notice; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The Prime Minister, in his capacity as the Minister for External Affairs, visited the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi on 26th December, 1996 to inaugurate the newly installed Tele-enquiry System. He also availed of this opportunity to take a round of the office, to interact with the applicants and listen to their complaints. He gave on the spot instructions on how to make the office more responsive to the needs of the public

### Funds to Revitalisation of PSUs

4932. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government allocate funds to sick public sector units for revitalisation purpose,

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such sick companies to whom funds have been allocated and the amount of financial assistance allocated during the last one year;

(c) whether such financial assistance has been sought by any public sector units in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Funds are allocated to sick PSUs based on the approval of the revival plan by the Government. The revival plans include *inter alia*, write off of outstanding loans, conversion of outstanding loans into equity, waiver of interest due to Government and grant of assistance for voluntary retirement scheme and infusion of fresh funds.

During the year 1996-97, revival packages for Heavy Engineering Corporation, Scooters India Ltd., Bharat Refractories, Hindustan Paper Corporation (Nagaland Pulp & Paper Corporation), three subsidiaries of Bharat Yantra Nigam and two of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam were approved by the Government.

A Statement showing the provision made in the revised estimates of 1996-97 for revitalisation of sick PSUs is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Revival Plan of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota which has a unit in Palghat (Kerala) has been received. The plan includes, *inter alia*, financial restructuring, infusion of fresh funds and provision of Government guarantee etc. No decision has yet been taken on the proposal.

#### Statement

The following provisions were made in the revised estimates of 1996-97 for revitalisation of sick PSUs :

(Rs. in crore)

(i) Write off of outstanding Government loans	
(a) Bharat Yantra Nigam	14.65
(b) Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.	26.45
(c) Scooter India Ltd.	139.60
Total :	183.60
(ii) Waiver of interest due to Government	
(a) Subsidy for payment of interest by NEEPCO	35.46
(b) Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	151.13
(c) Bharat Bhari Udyog Ltd.	101.14
(d) Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.	147.52
(e) Heavy Engineering Corporation	272.00
(f) Scooter India Ltd.	454.09
(g) Bharat Refractories Ltd.	61.64
Total :	1222.98

(iii) Conversion of outstanding loans into equity (token provision made)

(a) Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd.	71.16
(b) Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	63.66
(c) Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (Nagaland Paper & Pulp Co. Ltd.)	71.38
(d) Scooter India Ltd.	27.22
(e) Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	99.41
(f) Bharat Refractories Ltd.	39.76

Total : 373.03

(iv) Grant assistance for implementation 220.21 of voluntary retirement scheme, etc.

2. In Addition to the above, Non-Plan loans for a total amount of Rs. 1453.54 crore were provided in RE 1996-97 to public sector enterprises which included Rs. 1216.30 crore for meeting cash losses. Plan investments in PSUs comprising equity and loans are over and above these Non-Plan loans.

Plan investment and non-Plan loans, to the six PSUs for which the revival plans were sanctioned in the year 1996-97 were Rs. 52.57 crore and Rs. 101.72 crore, respectively.

#### Non-Performing Assets

4933. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategies for tracing the emerging non-performing assets (N.P. As) and effective recoveries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken several measures both to contain the growth of NPAs and also to reduce their existing levels. Some of the measures taken by RBI are indicated below:

A system of classifying assets of the bank as performing or non-performing was introduced in 1992, based on the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee. The classification is based on objective criteria relating to recovery to ensure uniformity in assessing the quality of assets. The level of non-performing assets (NPAs) reflect the quality of the credit portfolio of banks.

Income is recognised only on realisation basis and hence profitability of banks essentially depends on the management of NPAs. On the basis of RBI's advice, banks have laid down loan policy, loan recovery policy and are required to review accounts periodically. Banks are, therefore, required to address the management of NPAs through well defined policies and strategies. RBI has also introduced off-site quarterly monitoring system in addition to annual financial inspection.

Banks have been advised to have the loan recovery policies. The policy prescribes the manner of recovery of dues, targetted level of reduction (period-wise), norms for permitted sacrifice/waiver, factors to be taken into account before considering waivers, decision levels, reporting to higher authorities and monitoring of write-off/waivers.

Recovery cells have been set up at Head Quarter under the charge of General Manager. Branch-wise targets for recoveries are fixed. Recoveries are reviewed by CMD on monthly basis and by Board of Directors on quarterly basis.

Debt recovery Tribunals have been set up at Delhi, Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Patna, Chennai and Guwahati and Appellate Tribunal at Mumbai to expedite early settlement of suit filed cases.

Compilation and circulation of list of defaulters having default of Rs. 1 crore and above and publication of suit filed, defaulter accounts by RBI on annual basis.

RBI also reviewed top 100 accounts of public sector banks in each category as on 31.3.95 with particulars of staff accountability.

#### Contribution into RRBS

4934. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State Governments and the sponsored banks who have failed to contribute its proportion additional share to the Regional Rural Banks where the Union Government has already contributed its own additional share; and

(b) the names of sponsore banks that have failed to place the entire capital support at the disposal of respective RRBS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, to the extent possible.

#### Malabar Gramin Bank of Kerala

4935. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the profit/loss incurred by the North Malabar Gramin Bank and South Malabar Gramin Bank in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to open branches of the said banks in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Develop-

ment (NABARD), the profit earned during the last three years by the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the RRB	Profit earned		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. North Malabar Gramin Bank	52.44	215.46	218.92
2. South Malabar Gramin Bank	125.31	210.50	51.82

(Data Provisional)

(b) and (c) BABARD has reported that the North Malabar Gramin Bank's proposal to open a branch at Mattanoor was approved by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August, 1996 and the branch has since been operationalised. Further, the proposal of South Malabar Gramin Bank to open a branch at Badagara was approved by RBI in May, 1996 and this branch was operationalised in June, 1996.

#### P.F. Dues

4936. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapore, West Bengal, defaulted in depositing a sum of Rs. 34 Crore (Rupees Thirty-four Crore only) towards the Management's Share of Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the steps for realisation of the same have so far been taken and the results thereof; and

(c) the proposal of the Government to pay the P.F. dues of the retired and dependants of the retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to available information upto February, 1997, the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapore, West Bengal is in default of depositing a sum of Rs. 12.07 Crore towards the Management's share of Provident Fund.

(b) Revenue recovery certificate was issued and complaint filed with the Police authorities to recover the dues. As a result, the management has deposited Rs. 25 lakh to the Board of Trustees. This establishment is registered with BIFR.

(c) The Management of the Corporation has been asked to provide specific deposits for payment of PF dues of the retired and dependants of retired employees.

#### Recognition of N.C.V.T.

4937. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recognition of NCVT is required for the technical institute (ITI);

(b) if so, the number of I.T.I.'s not having NCVT recognition in Kerala;

(c) whether this has affected the students who have passed or studying in such institution;

(d) whether there was request for granting NCVT recognition; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government to this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Recognition/affiliation to NCVT is required for enabling the trainees to appear for the All India Trade Test conducted by NCVT;

(b) As per information given by State Government, number of unaffiliated ITIs/ITCs as on 31.7.96 was as follows:

Government	47
Private	7
Total	<u>54</u>

The State Government have also reported that in addition, there are 53 ITCs which have partial affiliation in respect of some trades.

(c) The trainees studying in institutes not affiliated to NCVT can appear for examination to be conducted by State Council for Vocational Training and are issued the certificates by the same body which is recognised for employment within the State.

(d) and (e) There was a request to grant affiliation to 42 ITIs, 41 started by the SC Development Department and one by ST Department of Kerala Government. But affiliation of these institutes could not be done as no Standing Committee Inspection Reports recommending their affiliation to NCVT, have been received. They could not be affiliated so far as they could not provide adequate facilities in accordance with the norms laid down by NCVT.

#### **Agriculture and Rural Development Banks**

4938. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation during the current year for allowing Agriculture and Rural Development Banks to function rural areas of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) are co-operative societies governed by the respective State Co-operative Societies Act. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it had received proposals from the West Bengal State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (WBSCARDB) in 1996 for opening of branches by Howrah and Bankura ARDB and also for opening of a branch by the WBSCARDB

at Asansol. NABARD had sought some clarifications on these proposals. Finally, however, only one proposal for establishment of branch of WBSCARDB at Asansol was received by NABARD in February, 1997.

NABARD has further reported that according to Informations available with them the branch at Asansol has since been established.

[Translation]

#### **Availability of Drinking Water**

4939. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in some parts of U.P. the availability of drinking water has been adversely affected due to lack of ground water during the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide financial and technical assistance to the State in this regard; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board, based on a survey and assessment carried out in the State of Uttar Pradesh has stated that the total ground water resources of the State are assessed at 8.38 million hectare metre (m. ha.m) per year and the level of ground water development in the State is only 37.67% of its potential. This is a sizeable balance of ground water resource available for further development and use. The Central Ground Water Board has further stated that there is no scheme to provide financial assistance to the State Government for Development of ground water resources for various purposes. However, the Central Ground Water Board provides technical assistance to the State Governments in their effort to develop the ground water resources for various purposes.

#### **Indian Investment Centre**

4940. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Indian Investment Centre;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have considered the interests of the employees working in the said institution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Government has taken up a review of the role and relevance of the Indian Investment Centre in the present context of a liberalised business and economic environment for foreign and non-resident Indian investments.

[Translation]

**Loan**

4941. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan given to the Jammu and Kashmir State by the Union Government during the last three years, year-wise, and the details of the amount of special assistance/grant provided separately year-wise;

(b) the details of the remaining amount of loan as on January 1, 1990;

(c) the amount of loan waived-off since then till now, year-wise; and

(d) the details of the provision of loan payment during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Statement showing releases from the Ministry of Finance to Government of J & K under various heads (grant & loan component separately including special assistance) for the years 1994-95 to 1996-97 is enclosed.

(b) Loan outstanding as on 01.1.1990 :

To Deptt. of Expenditure	1353.38 crores
To Deptt. of Eco. Affairs	959.38 crores
To Ministry of Finance-Total	2312.76 crores

(c) Under the scheme for General debt relief recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission and accepted by Govt. of India, Govt. of J & K. got a relief in repayment to the extent of Rs. 851.23 lakhs each year during the period 1990-91 to 1994-95.

Similarly on the basis of recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, Govt. of J & K has got specific relief of Rs. 216.34 lakhs during 1995-96 and Rs. 242.38 lakhs during 1996-97.

Loan for the State of J & K for the year 1990-91 got reduced by Rs. 332.38 crores on account of implementation of Rangarajan Committee's recommendation.

(d) Govt. of J & K was to repay Rs. 412.14 crores to the Ministry of Finance during 1996-97 :

Deptt. of Expenditure	Deptt. of Eco. Affairs
Principal - 42.48	Principal - 111.36
Interest - 93.88	Interest - 164.42
Total - 136.36	Total - 275.78

**Statement**

*Releases to J&K from Ministry of Finance during*

(Rs. in crores)

Items	1994-95			1995-96			1996-97			
	Loan	Grant	Total	Loan	Grant	Total	Loan	Grant	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Normal Central assistance	73.45	661.03	734.48	99.56	896.02	995.58	111.98	1007.80	1119.78	
2. Special Central assistance	97.30	875.70	973.00	38.35	345.15	383.50	66.30	596.70	663.00	
3. Special plan loan	-	-	-	44.00	-	44.00	100.00	-	100.00	
4. Additional C.A. for EAPs	1.11	9.99	11.10	0.65	5.86	6.51	1.24	11.17	12.41	
5. Special C.A. for Border Area Dev. Programme	-	17.50	17.50	-	20.68	20.68	-	20.68	20.68	
6. Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund	-	9.00	9.00	-	13.95	13.95	-	14.78	14.78	
7. Revenue Deficit Grant	-	226.61	226.61	-	535.39	535.39	-	419.05	419.05	
8. Other non-plan grant	-	-	-	-	10.00	10.00	-	4.80	4.80	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Loans against small savings	93.21	-	93.21	63.34	-	63.34	181.91	-	181.91
10.	Share in Central taxes including RPF	-	569.80	569.80	-	606.69	606.69	-	832.91	832.91
11.	Grants for local bodies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.42	12.42
12.	Upgradation grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.77	2.77
13.	Grants for special problems	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.55	5.55

#### Companies Facing MRTPC Enquiry

4942. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some companies particularly from Madhya Pradesh are facing MRTPC enquiry into alleged false and misleading advertisement of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the outcome of the enquiry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) False and misleading advertisements given by the companies about their products constitute unfair trade practices within the meaning of Section 36A of the MRTP Act. There were 959 unfair trade practice enquiries pending as on 31st March, 1997 before the MRTP Commission. Information in respect of such enquiries is not being maintained State-wise in the MRTP Commission.

(c) and (d) The aforesaid enquiries are at different stages of consideration in the MRTP Commission. The Commission is a quasi-judicial body and will take further necessary action under the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969.

[English]

#### Oil Refinery Project

4943. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted any request for release of funds by the IOC for the establishment of Oil Refinery Project of Indian Oil Corporation at Paradeep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in releasing the funds; and

(d) the time by which the required amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A request for an initial deposit of Rs. 50 lakhs towards administrative charge for acquisition of the land for the project was received by IOC in August 1996 from Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) which is the Govt. of Orissa Undertaking nominated for acquisition of land for the project.

(c) and (d) IOC has submitted a Detailed Feasibility Report which includes the subject of site selection of the project and the same is under process of the Govt. for investment approvals.

#### Annual Allocation of D.G.H.C.

4944. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has asked the Union Government for enhancing the annual allocation of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or propose to be taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Planning Commission, no formal request from the State Government of West Bengal has been received for enhancing the annual allocation of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

(c) As per the distribution formula, the share of each constituent State under HADP is decided. However, during the Eighth Plan, Rs. 4.67 crores have been made available to the Government of West Bengal during each year of the Plan, thus making available an amount of Rs. 23.35 crores to the Government of West Bengal for Hill areas of Darjeeling, over and above the West Bengal's entitlements under HADP.

In addition to above, an amount of Rs. 3.117 crore was made available for improvement of water supply in municipal areas of Darjeeling district during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Also, an amount of Rs. 13.04 lakhs was released

to Government of West Bengal for Darjeeling hill areas under surveys and study for the following programmes:

- (a) Comprehensive survey of current status of the source of pollution and other threats posed to the preservation of the natural lake systems of senchal and Mirik by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.
- (b) Comprehensive Health and Beneficiary Needs assessment survey in Hill areas under Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

#### Payment of Minimum Wages

4945. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in Visakhapatnam has contested Waltair Railway Division for not paying minimum wages to the porters in Railway Parcel Division as reported in 'Newstime' dated March 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to compensate the porters under the minimum wages act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The news item appearing in 'News Time' dated 20th March, 1997 pertained to the press conference held by RLC (C), Hyderabad on 19th March, 97 at Visakhapatnam, to give wide publicity for enforcement of statutory minimum wages. The case regarding payment of minimum wages to porters of railways in Waltair Division was taken up before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and on whose direction, the railway administration agreed to pay minimum wages to porters. However, the matter on certain related issues is *sub judice*.

#### Drinking Water Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

4946. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drinking water supply scheme will be taken up in 10 districts of Andhra Pradesh with financial assistance of the Government of Netherlands;

(b) if so, the total amount the Netherlands Government has agreed to provide to the State Government for implementing the scheme; and

(c) the districts proposed to be covered under the Scheme and the total amount required for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No such scheme has been received by this Ministry from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As per available informations, the Nalgonda District Water Supply Project of Andhra Pradesh was posed by the Deptt. of Economics Affairs to the Government of Netherlands for assistance in November, 1990, but was not finally approved.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Private Power Projects

4947. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide any concession to private power producers for expansion of power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of power projects running in Gujarat in which concession is proposed to be given to the private power producers;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments in this regard particularly to Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have formulated a general policy for attracting private sector participation in the power sector and, in the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992, as amended from time to time, set forth the principles for determination of tariff from generating stations in the private sector. This notification applies to all States, including Gujarat. In a circular letter issued to all the States in January, 1997, the Government have decided that for extension to projects being implemented by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), regardless of the route through which the IPP was selected for setting up the initial phase, the Memorandum of Understanding (Mou)/ Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route, with selection of the EPC/turn-key contractor through the international competitive bidding route, may be followed.

#### Power Projects in Kerala

4948. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some power projects from Kerala are pending with the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of projects cleared by the Central Electricity Authority during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have taken any initiation to provide the World Bank loan to the State for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As on 31.3.1997, no proposal for setting up power projects either in the public sector or in the private sector, received from the Government of Kerala, is pending with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno economic clearance.

(c) Two power projects namely DG sets at Brahampuram (5x20 MW) and DG Sets at Kozikode (6X20 MW) have been given investment approval during the last three years.



(d) and (e) No proposal for World Bank loan for these projects has been received by the Government.

#### Survey of IMF

4949. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to survey conducted by International Monetary Fund a higher saving rate is required in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage higher saving rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) According to the IMF Staff, the Domestic Savings Rate has shown an uneven upward trend over the past four decades, and according to projections, private savings are likely to rise only gradually over the years ahead. They noted, however, that policies that would boost the rate of increase of savings—particularly public savings—and facilitate its efficient allocation, would contribute towards achieving the Government's growth target of 7% over the medium-term. They also noted that higher growth would initiate a virtuous circle in which higher growth would lead to higher savings, and higher savings to higher growth, and so on.

(b) and (c) Even before the observations of the IMF staff, Govt. of India have emphasized the above aspects in various fora, e.g. in the latest Economic Survey and in the Budget Speech. In particular, the budget Speech of 28.2.97 clearly highlighted the importance of capital markets in boosting savings, while the Economic Survey indicated that recent reform efforts encouraged savings by expanding the savings and investment opportunities rather than by giving special incentives.

[Translation]

#### Beautification of Bihar

4950. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN DAS alias PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds provided by the Union Government to the Government of Bihar for the beautification of the State during 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government of Bihar has utilized all the funds provided to them;

(c) whether some amount out of the allocation for 1996-97 is still unutilized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No funds are provided by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for beautification of States.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### SAIL

4951. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Banks and Financial Institutions have provided over Rs. 5000 crores to Steel Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) whether any irregularity has been committed while providing the said amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is presently availing working capital credit limits from a consortium of 16 member banks. In addition, banks have sanctioned term loan to part finance the expansion/modernisation of Bokaro steel plant. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(b) RBI has reported that no irregularity has been noticed by it during post-sanction scrutiny of the credit limits under Credit Monitoring Arrangement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### CAT

4952. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Public Undertakings and Autonomous Bodies of the Central Government which have been brought under the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring the cases of the State Government employees also under the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal; and

(c) 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) A Statement is attached

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 (AT Act) provides for setting up of a State Administrative Tribunal by the Central Government on a request from the concerned State Government to cover the cases of its employees. At present State Administrative Tribunals under the AT Act have been set up in the States of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

**Statement**

*The names of the Corporations/Societies/Other Autonomous Authorities brought within the purview of the Central Administrative Tribunal under Section 14 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985*

Sl. No.	Name of the Corporation/Society/other authority	
1.	Central Board of Trustees constituted under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.	Statutory Body
2.	Employees' State Insurance Corporation	Corporation
3.	Central Board for Workers, Education	Registered Society
4.	National Labour Institute	Registered Society
5.	National Council of Safety in Mines, Dhanbad.	Registered Society
6.	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	Society
7.	Central Social Welfare Board	An authority controlled by Government
8.	Indian Council of Agricultural Research	A Society controlled by the Government
9.	Sports Authority of India	A Society controlled by the Government

[Translation]

**Call Letters to Unemployed Persons**

4953. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have got themselves registered in the Daryaganj employment exchange for clerical cadre during 1990, 1991, year-wise.

(b) whether not even a single person belonging to scheduled caste has been sent call-letter for employment by the above exchange so far since their registration;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether irregularities are being committed where issuing call-letters for the clerical cadre by the above office; and

(e) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Import of Teakwood**

4954. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Teakwood can now be freely imported from Myanmar through Road route along Manipur boundary;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Border tree Agreement between India and Myanmar does not cover import of teakwood through the Moreh Land Customs Station on the Manipur-Myanmar border. The Myanmar Government also does not permit export of teakwood. Hence, licit import of teakwood is not permissible through the said route.

**Article 371**

4955. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Sikkim has requested the Union Government not to extend direct central taxes in deference to Article 371 F of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Government of Sikkim has requested the Central Government to defer the implementation of the direct tax laws in the state of Sikkim. The Chief Minister had written a letter dated 2nd July, 1996 to the Prime Minister of India in this matter. The Ministry of Finance is of the view that the direct tax laws have been validly extended to the state and their implementation will be beneficial to the people and the state of Sikkim.

**Funds for PF by IDBI**

4956. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has sought funds from Provident funds, etc;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it mobilises funds from Provident Funds under certificate of deposits, fixed deposits and bonds in accordance with the guidelines on deployment of Provi-

dent Funds, issued by the Government. As per extant guidelines, recognised Provident Funds, approved Superannuation Funds and approved Gratuity Funds are permitted to invest upto 40% of their investible moneys in the bonds and securities issued, *inter alia*, by a Public Financial Institution as defined under Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956.

#### **Proposal to Merge all relevant Acts**

4957. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge all relevant Acts relating to the functioning and regulation of Public Sector Banks into one Comprehensive Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Following suggestions to have a comprehensive legislation to cover nationalised banks, State Bank of India and the associate banks of State Bank of India, or more uniformity in the provisions of the statutes governing them, a committee consisting of representatives from Reserve Bank of India and some public sector banks has been constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to review the statutes and suggest changes in their provisions. The Committee has been advised to draw up a time schedule for expeditious completion of the assignment.

[Translation]

#### **Letters From MPs**

4958. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Income Tax Commissioners from the Members of Parliament in regard to the tax evasion during the last three years;

(b) whether any action has been taken on these complaints;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when, the suitable action is likely to be taken on the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) A large number of complaints relating to evasion of Income Tax are received by the Income-tax Department from the Members of Parliament. The number of such complaints received in the Central Board of Direct Taxes are 40 in 1996, 45 in 1995 and 63 in 1994.

(b) to (d) All complaints from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are treated as VIP references. These are accorded top most priority. Close coordination is maintained with the field authorities to ensure that necessary enquiries are completed and appropriate actions under the Income-tax Act are taken at the earliest.

[English]

#### **Fraud in Canara Bank**

4959. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an officer of the Canara Bank siphoned off Rs. 3.18 crore by writing fictitious entries in books;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said officer has since been arrested and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some other officials of the Bank have also been found involved in this fraud; and

(f) if so, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) Canara Bank has reported that a fraud involving Rs. 3.18 crores was perpetrated by an officer of the Batala branch of the bank by making fictitious entries in the banker's account.

The bank has lodged a complaint with the Central Bureau of Investigation and a case has been registered on 10.9.1996. However, the officer has not been arrested so far and his whereabouts are not known. The investigation conducted by the bank does not reveal complicity of other officials of the bank. However, the bank has initiated necessary departmental action against the concerned officials for negligence/lapses in the performance of their duties.

#### **Recovery of Loan**

4960. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up an advisory committee headed by a retired High Court Judge to devise ways and means of recovering the sticky loans;

(b) the number of individuals to whom the Indian Bank extended loans of various nature during the last three years;

(c) the total amount involved in the said loans and the details of repayment of loans by the said individuals;

(d) the number of individuals for whom the bank has written off the loans;

(e) whether the Government have allowed the merger of the Bank of Thanjavur with Indian Bank; and

(f) if so, the reasons for such merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No such committee has been set up by the Government. However, Indian Bank has set up a Settlement Advisory Committee with a retired judge of the Chennai High Court and retired senior banker and serving General Managers in charge of recovery as members to look into the compromise proposals and advise the board of the bank in the matter.

(b) to (d) As per the practice and usages customary amongst banks, information relating to individuals to whom Indian Bank have extended loans, written off of loans etc. cannot be divulged. However, as informed by Indian Bank details of number of accounts/amount is given as under :

*Data on loans extended*

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Number of Accounts	1725427	1648318	1465813
Amount (Rs. Crores)	6113.00	6940.43	7871.23
Recoveries in Non-Performing Assets (Rs. Crores)	156.68	262.13	253.78

*Data on the amounts written off*

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Number of Accounts	3223	6859	291469
Amount (Rs. Crores)	2.37	1.12	72.60

(e) and (f) The erstwhile the Bank of Thanjavur Ltd., was merged with Indian Bank on and from 20.2.1990 pursuant to a scheme of amalgamation. The merger was effected to protect the interests of depositors of the Bank of Thanjavur Ltd.

**Slum Development Programme**

4961. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have provided any financial assistance for States for Slum Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of the assistance provided during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

**Statement**

(Rs. in crores)

STATES	Amount of additional Central Assistance released during 1996-97
(1)	(2)

**I. Special Category States :**

1. Arunachal Pradesh	0.11
2. Assam	2.22
3. Himachal Pradesh	0.50

4. J & K	3.26
5. Manipur	0.45
6. Meghalaya	0.40
6. Mizoram	0.34
8. Nagaland	0.23
9. Sikkim	0.03
10. Tripura	0.39
Total-I	7.94

**II. Non-Special Category States**

1. Andhra Pradesh	22.97
2. Bihar	18.91
3. Goa	0.44
4. Gujarat	14.27
5. Haryana	3.65
6. Karnataka	12.64
7. Kerala	7.27
8. Madhya Pradesh	14.80
9. Maharashtra	35.67
10. Orissa	4.50
11. Punjab	7.05
12. Rajasthan	10.49
13. Tamil Nadu	19.05
14. Uttar Pradesh	31.28
15. West Bengal	24.69

Total-II 227.68

Grand Total (I+II) 235.62

**Bonded Labourers**

4962. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court expressed its displeasure over the poor implementation of bonded labour laws and asked all the States to file detailed affidavits on the status of bonded labourers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued any directive to the States for implementation of the bonded labour Act, 1976;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has also asked them to submit their report about the progress made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) to (d) The Supreme Court has observed that certain States have not *inter alia* reported the progress achieved by them in conducting the survey of

bonded labour and directed all State Governments to file detailed affidavits. The Union Government has through a series of detailed guidelines advised the State Governments to implement the Bonded Labour System (Abolition Act, 1976 vigorously. The implementation of the Act is being monitored regularly through monthly reports and review meetings with State Government representatives from time to time.

#### **Indus Water Treaty**

4963. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state .

(a) whether the leaders of Jammu & Kashmir have been pressing for review of the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan as this ran counter to the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter, if any

(c) whether the state of Jammu & Kashmir was taken into confidence before this treaty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) (a) and (b) No request has been received by Government from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for review of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan

(c) and (d) The State of Jammu & Kashmir was taken into confidence before the Indus Waters Treaty was concluded.

#### **Control of RBI Over Banks**

4964. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :  
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the private sector banks, cooperative banks and such like banks which have come within the purview of control of the R.B.I. regarding their functioning to ensure proper functioning of these banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of the provisions contained in Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 Reserve Bank is vested with multifarious powers to ensure orderly functioning of the private sector banks. The regulatory powers of RBI relate to (a) Control over management of banks (b) licensing of banks and opening of branch offices by them (c) maintenance of minimum paid up capital and reserves and liquid assets by banks (d) interest rates to be charged on loans and advances (e) control over loans and advances (f) giving directions to banks on various matters (g) suspension of business and winding up of banking companies, etc. RBI is also empowered to inspect the private sector banks.

#### **Smuggling of Ball Bearings**

4965. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :  
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large scale smuggling of ball bearings into India;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected during the last one year; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Government to protect the interest of indigenous ball bearing manufacturers in the wake of large scale smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Joint Venture of Insurance**

4966. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :  
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether joint venture agreements on insurance sector were signed recently between Indian and British firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether joint venture on insurance sector is allowed as per rule of the land ; and

(d) if not how the agreement has been signed by the Indian and British firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Under the existing Insurance Laws all insurance business is at present the exclusive privilege of Life Insurance Corporation of India and the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries. LIC and GIC and its subsidiaries have not entered into any joint venture agreements with any British firms recently. Government do not have any official information regarding memorandum of understanding or agreements signed between private parties.

#### **Amendment in Factory Act**

4967. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove the anomaly by suitable amending the Factories Act 1948 so that the power given under section -1-A of the Act to Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institute to enter into any factory and conduct survey work in regard to the safety and health of the workers can be exercised by them and they are also empowered to enforce the recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Section 91-A of the Factories Act, 1948 empowers the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes to enter into any factory and conduct surveys into areas of safety and health. D.G.F.A.S.L.I. has been conducting surveys. His recommendations are made available to the State Governments for appropriate action at their end. The matter is also pursued through meetings with the State Government officials and Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories.

#### **Metal Box India Ltd.**

4968. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metal Box India Ltd. could not be reopened in spite of the decision taken by BIFR; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) has reported that two units of Metal Box India Ltd. are currently under operation and no other unit has been opened subsequent to the approval of rehabilitation scheme by BIFR.

BIFR has reported that the rehabilitation scheme for revival of the company was sanctioned on 10.06.1996, however, the date of implementation of the scheme was kept in abeyance by the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) on the appeals filed by Metal Box India Ltd., M/s Banque Nationale De Paris and Association of Engineering Workers of Metal Box India Ltd. The AAIFR in its Order dated 06.03.1997 has modified the scheme sanctioned by BIFR on 10.06.1996.

[Translation]

#### **Agricultural Workers**

4969. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agriculture is the major industry of the country in which the most of the labour force is utilised;

(b) if so, whether three fourth of the number of farmers engaged in agriculture sector are small and marginal farmers who can generate more and more opportunities of employment for labour by adopting the new labour intensive agricultural technique ;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken some effective measures to invest the new labour based agriculture technique and to utilise it for generating new and additional opportunities of employment for labour in the agriculture sector of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the percentage of the total labour force of the country earning livelihood from agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) Agriculture is generally not classified as an industry but it provides employment to the largest number of workers in the country. It is also a fact that a large number of workers engaged in agriculture sector are small and marginal farmers and that about 67% of the total workforce in the country earn its livelihood from this sector.

The National Commission On Rural Labour in their Report submitted to the Prime Minister in 1991 have observed that mechanisation of farm operations reduces the demand for labour. However, opinion is divided on the subject and there is a conterview that mechanisation improves productivity of land and labour and in fact opens up more employment opportunities.

The problem of under employment amongst agricultural labourers is sought to be tackled through a multi-dimensional course of action viz. improvement of infrastructural facilities, diversification to non-farm activities, skill improvement, financial assistance and other developmental programmes, increased outlays for rural sector etc. The Government have taken up schemes for intensive development of infrastructure and rural industries especially those with backward linkages with agriculture. A major Programme viz. Science and Technological applications for rural development and also a scheme called Mass Employment Generation through Science and Technology (MEGST) have been taken up in addition to development of waste land and water conservation programmes.

#### **Construction of building of Employees P.F.**

4970. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the formalities have been completed to construct a building of Employees Provident Fund in Surat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the works which have been completed for the construction of this building;

(d) the efforts being made for early construction of this building;

(e) whether the Government propose to fix responsibility on any officer to hamper construction work of the building; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) The Work relating to planning and construction of a building of E.P.F. at Surat was entrusted to M/s. N.B.C.C. on 14th January, 1994. However, in the meantime, a proposal for outright purchase of the building "RAJDEEP CHAMBERS" in which the Employees' Provident Fund Office, Surat is functioning at present, has been mooted. Pending finalisation of the proposal to purchase the building, the construction of own building of EPFO has been kept in abeyance.

*[English]***Non-Payment of Dues**

4971. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the cases of non-payment of statutory post-retirement dues to employees of Jessop, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation with the concerned Ministry as well as with the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government. The Department of Heavy Industry will be taking appropriate action as per the decision of the Government.

**Stock Market Scam**

4972. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status in respect of the stock market scam;

(b) whether the Government have recovered the amount of outstanding tax dues, from the defaulters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for delay to recover the remaining tax dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The details of action taken by the Government on the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on irregularities in securities transactions are given in the Action Taken Report (ATR) laid in the Parliament in 1994. Some of the measures further taken include amendment of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 for exercising better control over non-banking financial companies, advising banks for implementation of recommendations of the working group which reviewed internal control, inspection and audit system in banks, setting up of Audit Committees of the banks, publication of list of suit filed accounts, etc. Central Bureau of Investigation have also registered a number of cases. Reserve Bank of India is also monitoring departmental action taken by the banks/financial institutions.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Private Sector Banks**

4973. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such private sector banks which are established after more than three years;

(b) whether those private sector Banks have opened their branches in rural and semi-urban areas as per the norms fixed by the R.B.I ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The names of private sector banks established for more than three years are at Statement-I

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Guidelines dated 22.1.93 for setting up new private sector banks for commencing of banking business *inter alia*, provided that during the first three years after inception, these banks will have to establish 25% of their branches in rural/semiurban areas. Out of newly set up private sector banks, two banks viz. UTI Bank Ltd. and Indus Ind Bank Ltd. have completed three years of operations in April, 1997. Details of branches opened by these banks are furnished at Statement-II

**Statement-I***Private Sector Banks*

1. Bank of Madura Ltd.
2. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
3. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.
4. Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.
5. Banaras State Bank Ltd.
6. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
7. Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.
8. Federal Bank Ltd.
9. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
10. Karnataka Bank Ltd.
11. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
12. City Union Bank Ltd.
13. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
14. Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.
15. Nainital Bank Ltd.
16. Nedungadi Bank Ltd.
17. Ratnakar Bank Ltd.
18. Sangali Bank Ltd.
19. South Indian Bank Ltd.
20. Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
21. United Western Bank Ltd.
22. Vysya Bank Ltd.
23. SBI Commercial & Int. Bank Ltd.
24. Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.
25. Indus Ind Bank Ltd.
26. UTI Bank Ltd.

**Statement-II**

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	Metro-politan	Urban	Rural	Semi-urban	Total
1.	UTI Bank Ltd.	8	1	-	-	6
2.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	11	3	-	4	18

[Translation]

**FERA Cases**

4974. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the number of persons against whom proceeding has not been completed under 'FERA' since 1995;
- the reasons for delay in each case;
- whether the Government propose to review the cases in which inordinate delay is being caused; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The number of adjudication and prosecution cases (under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act) pending as on 31.3.1997 were 4809 and 2058 respectively.

(b) to (d) Though every effort is made for completion of the said proceedings quickly but these get delayed in the course of legal process.

[English]

**Transfer of Shares**

4975. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the securities and Exchange Board of India has received complaints from the investors residing in Delhi/New Delhi in the months of June and July, 1996 for delay in transfer of shares by M/s Orkay Industries Ltd., Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof complaint-wise;

(c) the number of complaints which have been resolved so far by the company;

(d) the details of such complaints which are pending for more than six months;

(e) the reasons for such a long delay in transfer of shares, complaint-wise;

(f) whether the company is not transferring the share certificates on the plea that the same have not been received by the company inspite of furnishing certificate from the postal department by the investors supporting that the letter in question was duly delivered in the company.

(g) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the company in this regard;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the time by which the grievance of the investors will be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Contaminated Drinking Water**

4976. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received reports relating to prevalence of arsenic in underground water which is commonly used as drinking water in the areas of Bashirhat, 24 Parganas, North Barhampore and Murshidabad in West Bengal;

(b) whether the Government are yet to take corrective measures for appropriate treatment of such water resources;

(c) whether the consumption of such water is seriously affecting the health of the people of these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been reported that drinking water in 8 districts of West Bengal contains arsenic more than safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

The Govt. of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan to tackle arsenic contamination by replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes, sanitary protected rigwells and rain harvesting structure for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based piped water supply schemes and establishing new spot sources for solving the problem. The 1st phase action plan for drinking water supply in arsenic affected areas was approved in February, 94 by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.62 crores, covering 4.87 lakhs population. It is to be funded in the ratio of 75:25 by the Centre and the State Government. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has approved another project of piped water supply through surface source for Malda District in February, 1995 at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.48 crores with the same funding pattern. The project envisages to cover 10.87 lakhs population.



In so far as the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment is concerned, a composite proposal on surface water based water supply schemes for arsenic affected urban and rural areas in South 24 Parganas District was received at an estimated cost of Rs. 260.12 crores in April, 97. The same has been technically examined and the State Govt. has been requested to submit modified proposal.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has stated that the studies conducted by All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta have shown that out of all the people using water with arsenic at various levels, about 14% were suffering from Arsenicosis which include Keratosis, rain drop pigmentation, Hepatomegaly (Enlarged Liver) and Bronchitis.

It may, however, also be noted that these diseases were also observed among the non-affected control group and is therefore less specific for diagnosis of chronic Arsenicosis.

[Translation]

### Staff Selection Examinations

4977. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding publication of dummy question papers by unauthorised elements for the various Staff Selection Examinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of position stated at (a) above.

[English]

### Haj Pilgrims

4978. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Haj Pilgrims from Karnataka visiting Jeddah every year;

(b) whether there is any branch of the Haj Committee in Bangalore; and

(c) if not, will the Government take steps to establish the same in Bangalore to help the Haj pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The number of Haj pilgrims from Karnataka visiting Jeddah under the arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee for Haj 97 was 2812. Information regarding the number of pilgrims from Karnataka who perform Haj individually or in groups through private tour operators is not available.

(b) and (c) Central Haj Committee has no branch in any part of the country. However, in the States there are State Haj Committees to assist and look after the Haj pilgrims belonging to the respective states. Karnataka also has a State Haj Committee located in Bangalore to help the state Haj pilgrims.

### Killing of Militants

4979. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of militants including foreign militants killed in Kashmir during encounter with Security Forces since the installation of the popular Government upto March 31, 1997;

(b) the casualty suffered by the Security Forces during this period;

(c) whether there is improvement in the Security scenario after the installation of popular Government in the State; 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) According to the information made available by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 457 militants including 35 foreign national/mercenaries, and 97 Security Forces personnel, were killed in Jammu & Kashmir during the period 1.10.1996 to 31.3.1997.

(c) and (d) There has been definite improvement in the overall situation in Jammu & Kashmir after the popular Government took over in the State. The sustained operations of the police and security forces which have led to significant successes in the recent months, the increased flow of information, the overall change in the mood of the people, and open condemnation by them of the militant activities, have brought the militants under substantially increased pressure and helped to isolate them and further contain their activities, notwithstanding the desperate actions against soft targets that have occurred from time to time. All efforts are being made by Government and security forces to ensure that complete peace and normalcy be restored at the earliest.

### Declaration of Tribal Area

4980. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for declaring hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir as Tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the areas proposed to be notified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Expedition to Antarctica

4981. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of expeditions launched by the Government to Antarctica so far;
- (b) whether India has become the first among the 25 privileged nations of the world to set up a liquid nitrogen plant for various scientific use on the polar station in Antarctica;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total amount spent on the last expedition;
- (e) whether the Government propose to launch next expedition to Antarctica in near future;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) So far, Sixteen expeditions have been launched to Antarctica. In addition, one expedition each have been launched to the Weddell Sea and Indian Ocean sector of the Southern Oceans.

(b) India is one amongst the few countries to have this facility in Antarctica.

(c) The liquid nitrogen produced by this plant is presently being used for running the Laser Heterodyne system employed for measuring ozone concentration over Antarctica.

(d) The total amount spent on the last expedition was about Rs. 19.28 crores.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Seventeenth Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica is proposed to be launched for conducting experiments in various fields of polar sciences namely, atmospheric, earth, biological, environmental, medical, engineering and communication sciences.

(g) The Seventeenth Expedition is proposed to be launched by December, 1997.

[Translation]

### Shortage of Drinking Water

4982. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the Union Territory of Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove this shortage of drinking water during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No report regarding acute shortage of drinking water in the Union Territory of Chandigarh has been received from the U.T. Administration.

(b) Question does not arise. However, proposal regarding augmentation of water supply to Chandigarh Phase IV at a project cost of Rs. 51.80 crores received in this Ministry has been technically approved in June, 1996 for execution by UT Administration.

[English]

### Prudential Norms

4983. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "RBI prudential norms do the trick for the Bank of India" appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated February 11, 1997;

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

(c) whether the Union Government suffered a lot on account of new accounting rules; and

(d) the measures taken to safeguard the capital growth of banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not correct to say that the Government stands to lose Rs. 327.14 crores due to return of Rs. 93.47 crores which is wrongly presumed to have been divested at a premium of Rs 35/- per share. The Government has written down its investment in the capital of the Bank of India for adjustment of their losses. These adjustments have been matched by receipts and recoveries on the capital accounts. These corrections in investments have been made to allow the bank to raise capital from the market. In order to strengthen its capital base the Banks has made a public issue of Rs. 675 crores which has been fully subscribed.

(d) The following measures have been taken by Government.

(i) the Government has contributed Rs. 16346.12 crore upto the year 1996-97 strengthen the capital base of the nationalised bank (ii) The banks with consistent record of profitability are permitted to access capital market through public issue of shares subject to the equity holding of Government of India not, going below 51% to total paid up capital.

### Setting Up of a Mega Hydro Power Project

4984. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Mega Hydro Power Project in Ajaddhya Hills of Purulia District in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Purulia Pump Storage Hydroelectric Project (4x225 MW) is under construction in Purulia District of West Bengal by West Bengal State Electricity Board.

(b) The Purulia Pump Storage was cleared by Central Electricity Authority, on 15.3.1993. The environment and forest clearance for the project have also been received in October 1993 and the project was cleared by Planning Commission on 9.2.1994. The loan agreement has been signed by with OECF for 20520 Million Yen on 28.2.1995. 92% of land has been acquired. The infrastructure works at site are in progress since January 1996. The joint venture 'Purulia EPDC' Japan and Water and Power Consultancy Services, India have been appointed as the consultant for the project. Evaluations of pre-qualifying documents for main works and hydro-mechanical jobs are in progress. Pre-qualifying documents for electro-mechanical jobs has been issued.

(c) The latest estimated cost based on 1994 estimates is Rs. 3188.90 crores including Rs. 227.90 crores for interest during construction.

#### **Implementation of Labour Law**

4985. SHRI M. RAMANATHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the Delhi based Japanese Companies including Sumitomo Corporation and the Mutsui Corporation are not paying minimum wages to Indian Security guards and office boys/messengers employed by them;

(b) if so, the action taken against these companies to enforce the labour laws;

(c) whether the Japanese officers observe racial practice and discrimination against their Indian employees and pass derogatory and humilitary remarks against their Indian Employees only; and

(d) if so, the remedial action contemplated by the Government to safeguard the service interests and honour of the Indian workers in these companies?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected from Labour Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Punishment To D.D.A. Officials**

4986. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether unauthorised constructions have been undertaken on DDA land with the connivance of many DDA officers and employees;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this connection; and

(c) the number of officers awarded punishment and the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Delhi Development Authority has reported that in some cases connivance on the part of DDA officials have come to its notice.

(b) and (c) According to Delhi Development Authority, on the basis of complaints received about unauthorised constructions and encroachments, investigations were carried out and action was taken against the defaulters. During the last four years Delhi Development Authority has taken following action against the defaulting officials :

1. Penalty of withholding of promotion for two years imposed :

Shri Raj Kumar, Patwari

2. Penalty of censure imposed :

(a) Shri Narain Swaroop, Naib Tehsildar

(b) Shri Gainda Lal, Kanoongo

(c) Shri Kulbir Singh, Patwari

(d) Shri Suresh Kumar, Patwari

3. Penalty of recovery of Rs. 2, 000/- imposed :

(a) Shri J.C. Sehgal, Naib Tehsildar

(b) Shri B.S. Jain, Patwari

4. Proceedings for major penalty initiated :

(a) Shri Satyabir Singh, Jt. Director

(b) Shri Aftab Iqbal, Dy. Director

(c) Shri S.S. Chopra Dy. Director

(d) Shri L.C. Rathi, Asstt. Director

(e) Shri R.D. Gupta, Asstt. Engineer

(f) Shri K.D. Gupta, Tehsildar

(g) Shri Om Prakash, Tehsildar

(h) Shri Satish Kumar, Tehsildar

(i) Shri Soran Singh, Tehsildar

(j) Shri Dinesh Kumar, Naib Tehsildar

(k) Shri J.C. Sehgal, Naib Tehsildar

(l) Shri Harshvardhan, Patwari

5. Proceedings for minor penalty initiated :

Shri P.K. Jain, Jr. Engineer

## 6. Officials placed under suspension :

- (a) Shri Satish Kumar, Tehsildar
- (b) Shri Soran Singh, Tehsildar
- (c) Shri Dinesh Kumar, Tehsildar
- (d) Shri Harshvardhan, Patwari
- (e) Shri Jai Parkash Verma, Kanoongo
- (f) Shri Mahinder Singh, Patwari
- (g) Shri Yog Raj Sharma, Asstt. Director
- (h) Shri Parag, Sectional Officer.

**Clean Administration**

4987 SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :  
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives in its fight to curb corruption through formulating effective laws, policies and anti-corruption programmes with national and international cooperation,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to enhance transparency and accountability in international business transactions and in public administration; and

(d) whether similar measures being taken in various States, have been reviewed recently for a sharper focus to deal with the problem more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) A conference of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories was held on 20.11.1966 to discuss the issues of making administration responsive, accountable and effective, cleansing the civil services and ensuring its adherence to constitutional principles. The Conference recommended, *inter alia*, that :

- (i) The approach to the elimination of corruption in the public service needs to address prevention, surveillance and deterrent prosecution and deal ruthlessly with the nexus between criminals and unscrupulous elements.
- (ii) It is necessary to introduce greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies. This would cover, for example, movement towards a Right to Information Act.
- (iii) Accountability should be interpreted in a larger sense in order to ensure public satisfaction and responsive delivery of services. For this purpose, a phased introduction of Citizens Charter for as many service institutions as possible could be considered.

The recommendations of the Conference have been given wide publicity and are being followed up within the Central Government and with the State Governments for urgent processing.

Some of the steps initiated by the Government in the recent past are as follows:

- The Lokpal Bill has been introduced in Parliament.
- A Working Group on Right to Information and promotion of open and transparent Government was set up to examine, *inter alia*, the feasibility of right to information and to recommend measures for bringing about greater transparency and openness in functioning of Government agencies.
- The Government has decided to set up computerised facilitation counters near the Reception offices at Government buildings housing various Ministries/Departments.
- Steps have been initiated for formulation of Citizens' Charter by a number of Central Ministries and Departments with public interface.
- The Ministries/ Departments have been requested to review the regulatory and legal framework under their purview to see whether the regulations administered by them are serving the objectives for which they were framed and how these could be made citizen friendly.

**Benefits to Beedi Workers**

4988 SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether even one fourth of Bidi workers who had been issued identity cards by the Labour Department of Madhya Pradesh, are not getting the benefit thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government and State Governments for providing full benefit of Provident Fund to the Beedi Workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) No Sir. In Madhya Pradesh 6,71,267 beedi workers have been issued identity cards out of an estimated 7,50,000 beedi workers. So far 4,16,628 beedi workers have received various kinds of benefits from the Welfare Fund.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh, 1,53,027 beedi workers have been enrolled as P.F. members. Efforts are under way to increase the membership through inspections/enquiries in collaboration with State Labour Department.

[English]

#### Charging of interest by D.D.A.

4989. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority is charging 48 percent interest from the persons who have failed to pay their instalments in time;

(b) if so, the basis of such high rate of interest and whether the rate of interest being charged by the Delhi Development Authority is much higher than that of any other financial institution;

(c) whether any action has been taken by DDA to reduce the rate of interest to a certain extent so as to enable the defaulters to pay their dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the prices of DDA flats are increasing day by day;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof;

(g) whether DDA is charging double price as compared to the construction and cost of land;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) whether the maximum limit for the interest rate is 24.1 percent whereas DDA is charging 48 percent;

(j) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(k) whether DDA is a "No Loss No Profit" organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that under the terms and conditions of the allotment letter, if the payment of any monthly instalment is delayed, the allottee is liable to pay the penalty at the rate of 1% per month or Rs. 2/- for the first month of default, 2% per month or Rs. 5/- per month for second month of default & 4% per month or Rs. 10/- per month for the third month of default, whichever is more and so on.

With a view of give relief to the allottees Delhi Development Authority has launched the following hire-purchase penalty relief schemes :

(i) HIRE-PURCHASE PENALTY RELIEF SCHEME-95 :

Under this scheme, relief in penalty was allowed upto 66%.

(ii) HIRE-PURCHASE PENALTY RELIEF SCHEME-96 :

Under this scheme, the relief in penalty was allowed upto 50%

(iii) HIRE-PURCHASE PENALTY RELIEF SCHEME-97 :

Under this acheme, relief in penalty is available upto 43% w.e.f. 1.3.97 to 30.9.97 & 37% w.e.f. 1.10.97 to 31.12.97.

(e) to (j) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that costing of flats is derived of the basis of expenditure incurred on construction, cost of capital invested during construction, over head charges and cost of acquisition and development as per laid down formula which has been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. At present while finalising the costing of non-SFS flats, the rate of interest charged is @ 15% per annum for the capital invested during the construction, which is at par with N.H.B. lending rate, of interest.

(k) Yes, Sir.

#### Cleanliness

4990. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Government departments, such as CPWD, L&DO and Directorate of Estates, have received notices from Delhi Municipal Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Committee for not keeping the areas under their ownership/control in a hygienic state;

(b) if so, whether it is not a violation of Supreme Court's observations to keep the areas clean; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) C.P.W.D., L&D) and Directorate of Estates have reported that they have not received any notices from M.C.D./N.D.N.C for not keeping areas under their control in hygienic state.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Welfare of Agricultural Labourers

4991. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes being considered under Ninth Five Year Plan for the welfare of the Agricultural labourers by the Government and details thereof;

(b) the amount to be allocated for this purpose,

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey of agricultural labourers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, in addition to continuance of a variety of existing rural development and poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS) which *inter-alia* benefit agricultural labourers, the Govt. are considering enactment of a comprehensive legislation to regulate employment, conditions of service and to provide certain welfare measures to the agricultural workers.

(b) Since the legislation is proposed to be implemented through the existing machinery and the welfare measures are proposed to be financed mainly by employers' contributions, no funds have been allocated for the purpose.

(c) and (d) The Government have been conducting Agricultural Labour Enquiries since 1950-1951 to collect data on wages and earnings, employment and unemployment, income, indebtedness etc. of the rural labour households. These have since been integrated with quinquennial surveys of NSSc on general employment and unemployment. Agricultural workers are also enumerated along with general population in the decennial census. In Addition National Commission on Rural Labour (1987-91) also made an in-depth study into the socio-economic conditions of agricultural workers along with other rural workers.

#### IDSMT Scheme in Bihar

4992. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Integrated Development of small and Medium Towns Scheme (IDSMT) is being implemented in Bihar;

(b) if so, the district-wise towns brought under this scheme, till date;

(c) whether Nalanda and Darbhanga have also been included under this scheme, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of the proposal, if any, regarding such inclusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The list of 40 towns in Bihar, district-wise, which have been covered under IDSMT till date, is annexed as Statement.

(c) Nalanda has not been included under IDSMT so far. Darbhanga had been included during VII Plan period

(d) Identification and selection of priority towns for inclusion under IDSMT Scheme vests with the State Governments. Government of Bihar have not included Nalanda in the list of priority towns identified.

#### Statement

Name of towns covered under IDSMT Scheme from 1979-80 to March 31, 1997

Sl.No.	State/Town	District
<i>Bihar</i>		
1.	Arrah	Bhojpur
2.	Begusarai	Begusarai
3.	Bettiah	Pashchim Champaran
4.	Chaibasa	Pashchimi Singhbhum
5.	Chapra	Saran
6.	Daltonganj	Paamu
7.	Deoghar	Deoghar
8.	Dhanbad	Dhanbad
9.	Dumak	Dumka
10.	Giridih	Giridih
11.	Gopalganj	Gopalganj
12.	Hajipur	Vaishali
13.	Hazaribag	Hazaribagh
14.	Katihar	Katihar
15.	Saharsa	Saharsa
16.	Bihar Sharif	Nalanda
17.	Bodh Gaya	Gaya
18.	Buxar	Bhojpur
19.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga
20.	Kishanganj	Kishanganj
21.	Madhubani	Madhubani
22.	Nawada	Nawada
23.	Purnia	Purnia
24.	Sitamarhi	Sitamarhi
25.	Siwan	Siwan
26.	Jehenabad	Jehenabad
27.	Sahibganj	Sahibganj
28.	Banka	Bhagpur
29.	Garhwa	Palamu
30.	Munger	Munger
31.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur
32.	Chatra	Hazaribagh
33.	Godda	Godda
34.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur
35.	Rajgir	Nalanda
36.	Rorbesganj	Araria
37.	Gaya	Gaya
38.	Lohardaga	Lohardaga
39.	Sheohar	Sitamarhi
40.	Supaul	Saharsa

### Commercial Loan

4993. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide commercial loan facilities;

(b) if so, the sector for which the said facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) by what time these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Loan facilities are provided by commercial banks to various sectors of the economy taking into account the viability of the proposals. While extending loans and advances, banks have been advised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to meet targets fixed *inter alia* for export credit and priority sector credit.

### Displaced of Tehri Dam

4994. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work pertaining to rehabilitation and compensation of land to displaced persons of Tehri Dam has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have not received compensation of their land so far;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number and details of families who have not rehabilitated so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) Rehabilitation of the affected rural families is being done by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC) in two phases. In Phase-I the population affected by the construction of Coffer Dam was to be rehabilitated while Phase-II would cover the remaining population affected by the construction of the Main Dam. Under Phase-I covering 2064 families, rehabilitation has been completed. Compensation paid and allotment given to all except for 30 persons who are yet to file their claims and 70 persons who have been given land allotment but their final award compensation is to be paid by the Revenue authorities of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Rehabilitation of Rural population in Phase-II would cover 2845 fully affected families and 3998 partially affected families before the impoundment of reservoir. Of these, 446 fully affected families have been given compensation/allotment of land. Rehabilitation of remaining fully affected as well as partially affected families will continue *pari-passu* with the construction of the project.

Urban rehabilitation covering 5291 families within the cut-off-date of 6.6.1985 is in advanced stage of completion and the required residential plots, flats and shops have

been constructed and allotments are largely made. Necessary compensation to house owners of Tehri Town have been paid.

[English]

### Development of Towns

4995. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of minimum level towns which are proposed for integrated development, State-wise;

(b) the total funds released under this scheme; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Under the Revised Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), towns are categorised into five levels A, B, C, D and E. The minimum level, i.e. "A" applies to towns under various categories for inclusion under IDSMT vests with the State Governments. At this stage, it is not possible to indicate the names of minimum level towns proposed for inclusion under IDSMT pending finalisation of the IX plan and decision regarding continuation of this Scheme.

(b) From inception of the Scheme till 31.3.97, total Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 291.25 crores has been released to various State Governments./UT Administrations.

(c) IDSMT projects are implemented in states and funds released in instalments depending upon status of progress, availability of State Share, mobilisation of institutional finance, availability of budget, etc. Accordingly, no time limit for implementation of IDSMT projects is contemplated.

### Expansion of Branches

4996. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand branches of all commercial banks during Ninth plan;

(b) whether the places have been identified for the same and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) As per the existing Branch Licensing Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is left to the judgement of individual banks to assess the need for opening additional bank branches within their service areas. The banks proposals for opening branches at rural centres are to be submitted to RBI through the concerned State Governments. As regards semi-urban centres, a specific quota is allotted to each bank depending on the size of the bank, for opening branches. The proposals for opening branches at semi-urban centres are considered by RBI on merits of each case. In respect of urban/metropolitan centres, identified localities are allotted to vari-

ous banks for opening branches. Such proposals are also considered by RBI on merits of each case.

RBI have also given freedom to Indian commercial banks which fulfil the following criteria for opening branches without prior approval of RBI on case to case basis :

- (1) Capital to Risk Assets Ratio (CRAR) at 8% or more.
- (2) NPA below 15% of total outstanding loans and advances.
- (3) Owned Funds above Rs. 100 crores.
- (4) Net profit for 3 consecutive years.

In such cases, the banks are advised to submit to RBI an Action Plan for one year for opening of all types of branches. Once the plan is approved by RBI, the banks can open branches.

#### Indian Assistance to China

4997. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether China have sought Indian assistance for the development of their share market;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached between India and China in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of the agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Chairman, SEBI and some officers of SEBI had met representatives of Shanghai Stock Exchange on 16.4.1997 in Beijing. During the meeting, the representatives of the Shanghai Stock Exchange evinced interest in the various reforms which have been introduced by SEBI, computerisation of Stock Exchanges in India and related developments with the objective of improving the systems in the Shanghai Stock Exchange. They were advised by SEBI to visit Stock Exchanges in India and to make an assessment as to how they could take advantage of the Indian experience of the development of the stock market. They have agreed to inform SEBI regarding the possibilities of such a visit.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

#### Deportation of Indian Citizens

4998. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI  
CHIKHALIA :

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian citizens deported from foreign countries during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of Indian citizens who were in distress in those countries and have been sent back to India; and

(c) the amount of financial help provided by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Refineries

4999. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the refining capacity and actual performance of the Indian Oil Corporation during the last three years;

(c) the production target set by the IOC during 1997-98; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to monitor closely all the projects for full capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) The refining capacity and actual performance of the IOC refineries during the last three years are as under:

(Figures in thousand tonnes)

Refinery	Installed capacity	Actual Crude Processing		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Guwahati	850.0	884.2	839.2	847.9
Barauni	3300.0	2219.9	2322.8	1895.3
Gujarat	9500.0	9888.3	10166.6	10352.3
Haldia	2750.0	3257.7	3416.2	3450.4
Mathura	7500.0	8377.2	8332.2	8113.4
Digboi	500.0	536.0	559.0	476.9
(IOC total)	24400.00	25163.3	25636.4	25136.2

(b) The crude throughput target set for the year 1997-98 is as under :

Refinery	Crude through put TMT	
	1	2
Guwahati		900
Barauni		1950
Gujarat		9800
Haldia		4100



1	2
Mathura	8000
Digboi	550
Panipat	100
IOC Total	25400

(c) Apart from in house monitoring by IOC, the projects are regularly monitored in quarterly performance review (QPR) meetings by Government.

[Translation]

#### UCO Bank

5000. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down Singapore branch of UCO Bank and its 13 regional offices;

(b) if so, by when this decision is likely to be implemented and the impact of the implication of this decision;

(c) the number of officers and employees likely to be rendered jobless as a result of this decision; and

(d) whether any arrangement has been made to absorb them and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

[English]

#### Vehicular Pollution

5001. SHRI K.S. RAYADU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the studies of the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun have established that blending of methanol/ethanol with petrol and diesel is ideal for controlling vehicular pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to implement their recommendations in metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has carried out studies that revealed that low level blends of methanol/ethanol with petrol is one of the means for reducing the vehicular emissions. The use of alcohols, both methanol and ethanol has been studied using dual-fuel approach in diesel vehicles for reducing vehicular emissions, particularly smoke.

The Ministry of Food (Deptt. of Sugar) has also set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food) to examine the possibility of mixing of ethanol produced by sugar manufacturing/Distillery units with petrol/diesel.

#### Shifting of Slum Population

5002. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to shift some of Delhi's slum population to different locations in the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of persons presently in slums in Delhi; and

(d) the time by which slum population is likely to be shifted outside Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a), (b) and (d) The National Capital Region Planning Board has reported that no specific proposal in this regard has been received from the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(c) According to Government of NCT of Delhi, a survey was conducted in March, 1994 which revealed that the estimated number of Jhuggi Clusters was around 1080, comprising 4.80 lakh jhuggies and having a population of more than 20 lakhs

#### HUDCO Loan

5003. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any project from Kerala State Housing Federation for getting the financial assistance through HUDCO;

(b) if so, the total amount asked from HUDCO ; and

(c) the details of the proposals submitted by Kerala State Housing Federation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. The State level agencies formulate specific project proposals and send the same directly to HUDCO for loan assistance.

(b) HUDCO has so far sanctioned 12 schemes to Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation for a loan amount of Rs. 52.02 crores for construction of 11549 dwelling units till 1996-97.

(c) One composite cash loan housing scheme for a loan amount of Rs. 45.02 crores envisaging construction of 6808 dwelling units submitted by Kerala State Cooperative Housing Federation is in the pipeline of HUDCO.

**Development of Cryogenic Engine at ISRO**

5004. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :  
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated and spent by the Government so far for the development of Cryogenic engine at ISRO;

(b) the present status of the project;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any review in this regard in view of the Russian willingness to supply Cryogenic engine;

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

(e) the progress made by ISRO to launch third generation communication satellite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Government have approved the indigenous cryogenic upper stage project at an outlay of Rs. 335.89 Crores. Expenditure upto March, 31, 1997 was about Rs. 150 Crores.

(b) Significant progress has been made in development of cryogenic upper stage. The design of the engine is completed and realisation of the engineering model is under way. The detailed design of the stage is completed. The facilities required to fabricate and test the engine and stage are in the advanced stage of readiness. A one tonne class pressure fed cryo engine has been successfully developed, which gives confidence for the realisation of the larger engine.

(c) and (d) The development of the indigenous cryogenic stage was necessitated due to the stoppage of technology transfer from outside. There is no change in that scenario even now. Russia is only supplying stages. The development of the cryogenic stage is progressing as planned.

(e) The third generation communication satellite (INSAT-3) series characteristics have been defined. Construction of the first spacecraft in the series will start in the financial year 1997-98. Four satellites in this series have been projected for launch during the 9th Five Year Plan.

**Educational Training to Unorganised labourers**

5005. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes started by the Government to provide education and training to the labourers of the unorganised sector in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the details of expenditure incurred in this regard.

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up Institutes on the pattern of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)

exclusively for street children poor in the traditional arts and crafts of India;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the time by which these will be set up alongwith the details of objectives and funds likely to be made available in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The information is not readily available and is being collected.

**Pending cases in Labour Courts**

5006. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of labour courts in the country is very unsatisfactory;

(b) the number of cases pending in Labour courts State-wise as on March 31, 1997;

(c) the details of cases cleared during 1996-97, State-wise;

(d) details of new labour courts proposed to be set up during 1997-98 and targets for clearance of cases, State-wise.

(e) details of action plan worked out in consultation with the States to clear the mounting backlog of cases;

(f) whether any assistance provided to the States to deal with the problem effectively; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Loans/Investment in Shares of Reliance**

5007. DR. HARI SINGH :  
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether investment is made by banks/financial institutions in private companies/public sector companies by purchasing shares or by giving loans;

(b) if so, the investment made by the bank/financial institutions in all the companies of Reliance group of industries by purchasing shares or giving loans;

(c) whether all such loan have been recovered; and

(d) if not, the details of the balance amount of loan, institution-wise/ bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that banks are permitted to invest their surplus funds in shares and

debentures of corporate bodies, units of mutual funds and bonds issued by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). As per current policy, banks are free to invest in preference shares and non-convertible debentures of corporate bodies and bonds issued by PSUs without any ceiling. Such investments have, however, to be taken into account for arriving at the prudential exposure ceiling. Investments in ordinary shares, convertible debentures and units of mutual funds are subject to the ceiling prescribed by RBI. As per current instructions, investments in these securities in a year should not exceed 5% of the incremental deposits of the previous year.

Such investments made by banks are monitored by the Board of Directors of banks in accordance with the guidelines laid down by RBI. Company-wise information is not maintained by RBI.

[English]

### External Commercial Borrowings

5008. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced some changes in the External Commercial Borrowings recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Press Release dated 31st March, 1997 issued by Ministry of Finance containing changes made in ECB policy for the year 1997-98 is enclosed as Statement.

#### Statement

*Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs*

PRESS RELEASE

ECB Policy - 1997-98

In June, 1996, Government had announced comprehensive guidelines on ECB Policies and Procedures aiming at increasing the transparency in policy and simplifying the procedure to give Indian Industry easier access to external finance to support investment and economic activity.

2. Government have reviewed the existing policy and decided to modify the guidelines as follows, in the light of experience of the past year and emerging priorities:

I. At present, ECBs for Power, Telecommunications and Railway Sectors, are permitted to be used for rupee expenditure. It is proposed to extend this flexibility to cover the following infrastructure sectors also :

- (i) Roads (including bridges)
- (ii) Ports
- (iii) Industrial Park; and

(iv) Urban Infrastructure (Water Supply, Irrigation, Sanitation and Sewerage projects as defined in Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act, 1961).

II. Holding companies/promoters will be permitted to raise ECB upto a maximum of USD 50 million equivalent to finance equity investment in infrastructure projects. This flexibility is being given in order to enable Domestic investor in infrastructure projects to meet the minimum domestic equity requirements.

III. At present interest rate limits on ECB for project financing allow interest spreads upto 350 basis points above LIBOR/US Treasury. In order to give borrowers greater flexibility in designing a debt strategy, it is proposed to allow upto 50% of the permissible debt in the form of sub-ordinated debt at a higher interest rate, provided the composite spread for senior and sub-ordinated debt taken together comes within the project financing limit.

IV. Corporate borrowers able to raise long-term resources with an average maturity of 10 years and 20 years will be allowed to use the ECB proceeds upto USD 100 million and USD 200 million respectively without any end-use restrictions i.e. for general corporate objectives excluding speculative investments in stock, markets or in real estate. To be eligible for this purpose, the debt instrument should not include any "put" or "call" options potentially reducing the stated maturities. The total debt allowed through this window will be within the overall limit of the borrower's entitlement for ECB.

V. Corporate borrowers will be permitted to raise ECB to acquire ships/vessels from Indian ship-yards.

VI. The present scheme allowing exporters to borrow upto the level of their average export earning for the past three years subject to a maximum of USD 15 million without end-use restriction will be liberalised as follow :-

Exporters will be permitted to raise ECB upto twice the average amount of annual exports during the previous three years subject to a maximum of USD 100 million without end-use restrictions, i.e. for general corporate objectives excluding speculative investments in stock markets or in real estate. The minimum average maturity will be three years upto USD 15 million equivalent and seven years for the balance amount exceeding USD 15 million. The maximum level of entitlement in any one year is a cumulative limit and debt out-standing under the existing USD 15 million exporters scheme will be netted out to determine annual eligibility.

VII. Corporate borrowers who have raised ECB for import of capital goods and services through Bonds/FRN/ Syndicated loans will be permitted to remit funds into India and deploy the same as per their business judgement, as a interim measure, till the actual import of capital goods and services takes place or upto one year, whichever is less. In case borrowers decide to deploy the funds abroad till the approved end-use requirement arises, they can do so as per the RBI's extant guidelines.

3. Other terms and conditions outlined in the guidelines on Policies and Procedures for External Commercial Borrowings issued on 19th June, 1996 will continue to remain in force. Consolidated guidelines on ECB Policies & Procedures incorporating the above mentioned modifications will be issued shortly.

4. These changes are effective from 1st of April, 1997.

5. The objective of the modification is to give priority and provide greater flexibility to investor in critical infrastructure sectors, to give priority to exporters in accessing ECB resources and to give additional flexibility to those incurring longer term debt. The total volume of approvals will be carefully monitored consistent with Prudent Debt Management.

F.No. 4 (1)/97-ECB New Delhi, the 31st March, 1997.

The Press Information Bureau is requested to give wide publicity to this Press Release.

(U. SARAT CHANDRAN)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Press Information Officer,  
Press Information Bureau,  
Shastri Bhawan,  
New Delhi.

#### Child Labour

5009. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over a thousand child labour from different parts of the country converged down to the capital on March 30-31, 1997 for a public hearing before a "Jury" to tell their tale of lost childhood and to attend a convention;

(b) if so, the main demands and the decisions taken by the Jury ; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demands and recommendations made in the public hearing, *inter-alia*, included the provision of free

compulsory, relevant and quality elementary education to all children, prohibition of the employment of children upto the age of 14 in all sectors, and strict enforcement of the directions of the Supreme Court in its judgement dated the 10th December, 1996.

(c) The Government is committed to the elimination of child labour from all occupations and industries and making free and compulsory elementary education a Fundamental Right. Government has already initiated a series of steps in this regard and these efforts will continue till the objective of complete elimination of child labour is achieved. The State/UT Governments have also initiated action for the implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court on child labour.

#### Legal Dues to the Jobless Workers of Textile Mill

5010. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of workers rendered unemployed because of closure of Textile Mills or liquidation of Mill in Mumbai and Gujarat ;

(b) if so, the details of payment of the legal dues of workers; and

(c) the estimated number of Textile workers rendered unemployed by Mills of Mumbai and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Exploration of Oil

5011. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the plan allocation for exploration of Oil and Gas fields in Orissa;

(b) whether Government propose to assign oil/gas exploration in Orissa to private agency/ONGC rather than Oil India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) In the annual Plan for 1997-98, no allocation has been made for exploration of oil and gas in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Under the New Exploration Licencing Policy recently announced by the Government, all prospective areas for the exploration of oil and gas, including Orissa, are proposed to be thrown open for investment by the private/public sector.

[Translation]

### Indian Council of World Affairs

5012.DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the standard of the Indian Council of World Affairs (Sapru House) situated at Barakhamba Road, New Delhi which is an internationally renowned institution has been constantly declining; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to enhance the standard, to check the misuse of the property of the institution, for safeguarding the interests of the employees and the item-wise quantum of assistance provided by the Government to this institution during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes Sir. The Government has been receiving complaints regarding the unsatisfactory functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), deterioration of the Sapru House Library, complaints of its employees regarding non-payments of Dearness Allowance/Additional Dearness Allowance etc. from members of Parliament, academicians, other eminent personalities, and ICWA Employees' Trade Union.

(b) Since the ICWA is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1886, the Ministry of External Affairs has no direct control over the Functioning of the Council. The Government had, in March 1993, requested the President of the Council to have the Governing Body of the ICWA pass a resolution for the constitution of a High Powered Supervisory/ Advisory Committee to look into the affairs of the ICWA with a view to recommend ways and means to revive it to its pre-eminence. The President of the Council, despite several reminders, oral and written, has not responded at all.

2. The Government has not provided any assistance, financial or otherwise, to the Council for the past ten years.

### China-Pak Military Ties

5013. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "China-Pak Military Ties Worry India", published in the 'Pioneer' dated 10th April, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the power balance has been disturbed in the sub continent posing damage to the security of the nation due to supply of military weapons including secret intelligence information by China to Pakistan;

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

(d) if so, whether the Government have registered its protest with the Government of China; and

(e) if so, when and the reaction of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Government have seen the news item titled 'China-Pak military ties worry India' which appeared in the 'Pioneer' on 10th April, 1997.

(b) to (e) Government are aware of the extensive defence cooperation between China and Pakistan, including the supply of Chinese weapons and weapon-related technology to Pakistan. Government are also aware of China's involvement with Pakistan's programme for development of nuclear weapons and missiles. Government have raised this issue with the Chinese side from time to time and conveyed our concerns on the subject. Chinese Government have stated that supply of arms to Pakistan is part of their normal bilateral relationship; is limited in nature and does not contravene their obligations under relevant international understandings. Government closely monitor all developments which have a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measure to safeguard the national interest.

### Shortage of LPG

5014. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where shortage has been reported; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to augment the supply of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) LPG Backlogs developed mainly in the Southern/Western Regions during April, 1997 due to inadequate bulk/packed LPG movement owing to All India Transporters Association Strike.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Oil Companies to augment the supplies of LPG cylinders to the affected areas.

(1) Operating bottling plants on Sundays/Holidays and also for extended hours on daily basis to bottle and despatch maximum number of cylinders to the affected areas.

(2) Arranging hospitality from marketing companies to meet the requirements of the affected markets.

(3) Arranging Inter-State movement of LPG cylinders from Hazira & Pune Bottling Plants in Western Region to Southern Region.

(4) Monitoring of daily backlog situation and ensuring corrective measures.

*[English]***Outstanding Dues**

5015. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply give to USQ No. 3950 regarding out of turn allotment on March 19, 1997 and state :

(a) the details of outstanding dues against each of the unauthorised occupants of Government accommodation and the amount of rent waived as ordered by the C.C.A., in each case upto March 31, 1995 and the present position in this regard;

(b) the details of outstanding dues recovered so far from each of these persons;

(c) the details of persons who are still in occupation of Government accommodation and the dues outstanding against each of them; and

(d) the steps taken as per directions of the Supreme Court in its order dated December 23, 1996 for recovery of dues and vacation of Government accommodation from these persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) A Statement-I giving the relevant information is enclosed.

(c) A Statement-II giving the relevant information is enclosed.

(d) As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court notices have been issued to the allottees both for vacation of Government accommodation and recovery of dues. The latest position in respect of each case is given in the Statements I & II.

**Statement-I**

Sl.No.	Name & Quarter No.	Dt. of Govt. decision	Period of overstay	Amount due	Amount recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>1992</b>					
1.	S.P. Shukla OSD, Cab. Sectt. AB-86, Shahjahan Road	21.7.92	01-07-92 to 31-08-92	17,850.00	16,261.00
2.	V.K. Nambiar Ambassador, Kabul, DI/80, Bharti Nagar	21.7.92	01-02-91 to 10-01-93	1,20,638.00	Nil
3.	S.P. Srivastava Collector, Customs DII/41, Kaka Nagar	21.7.92	01-06-90 to 30-11-91	70,958.00	-
4.	S.V. Iyer DG, Central Eco. IB CII/9, Moti Bagh	21.7.92	01-01-92 to 31-10-92	72,400.00	-
5.	Dr. J.P. Singh 51, Lodhi Estate	21.7.92	0.1-02-89 to 26-10-89	69,074.00	-
6.	K.K. Mathur Chief Secy. Goa B-6-2 (MS) S-13, RKP	21.7.92	3-5-83 to 2-11-83	3,407.00	-
7.	Tejinder Khanna Chief Secretary CI/39, Pandara Park	21.7.92	14-03-91 to 31-05-92	1,09,625.00	-
8.	Late Surinder Nath, Governor, Pb. 68, Lodhi Estate	21.7.92	07-08-91 to 08-08-94	3,64,960.00	-
9.	R. Narayana Swamy Chief Secy, Arunachal D-II/330, Pandara Road	21.7.92	20-07-87 to 31-12-87	8,830.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	H.K.L. Bhagat Ex-MP 34, Prithviraj Road	21.7.92	20-06-91 to 31-10-95	15,73,376.00	-
11.	S.V. Subramanian Chairman, IWA DI/61, Satya Marg	21.7.92	29-01-90 to 28-01-93	1,48,122.00	-
12.	Sukdev Prasad Ex-MP & Ex Governor Rajasthan 14, Teen Murti Lane	21.7.92	16-03-86 to 11-05-90	23,392.00	Nil
13.	Smt. Akbar Jahan Ex-MP 9, Safdarjung Lane	21.7.92	27-12-89 to 26-12-94	7,78,302.00	-
14.	G. Parthasarathy, Ex-Chairman Policy Advisory Comm. 49, Lodi Estate	21.7.92	01-09-87 to 30-04-93	Nil	-
15.	J.C. Lynn Chairman, FCI CI/65, Moti Bagh	21.7.92	19-02-91 to 22-12-92	1,52,779.00	1,52,779.00
16.	Smt. S. Sathyabhama, CMD, Natl. Seeds Corpn. DI/73, Bharti Nagar	21.7.92	01-07-90 to 30-08-91	39,467.00	-
17.	Wajahat Habibullah DI/69, Rabindra Nagar	21.7.92	11-10-91 to 30-06-92	55,943.00	-
18.	Romesh Bhandari Vice-Chairman 40th Ann. of Indepen. 18, Ashoka Road	21.7.92	01-12-86 to 30-03-90	Nil	-
19.	Dr. V.S. Arunachalam Scientifical Adviser to Defence Minister 82, Lodhi Estate	21.7.92	01-06-92 to 16-10-94	3,63,121.00	-
20.	G. Venkataramanan IAS 3/2 MS Shajahan Road	17.9.92	16-7-90 to 2-1-91	13,924.00	13,924.00
21.	B.K. Sinha, IRS D-I/117, Rabindra Nagar	17.9.92	6-11-89 to 15-4-91	50,907.00	-
22.	V.U. Earadi, Member Tax Reforms Committee D-I/62, Bharti Nagar	17.9.92	1-1-92 to 14-5-92	22,984.00	-
23.	S.V. Sirohi, DIG, BSF D-I/5/4, Andrews Ganj	17.9.92	17-5-91 to 5-5-92	52,986.00	-
24.	Pradeep Kumar Jain, S/o Late Shri Jainendra Kumar Jain D-I/35, Bharti Nagar	17.9.92	24-12-898 to 31-12-92	2,09,250.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Mufti Mohd. Sayeed 10, Akbar Road	17.9.92	13.4.91 to 28.11.91	1,08,454.00	Nil
26.	R.C. Vikal, MP 5, Duplex Road	17.9.92	2.5.90 to 6.7.90	26,039.00	Nil
27.	S.K. Monga, APS to M/o Industry, 12/236, Lodhi Col.	17.9.92	17.8.90 to 25.6.91	14,305.00	-
1993					
1.	S. Mukhopadhyay, DG National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics, Delhi D-8-1, MS Flats, S-13, R.K. Puram	26.2.93	29.2.92 to 31.5.92	16,978.00	-
2.	M.C. Gupta, Member Secretary, 10th Fin. Commission C-II/31, Tilak Lane	26.2.93	17.12.91 to 23.3.92	20,148.00	20,148.00
3.	G.P. Dubey, IGP(OPS) CRPF, D-II/M-2791, Netaji Nagar	26.2.93	20.6.91 to 2.8.92	70,920.00	Nil
4.	Naval Kishore Sharma Ex-MP, Bunglow No.3, Krishna Menon Marg	26.2.93	27.12.89 to 2.1.90	17,924.000	Nil
5.	Late Dr. G.S. Dhillon Ex-Speaker (LS) C-I/11, Pandara Park	26.2.93	27.12.89 to 30.7.90	1,35,739.00	Nil
6.	Syed Mir Qasim, Freedom Fighter A-21/87, Lodhi Col.	26.2.93	15.5.90 to 11.6.90	1,995.00	1,460.00
7.	Late Sh. C.P.N. Singh Ex-MP 2, Akbar Road	26.2.93	26.1.90 to 19.3.90	39,296.00	Nil
8.	Smt. Ram Dulari Sinha Ex-Minister AB-96, Shahjahan Road	26.2.93	14.3.88 to 14.3.89	78,009.00	-
9.	Smt. Amarjit Kaur Widow of Late Shri Bhai Shaminder Singh Ex-MP, B.K. Marg	26.2.93	8.8.91 to 7.8.93	1,29,685.00	-
10.	Smt. Pamela Singh Ex-Adviser Hospitality D-V55, Bharti Nagar	26.2.93	1.1.92 to 30.4.93	1,05,184.00	-
11.	R.L. Pardeep, Addl. Secy. CV/10, Pandara Park	26.2.93	16.9.90 to 17.1.91	46,587.00	-



1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	J.S. Uppal Commissioner, D/o Animal Hus. Dairying D-I/72 & Gr. D-I/30, Chanakya Puri	03.05.93	01.08.87 to 28.11.88	35,037.00	-
13.	A.J. Alex S.A. to Governor of Nagaland, D-I/193, Bharati Nagar	03.05.93	01.08.90 to 02.07.92	1,11,220.00	-
14.	Justice R.C. Patnaik Judge, Supreme Court of India 15, Tughlaq Road	03.05.93	30.06.92 to 02.07.92	322.00	-
15.	Justice M.K. Chawla Delhi High Court 18, Ashoka Road grounds.	03.05.93	05.08.91 to 30.10.91	1,78,260.00	44,854.00
16.	Dr. T.N. Khoshoo Scientist, AB-81, Shahjahan Road	07.07.93	15.01.91 to 29.02.92	43,960.00	-
17.	R.C. Jain Former Secretary, CII/81, Moti Bagh period of his posting	07.07.93	01.10.91 to 01.04.94	2,16,275.00	-
18.	Late M.A. Balasubramanian Jt. Director, SSB Directorate DII/299, Vinay Marg	07.07.93	03.03.91 to 30.09.93	1,75,732.00	Nil
19.	Lok Pati Tripathi S/o Late Shri Kamla Pati Tripathi, 9, Janpath	07.07.93	07.11.90 to 14.10.91	3,65,031.00	Nil
20.	Family of late Shri Mohd. Amin Ansari 12, Gurudwara Rakab- ganj Road	07.07.93	14.09.90 to 22.01.91	21,336.00	Nil
21.	H.P. Singh 21C, BSF, Panjab A-730, CR Hostel	07.07.93	31.01.92 to 31.10.95	2,00,821.00	Nil
22.	Sudhir Sharma Director, Cabinet Secretariat, DII/44, Pandara Road	07.07.93	01.01.92 to 09.09.92	39,237.00	Nil
23.	Dr. Mrs. B. Caroli 9, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road	07.07.93	0.1.06.92 to 31.05.95	7,05,442.00	-
24.	Dr. Mrs. Renuka K. Nigam A-2, B.K.S. Marg	07.07.93	07.07.93 to 06.07.96	1,76,530.00	-
25.	R.K. Sharma I.G. CRPF, Panjab A-5/3, M.S/S-13, R.K. Puram	07.09.93	July'92 to 31.12.92	1,09,779.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Urmilesh Jha Freedom Fighter 508-A/Sec. III R.K. Puram (TIV)	0.7.09.93	07.09.88 to 31.12.92	1,37,773.00	12,397.00
27.	Late Shri Ramji Lal S.E., CPWD, 24/1, M.B. Road	0.7.09.93	03.11.91 to 31.12.92	41,263.00	Nil
28.	Kaushal Kumar Ex-VC, CAT, Jodhpur CI/35, Pandara Park	0.7.09.93	06.09.89 to 04.11.89	6,460.00	6,460.00
29.	B.S. Ramoowalia Ex-MP, 15, Ferozeshah Road	0.7.09.93	27.12.89 to 10.05.90	31,906.00	Nil
30.	B. Bhattacharjee Joint Secretary A-7-3, MS, R K Puram	22.12.93	13.06.89 to 30.04.93	2,00,433.00	-
31.	V S Jafa Adviser, 10th Finance Comm. D-I/57, Satya Marg	22.12.93	01.07.92 to 30.11.94	2,19,713.00	-
32.	B.K. Goswami Adviser to the Governor of U.P. CII/45, Bapa Nagar	22.12.93	01.02.93 to 01.01.94	91,456.00	91,456.00
33.	O.P. Tandon Adviser to the Governor of Rajasthan C-II, Tilak Marg	22.12.93	16.12.92 to 04.01.94	1,21,224.00	-
34.	Dinesh Goswami Ex-Minister 11, Race Course Road	22.12.93	10.12.90 to 14.08.91	61,858.00	-
35.	Smt. Thamkamma Stephen Ex-Member, Minorities Com. CI/32, Pandara Park	22.12.93	20.09.90 to 20.12.90	Nil	Nil
36.	I.K. Barthakur Consultant D/O Economic Affairs CI/38, Pandara Park	22.12.93	01.05.93 to 30.04.94	1,10,380.00	-
<b>1994</b>					
1.	Sh. K.N. Rao Vice Chairman, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan 21-B, Telegraph Lane	10.02.94	01.07.91 to 31.01.94	1,99,444.00	Nil
2.	Smt. Rama Devi Honorary Adviser, National Commission for Women AB-93, Shajehan Road	10.02.94	01.10.92 to 30.06.93	93,936.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Sh. Bhagwat Jha Azad Ex-MP, Lok Sabha 7, Ashoka Road	10.02.94	18.05.88 to 05.04.90	3,30,046.00	Nil
4.	Late Sh. Dinesh Singh Ex-Minister, 1, Thyagaraja Marg	10.02.94	20.01.91 to 16.01.93	7,13,900.00	-
5.	P.S. Bawa DGP, Sikkim, D-I/58, Rabindra Nagar	28.03.94	17.09.93 to 31.10.95	1,85,215.00	-
6.	R.C. Jain Former Adviser to Governor, J&K C-II/81, Moti Bagh	28.03.94	01.02.93 to 12.06.93	included at Sl. 17 of 1993	-
7.	R.K. Saiyed Commr. for Linguistic Minorities CII/24, Tilak Lane	28.03.94	01.10.90 to 03.04.91	14,048.00	-
8.	P. Shivshankar Ex-M.P. Rajya Sabha 2, Willington Crescent	28.03.94	13.09.93 to 12.12.93	1,98,836.00	Nil
9.	S.K. Datta 22, Tughlak Crescent	28.03.94	01.08.93 to 19.09.93	Nil	-
10.	K.J.S. Chatrath Res. Commnr-Orissa DII/1, Shahjahan Road	28.03.94	01.01.88 to 09.10.88	25,813.00	-
11.	Daljit Singh Former DIG, BSF 0-2-1, R.K. Puram	07.06.94	01.07.92 to 31.03.94	1,07,501.00	Nil
12.	Bhim Singh, Ex-MLA President, Panther Party, S-4, SR 42, VP House	07.06.94	02.04.93 to 02.10.94	332.00	332.00
13.	K.K. Puri 10-B, Rajaji Marg	07.06.94	01.01.92 to 18.02.92	15,881.00	15,881.00
14.	K. Kipgen Joint Secretary CII/18, Pandara Park	07.06.94	01.03.87 to 24.06.88	15,043.00	-
15.	Ms. Saroj Khaparde M.P. Rajya Sabha 98-100, South Avenue	07.06.94	12.05.86 to 01.01.90	62,669.00	Nil
16.	A.R. Bandopadhyay Ex-Addl. Secretary DI/200, Chanakyapuri	07.06.94	01.12.93 to 31.12.93	7,466.00	7,466.00
17.	V.G. Vaidya Director, IB 9, Tughlak Road	07.06.94	15.04.94 to 13.09.94	5,694.00	5,694.00
18.	R.K. Gupta, Formerly JS & Legal Adviser 5-B, Telegraph Lane	26.06.94	01.05.91 to 30.05.91	5,008.00	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Arvind Mayaram, Dy. Secy, D/o Economic Affairs DII/57, Kaka Nagar	26.08.94	24.08.91 to 11.12.92	1,00,199.00	-
20.	Smt. R.K. Bajpai Ex-Minister 6, Ashok Road	26.08.94	20.06.91 to 11.11.92	4,01,738.00	-
21.	R.K. Thawani, DGI Customs & Central Excise E-4B, Hyderabad Estate, Bombay	26.08.94	19.01.94 to 18.05.94	58,925.00	-
22.	Lalkhama, DG (CAPART) C-1/8, Lodhi Garden	26.08.94	18.08.92 to 21.12.93	1,50,284.00	-
23.	Smt. Ranbir Kaur Dhillon, Widow of Late Sh. G.S. Dhillon, Speaker (LS) C-1/11, Pandara Park	26.08.94	24.03.92 to 31.10.95	3,93,489.00	-
24.	V.K. Malhotra 6, Dr. B.D. Marg	12.12.94	01.06.91 to 28.01.94	1,25,781.00	Nil
25.	Vasant Sathe B. No. 2, Krishna Menon Marg	12.12.94	20.06.91 to 04.02.93	6,97,899.00	-
26.	R. Srikumar A-332, Pragati Vihar Hostel	12.12.94	10.10.92 to 31.07.93	22,953.00	Nil
27.	Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsyayan D-1/23, Satya Marg	12.12.94	01.04.93 to 31.03.96	1,69,628.00	Notice withdrawn for Rs. 169628/-
<b>1995</b>					
1.	I. Rama Mohan Rao Information Adv. to Govt. of J&K D-1/133, Satya Marg	24.02.95	01.06.92 to 31.10.95	3,06,284.00	-
2.	Z.R. Ansari, Ex-Minister 9, Akbar Road	24.02.95	01.04.73 to 15.02.90	97,766.00	-
3.	H.N. Sharma former PS to former PM (Sh. Chandra Shekhar) C-11/151, Chanakyapuri	24.02.95	10.06.91 to 31.12.94	3,86,464.00	-
4.	Smt. Mohalna Kidwani, Ex-Minister 12, Janpath	24.02.95	02.01.90 to 28.03.90	51,303.00	-
5.	B. Narasimhan, Eo & Addl. Secy., CIU/48, Tilak Marg	24.02.95	03.04.93 to 15.04.93	3,169.00	3,169.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	B.N. Som, Addl. Post Master General D-II/2, Shahjahan Road	24.02.95	01.08.88 to 01.06.89	29,097.00	—
7.	L. Mishra, DG (CAPART) C-II/35, Motlbagh	24.02.95	06.01.94 to 05.11.94	59,492.00	—
8.	Justice Mahesh Chandra, AB-10, Purana Quila Road	24.02.95	01.11.91 to 25.05.96	6,18,090.00	—
9.	Smt. Krishna Sahi Minister 7, Teen Murti Marg	24.02.95	02.01.90 to 28.03.90	10,941.00	—
10.	M.M. Hashim, MP (RS) AB-19, Tilak Marg	24.02.95	08.04.91 to 31.10.95	26,000.00	Nil
11.	Ms Raj Usha Chopra Social Worker 6-A, Telegraph Lane	24.02.95	01.10.90 to 12.06.92	2,41,293.00	Nil
12.	R.K. Bhargava, Secy, I & B AB-88, Shajahan Road	24.02.95	01.07.94 to 07.01.95	50,584.00	—
13.	N.S. Choudhry DG, BIS CV/20, Humayun Road	10.05.95	21.12.93 to 31.10.95	1,76,787.00	—
14.	Najamus Saquib DII/306, Vinay Marg	10.05.95	11.07.93 to 31.10.95	1,61,504.00	Nil
15.	Dr. N.P. Singh 147, North Avenue	10.05.95	01.01.89 to 31.10.95	3,07,893.00	Nil
16.	G.V.G. Krishnamoorthy, Former M.S. Law Commission 9-B, Dr. Z.H. Marg	10.05.95	01.08.93 to 30.09.93	Nil	—
17.	E.N. Ram Mohan IG, BSF B.2/V/11, Lodi Road Complex	10.05.95	04.12.92 to 18.02.93	Nil	—
18.	K.M. Joshipura Joint Director DGQA C-8, Tilak Lane	10.05.95	01.12.93 to 01.08.94	21,156.00	Nil
19.	Smt. Vyjayantimala Bali, MP (RS) 76, Lodhi Estate	10.05.95	20.06.91 to 28.08.93	3,69,248.00	2,500.00
20.	Jus. B.N. Kirpal Ex- Judge, D.H. Court 37, Aurangzeb Road	10.05.95	13.01.94 to 04.03.94	40,005.00	—
21.	R.N. Mirdha M.P. 17, Safdarjung Road	10.05.95	02.01.90 to 25.03.90	11,596.00	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Jitendra Prasad M.P. 60, Lodhi Estate	10.05.95	27.12.89 to 26.08.90	43,689.00	Nil
23.	S. Kanungo 83, Shahjahan Road	10.05.95	01.12.94 to 18.07.95	87,247.00	-
24.	M.C. Narasimhan Joint Secretary CII/10, Tilak Marg	10.05.95	01.05.87 to 28.05.89	35,060.00	-
25.	S.H. Khan Dy. Commr, M.P. Govt. E-II-87, AGV Complex	10.05.95	05.04.94 to 30.06.95	1,08,215.00	Nil
26.	Devinder Nath Dwivedi, ASG 1-B, Maulana Azad Road	06.10.95	03.03.95 to 31.03.96	3,12,694.00	-
27.	Pt. Ravi Shanker Artist 95, Lodhi Estate	06.10.95	11.06.92 to 31.10.95	4,93,825.00	Nil
28.	Om Mehta 30, Prithvi Raj Road	06.10.95	12.03.95 to 31.10.95	3,47,740.00	Nil
29.	P.B. Mahishi Ex-OSD to PM C-II/23, Bapa Nagar	06.10.95	24.11.92 to 05.10.96	Nil	Nil
30.	B.N. Pandey Ex-MP (RS) 1, Lodhi Estate	06.10.95	24.12.94 to 31.10.95	1,56,160.00	NI
31.	Sharad Pawar Ex-MP 5, Janpath	06.10.95	14.03.95 to 05.10.96	Nil	Nil
32.	Mohd. Yunus Ex-MP (RS) 1, Tughlaq Road	06.10.95	14.07.95 to 31.10.95	1,43,394.00	Nil
33.	M.K. Handoo Retd. U.S. B-32, Nanak Pura	06.10.95	01.04.94 to 06.10.95	53,824.00	2,979.00
34.	Devki Nandan Pandey 19, L.B. Nagar	-	06.12.92 to 03.02.94	32,056.00	32,056.00
35.	Indrani Devi 6, Krishna Menon Marg	-	02.11.91 to 31.10.95	Nil	-
36.	Smt. Pradhan Kaur w/o Late Giani Zail Singh 4, Circular Road	-	01.04.95 to 31.10.95	2,47,343.00	-
37.	V.P. Singh Ex- Prime Minister 1, Teen Murti Marg	-	01.04.94 to 31.10.95	Nil	-

**Statement-II**

Statement showing names of persons still in occupation of Government accommodation who were included in the list of 127 cases of waiver of Government amount

S.No.	Name & Accommodation	Amount due
1.	Dr. (Smt.) B. Caroli 9, G.R.G. Road	14,14,973.00
2.	Dr. (Smt.) R.K. Nigam A-2 (MS) B.K.S. Marg.	4,21,706.00
3.	Smt. R.K. Dhillon C/VII, Pandara Park	6,70,527.00
4.	The Family of Late Sh. Giani Zail Singh, 4, Circular Road	10,85,768.00
5.	Smt. Amarjit Kaur B-2, B.K.S. Marg.	5,99,848.00
6.	*Shri H.P. Singh A-703, Curzon Road Hostel	3,39,701.00
7.	Shri S.H. Khan, 87, Asian Games Village Complex	91,448.00
8.	Dr. N.P. Singh, 147, North Avenue	3,94,953.00
9.	Shri Bhim Singh, 4, Vithal Bai Patel House.	2,15,624.00
10.	Shri Najamus Saquib, DII/306, Vinay Marg.	1,46,134.00
11.	Shri Urmilesh Jha, 508-A/III/R.K. Puram	1,37,773.00
12.	Shri M.K. Handoo, B-32, Nanak Pura.	53,824.00

\*Sl. No. 6 Shri H.P. Singh - The case is being processed for regularisation. Matter is under correspondence with Deptt of BSF

**Violation of Copy Right Act**

5016. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the priced publication of the Government falls within the purview of Copy Right Act;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines in this respect;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Government publications are being printed and published by private publishers viz. Fifth Pay Commission Report by M/s Bahari Bros. Import and Export Policy by Creative Arts Pvt Ltd. and the Reports of the Working Group on Companies and Income Tax by M/s Taxman and Bharat Law House.

(d) if so, the terms for according permission to them;

(e) if not, the details of the enquiry conducted in this regard and the steps being taken to curb illegal trade practices; and

(f) the number of publishers booked under the Copy Right Act and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the remaining guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government reports and publications can be reproduced or reprinted only with the permission of Copyright owner. However, Section 52 (i) (q) of the Copyright Act, 1957, provides that certain acts shall not constitute an infringement of Copyright. These include, *inter-alia*, re-production or publication of the report of any committee, commission, council, board or other like body appointed by the Government if such report has been laid on the Table of the Legislature, unless the reproduction or publication of such report is prohibited by the Government.

(c) to (f) It has come to the notice of this Ministry that certain private publishers have brought out publications on the Report of the Fifth Pay Commission and the Import & Export Policy. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce are aware of the publications. The Department of Company Affairs have intimated that the Report of a Working Group for re-writing the Companies Act, 1956 (submitted to Government in February, 1997) has been published by a few private publishers. It is for the concerned Ministries/Departments to take action in case of any infringement of Copyright. As regards the Report of the Working Group for re-writing Companies Act, 1956, Department of Companies Affairs have informed that the report has become a public property and, therefore, it is open to any one to publish this report in full or in parts.

**Setting up of a Hydro Power Plant at Mutyalmadu**

5017. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka to take up new hydro power project at Mutyalmadu,

(b) if so, the details therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up new hydro power project at Mutyalmadu in Karnataka is under examination for techno-economic clearance in Central Electricity Authority.

[Translation]

**Drinking Water Scheme**

5018. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of small, medium and big towns in Maharashtra where there is acute shortage of water;

(b) whether the State Government has sent any schemes in this regard to the Union Government and have sought financial assistance to ensure supply of safe drinking water to these towns; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The State Government of Maharashtra has intimated that scarcity of water is usually experienced in 58 small towns, 14 medium towns and 10 big towns of the State. The details are given in the Statement-I, attached.

(b) and (c) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Maharashtra in respect of medium and big towns. In so far as small towns are concerned, 28 schemes have been received from Maharashtra Government under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme. Out of these water supply schemes for 10 towns have been sanctioned so far, at an estimated project cost of Rs. 13.71 crores as per Statement-II attached. An amount of Rs. 3.86 crores has already been released as Central share during the 8th Plan period and the State Government has reported to have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2.65 crores on the implementation of the sanctioned schemes.

#### Statement-I

List of towns where scarcity is experienced (small town)

Sl. No.	Name of Municipal council	Name of District
1	2	3
1.	Pathardi	Ahmednagar
2.	Rahata-Pimplas	Ahmednagar
3.	Shirdi	Ahmednagar
4.	Risod	Arola
5.	Morshi	Amaravati
6.	Shendurjana	Amaravati
7.	Sillod	Aurangabad
8.	Vaijapur	Aurangabad
9.	Dharur	Beed
10.	Pawani	Dhandara
11.	Tirora	Dhandara
12.	Chikhali	Buldhana
13.	Deolgaon Raja	Buldhana
14.	Jalgaon-Jamod	Buldhana
15.	Lonar	Buldhana
16.	Mehkar	Buldhana
17.	Sindkhed-Raja	Buldhana
18.	Mul	Chandrapur
19.	Rajura	Chandrapur
20.	Brahmapuri	Chandrapur
21.	Desaiganj	Gadchiroli
22.	Gadchiroli	Gadchiroli
23.	Faijpur	Jalgaon

1	2	3
24.	Rawer	Jalgaon
25.	Sawda	Jalgaon
26.	Yawal	Jalgaon
27.	Bhokardan	Jalna
28.	Malkapur	Kolhapur
29.	Ahmadpur	Latur
30.	Ausa	Latur
31.	Nilanga	Latur
32.	Katol	Bagpur
33.	Mowad	Bagpur
34.	Narkhed	Bagpur
35.	Saoner	Bagpur
36.	Loha	Ganded
37.	Mukhed	Ganded
38.	Omerga	Osmanabad
39.	Kallam	Osmanabad
40.	Murum	Osmanabad
41.	Naldurg	Osmanabad
42.	Paranda	Osmanabad
43.	Sailu	Parbhani
44.	Sonpeth	Parbhani
45.	Karjat	Raigad
46.	Murod-Janjira	Raigad
47.	Vita	Bangli
48.	Kupwad	Bangli
49.	Mhaswad	Ratara
50.	Malwan	Sindhudurg
51.	Vengurla	Sindhudurg
52.	Akkalkot	Bolapur
53.	Dudhani	Bolapur
54.	Kurduwadi	Bolapur
55.	Maindargi	Bolapur
56.	Vasai	Thane
57.	Pulgaon	Mardha
58.	Sindi	Mardha

List of towns where scarcity is experienced (Big Town)

1	2	3
1.	Akola	Akola
2.	Gondia	Bhandara
3.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
4.	Dhule	Dhule
5.	Jalna	Jalna
6.	Latur	Latur
7.	Parbhani	Parbahani
8.	Wardha	Wardha
9.	Yawatmal	Yawatmal
10.	Nashik	Nashik



*List of towns where scarcity is experienced (Medium Town)*

1	2	3
1.	Akot	Akola
2.	Nandurbar	Dhule
3.	Chalisgaon	Jalgaon
4.	Chopada	Jalgaon
5.	Pachora	Jalgaon
6.	Udgir	Latur
7.	Kamthi	Jagpur
8.	Manmad	Nashik
9.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad
10.	Barshi	Solapur
11.	Navghar-Manikpur	Thane
12.	Nala Sopara	Thane
13.	Virar	Thane
14.	Hinganghat	Wardha

**Statement-II****Maharashtra***Schemes Sanctioned under AUWSP*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Town	Sanctioned Date	Project Cost
1.	Patur	March, 94	51.03
2.	Deulgaon Raja	March, 94	160.22
3.	Lonar	March, 94	98.18
4.	Main Dargi	March, 94	42.21
5.	Telhara	March, 94	18.37
6.	Kundalwadi	December, 95	145.10
7.	Sendurjanaghat	August, 96	117.78
8.	Saswad	October, 96	213.55
9.	indapur	October, 96	324.47
10.	Dudhani	November, 96	200.19
Total			1371.10

*[English]***Titanium Dioxide Industry**

5019. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of mal-practice of under-invoicing of Titanium Dioxide from Hongkong/Singapore is going on;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to investigate the matter; and

(c) the other steps Government propose to take to save the Titanium Dioxide Industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from all the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***Indian Delegations in Foreign Countries**

5020. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names and numbers of the countries where delegations were sent during the last three months and the amount spent thereon;

(b) the details of Government officers and Members of Parliament and Ministers who went with the delegations; and

(c) the objectives thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Import of Crude Oil**

5021. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of crude oil imported through Wadinar Port of Jam Nagar district in Gujrat;

(b) the quantum of oil out of that supplied to Mathura Refinery through pipeline;

(c) whether there is any decrease in the quantum of oil;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete steps taken to check the decrease in the quantum of oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The quantum of crude oil imported through Vadinar Port of Jamnagar Dist. in Gujrat for the last two years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (Figs in MMT)
1995-96	8.74
1996-97	9.35

(b) The quantum of imported crude oil transported through pipeline to Mathura Refinery during the last two years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (Figs in MMT)
1995-96	5.99
1996-97	6.41

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Financial Irregularities in RRB**

5022. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints regarding financial scams and other irregularities in Regional Rural Banks under Gorakhpur district wherein request to conduct inquiry by CBI has been made;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the number of financial scam and other irregularities which has come to light as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of staff found guilty and the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter has already been referred to National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) for inquiry into the complaint in consultation with the sponsor bank.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

*[Translation]***Branches of Banks in Rural Areas**

5023. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of branches of banks have decreased in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reason for the said decrease and its percentage during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***LPG Connections**

5024. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to release more number of new LPG connections during the current calendar year;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the criteria adopted for giving new connections in a given area; and

(d) the gas produced in the Mangalore Refinery during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Government has approved release of 10 lakh new LPG connections and 10 lakh DBCs during the first quarter of 1997-98 (April-June, 1997).

(c) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

Further, the Government is according priority for release of LPG connections in Hilly areas, Taj Trapezium area, releases under TATKAL Scheme, new distributorship commissioning, priorities of PSUs/MOP&NG/MPs and unviable distributors.

In addition, Government has instructed the Public Sector Oil companies to release LPG connections to all the persons who had booked their connections before 1.1.91 on production of registration slip.

(d) The Mangalore Refinery with an installed capacity of 3.0 MMTPA was commissioned on 25.3.96. During the year 1995-96, the production was nil, but LPG production in 1996-97 was 50.9 TMT against the estimates of 59.3 TMT.

**HUDCO**

5025. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation has launched any scheme to promote the housing related activities in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allotted in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) HUDCO provides financial assistance to various agencies for housing and Urban Development related schemes as indicated below :-

- Housing schemes for various income categories both in Urban and Rural areas.
  - Staff housing
  - Commercial Schemes
  - Social infrastructure
  - Land acquisition
  - Private builders schemes
  - Urban infrastructure schemes related to housing e.g. water supply, sewerage, drainage.
- (b) and (c) As on 31.3.97 HUDCO has sanctioned

10,885 housing projects, involving loan amount of Rs. 8895 crores to various State Housing Agencies, Development Authorities, Cooperative Societies and NGOs/Builders, State-wise details of loans and dwellings sanctioned are given in the attached Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of Housing Projects as on 31.3.1997.*

Sl. No.	States/UT's Names	Loan Amount (Rs. crore)	Total No. of dwellings	Total No. of Plots
1.	A. & N. Islands	4.18	784	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	931.21	1158069	4866
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.96	317	0
4.	Assam	139.42	57057	735
5.	Bihar	223.22	156149	9259
6.	Chandigarh	78.18	26511	8205
7.	Delhi	37.60	16292	0
8.	Goa	13.25	2786	1526
9.	Gujarat	581.53	503398	7742
10.	Himachal Pradesh	88.12	28839	1232
11.	Haryana	219.00	106422	95
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	51.08	15137	12084
13.	Kerala	894.23	758388	486
14.	Karnataka	627.86	720877	4536
15.	Meghalaya	42.28	13267	0
16.	Maharashtra	618.98	373732	18263
17.	Manipur	79.61	11034	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	479.51	135475	88546
19.	Mizoram	25.47	7533	0
20.	Nagaland	39.40	13188	0
21.	Orissa	300.33	154833	6219
22.	Punjab	221.96	122582	4679
23.	Rajasthan	606.14	252882	16997
24.	Sikkim	47.18	12914	0
25.	Tamil nadu	1303.43	828087	128189
26.	Tripura	8.25	5011	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	925.92	654767	54570
28.	West Bengal	293.19	146540	974
29.	D. & N. Haveli	0.25	87	0
30.	Pondichery	12.58	5525	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>8895.30</b>	<b>6288533</b>	<b>369203</b>

**Pakistan's Interference in Kashmir**

5026. KUNWAR SARVRAJ SINGH:  
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement of the President of Pakistan wherein he has declared to continue the support for terrorists in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and whether the Government still hopes for better relations with Pakistan and if so, the basis thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Government have noted the statement of the Pakistani President, made while addressing the Pakistan National Day parade on 23 March, 1997.

(b) Pakistan's support to terrorism directed against India is well known.

Government hope that the recently resumed bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan will be sustained so that the two countries can work to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation.

[Translation]

**Value of Rupee**

5027. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :  
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether devaluation of Indian currency continuously going on in comparison to pound, dollar, German mark and Japan's yen;

(b) the present value of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* the value in 1960;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest to curb the devaluation of Indian rupee; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The rupee remained reasonably stable during May 1996 to March 1997 *vis-a-vis* the US dollar. Reflecting the movement of other international currencies *vis-a-vis* the US dollar, the Indian rupee appreciated against the DM and the yen but depreciated against the Pound Sterling during the same period.

(b) The exchange rate of the Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* the US dollar on 2nd May, 1997 was Rs. 35.7550 as compared to Rs. 4.7691 in 1960.

(c) and (d) The exchange rate of the rupee is market determined. The foreign exchange market is monitored

closely by the RBI and steps are taken, as and when necessary, to counter speculative pressures against the rupee and to maintain orderly foreign exchange market conditions.

[English]

### Foreign Exchange Reserve

5028. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :  
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserve has been continually decreasing for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of decrease in this reserve during each of the last two years and month-wise details during 1997 as on April, 1997 alongwith the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the foreign exchange reserve position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRs) had declined from US \$ 20809 million at end March 1995 to US \$ 15943 million at end February 1996, because of the steep rise in imports, moderation in capital inflows and a sizeable increase in servicing of external debt. However, from March 1996, foreign exchange reserves, increased continuously to reach a level of US \$ 22367 million at end March 1997 and further to US \$ 22659 million at end April 1997. The monthly trend in foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRs) from March 1995 to April 1997 is given in the Statement attached.

### Statement

*The monthly trend in foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRs)*

Month/Year	Foreign Exchange Reserves (in US \$ million)
1	2
March, 1995	20809
April, 1995	20454
May, 1995	20267
June, 1995	19601
July, 1995	19882
August, 1995	18990
September, 1995	19064
October, 1995	17753
November, 1995	17335
December, 1995	17467
January, 1996	16310
February, 1996	15943

1	2
March, 1996	17044
April, 1996	17088
May, 1996	17105
June, 1996	17526
July, 1996	17940
August, 1996	17976
September, 1996	18433
October, 1996	19177
November, 1996	19388
December, 1996	19742
January, 1997	19848
February, 1997	19695
March, 1997	22367
April, 1997*	22659

\*Provisional

[Translation]

### Short Denomination Notes

5029. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the currency notes of the denominations of Re. one, Rs. two, Rs. five and Rs. ten printed during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : The details of the currency/bank notes of the denominations of Re.1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 printed during each of the last three years are as under :

Denomination	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(figures in million)		
Re. 1	40	-	-
Rs. 2	91	-	-
Rs. 5	480	157	-
Rs. 10	2632	2571	2883
Total	3243	2728	2883

[English]

### Fifth Pay Commission Report

5030. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the M/s. Bahari Brothers, (publishers and

printers) have reprinted the report of the Fifth Pay Commission and sold at exorbitant price in the market:

(b) if so, the royalty fee charged by the Government and terms and conditions for awarding the contract; and

(c) if not, the punitive action taken/proposed to be taken against the publishers and printer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) It has come to the notice of the Government that M/s. Bahari Brothers have printed the report of the Fifth Pay Commission without the permission of the Government. Suitable action is being taken in the matter.

#### Sick Units

5031. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sick heavy, medium and small scale industrial units in each State and the outstanding bank credits involved in such units;

(b) whether such sick units have increased during 1990-96;

(c) the number of such units considered to be viable and the Bank Credits involved in such viable units State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposed to give further assistance to viable units for revival; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

#### Agreement between VSP and APSEB

5032. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board for sale of surplus power in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down in the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) An agreement has been signed between Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)/Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) on 24.3.1997 for sale of RINL's surplus power to the APSEB. As per the agreement RINL/VSP is required to supply a firm power of 24 MW net at 85% PLF from its captive power plant (i.e. 15.30 million units per month during the first year of agreement i.e. from the consumption month of January 1997) and 30 MW net @ 85% of PLF i.e. 18.36 MW/month from 2nd year onwards i.e. from consumption month of January, 1998.

#### NAM Meeting

5033. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Taliban Government have protested for inviting representatives of the deposed Afghan President Rabbani to the Non Aligned Movement meeting held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the political implications involved therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) We have seen a Taliban statement which was critical of the invitation extended by India as host country to the Government of President Rabbani to participate in the NAM Foreign Ministers Meeting which was held in New Delhi in April 1997. Mrs. Abdul Rahim Gafoorzai, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs represented the Islamic State of Afghanistan. His credentials were not challenged by any Member State participating in the Meeting. The representative of President Rabbani continues to occupy the Afghan Chair at the UN. India's decision was therefore in keeping with international practice.

#### BIFR

5034. SHRI DARBARA SINGH :  
COL. RAO RAM SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has warned the banks and Financial Institutions to be more vigilant to ensure implementation of revival schemes sanctioned by the Board;

(b) if so, whether any cell has been set up to monitor the half yearly progress report to be submitted by the sick industries/units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has a Monitoring Division which monitors the implementation of the revival schemes. The monitoring agencies and sick industrial companies concerned are required to send to the BIFR half-yearly progress reports regarding the implementation of revival schemes. BIFR held a meeting of the representatives of the monitoring agencies recently to discuss measures for further improving the monitoring of the implementation of revival schemes.

(d) Does not arise

#### Kashmir Issue

5035. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out any package to deal with the Kashmir problem; 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) The J&K issue relates to the illegal and forcible occupation of territory of the State by Pakistan. India is committed to resolving this issue through peaceful, bilateral negotiations as envisaged in the Shimla Agreement.

[Translation]

#### Amul

5036. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any action against Amul Company under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Amul company, Gujarat has indulged in or has been indulging in black marketing with the connivance of distributors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ( SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR ) : (a) to (d) No enquiry against any company by the name Amul has been instituted under the MRTP Act, 1969 during the last three years. However, two restrictive trade practice enquiries (nos. 4 of 1994 and 245 of 1995) under the Act were instituted by the MRTP Commission against Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited (which markets milk and milk products under the brand name Amul) for having entered into an agreement with the distributors which did not give liberty to wholesalers/retailers to sell Amul milk at a price lower than the maximum recommended price and imposed territorial restrictions on the distributors.

In the aforesaid enquiries, two separate applications giving an undertaking to abide by the directions of the Commission as regards pricing and territorial restrictions filed by the respondent were accepted by the MRTP Commission. Notices in both the cases were discharged by the Commission with the direction that the respondent shall take step to amend the agreement in line with the undertaking given by it.

[English]

#### Sick Banks

5037. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revive some weak and sick banks during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details of such banks alongwith the funds provided by the Government for the revival of those banks; and

(c) the term and conditions laid down for the revival of the said banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had advised banks to achieve 8% capital adequacy by 31.3.96. However, 8 nationalised banks could not achieve the 8% capital adequacy. These weak banks have been given time to achieve the same by 31.3.97 subject to the condition to contain credit expansion and capital expenditure, reduction in administrative expenditure, no fresh recruitment of staff etc.

Government has contributed additional share capital of Rs. 1509 crores in March 1997 to six of the nationalised banks who could not achieve 8% capital adequacy.

#### Unorganised Labourers in the Country

5038. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated strength of unorganised labour and total labour force in the country for the last 3 years with State-wise break-up;

(b) the details of steps taken during the past 3 years to protect and promote the interests of unorganised work force in the country;

(c) the details of schemes formulated/fresh policy initiatives taken under consideration for protecting/promoting the interests of unorganised labour, State-wise; and

(d) details of agenda (action plan) formulated for implementation during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Workers are enumerated in the Census by activity in which they are engaged. Separate figures with respect to number of workers in the unorganised sector are not collected and are, therefore, not available. However, majority of workers in the rural areas and those engaged in activities like construction, road side hotels and dhabas etc. in urban areas are unorganised. A Statement showing number of total workers as per 1991 Census (State wise) is attached. A number of labour laws enacted for protection of workers' rights and for their welfare are also applicable to unorganised workers. Some such laws are, the Minimum Wages Act, the Payment of Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 etc. Workers engaged in iron, manganese, chrome, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are covered also by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom

weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of unorganised workers has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

As regards fresh policy initiatives the Central Government have enacted the building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest single activity, after agriculture employing unorganised workers. Agenda for the year 1997-98 includes continued efforts to gear up and augment the existing measures and a new measure of bringing in comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers numbering about 200 million.

#### Statement

S.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Total Workers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29,963,648
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	399,782
3.	Assam	8,088,935
4.	Bihar	27,777,071
5.	Goa	412,736
6.	Gujarat	16,620,519
7.	Haryana	5,103,470
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2,214,379
9.	Karnataka	18,886,798
10.	Kerala	9,146,118
11.	Madhya Pradesh	23,340,485
12.	Maharashtra	33,910,366
13.	Manipur	774,904
14.	Meghalaya	757,322
15.	Mizoram	337,345
16.	Nagaland	516,237
17.	Orissa	11,882,762
18.	Punjab	6,261,989
19.	Rajasthan	17,104,372
20.	Sikkim	168,721
21.	Tamil Nadu	24,194,343
22.	Tripura	858,517
23.	Uttar Pradesh	44,799,280
24.	West Bengal	21,914,774
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	98,901
26.	Chandigarh	224,294
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	73,739
28.	Daman & Diu	38,224
29.	Delhi	2,980,461
30.	Lakshadweep	13,664
31.	Pondicherry	267,214
Total		314,131,370

Source : Census, 1991

#### Gold Reserve

5039. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the position of Gold Reserve in the country as on December, 1996;

(b) the annual consumption of gold in the country;

(c) the quantity and value of the gold imported during 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the gold reserve of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : (a) Gold Reserve of the Reserve Bank of India as at the end December 1996 stood at 397.5 tonnes, equivalent to Rs. 14274 crores.

(b) There is no official estimates of the consumption of gold in the country. The World Gold Council has estimated the annual gold consumption in India at 477 tonnes in 1995.

(c) The quantity of gold imported during 1996 was 297.79 tonnes, valued at Rs. 15458.28 crores at the annual average price prevailed at the Mumbai Market.

(d) The liberalised Gold Import Scheme allows import of gold by Non-Resident Indians and permits imports by MMTC and SBI for delivery of such gold in India to the returning Non-Resident Indians and against Special Import Licences. This Scheme aims at improving the availability of gold imported through licit channels and on payment of custom duty in foreign exchange.

#### M.R.T.S. Project

5040. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions have refused to finance MRTS project in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to meet this expenditure; and

(c) by when the project is proposed to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Because of long term nature of loan and low returns, the financial institutions in India did not show interest in the project.

(b) The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 4860 crores at April, 1996 prices. The financing plan of the project is as under :

(i) equity contribution of Government of India and Government of NCT of Delhi @ 15% each of total cost of the project.

(ii) OECF (Japan) Loan – approx. 56% of total cost of the project

(iii) Revenues from property development, subordinate debt towards land cost and dedicated taxes and levies – approx. 14%.

(c) The project is slated to be completed by 2005 A.D.

[Translation]

#### Hydro Power Project at Nainpur

5041. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up a 750 KW Hydro Power Project at Nainpur, Mandla District in Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) submitted a project report of 2x300 KW capacity Thanwar Mini Hydel Project, at an estimated cost of Rs. 105.63 lakhs which was proposed on Thanwar Irrigation Project located in Nainpur Tehsil of Mandla District to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in December 1982, for approval. This was eventually sanctioned by MPEB in 1984.

(b) & (c) The project report was reviewed by MPEB after comments were received by CEA and Central Water Commission (CWC) and accordingly the installed capacity was revised to 2x250 KW at an estimated cost of Rs. 82.9 lakhs based on review of water availability studies. Since this cost was less than Rs. 100 lakhs, the MPEB was empowered to approve the project report. Administrative approval was accorded to the project in July 1984. The State Irrigation Department also gave their clearance in January 1986. The tenders for turn-key execution was invited in 1988 which was eventually rejected because of receipt of high rates. Due to financial constraints prevailing with the Board, no new projects were undertaken. The project was posed for privatisation in 1994 but due to lack of interest of allottee firm. The allotment was cancelled in September 1995. The irrigation and dam canal works have been completed in 1996 and the project proposed to be posed again for privatisation.

[English]

#### Cultivation of Opium

5042. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :  
SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total area under opium cultivation in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any increase in hectareage during the last ten years;

(c) whether there is any pressure from the International Narcotics Control Board to increase the area under opium cultivation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The total area under opium cultivation during the crop year 1996-97 was 29,797.900 hectares. The state-wise break-up is as under :

(i) Madhya Pradesh	16573.500 hectares
(ii) Rajasthan	12512.700 hectares
(iii) Uttar Pradesh	711.700 hectares

(b) There has been no increase in the hectareage during the years 1986-87 to 1993-94. However, in view of the opium stock position having depleted to a record low the area under poppy cultivation had to be increased in the year 1994-95 onward as below in order to meet the export commitments and the domestic requirement of opium.

Year	Area licensed
1993-94	13489.00
1994-95	25215.00
1995-96	26437.00
1996-97	29798.00

(c) No, Sir. The area under poppy cultivation during any crop year is fixed taking into account the global demand for opium. The International Narcotics Control Board, as the concerned U.N. Agency monitors the global demand and supply of opiates and has always emphasized, India's important role as the sole producer & supplier of licit opium.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.

#### Import of R.O.B.

5043. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4430 on December 20, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard and the time by which the information is likely to be laid on the table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The requisite informations are being collected from field formations and is likely to be laid on the table of the House before the end of the current Session of Parliament.



### Visa Relaxation to Pakistani Citizens

5044. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether relaxation is made in respect of visas issued to the Pakistanis visiting India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of our policy of encouraging people-to-people contacts, Government have unilaterally eased the visa regime for Pakistani nationals. Under the liberalised policy, Government have decided to (i) permit Pakistani tourists to visit India in Groups ; (ii) grant one-year multi-entry visas to Pakistani businessmen and permit them to enter and exit India either through Mumbai or Delhi if travelling by air; (iii) exempt young and elderly Pakistani visitors from police reporting; and (iv) waive visa fees for senior Pakistani citizens, cultural groups, artistes, poets, writers, students and journalists

### Hydel Power Projects

5045. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the proposed new hydel power projects in the country;

(b) the response received from the private sector to set up such new power projects; and

(c) the likely rate of return for hydel power projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The private power policy enunciated by the Government in 1991 offers investment opportunities to private entrepreneurs both for thermal and hydro-electric power generation. In January, 1995, the notification No. S.O. 251 (E) issued by the Government in 1992 was amended for including calculation of tariff for sale of electricity from hydro electric power generating stations set up in the private sector. As on date, 11 proposals on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/ Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route (costing more than Rs. 100 Crores) and 10 proposals on the competitive bidding route (costing more than Rs. 1000 crores) have been received for setting up Hydro-electric power projects in the private sector. The likely rate of return from these projects can be determined only after the promoters obtain the requisite statutory and other clearances and achieve financial closure

### Execution of Contracts

5046. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have observed any irregularities in execution of contracts for production of Oil and Gas by private parties during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Revenue through Custom Duty

5047. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of revenue collected through additional customs duty on all imported items in 1996-97; and

(b) the estimated amount likely to be collected on this account during the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Revenue realised through additional customs duty in 1996-97 is not readily available. Requisite information is being collected.

(b) Revenue from additional customs duty for 1997-98 has not been estimated separately.

### National Sample Survey Organisation

5048. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether job opportunities declined after liberalisation as per survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation;

(b) whether change had an adverse effect on the interests of women as it could give her only short term employment instead of permanent employment;

(c) whether the number of job seeking women had gone up during the period; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to solve their employment problems ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Misuse of Gold Import Scheme

5049. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme of import of gold by NRI's is being grossly misused and payments through Hawala Channels are made for the legal gold; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to put a check on this malpractice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Government have no information of gross misuse of the scheme though intelligence reports suggest some payment are made through illicit channels. However the main objectives of the liberalised gold import Scheme, *inter alia*, are to

encourage the import of gold through licit channels against payment of customs duty in foreign exchange and to discourage smuggling of gold. It has been reported that the introduction of this scheme has had a healthy impact on checking clandestine Import of Gold.

#### Income Tax Payee

5050. SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether only 4 lakh and 50 thousand New Delhi residents pay income tax while the city has 26 lakh vehicles, 80 lakh telephones and 15 lakh house owners;

(b) if so, whether such a disparity arise out of lack of proper enforcement of the existing laws; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to plug such loopholes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The number of assesseees in Delhi as on 31.3.1997 is 7,71,340 (provisional figures). Under the provisions of Income-tax Act, a person is required to file return of income if his total income during the previous year exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income-tax

There can be a number of reasons for the disparity between the number of income-tax assesseees and the number of persons owning telephones, vehicles, houses etc. At the same time it is true that the number of tax payers in the country is substantially low as compared to the population and the Government has, from time to time, taken various steps to increase the number of tax payers. With a view to further widen the tax-net, the Finance Bill, 1997 has introduced a proviso to Section 139(1) of the Income-tax Act requiring every person who satisfies any two of the following conditions namely :

- (i) occupation of an immovable property exceeding a specified floor area, whether by way of ownership, tenancy or otherwise, as may be specified by the Board in this behalf; or
- (ii) is the owner of the leasee of a motor vehicle; or
- (iii) is a subscriber to a telephone; or
- (iv) has incurred expenditure for himself or any other person on travel to any foreign country,

to file return of income. By imposing such requirements for filing return of income, the task of identification of potential tax payers is likely to become easier

#### Hawala Rackets

5051. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major hawala rackets that have been unearthed by the Enforcement Directorate during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the action taken in each of the hawala racket; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to plug the loopholes in the law that facilitate the hawala racket ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Enforcement Directorate has busted a number of hawala rackets during the last three years. Adjudication proceeding have been initiated against the persons *prima facie* involved in the said rackets. Year-wise details regarding number of cases and the amount involved therein, are as under :

Year	No. of cases	Amount involved
1995	249	25389
1996	185	65355
1997 (upto 31.3.97)	200	11313

(c) The Government maintains a constant vigil and whenever any instance of suspected contravention of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973 comes to its notice, appropriate action as may be warranted is taken.

#### Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India

5052. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BIFR had appointed the Industrial Finance Corporation of India as Operating Agency for preparing and submitting the revival package in respect of Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited;

(b) whether the Financial Institution did not act in pursuance to above order of the BIFR;

(c) whether the Government have also not taken any action to advise the Financial Institution to abide by the rules or directions; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that after exploring all avenues for revival of Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. (TAFCO), it concluded that TAFCO was not likely to make its networth exceed the accumulated losses within a reasonable time while meeting its financial obligations and that the company as a result thereof was not likely to become viable in future and it was just and equitable that the company be wound up under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The opinion of the BIFR was forwarded to the concerned High Court for further necessary action.

**Rajasthan Atomic Power Station**

5053. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Atomic Energy Act to facilitate entry of private agencies in generating nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Canadian Government have shown interest to invest in the Indian nuclear power sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Canadian Government had decided to discontinue collaboration at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (BAPS) in 1974;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Union Government propose to provide certain concessions to that Government ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nuclear power sector. Such offers, when received, have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness and conditions attached thereto. Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 will have to be considered at the appropriate time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At Government level there is no such communication so far.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Canadian Government discontinued collaboration unilaterally after the peaceful nuclear experiment in 1974.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

**Import of Toners**

5054. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nexus between importers of toners and the customs officials at the Calcutta port has come to surface wherein substantial loss has been caused to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the racket that has been going on in the import of toners; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In the

cases detected and investigated in the Calcutta Custom House, no such nexus has been noticed in respect of Import of toners at Calcutta Port.

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

[Translation]

**Canadian Office in Chandigarh**

5055. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canada Government has agreed to open an office in Chandigarh for the convenience of Punjab's travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made for opening to the liaison office in Chandigarh; and

(d) the names of countries which have agreed to open their liaison offices in India during the last three years and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Canadian Government had proposed opening of an office in Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Government of India had acceded to the Canadian Government's request and a Canadian office opened in Chandigarh in January 1997.

(d) Several countries had approached GOI during the last three years for opening of their liaison offices. GOI had acceded to requests from several countries in this regard details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Details regarding countries permitted to open offices in India during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Name of the Office	City
1	2	3	4

(I)

1.	Burkina Faso	Embassy	New Delhi
2.	South Africa	Consulate General	Mumbai

(II)

1.	Commonwealth of Dominica	Hony. Consulate	New Delhi
2.	Mexico	-do-	Mumbai
3.	Tanzania	-do-	Mumbai
4.	Canada	Hony. Consulate General	Calcutta

1	2	3	4
5.	Canada	Hony. Consul	Chennai
6.	Nicaragua	Hony. Consul	New Delhi
7.	Austria	-do-	Goa
8.	Comoros	-do-	New Delhi
9.	Seychelles	-do-	New Delhi
10.	Turkmenistan	-do-	Mumbai
11.	New Zealand	-do-	Chennai
12.	Mauritius	-do-	Mumbai
13.	Israel	-do-	Calcutta
14.	Czech Republic	-do-	Calcutta
15.	Kyrgyziz	-do-	Chennai
16.	Costarica	-do-	New Delhi
17.	Chile	-do-	Mumbai

(III)

1.	Republic of Korea	Trade Office	Chennai
2.	Tzikistan	-do-	New Delhi
3.	Luxembourg	-do-	New Delhi
4.	Netherlands	-do-	Ahmedabad
5.	France	-do-	Bangalore
6.	Austria	-do-	Calcutta

*[English]***Indian Mission in New York**

5056. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a permanent mission of India is being built in New York;

(b) if so, the original cost estimated and cost escalation at present; and

(c) the action taken against the responsible persons for non-implementation of the project since 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The construction of the building known as the Permanent Mission of India building in New York was completed in January 1993.

(b) The original preliminary cost estimate prepared by a local architect in 1981 was US \$ 5.315 million. The estimated costs at the time of seeking approval in 1988 were projected at US\$ 19.023 million. The cost escalation in the final project has been US \$ 9.865 million.

(c) The project has been implemented and the Permanent Mission of India Office and residence including resi-

dences of Consulate General of India, New York have shifted into the new building.

**Water Supply Scheme**

5057. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has to provide Rs. 101 crores for water supply scheme in Chittoor district of the State :

(b) if so, the main projects proposed to be undertaken under this scheme;

(c) whether the Union Government have also agreed to provide assistance for implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount provided to the various organisations for completing the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (e) This Ministry is not aware about the provision of Rs. 101 crores for water supply scheme in Chittoor District made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, HUDCO has sanctioned 6 projects in Chittoor District for a total project cost of Rs. 66.58 crores including HUDCO loan assistance of Rs. 46.65 crores for the towns of Chittoor, Tirupati, Srikalahasti, Madnapally, Pungnar.

**T and D Losses**

5058. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether percentage of transmission and distribution loss of power in the country at present is highest as compared to neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of these losses; and

(c) the impediments coming in the way of improving the transmission and distribution system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The percentage of T&D Losses in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India during 1992 are as given under :

Bangladesh	-	39.09
Nepal	-	29.38
Pakistan	-	20.32
Sri Lanka	-	18.26
India	-	21.80

It may, therefore, be seen that percentage T&D Losses are highest in Bangladesh followed by Nepal.

(c) the impediments coming in the way of improving the T&D losses in the country are :

- (i) Weak and inadequate sub-transmission and distribution system.
- (ii) Large-scale rural electrification programme undertaken in the country resulting in long lines and extension of distribution network without strengthening the back up transmission and sub-transmission system.
- (iii) Too many transformation stages resulting in high component of transformation losses.
- (iv) Improper load management resulting in over-loading of system.
- (v) Low power factor due to pumping load in rural areas and air-conditioners, coolers and industrial loads in urban areas and inadequate reactive compensation at the loading point.
- (vi) Low quality of construction and inadequate maintenance of equipment.
- (vii) Unmetered supply to agricultural pumps and small domestic connection to weaker sections of the society in some States.
- (viii) Pilferage and theft of energy.

In order to reduce the technical T&D losses. The CEA has issued the following guidelines :

- (a) upgradation of operating voltages;
- (b) reduction of length of LT lines;
- (c) location of transformers near load centres;
- (d) adoption of low capacity transformers at consumers premises;
- (e) installation of shunt capacitors;
- (f) improvement in construction and operation techniques; and
- (g) systematic and methodological approach for planning and design of distribution system on the long term basis.

In order to reduce the commercial losses and losses due to pilferage and theft, the following steps have been taken :

- (a) The Indian Electricity Act, 1910 has been amended to make the theft of electricity a cognizable offence.
  - (b) CEA has also issued guidelines for conducting energy audit.
  - (c) In the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power issued in December, 1996 after consultations with the State Governments, following measures have been suggested for reduction of T&D losses.
- Compulsory metering at substations on all major feeders.

- Compulsory metering of all new electricity connections. Also connections to agricultural sector exceeding 10 HP should be completed within a period of two years.
- All electric supplies to be metered by 2002 AD.
- Compulsory annual energy audit of large consumers i.e. 100 KVA would be ensured.
- Time of the day metering would be introduced for big power consumers for better load management.

#### **Expenditure on Ocean Development**

5059. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on Ocean Development during last three year, year-wise;

(b) whether major aims behind such expenditure also include exploration of natural resources lying in the ocean;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the monetary value of the resources explored/procured so far, or proposed to be procured in the near-future; and

(e) the manner in which the achievements compare with the expenditure in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) :

(a) The expenditure incurred during the last three years by the Department of Ocean Development year-wise, is as under :

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1994-95	43.76	14.60	58.36
1995-96	43.74	13.75	56.49
1996-97	44.97	19.11	64.08

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Polymetallic Nodules Programme (PWN), survey exploration of the manganese nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin is being carried out as a part of the international commitment.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Since the survey and exploration of the manganese nodules is a Science and Technology Development Programme, no comparison can be drawn on the achievements therein with the expenditure incurred under the PMN programme.

**New Power Policy**

5060. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New plan for power sector is on the anvil" appearing in the 'Time of India' dated 21st March, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent and the quantum of power to be generated during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Bank Loan for Higher Education**

5061. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some nationalised banks have granted bank loan to the students seeking engineering and medical education in Uttar Pradesh specially in the backward and rural areas during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of the nationalised banks which have not been providing loan;

(d) the reasons thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to grant loan for the above purpose through all the branches of nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Generation of Power in Rajasthan**

5062. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of power stations/sub-stations in Rajasthan at present;

(b) the power generated by each power station during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the generation capacity of these power stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) In Rajasthan the total number of power stations and

sub-stations is 8 and 22 (220 KV & above) respectively. The year-wise electricity generation in each of the power stations in Rajasthan during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Kota TPS unit I & II of 110 MW each is covered under Renovation & Modernisation programme phase-II for increasing the Plant Load Factor of the units which in turn amounts to augmentation of existing capacity of these units.

**Statement**

Station/Type	1994-95 Actual (MU)	1995-96 Actual (MU)	1996-97 Actual (MU)
<b>R.S.E.B.</b>			
Thermal			
Kota	4276	5216	5638
Ramgarh (GT)	0	16	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>4276</b>	<b>5232</b>	<b>5713</b>
Hydro			
R.P. Sagar	598	625	694
Jawahar Sagar	443	443	481
Mahi Bajaj	419	331	363
Small Hydro	13	6	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1473</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>1547</b>
<b>Total (R.S.E.B.)</b>	<b>5749</b>	<b>6637</b>	<b>7260</b>
<b>N.T.P.C.</b>			
Anta	2339	2607	2654
Nuclear			
N.P.C.			
RAPS	381	0	0
<b>Total Rajasthan</b>			
Thermal	6615	7839	8367
Nuclear	381	0	0
Hydro	1473	1405	1547
<b>Total</b>	<b>8469</b>	<b>9244</b>	<b>9914</b>

[English]

**Oil Pool Account**

5063. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to devise a new role for the Oil Coordination Committee (OCC); and

(b) the extent to which reincarnation of Oil Coordination Committee is likely to improve matters connected with the variations in the elements of standard cost of petroleum products and cut down the mounting deficit in the oil pool account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A study is being undertaken by OCC to examine the present working of OCC and to suggest suitable changes in its role and structure in the context of liberalisation of petroleum sector.

[Translation]

#### Outstanding Amount

5064. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Government of Maharashtra regarding the postponement of the adjustment of the outstanding amount due to the Union Government ;

(b) if so, the details of the issues mentioned in the representation; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Ministry of Finance has not received any representation from the Government of Maharashtra for postponement of repayment of principal or payment of interest due to the Ministry of Finance.

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

[English]

#### Power Project of Gujarat

5065. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Power and Petrochemicals, Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal to the Union Government in regard to "Relaxing cap on investment by Indian Financial Institute in power projects based on indigenous equipments in Gujarat" during the last three years.

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received during each of the last three years till date.

(c) the details of proposals accepted, rejected and under consideration/pending.

(d) the reasons for not taking any decision, till date, and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved and the latest position thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The private power policy *inter alia* stipulates that an amount not

exceeding 40% of the total outlay may come from Indian public financial institutions, but the remaining amount should be met from other sources. The Government of Gujarat had requested in 1996 that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) sourcing equipment from indigenous suppliers should be exempted from this limit. This request is under consideration.

[Translation]

#### Loans for SCs in U.P.

5066. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Banks in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh have been making delay in advancing loans to the scheduled castes;

(b) the schemes under which the Scheduled Castes of Uttar Pradesh, particularly of Sambhal area have been benefitted; and

(c) the target fixed for advancing loans by the banks during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) State Bank of India (SBI) the Convenor Bank for Uttar Pradesh, has reported that no such complaint has come to the notice of the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC).

(b) SBI have further reported that the schemes under which Scheduled Castes from Uttar Pradesh have been benefitted are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Special Component Plan, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY), Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) and the National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS).

(c) Target fixed for advancing loans by banks during the financial year 1996-97 as furnished by SBI, the convenor bank of Uttar Pradesh, were as under .

Nature of Scheme	Physical Target
(i) PMRY	35,813
(ii) SUME	49,157
(iii) PMIUPEP	7,822
(iv) Special Component Plan	1,00,000
(v) National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents.	60,000

In respect of IRDP, there is a financial target of Rs. 450.00 crores.

[English]

#### Vacant Posts of SBI in Orissa

5067. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of posts lying vacant in Class-IV/Group D cadre in the various State Bank of India branches in Orissa (Region-3) since 1993;

(b) whether any recruitment process was initiated and a panel of candidates is being kept for a long period without filling up the vacant posts;

(c) if so, the reasons for not filling up the posts from amongst the panel so approved by the SBI; and

(d) by when the vacant posts are being filled up from the panel set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Labour Bureau

5068. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the major surveys research studies carried out and entrusted to Labour Bureau;

(b) the details thereof project-wise for the organised urban labour, unorganised labour, contract labour, women labour, etc.;

(c) whether the Government is considering to restructuring the Labour Bureau, strengthening regional offices to cut down operational cost and undertaking studies/surveys which are of immediate relevance for policy formulation/revision for both organised/unorganised labour in rural-urban areas in terms of commitment/priorities of the new Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard alongwith the progress of the ongoing research surveys entrusted to Labour Bureau ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) For organised labour, Labour Bureau are conducting Survey of Workers belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in urban areas Collection of Labour Statistics under Annual survey of Industries, Working Class Family Income and Expenditure Survey, Occupational Wage Survey, Repeat House Rent survey, Survey of Labour Conditions, Collection of Labour Statistics under various Labour Laws and compilation and publication of Wage Rate Index, Retail Price Index, Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, Agricultural and Rural Labourers. For unorganised labour the Bureau is conducting Rural Labour Enquiry, Survey of Working and Living Conditions of workers engaged in Unorganised sector of Industries/Employment, Evaluation Studies of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Information on working conditions etc. is being collected in respect of contract labour under Contract Labour Surveys. For women workers Survey on Socio Economic Conditions of Women Workers in Industry is being conducted Digest of Labour Research in India and Statistical Profile on Women Labour have been published under Research Studies.

(c) and (d) In order to cut down operating cost in conduct of surveys computerisation of Bureau has been undertaken and in house printing facilities have been provided to the Bureau. Progress of on going surveys/studies entrusted to Bureau is as per Statement attached.

### Statement

1. *Rural Labour Enquiries* : So far eight Enquiries have been conducted, the latest being in 1993-94. Reports pertaining to 1987-88 enquiry have been released and data pertaining to 1993-94 received from NSSO in September 1996, are being scrutinised and tabulated or preparation of reports.

2. *Survey of Working and Living Conditions of the unorganised labour in the country* : 25 Surveys have been conducted and reports in respect of 23 surveys have been released. Report in respect of Stone Quarry Industry is under print. Tabulation and drafting of report in respect of Man-made Fibre Textile Industry is in hand. Preliminary work for conduct of survey in Marine Fishing Industry has been initiated.

3. *Survey on Working and Living Conditions of Workers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Communities* : Surveys in respect of SCs have been conducted at Agra, Sholapur, Madras, Patna, Indore and Ghaziabad. Reports in respect of Ghaziabad and Indore will be released shortly. All other reports have already been released. Surveys in respect of STs have so far been conducted at Rourkela, Ranchi, Surat, Bailadila, Nagpur and Belgaum. Report in respect of Belgaum is being drafted. All other reports have already been released.

4. *Annual Survey of Industries (Census and Sample)* : Drafting of summary report for Annual Survey of Industries (Census) 1992-93 is in hand. Reports in respect of Annual Survey of Industries (Sample) for eight rounds starting from 1977-78 have been released and work relating to other six rounds is at various stages of completion.

5. *Socio-Economic Conditions of Women Workers in the Industry* : Survey on All India basis in Bidi Industry, Ready made Garments Industry and Agarbathi Industry have been conducted. Reports in respect of Bidi Industry is under print and in respect of Readymade Garments Industry and Agarbathi Industry is under finalisation. Field Survey in Lime Manufacturing Industry is in progress.

6. *Working Class Family Income and Expenditure Survey* : With a view to update the base of Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (presently 1982 = 100) preliminary work for launching of a fresh survey has been initiated.

7. *Evaluation Studies on implementation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948* : So far 18 studies have been conducted. One more study in Bidi Industry in Karnataka has been initiated and field survey is in progress. Report of study in Agriculture in West Bengal is being finalised. Reports on other Studies have been released.

8. *Occupational Wages Survey* : So far four rounds of



surveys have been conducted. Fifth round of survey was undertaken in April, 1993. 57 industries have been selected. Field surveys in 34 industries have been completed. Reports on 15 industries in 5 volumes have been published. Report on 10 industries is under finalisation and data for 9 industries is under tabulation. Field survey in respect of 10 more manufacturing industries is likely to be launched shortly.

9. *Repeat House Rent Survey* : It is carried out regularly at six monthly intervals and data so collected is used for compilation of General Index.

10. *Survey of Labour Conditions* : 61 surveys have been conducted in 59 industries (including repeat surveys in 2 industries).

11. *Contract Labour Survey* : 38 surveys have been conducted in 35 industries (including repeat surveys in 3 industries).

12. *Consumer Price Indices for Industrial Workers, Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers are being compiled and published on monthly basis.*

13. *Retail Price Index for 21 essential commodities are being compiled on monthly basis.*

14. *Wage Rate Index are being compiled on annual basis* : Index of all 21 industries has been published for 1993 and compilation of index for 12 industries for 1994 has been completed.

15. *Productivity Index* : This index with base 1970-71 for 35 selected industries in manufacturing sector is being compiled. The index has been completed upto the year 1988-89.

16. *Labour Statistics* : Data collected through returns under various labour laws has been published in Indian Labour Journal (Monthly), Indian Labour Year Book (Yearly), Indian Labour Statistics etc.

17. *Research* : Fourth issue of Statistical Profile on Women Labour 1993 has been released and fifth issue is under finalisation. Sixth issue of Digest of Labour Research in India has been brought out and seventh issue covering 1993-96 is under preparation.

[Translation]

#### **Workers in Slate Pencil Industry**

5069. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labourers working in Slate-Pencils Industry in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh become victims of silicosis disease;

(b) whether this disease leads to slow death; and

(c) if so, the preventive steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is aware of insured persons

working in the slate-pencil industry of Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh suffering from Silicosis disease. Silicosis is an irreversible, chronic and progressive disease which may lead to slow death over a period of time. For workers covered under the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, necessary provisions have been made for their diagnosis, keeping them under observation and their further investigation and treatment. Those who are found to be suffering from permanent disablement are examined by a Special Medical Board for the purpose of assessing the extent of disability and award of compensation. ESI Corporation is paying additional benefits in the event of disablement arising out of occupational disease in the same scale as in employment injury. Cases which are suspected to have contracted occupational diseases are investigated for confirmation of diagnosis assessment of functional disablement and award of loss of earning capacity by the Special Medical Board constituted by ESIC with all India jurisdiction. For early detection and diagnosis of occupational disease the Corporation has set up 4 zonal Occupational diseases Centres, one each at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta. Health measures required to be taken to check such diseases have also been laid down in the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed thereunder. All industrial establishments are expected to follow the same.

#### **Child Labour in CPWD**

5070. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :  
SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has recommended stern measures to prevent the Government Servants from employing children below the age of 14 years as domestic servants;

(b) whether the Government are aware that many child labourers are provided employment under the contract system in a number of Government offices and C.P.W.D. Enquiry Offices in Delhi/New Delhi, where such child labourers are always found employed by Contractors for CPWD work such as white wash and other day to day affairs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

#### **Essar Investment**

5071. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Essar Investment which has already acquired 80% of Sterling Computer Ltd. has now made an open offer to public for acquiring the balance of 20% equity;

(b) whether the Essar Investment had decided to

acquire the 20% share at the rate of Rs. 532 per share as against the SEBI determined rate of Rs. 218 per share;

(c) if so, whether the said company have made public announcement in this regard as required under Section 40B of the listing agreement; and

(d) if not, what action the Government propose to take against these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) SEBI has informed that Essar group of companies having acquired 80% of Sterling Computers Ltd. made a public offer in February, 1997 to acquire upto 20% of the equity capital of Sterling Computers Ltd.

(b) The offer price of Rs. 532 per share as determined by the acquirer was more than the price that could have been fixed under SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997. The higher rate was in the interest of investors.

(c) The public announcement of the offer was made on November 25, 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### World Bank Aided Projects

5072. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'IBRD flays tardy execution of highway projects', appearing in daily 'Observer' dated the April 23, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the audit mission of World Bank has stated that the projects being set up with the financial aid of World Bank are being delayed and their progress is unsatisfactory;

(c) if so, the reasons for such remarks made by the World Bank audit mission, and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) the audit mission of World Bank has been holding discussions with the representatives of the Central and State Governments, contracting industry and consultants regarding the various issues leading to the delays in implementation of highway projects. The Bank intends thereafter to recommend suitable measures to the Government for reducing such delays in the implementation of future projects with World Bank loan assistance. The question of reaction of Central Government will arise only after the report of the World Bank is received.

[English]

#### Autonomy to J & K

5073. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government held any discussion with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir with regard to the autonomy proposed to be granted to the State Government; 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The Government in its Common Minimum Programme has stated that it is in favour of giving maximum autonomy to the State of J&K within the framework of the constitution of India. The State Government of J&K has set up a committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karan Singh, to look into this issue. No report or proposals have, however, been received from the State Government so far. Hence the question of any discussions with the State Government in the matter is premature.

[Translation]

#### Labourers below the Poverty Line

5074. SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conditions of unskilled labourers have not shown any improvement inspite of increase in their minimum wages and they are still living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the norms being adopted by the Government to ascertain the people living below the poverty line;

(d) the State-wise estimated number of such people in the country; and

(e) the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) The estimates of poverty are not available separately for unskilled labourers. The incidence of poverty is based on the poverty line adopted by the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor constituted by the Planning Commission which defined the poverty line at national level as monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level based on the quinquennial survey data of consumer expenditure

conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest estimates are available for the year

1993-94 based on NSS Consumer expenditure survey of 50th Round is attached as Statement.

**Statement**

*Number and Percentage of Population below poverty line by States 1993-94 (Modified Expert Group)*

S.No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	% age of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.49	15.92	74.47	38.33	153.97	22.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	45.01	0.11	7.73	3.73	39.35
3.	Assam	94.33	45.01	2.03	7.73	96.36	40.86
4.	Bihar	450.86	58.21	42.49	34.50	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	0.38	5.34	1.53	27.03	1.91	14.92
6.	Gujarat	62.16	22.18	43.02	27.89	105.19	24.21
7.	Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.05	20.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
10.	Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86
14.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
19.	Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
20.	Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
23.	Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
25.	West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84
29.	Daman & Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
30.	Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69
31.	Lakshadweep	0.06	25.76	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
32.	Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
All India		2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A&N Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshdweep.
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Damand & Diu.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir for 1993-94.

### Drive to Check Pollution

5075. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation propose to launch any special drive to check pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the date by which this drive is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

### Refinance Support by NABARD

5076. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether NABARD has disbursed Rs. 3.523 crore towards refinance support to various financial bodies against their rural investment credit during 1996-97;
- (b) if so, the amount disbursed during 1995-96;
- (c) the name of financial bodies to whom this fund was provided for rural investment;
- (d) to what extent the amount was spent in various States alongwith the names of schemes of which this amount was spent;
- (e) whether NABARD has received any report from these institutions for their development works undertaken by them with this fund in the States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has disbursed Rs. 3523 cores as refinance to various financial agencies against their rural investment credit disbursements during 1996-97. The refinance assistance disbursed during 1995-96 was Rs. 3064 crores to various financial agencies. The financial

agencies to whom refinance assistance has been provided for agriculture and rural development are (i) Commercial Banks, (ii) Co-operative banks viz. State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs), and (iii) Regional Rural Banks.

(d) The State/Union Territory-wise amount of refinance provided by NABARD during 1995-96 is given in the attached statement-I. The names of schemes under which the said amount has been disbursed are given in the attached Statement-II.

(e) and (f) Financial agencies undertake periodic monitoring of utilisation of loans disbursed by them. NABARD also conducts, from time to time loan utilisation studies on sample basis in various States/Union Territories covering various investments and financial agencies in respect of the investments refinanced by it. NABARD has reported that it has conducted 98 such studies during the year 1995-96 and 25 studies during the year 1996-97.

### Statement-I

State / Union Territory-wise refinance disbursement by NABARD during 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/Union Territory		Amount
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1114
2.	Andhra Pradesh	35401
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	849
4.	Assam	6553
5.	Bihar	14079
6.	Chandigarh	4
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16
8.	Goa	762
9.	Gujarat	19643
10.	Haryana	20583
11.	Himachal Pradesh	3475
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	943
13.	Karnataka	27764
14.	Kerala	18377

1	2	3
15.	Lakshadweep	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	15122
17.	Maharashtra	36003
18.	Manipur	742
19.	Meghalaya	711
20.	Mizoram	289
21.	Nagaland	204
22.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	669
23.	Orissa	11611
24.	Pondicherry	150
25.	Punjab	22456
26.	Rajasthan	23587
27.	Sikkim	89
28.	Tamil Nadu	29802
29.	Tripura	1446
30.	Uttar Pradesh	48352
31.	West Bengal	12415
Total		352310

Figures provisional

#### Statement-II

*Purpose for which assistance is being provided by NABARD under Investment Credit (Schematic Lending) Operation*

1. Minor Irrigation
2. National Seeds Project III.
3. Massive National Assistance Programme
4. Rural Electrification Corporation.
5. Land Development.
6. Farm Mechanisation.
7. Dryland Farming
8. Plantation/Horticulture.
9. Dairy Development.
10. Marine Fisheries
11. Inland Fisheries
12. Brackishwater Prawn Culture.
13. Storage, Godown, Market Yard
14. Forestry
15. Bio-gas.
16. Poultry Farming
17. Sheep/Goat/Piggery
18. Integrated Rural Development Programme (Farm Sector)
19. Integrated Rural Development Programme (Industry).
20. Services/Business
21. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Farm Sector).
22. Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Non-Farm Sector)
23. Non-Farm Sector

#### Bomb Blasts in Jammu and Kashmir

5077. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Bomb explosions in public places occurred in J&K State and the number of persons killed during the last five months;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidence;

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

(d) the details of the outcome of enquiry ordered into different incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) According to information provided by the State Government there were 251 bomb blasts/explosions including grenade and IED explosions in the State of Jammu & Kashmir during the last five months viz. 15.11.96 to 15.4.97. A total of 876 persons, including 488 civilians, 70 Security Force personnel and 318 militants, were killed in various incidents related to terrorist violence in the state during this period.

(b) Measures taken to contain such activities of the terrorists include intensified vigilance/patrolling in sensitive areas, establishment of pickets in vulnerable areas and at important places, sustained operations to locate and neutralise terrorists hideouts, streamlining of the system of Nakas and checkpoints for checking of vehicles etc. in vulnerable areas, strengthening etc. of the intelligence machinery, increased vigil in the border areas to check infiltration and various measures aimed at creating awareness among people through media, etc.

(c) 704 persons were arrested by Security Forces for suspected involvement in terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir during this period.

(d) Cases are registered and inquiries are being made in all such incidents of terrorist activities. In the absence of mention of any specific incidents it is not feasible to provide any specific details regarding such investigation/enquiries.

#### Militancy in J&K

5078. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether militants have stepped up their activities in the Kashmir in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to tackle their activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN)** : (a) and (b) While it is not correct to say that militancy has increased in J&K, but it is true that efforts are continued to be made by the elements sponsored and supported from across the border to keep up violence and vitiate the environment in the State through attacks on soft targets, Indiscriminate use of explosive devices without regard to lives of innocent civilians, efforts to enforce 'bandhs' and 'hartals' particularly when militants are killed, in a bid to try and disrupt normal life and derail the political and democratic system. A close and continuous watch is being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that these designs are not allowed to succeed. The Government both at the State and Central levels are taking necessary measures on a continuing basis to see that complete and abiding peace can be brought about in the State at the earliest.

#### **Autonomy to CBI**

5079. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give over all autonomy to CBI;

(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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and enjoys full functional autonomy.

[Translation]

#### **Investment by British Oil Companies**

5080. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have requested British Oil Companies engaged in exploration work to invest in India in view of likely increase in demand of Petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the British Oil Companies thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) There is no such specific request by the Govt. However, under the New Exploration Licensing Policy announced recently all Indian and foreign companies are welcome to invest in oil Exploration work in India, including British oil companies.

#### **Fraud in Bank of India**

5081. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bank of India Dhokhadhari Mamla Janch Aage Badhane Ki Anumati Thande Baste Me" appearing in the 'J.V.G. Times' dated 23rd April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in the investigation initiated three years ago;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to get the investigation completed into the fraud of 89,92,815 dollars committed in the New York Branch of Bank of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Government have seen the news item referred to in the question.

(b) to (e) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that a regular case was registered in February, 1994 against the then Senior Vice President of New York branch of Bank of India and others regarding a fraud committed in Bank of India's New York branch. The field investigation in India in this case has been completed. Since the investigation on various vital points is required to be conducted in the United States of America (USA), action has been initiated to file application in the Court for issuance of Letter Rogatory. CBI have further reported that as extensive investigation is required to be conducted by the US authorities, no time limit can be fixed at this stage for completion of the investigation in this case.

#### **Use of Hindi**

5082. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to propagate the application of Hindi in the offices of Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) whether Government propose to train personnel who can use various electronic gadgets, e.g. Telex, Computers etc. in Hindi also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) All efforts for propagation of Hindi in the offices of the Ministry of External Affairs are being made in keeping with the provisions of the programme for implementation of the official language policy of the Union. Official Language Implementation Committees have been constituted in 85 Indian Missions/Posts abroad and action will be taken to establish such Committees in the remaining offices. Efforts would also continue to provide books, literature, audio visual material, bi-lingual computer software and other relevant material to these offices for promotion of the use of Hindi.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Action is underway to procure and supply appropriate bi-lingual computer software to the offices of Ministry of External Affairs for enabling enhanced use of Hindi. This would also help in faster communication of messages and other texts in Hindi through the modern channels of communication, namely, E-mail and fax.

### Non-Deposit of EPF of Employees

5083. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employers of Artherten Mill, Kanpur, U.P. have not deposited Rupees 2.40 crores of EPF of labourers and nor sent its audit report to the commissioner's office since 1991 resulting in loss of hope in the workers to receive their money;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make any efforts for preparing the balance sheet depositing the amount of EPF and for distribution of salary in time; and

(c) if so, the time by which it will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Employers of Artherten Mill, Kanpur (UP) have not deposited the P.F. dues to the tune of about Rs. 2.50 crores and have also not submitted returns to P.F. Office since 1991-92.

(b) and (c) At present, the establishment is registered with BIFR for rehabilitation. While Government is fully committed to ensure payment of salary to the workers in time, at times there are delays in making such payments due to financial constraints. Account slips for the year 1990-91 have been issued to the employees. Account slips for the subsequent years can be issued only on receipt of the subscription from the management.

### Outstanding Customs/Excise Duty

5084. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of outstanding Customs/Excise duty as on date;

(b) whether the Government machinery have failed to recover this outstanding amount of customs duty;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

### Implementation of Reservation

5085. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to draw a panel to review the measures being taken to fill up the reserved posts;

(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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) It will not be in the public interest to give information in regard to composition, terms of reference etc. of the Cabinet Committee.

[English]

### Implementation of Labour Laws in the Industries

5086. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether majority of industries in Delhi are not paying minimum wages to its workers and the labour courts had totally failed in their duty of implementing various labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to see that various labour laws are strictly implemented by the industrialists ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per information received from the Government of Delhi majority of industries in Delhi are paying minimum wages, though from time to time a few complaints regarding non-payment of minimum wages by the employers are also received.

(b) and (c) During the year 1996, 7194 complaints regarding non/less payment of minimum wages were received by the Government of Delhi. In 1187 cases, the employers rectified the shortcomings and an amount of Rs. 48,36,495/- was got paid to the workers. The prosecutions were launched against 429 defaulting managements for violation of various provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. The enforcement machinery, in order to secure effective implementation of Minimum Wages Act, make regular inspection of the establishments covered under the Act and take necessary action whenever any violation of the Act comes to their notice.

### Benami Accounts in Banks

5087. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Questions No. 432 and 1119 dated November 22, 1996 and February 28, 1997 regarding "Benami accounts in Banks" and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Information has since been collected and is given below.

- (b) (i) Bank of India has informed that at their Opera House Branch 22 accounts reportedly of benami type were alleged to have been opened.
- (ii) State Bank of Saurashtra has informed that 4 (four) accounts of Fort Branch, 2 (two) accounts of Darbargadh (Bhavanagar) branch and 1(one) account of Nilambaug Chowk branch reported of benami type were alleged to have been opened. Department of Enforcement is investigating the details regarding four accounts of their Fort Branch.
- (iii) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that according to Standard Chartered Bank, 14 (Fourteen) accounts of their Dr. D.N. Road Branch, M.G. Road Branch and Chowpatty Branch came to adverse notice for heavy cash deposits and/or remittances against suspected fraudulent documents.
- (iv) RBI has reported that according to Sangli Bank they do not have benami accounts at its Fort Mumbai Branch.

(c) Bank of India and State Bank of Saurashtra have informed that branches had opened these accounts only upon fulfilling the laid down guidelines such as obtaining proper introduction and following norms for depositing cheques and permitting withdrawals. Hence, no action is deemed necessary against officials concerned for opening those accounts, RBI has informed that according to Standard Chartered Bank all the fourteen accounts were duly introduced by other banks or by existing account holders. However, subsequent verification of some of the addresses given in the account opening forms revealed that these were addresses of business centres where there had been arrangements by the account holder to get the mail. In some cases the account opening procedures had not been strictly completed with and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the bank. However, there was no evidence of collusion of staff with account holders.

RBI has informed that to check the incidence of benami accounts the banks have been instructed to introduce a system of obtaining photographs of persons authorised to operate the new deposit-accounts with effect from 1st January, 1994. Further in terms of letter dated 17.10.94 all the public sector banks have been advised by RBI to get independent confirmation of addresses of account holders in all cases.

Bank of India, State Bank of Saurashtra and Standard Chartered Bank have reported that instructions are issued to all the branches from time to time to strictly follow the laid down guidelines for opening new accounts and also monitor all the newly opened accounts closely for any suspicious transaction.

### Oil Exploration

5088. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow participation of Indian Public Sector Petroleum Companies in the Equity participation programme in abroad to float the companies business with overseas arrangements;

(b) the special measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the total approach as envisaged by the Government in the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans for ultimate self-sufficiency in the oil exploration programme step by step had not taken off; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) is engaged in pursuing opportunities for acquiring equity oil abroad. It had entered into Production Sharing Agreements for exploration in Vietnam, Yemen, Egypt and Tunisia. It is also exploring for contracts in Kazakhstan, Iraq etc.

(c) and (d) In the VII Plan the exploratory drilling targets in terms of wells were achieved by ONGC, though there was shortfall in meterage. In the VIII Plan the targets in exploratory drilling could not be achieved. Govt. has announced various rounds for participation by private companies in oil exploration. Recently the New Exploration Licensing Policy has also been announced to significantly boost exploration efforts in the country. The endeavour for going into deep water exploration and continuing exploration in frontier basins, in addition to undertaking new technology areas like Coal Bed Methane, are some of the initiatives to augment exploratory efforts in domestic acreages in the IX Plan.

[Translation]

### Beedi Workers

5089. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of beedi workers from almost every part of the country had organised a rally in Delhi during March on call from Akhil Bhartiya Beedi Workers Federation;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

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

### Eastern Gandak Hydro Power Project

5090. DR M.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all units of Eastern Gandak Hydro Power Project at Balmiki Nagar in Bihar set-up with the loan of Japan Government have started functioning;



(b) if so, the quantum of power in MW being generated in these units;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government of Japan have made available full amount for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Two Units out of three units of Eastern Gandak Hydro Power Project are commissioned at present. The third Unit has not been commissioned so far for want of replacement of field circuit breaker. Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) and electric governor which were damaged during transit. Unit 1 and 2 has been commissioned on 13.9.1995 and 28.6.1996 respectively.

(b) and (c) The total power generated upto April 15, 1997 from these units has been 28.7 MU. Both the units are operating at their rated capacity of 5 MW each.

(d) The project has been funded through OECF loan. The contracted amount of loan was 1628 Million Yen and the full amount of loan has been disbursed by OECF.

OECF have been requested by Bihar Hydro Power Corporation Limited to provide an additional loan of 56.45 Million Yen in terms of grant to enable to meet the expenditure required for replacement of field circuit breaker. AVR and electric governor and supervision changes during the commissioning of third Units.

[English]

#### Public Administration

5091. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the Public Administration during the period of political instability or uncertainty; 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

#### Setting up of Hydro Power Project at Purnia

5092 SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a hydro power plant at Purnia district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the plant is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) There is no Project report for Hydroelectric Project in Purnia District pending for techno-economic clearance in Central Electricity Authority. There is no hydroelectric project under construction in Purnia District.

[Translation]

#### Employment Opportunities under New Economic Policy

5093. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any programme to create employment opportunities under the new economic policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of unemployed youths likely to be benefited under this scheme during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan has formulated a medium term strategy to create additional employment opportunities of the order of 8.5 million per annum on an average. The strategy of employment growth is likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan period and 9.5 million additional employment opportunities per annum on an average is expected to be generated which could benefit unemployed youths during the period 1997-2002. To achieve this rate of growth of employment the Plan envisaged an employment strategy which lays emphasis on the growth of sectors and sub-sectors with high employment intensity such as agriculture, agro and rural industries, rural infrastructure, small and decentralised manufacturing sector, urban informal sector and the services sector. New employment schemes such as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), and the two-million Job Scheme of the KVIC have been introduced in the Eighth Plan period besides continuing the ongoing schemes like IRDP, JRY and NRY. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme has also an element of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poorer segments of the population.

[English]

#### Gas Agencies

5094. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :  
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Chhattisgarh and Ujjain districts of Madhya Pradesh where Liquefied Petroleum Gas agencies have been established and since when;

(b) the number of additional connections of liquefied petroleum gas provided to these agencies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons registered with these

agencies for new connections during the above period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons in the waiting list, agency-wise in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The details regarding number of distributorships their age group, number of LPG connections released through these distributorships during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 and waiting list with the LPG distributorships functioning in Chhattisgarh Region and Ujjain District of Madhya Pradesh are given below :

	Number	Age Group	Number of LPG connections released during 1994-95 to 1996-97	Waiting List
Chhattisgarh	62	1963-1996	37056	127164
Ujjain Distt.	16	1982-1996	14428	26735

[Translation]

#### Displaced of Tehri Dam

5095. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people from submerged area of the ongoing dam project at Tehri Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh and other people from the district as well as the people of different categories are given priority in employment;

(b) if so, the total number of posts of various categories filled up during the last three years and category-wise number of people from submerged area out of them;

(c) whether T.H.D.C. is ignoring people of the area while giving employment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) The Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited (THDC) accords preference in employment in the notified vacancies to the persons belonging to submergence areas of the Tehri Hydroelectric Project. The details of category-wise posts filled during 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given below :

Sl. No.	Category of Posts	Total Posts filled	No. of Persons belonging to Submergence area
1.	Executives	33	14*
2.	Supervisors	17	14
3.	Workman	25**	17

Persons from non-submergence area were recruited against specialised posts. The persons from submergence area were not readily available locally and those against the reserved vacancies.

Includes two reserved vacancies and four appointments on compassionate grounds.

#### National Housing Bank

5096. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NHB pays Rs. 912 crore to Grindlays" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated 18th April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Housing Bank (NHB), a fully owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has reported that in a matter of its dispute with the ANZ Grindlays Bank P.L.C. in connection with certain securities transactions put through during March-April, 1992, it had entered into an agreement with ANZ National Grindlays Bank P.L.C. on 4th November, 1992 to refer the matter to a panel/Board of Arbitrators. The agreement *inter alia* provided that the award by majority shall prevail and also that NHB shall pay the disputed amount to ANZ Grindlays P.L.C. if it fails to establish its claim together with such interest as may be awarded, and that neither party shall adopt any proceedings to challenge the award until the payment is made as aforesaid. The learned arbitrators by a majority of two to one pronounced their award on 29th March, 1997 and NHB has accordingly pronounced their award on 29th March, 1997 and NHB has accordingly paid an amount of Rs. 912.22 crores (including interest) to ANZ Grindlays Bank P.L.C. At the request of NHB, RBI sanctioned term loan of Rs. 700 crores repayable after 15 years with interest @ 5% per annum with a stipulation that in the event of the award being finally set aside, the entire amount recovered from ANZ Grindlays Bank will be repaid to RBI. NHB provided the balance amount from its internal resources.

NHB has further reported that it has decided to challenge the majority award in the Special Court under the provisions of Indian Arbitration Act, 1940.

#### Acquisition of Nuclear Arms by Neighbouring Country

5097. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the gigantic array of nuclear arms, stockpiled across India's western borders;

(b) if so, whether Government would review the stand taken by her not to go nuclear unless we are forced; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of security threats arising in India's neighbourhood. The security situation of India is constantly under review, particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood and Government will take all necessary measures designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

#### Removal of Encroachment

5098. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has recently directed DDA to remove all encroachments on public land and complete the task by March, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of such unauthorised constructions encroachments removed by DDA, till date;

(c) whether the DDA has failed to take effective steps in removing these encroachments/unauthorised constructions; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Delhi Development Authority has reported that no such orders have been received from the Court. However the Delhi High Court in Civil Writ Petition No. 2729/96 had directed that encroachment from public land in Sarita Vihar area should be removed. No time limit has been prescribed in the Court Order.

(b) Details of the encroachments removed by the Delhi Development Authority in Sarita Vihar (Self Financing Scheme) are as under :

Pocket No.	No. of cases in which unauthorised construction/encroachment removed
Pocket D	24
Pocket E	28
Pocket F	16
Pocket G	13
Pocket H	17
Pocket J	13

(c) and (d) Delhi Development Authority has reported that as and when encroachments are detected/noticed, action is taken to remove the encroachments/unauthorised constructions. During the period 1.4.1996 to 31.3.1997, 172 acres of public land which was involved in illegal construction and encroachment was cleared and 5913 unauthorised structures were also removed by the Delhi Development Authority.

#### Cut in I.D.A.

5099. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is likely to get less funds from the International Development Association;

(b) whether soft loan interest window of the World Bank will be available to India;

(c) if so, whether many donor countries have opposed this move;

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same and to what extent it will affect the projects which are undertaken with the help of the World Bank and the IDA loan; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In recent years India has borrowed close to \$ 1 billion per year from IDA. A slightly lower level of lending was projected for the next 3 years. This level of lending represents a declining share of IDA's total lending.

(b) to (e) Yes Sir. However there have been discussions regarding curtailing of IDA related assistance to countries like India and China, on the ground that such countries can attract private investments. It has been argued conversely that such private funds do not finance poverty reduction/ social sector programmes. Considering that the crux of IDA support related to poverty alleviation and social sector programmes, India's case remains strong. Such issues are however at discussion stage only and have not reached any finality.

#### Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

5100. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4438 on December, 20, 1996 and state :

(a) the details of Hongkong suppliers (Exporter) through whom Rough Ophthalmic Blanks for corrective spectacles of chinese origin is being imported;

(b) the details of the type of quality of ROB imported through Hongkong supplier and also directly from China alongwith its sizes and thickness separately during each of the last two years;

(c) whether importers of above item in the country import this item on C&F basis of F.O.B. basis;

(d) the details of per piece unit prices of such ROB imported quality thickness and size-wise during the above period of import from China and through Hongkong dealers/ suppliers;

(e) the quantity of imports of above item made by each of the importers in Delhi and Bombay during the above period; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken against the customs authorities for withholding the matter with them in which more than 100 crores of customs duty and Sales Tax has been saved by under-invoicing during the last above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Transfer of Missile Technology to Pakistan by China**

5101. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in daily 'Business Standard' dated 17th April, 1997 under the caption "China Continues Missile Tank Transfer to Pak";

(b) if so, whether the news regarding the transfer of Missile technology to Pakistan by China have been published in the past from time to time;

(c) if so, whether the Government have ascertained these facts through its own sources; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the type of assistance provided to Pakistan in this regard during the past years and when this assistance was provided ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have been aware that a number of M-11 missiles as well as related technology has been transferred by China to Pakistan during the past years. Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard security and national interest in accordance with our own threat perceptions.

#### **Domestic Refinery Equipment Manufacturers**

5202. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation from the domestic Refinery Equipment manufacturers seeking change in deemed exports status for fear of annual loss of Rs. 4000 crore market;

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

(c) the action being taken to protect the interests of domestic refinery equipment manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; representations have been received on behalf of domestic capital goods industry seeking Deemed Export

benefits, on par with physical exports, for domestic suppliers to refinery projects.

(c) The Government have already announced the grant Deemed Export benefits for domestic suppliers of capital goods to refinery projects.

#### **Maintenance of Flats**

5103. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the flats presently occupied by the Jawaharlal Nehru University at Old JNU Campus belongs to the Directorate of Estates and its maintenance is carried out by the CPWD, JNU Campus;

(b) if so, whether these flats are in dilapidated condition and are not being properly maintained by CPWD;

(c) whether any responsibility have been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total amount incurred so far on the maintenance of these flats annually, head-wise; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken for maintaining the flats in good condition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) CIVIL : 1996-97 = Rs. 2,37,262/-

ELECTRICAL : 1996-97 = Rs. 2,92,000/-

(f) The quarters are maintained properly.

#### **Insurance Scheme for Unorganised Sector**

5104. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start any insurance scheme for the labourers engaged in unorganised sector on the pattern of ESIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to introduce any new Insurance Scheme or to expand the scope of existing Social Security Schemes so as to cover workers in the unorganised sector. However, for the purpose of providing some social security to identified workers in specified unorganised sectors, several personal accident and Group Insurance Schemes have been taken up by the LIC and GIC from the Social Security Fund set up by the

Ministry of Finance. These include the agricultural landless workers, the beedi workers, handloom workers, rickshaw pullers etc. The unorganised labour in construction work, farming by tractors, cleaning of septic tanks and jungles, cultivation, spraying/dusting of insecticides/pesticides, mechanised, harvesting/threshing etc. are already covered for the benefit available under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The Government have also introduced a Scheme of ex-gratia payment for rehabilitation of the families of truck/bus drivers killed in inter-state road accidents. The benefits under this Scheme will be in addition to the benefit payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

### **Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council**

5105. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) for sending its funds (SCA etc.) directly to the Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Some representations were received in this Ministry during 1992-93 from Shri Subhash Ghising, Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) requesting for release of special Central assistance for 1992-93 directly to the Council.

(c) Special Central assistance under the Hill Area Development Programme which included funds meant for Darjeeling area were being made available to the State Government long before the DGHC came into existence. Under the existing system, the Central funds were transferred to the State Government who further released funds to autonomous bodies/agencies.

Under the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act 1988, some of the developmental subjects were transferred to DGHC and some were retained by the State Government. The funds for the transferred subjects were sanctioned directly to the DGHC by the State Government. Moreover the Central assistance under HADP and Special Area Plan were not exclusively for DGHS.

No deviation from the existing arrangement of allocation/transfer of funds to autonomous bodies/agencies by the State Government was considered necessary as the latter is not only responsible for monitoring of the overall expenditure under the State Plan but is also accountable for utilisation of funds.

### **Relations with Israel**

5106. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the twelfth Ministerial Conference of NAM has appealed to its Member Nations to freeze their relations with Israel at present level;

(b) if so, the diplomatic moves & policy measures which India propose to adopt in the context of improving cooperation between India and Israel in a number of fields; and

(c) the role of India on lessening the tension between Israel and Arab countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's on-going functional cooperation with Israel will be further developed taking into account the NAM Declaration.

(c) India has extended full support to the Middle East Peace Process and has, accordingly, urged all parties concerned to work purposefully to move the peace process forward within agreed time schedules, building further upon interim agreements and understandings, so as to take it to its logical conclusion.

### **Natural Gas**

5107. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :  
SHRI B.K. GADHVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the T.L. Sankar Committee on pricing of natural gas had recommended a hike in pricing of Natural Gas with effect from April 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the hike recommended and the rationale therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The committee has recommended producer prices of Rs. 1800 per thousand cubic metres and Rs. 1900 per thousands cubic metres of ONGC and OIL respectively. The committee has recommended the transportation charge of Rs. 1150 per thousand cubic metres along the HBJ pipeline. The committee has recommended an annual increase of Rs. 200 in the consumer price of gas over the pricing period.

(c) The recommendations are under examination by the Government.

### **Expenditure Incurred on Subsidies**

5108. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the latest figures of expenditure incurred on various subsidies such as subsidy on foodgrains, sugar, kerosene, LPG, Urea, Nitrogenous fertilisers in 1996-97; and

(b) the estimates of these subsidies at the time of framing budget of 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Revised estimates 1996-97 for explicit subsidies, which are the latest figures now available, compare with the Budget estimates as follows :

	(Rupees in crore)	
	1996-97	
	BE	RE
<b>Subsidies</b>		
Foodgrains	5241	5166
Sugar	643	900
Indigenous (Urea fertilisers)	4500	4743
Imported (Urea) fertilisers	1648	1350
Sale of decontrolled potassic and phosphatic fertilisers with concession to farmers	2224	1674
Other subsidies	2064	2961
<b>Total</b>	<b>16320</b>	<b>16694</b>

There is no subsidisation of kerosene and LPG through the Budget

[Translation]

### Unemployed Youth

5109. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the increase registered figures thereof in the number of unemployed youths during the last five years in Chandigarh;

(b) the steps being taken to remove unemployment in Chandigarh; and

(c) the provision made in this regard for the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) As per the information collected from Ministry of Labour, the number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, who were on the live register of the employment exchange functioning in the Union Territory of Chandigarh are shown below :

Year (as at the end)	No. of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchange (in thousands)
1992	161.9
1993	161.6
1994	157.2
1995	153.2
1996	139.7

Employment Exchanges sponsor names of candidates registered with them, on the basis of vacancies notified to them by the employers.

(b) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana has been in operation in the country including Union territory of Chandigarh since 1989 with the objective of generating employment opportunities for the urban poor living below the poverty line.

(c) Tentative provision made in respect of Union Territory of Chandigarh for the financial year 1997-98 under the Yojana is Rs. 12.34 lakhs.

[English]

### Smuggling of Decorative Laminates

5110. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of decorative laminates to Myanmar via Morah; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No such incidents have been noticed.

(b) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to prevent and detect all types of smuggling including smuggling of decorative laminates.

### Handloom Welfare Fund Scheme in Kerala

5111. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a representation from State Government of Kerala to provide exemption of Handloom Sector from the operation of ESI Scheme so as to avoid financial burden to the production units/primary societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to take a decision to exempt Handloom Sector from the operation of ESI Scheme;

(d) if so, the time by which it will be effective; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) A Memorandum dated 27th July, 1996 was received from the Government of Kerala for grant of exemption from the ESI Act to Handloom Sector production units/primary societies. The proposal was examined by the ESI Corporation and the same was not found acceptable because it would amount to denial of comprehensive social security benefits available under the ESI Scheme to workers in such units.

### Shortage of Currency

5112. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa is facing a serious currency shortage and paralysing normal financial transactions as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a sudden spurt in demand for cash as compared to previous years presumably due to launching of food for work and other employment programmes and schemes for procurement of Tendu leaves, etc. by the State Govt. to help the people in view of the drought in the State.

(c) Additional funds have been arranged by RBI to its Bhubaneswar office which, in turn, supplies the same to currency chests.

### SEBI

5113. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has vetted the system called Securities and Authoritative Guarantee programme to clean market of fraud ;

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

(c) whether this system has been based on the signature system in USA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is likely to help in minimising the market frauds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. SEBI has informed that it has not vetted any system called the Securities and Authoritative Guarantee Programme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Vijaya Bank Frauds

5114. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether frauds involving crores of rupees which took place in Vijaya Bank between the years 1987 and 1992 have been discovered; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those who were found responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Vijaya Bank has reported that frauds/vigilance cases involving an amount of more than Rs. 1 crore pertaining to the period 1987-1992 were detected by the bank in the following six accounts :-

- (1) Vijaya Video Exports and sister concerns.
- (2) Asiatic Wire Ropes Ltd. and M/s. Asian Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
- (3) PJ Pipes & Vessels Ltd.
- (4) RKB Herbals Pvt. Ltd.
- (5) Sabson Frieght Containers Pvt. Ltd.
- (6) Saraf Group and Lohia Group of companies.

Central Bureau of Investigation had registered cases in respect of all these accounts. Departmental action has also been initiated in all the cases and punishment has been imposed on 27 of the delinquent officials.

### Setting up of a Power Project at Kalve

5115. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Union Government from B.S.E.S. Company to set up a Thermal Power Project at Kalve in Thane District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No project proposal has been received in the Central Electricity Authority from BSES Company to set up a thermal power project at Kalve in Thane District of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### Southern Gas Grid

5116. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Southern States which have demanded setting up the Southern Gas Grid;

(b) whether the Government has made any positive assurance to Southern States to set up Southern Gas Grid; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) Demands for the Southern Gas Grid have been received from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala.

(b) and (c) The Government have approved in Principle the concept of a Southern Gas Grid to transport gas from the western offshore fields, supplemented by imported natural gas/LNG.

[Translation]

### Management Examination

5117. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to Unstarred

Question No. 4063 dated December 19, 1996 regarding 'First Class Managership Examination' and state the details of recommendations/amendment implemented by the Government so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI. M. ARUNACHALAM) : The Committee recommended continuance of the existing arrangements in the matter of (a) retention of the second class and the first class Mine Manager's certificates of competency, (b) passing of examinations in parts, and (c) continuance of the present system of 'Foremen' and Mining Mate Certificate in non-coal mines. These recommendations of the Committee continue to be implemented. The Committee recommended that there should be atleast two examiners in the oral test. This recommendation of the Committee has already been accepted and given effect to.

2. The recommendations of the Committee on the following aspects, which have been accepted by the Government for implementation, require amendment in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 and the bye-laws made thereunder :

- (a) Minimum academic qualification for second class Mine Manager certificate.
- (b) Passing criteria for written and oral examination in case of manager's certificate.
- (c) Qualification and experience for Surveyer's certificate.
- (d) Endorsement/renewal of certificates for medical fitness.
- (e) Abolition of lamp check certificate.

Necessary action to amend the regulations and the bye-laws is under way.

3. The following recommendations of the Committee were accepted, with modification for implementation by the Board of Mining Examinations, a body constituted under the provisions of the Act, 1952 :

- (a) Minimum eligibility criteria for second class Mine Manager certificate.
- (b) Conduct of only one mining supervisory certificate instead of two certificates i.e. Mining Sardar and overman Certificate in coal mines.
- (c) Certificate of competency for mechanical/electrical engineers.
- (d) Prescribing of upper age limit for competency certificate.
- (e) Procedure of obtaining gas testing certificate
- (f) Service experience for first class Mine Manager's certificate. The Board of Mining Examinations holds a different view in respect of these recommendations. These are being examined.

#### N.H.P.C.

5118. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydel Power Corporation is providing loan facilities to some States ;

(b) if so, the main purposes thereof;

(c) the details of loans outstanding against these beneficiary States as on March 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the National Hydel Power Corporation for the recovery of such loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### N.T.P.C.

5119. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation seeks autonomy to take its own decisions in making investment and mobilisation of funds;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make NTPC a global giant with bright future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme, Government have identified nine Public Sector Undertakings having comparative advantage to become 'global giants'. National Thermal Power Corporation is one of the nine Public Sector Undertakings. The process to make these undertakings become 'global giants' is a continuous one and measures for it are in the process of being formulated.

[Translation]

#### Finance Corporation

5120. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not given adequate financial assistance to the Finance Corporation set up for the Development of minorities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount sanctioned and disbursed annually during each of the last two years; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government for disbursement of the total sanctioned amount for the development of minorities ?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was set up on September 30, 1994 with an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crore. This was to be contributed to the extent of 25% (Rs. 125 crore) by the Central Government and the balance 75% (Rs. 375 crore) by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The entire share of the Central Government has already been provided to the Corporation as follows :-

(Rs. Crore)

1994-95	50
1995-96	39
1996-97	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>

[English]

#### T and D Losses

5121. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power equipments worth crores of rupees have been damaged due to wide fluctuations in the frequency of power transmission in the grid especially in the Eastern and Western sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the mismanagement in the grid operations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As per the information available no damage of equipments due to wide frequency fluctuations in the Western Region has been reported.

As per the information available, certain equipments have been damaged due to high frequency operation of the Eastern Regional Power Grid. The details of damages are given below :

State/ System	Station	Unit	Capacity (MW)	Damage
1	2	3	4	5
DVC	Bokaro 'B'	2	210	Turbine blade failure
WBPDC	Kolaghat	5	210	Turbine blade failure
WBPDC	Kolaghat	3	210	Cracks in Brazing of lacing wires.
BSEB	Patratu	1&3	50	Turbine blade failure
		9	110	

1	2	3	4	5
CESC	South Gen. Stations	1	67.5	Turbine blade failure
DVC	Durgapur	4	210	Regulatory stage liner damage.

GRIDCO has also reported turbine failure in power stations of National Aluminium Ltd. (NALCO) & Indian Charge Chrome Ltd. (ICCL).

(c) and (d) Central Electricity Authority has set up an Enquiry Committee to look into various aspects of the problem and suggest remedial measures for avoiding recurrence of the problem. The Enquiry Committee has not yet submitted the report.

(e) High frequency operation of the Eastern Regional grid is mainly due to a very low off-peak demand resulting in high peak/off-peak demand ratio. In order to export the off-peak surplus power from Eastern Region to the neighbouring regions, transfer of power from Eastern Region to North Eastern Region (Assam – 100 MW), Southern Region (Andhra Pradesh – 150 MW) has been arranged. Further for transfer of power from Eastern Region to Western Region (Madhya Pradesh – 150 MW) and to Northern Region (100 – 150 MW) action is in process. The Inter-Regional high voltage HVDC link between Eastern Region and Southern Region is under construction and will be ready by February, 1999. This will enable transfer of 500 MW additional power from Eastern Region to Southern Region. To augment the transfer of surplus power from Eastern Region to North Eastern Region, Powergrid is executing 400 KV double circuit line between Bongaigaon (NER) and Malda (ER). Construction of this line is expected to be completed in a year. This will enable exchange of 700 – 800 MW power between Eastern Region and North Eastern Region.

Member (Grid Operation), Central Electricity Authority has also written to all the Chairman of the constituent utilities in the Eastern Region to ensure proper load management for maintaining the frequency within permissible limits.

#### Haj Goodwill Team

5122. SHRI DARBARA SINGH :  
COL. RAO RAM SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a good number of Haj returnees have levelled allegations on "goodwill team" sent to Mina for not caring for the victims and instead demanding cars, escorts and special food for themselves;

(b) if so, whether any high level enquiry into the said affairs has been conducted by the Government;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Government has not received complaints from Haj returnees against the goodwill team.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Reservation for OBCs

5123. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have launched any special drive to fill up the vacancies reserved for backward classes,  
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the efforts made 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) As the scheme for reservation for OBCs was introduced only in September, 1993, no need has been felt to launch special drive to fill up the vacancies reserved for backward classes. Instructions already exist for expeditious filling up of vacancies reserved for other backward classes by cadre controlling authorities, which is a continuous process.

[English]

#### Power Tariff

5124. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the guidelines laid down by the Government in regard to power tariff for private power sector,  
 (b) whether the power generated in private sector in the country is costlier than that of the power generated in public sector, and  
 (c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Central Government has issued a Tariff Notification No. S.O. 251 (E) dated 30th March, 1992 (as amended from time to time) in accordance with which the tariff for sale of electricity by Generating Company to the Boards and to other persons shall be fixed.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of India Tariff Notification is applicable to any Generating Company, either in Public Sector or in Private Sector, whose financial packages are approved on or after 30th March, 1992. The tariff of a power station is dependent upon its approved completed cost,

type, price and source of fuel, taxes & duties and year of completion and not on whether established in public or private sector.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Modification of Recognition Rules

5125. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the modifications in the new recognition rules to decide the representatives of Union/Association in Central Services for grant of recognition;  
 (b) whether the Government propose to negotiate with the unions on the issue before implementation of new recognition rules; 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) To decide the representatives of Union/Association for grant of recognition, the following conditions have been prescribed in Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1993;

- (i) In order to obtain recognition, an Association must represent a minimum of 35% of total number of a category of employees provided further that in cases where there is only one association which commands more than 35% membership another association with second highest membership, may also be recognised if it commands at least 15% membership of the specific category of employees.  
 (ii) The verification of membership is done by the check-off system under which the membership subscription is deducted from the pay rolls of the employees based on their written declaration.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, the process of recognition is under way in various Departments, and, in fact some associations have already been recognised under the new Rules.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Atomic Power Project at Narayanganj

5126. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether site was examined by investigating team in 1984 for setting up a Central Atomic Power Plant at Narayanganj (Patha) in Mandala district of Madhya Pradesh;  
 (b) if so, whether the team has submitted its report;  
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir. Narayanganj was not among the sites proposed by the State Government for investigation/evaluation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Reaction of Burma with India

5127. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the reaction of Burma over the imposition of US sanctions;

(b) whether the India's relation with Burma is likely to be affected; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Allowances to Employees of Hilly Areas

5128. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide hill allowances to the employees of nationalised banks working in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government propose to increase, the hill allowance; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has informed that the Nationalised banks provide hill & fuel allowances to employees which include hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh as per details given below :

Place	Award employees	Officers
1	2	3
1. Places situated at a height of 3000 meters and above	18% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 450/- p.m.	15% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 600/ p.m.
2. Places situated at a height over 1500 meters but below 3000 meters.	8% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/- p.m.	6½ of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 180/ pm.

1	2	3
3. Places situated at a height of over 1000 meters but less than 1500 meters.	6% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 110/- p.m.	5% of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 130/- pm

Apart from the above, employees posted at places with an altitude of not less than 750 meters and which are surrounded by hills with higher altitudes which cannot be reached without crossing an altitude of 1000 meters or more are paid hill & fuel allowances at the same rate as is payable for the centres with an altitude of 1000 meters and above but less than 1500 meters.

(c) and (d) The payment of hill & fuel allowances to the employees of nationalised banks both for award staff and officers are governed by the terms of settlement and Officers' Service Regulations respectively.

[English]

#### Issuance of Passport and Visa

5129. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many Embassies and High Commissions now refuse to honour passports with additional sheets and stamp visas on them; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with those foreign countries/instructed the passport issuing authorities to provide fresh passports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) It has been brought to Government's notice that some Embassies and High Commissions have amended their Visa regulations to issue visas only on the passport booklets and not on additional visa sheets.

(b) All the Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad have been advised to discontinue attaching additional visa sheets in passports when all the pages are exhausted and to issue fresh passport booklets without any additional verification.

#### Exemption Under P.F. Act

5130. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of firms in Karnataka who have been granted exemption under the P.F. Act;

(b) whether these establishments have invested funds in the Central and State Government securities as per the Government of India Notification;

(c) if so, the number of them have invested and the number of them have failed to invest in Central and State Government securities;

(d) whether there is any proposal to cancel exemption or withdraw the relaxation of those establishments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) In Karnataka, there are 88 establishments exempted from the EPF Scheme, 1952 and 28 establishments which have been given relaxation under para 79 of the Scheme.

(b) and (c) 98 establishments have invested funds as per the pattern of investment prescribed by the Government of India and the remaining 18 establishments have not invested as per the prescribed pattern. Out of these 18 establishments, 16 establishments have failed to invest in Central and State Govt. Securities.

(d) and (e) The establishments which have failed to make investment in accordance with the prescribed pattern have been advised to follow the prescribed pattern and in the event of their still not complying with the advice, necessary action under the law would be initiated.

[Translation]

#### Release of Children in Pakietan

5131. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has released 38 Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention has been invited to a news-item captioned "Starved tortured, the boys recall dark nights in Pak Jails" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' on the 27th March, 1997.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) In March, 1997, Pakistan agreed to release 38 Indian children who were under detention in Pakistan since 1994. These children were travelling on Indian fishing vessels which were apprehended by Pakistani authorities. Government made many representations on their behalf and expressed satisfaction when Pakistan agreed to release the children. The children reached Mumabi on 23rd March, 1997 and were thereafter sent to their homes.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government are concerned at the account of the difficult conditions faced by the children while they were kept in Pakistani jails and remand homes.

#### Pending Cases of MTNL in Labour Courts

5132. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cases belonging to Communication Ministry or MTNL in the Labour Court of Delhi; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to dispose of these pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Details of pending cases before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court New Delhi and their present status are indicated in the Statement enclosed. The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court New Delhi had informed that the parties are pressed to complete the evidence and arguments quickly so that the disputes can be disposed of as early as possible.

#### Statement

List of Cases		Present position of Disposal
1		2
1. Jai Kumar	Vs. Department of Telecommunication	Workman Evidence
2. Dalip Ram	Vs. -do-	Proceedings stayed.
3. Rajinder Prasad	Vs. -do-	Proceedings stayed.
4. Smt. Sahsi Kanta	Vs. -do-	Workan Affidavit.
5. Jeet Bahadur	Vs. -do-	Miscellaneous Arguments
6. Baleshwar Kamti	Vs. -do-	Written Arguments
7. Anil Kumar	Vs. -do-	Written Arguments
8. Ramu	Vs. -do-	Arguments
9. Jasram Singh	Vs. -do-	Arguments
10. Palbit Singh	Vs. -do-	Arguments
11. Krishan Lal	Vs. -do-	Arguments
12. Girdhari Lal	Vs. -do-	Arguments
13. Munshi Prasad & Others	Vs. -do-	Documents
14. Netrapal Singh	Vs. -do-	Consideration
15. Kishan Singh	Vs. -do-	Consideration
16. Beere Singh	Vs. -do-	Consideration
17. Gen. Secretary	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
18. Dhani Ram	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
19. Jitender Kumar	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
20. Than Singh	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
21. Bhola Ram & Ors.	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
22. Janki Prasad	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
23. Keshav Dev & Ors.	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved
24. Yaduvir Singh	Vs. -do-	Award Reserved

1	2
25. Tribhuvan Shah	Vs. Department of Tele-communicaton Award Reserved
26. Shiv Dutt	Vs. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Written Arguments
27. Ram Kishan	Vs. -do- Reply
28. Virender Kumar	Vs. -do- Miscellaneous Arguments
29. Brahmjeet	Vs. -do- Arguments
30. Mahender Singh	Vs. -do- Workman Evi- dence
31. Smt. Sushma Rani	Vs. -do- Reply
32. Kapil Dev	Vs. -do- Miscellaneous Arguments
33. Om Parkash Rana	Vs. -do- Miscellaneous Arguments
34. Ram Naresh	Vs. -do- Miscellaneous Arguments
35. Ram Rattan	Vs. -do- Arguments
36. Smt. Shakuntla	Vs. -do- Written Arguments
37. Kailash Chand	Vs. -do- Admission/Denial of Evidence
38. Ravi Balmiki	Vs. -do- Workman Evi- dence
39. Satpal Bali	Vs. -do- Arguments

[English]

#### East-Coast Refinery

5133. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposal to set up East Coast Refinery has been approved; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the site and when the work on this project likely to start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has, in principle approval to set up a 6 MMTPA joint venture refinery in the East Coast IOC has submitted a Detailed Feasibility Report which includes the subject of site selection and the same is under process of investment approval. The implementation of the project is expected to take approximately 46 months for mechanical completion from the date of Government approval.

#### Bank Credit

5134. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether growth of bank credit to the commercial sector has gone down during the year 1996-97; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The non-food bank credit of scheduled commercial banks during the year 1996-97 upto March 28, 1997 increased by Rs. 24,710 crore (10.1 per cent) as against an increase of Rs. 44,938 crore (22.5 per cent) during the corresponding period of the previous year. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the depressed capital market seemed to have played a role inasmuch as there has to be some balance between debt and equity. Equity raised by the corporates was significantly lower in 1996-97 than in 1995-96.

RBI have further reported that in viewing growth of bank credit, the flow of funds to the commercial sector is to be considered. The total amount of funds raised by the commercial sector both from banks and non-banks sources was Rs. 82,334 crore in 1996-97, as compared with an amount of Rs. 94,497 crore in the previous year.

#### Power Finance Corporation

5135. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to issue \$ 125 million euro issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms of this issue and the benefits PFC would derive from its euro issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Nuclear Waste

5136. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether nuclear wastes of developed countries are being dumped in the Indian soil; and

(b) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

**Privatisation of Civic Amenities**

5137. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for the privatisation of Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether available resources are inadequate to meet the short and long-term needs of these vital sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the allocation of funds proposed for these sectors during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) It is the policy of the Government to encourage private investment in providing infrastructural facilities. However, as water supply and sanitation is a State subject, it is mainly for the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies to take a view in the matter.

(c) and (d) The Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for Urban Water Supply and Sanitation sector has estimated that approximately Rs. 51000 crores will be required for the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan period. Accordingly, Planning Commission has been requested for consideration in the Ninth Plan which has not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission.

**Vacant Shops**

5138. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the list of shops in Delhi, constructed by the Directorate of Estates, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Development Authority are lying vacant/unallotted;

(b) the areas/markets in which these are lying vacant;

(c) since when these are lying vacant/unallotted along with the reasons thereof and the steps taken to allot these shops or to auction them;

(d) the minimum licence fee charged and the minimum reserve price of these shops; and

(e) the reasons for not renting out these shops to unemployed youths and retired Government servants on minimum licence fee or on minimum reserve price, as the case may be ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The list of shops lying vacant/unallotted in Delhi and the areas/markets in which these are lying vacant, as reported by the Directorate of Estates, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority, who constructed them, are given in the attached Statement-I. Besides these, the Directorate of Estates has reported that a large number of vacant/unallotted shops.

(c) The dates since when these shops are lying vacant alongwith reasons therefor and steps taken to allot them have been given in the attached Statement-II in respect of NDMC, MCD and the Directorate of Estates. The DDA has reported that the reasons for non-allotment of their shops are (i) due to recession in money market; (ii) non-availability of electricity by Delhi Vidyut Board; and (iii) residential premises around the shopping Complexes being misused for commercial purposes. All-out efforts are being made by them to put these vacant shops to open auction as frequently as possible and also for allotment to the eligible categories.

(d) The minimum licence fee and the minimum reserve price of the vacant shops of the Directorate of Estates is given in the Statement.

The NDMC has reported that their shops are allotted on open tender basis to the highest tenderer and the minimum reserve price/license fee is fixed on the basis of cost of construction which varies from shop to shop.

The MCD has reported that their shops are allotted by inviting seal tenders to the highest tenderer on monthly license fee basis for a period of five years.

The shops constructed by DDA, as reported by them, are disposed of through auction/tender and allotment made to eligible reserved categories etc. The reserve price are got updated as and when these shops are due for disposal.

(e) There is no such policy in Directorate of Estates, NDMC, MCD and the DDA to rent out vacant shops to unemployed youths and retired Government servants on minimum licence fee/reserve price.

**Statement-I**

S. No	Shop No	Locality	Date of vacation	Minimum Licence Fee	Minimum Reserve Price	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Stall No. 3	Lodhi Road Complex Centre-II	New Construction	Rs. 448/-	Rs. 2240/-	It was put up to tender, but no one applied. It is again being processed for tender.
2.	Plat Form No 1 to 10	Lodhi Road Complex Centre-II	-do-	Rs. 517/-	to be decided	will be put to tender.
3.	Stall No. 1 & 9	B K.S. Marg	-do-	Rs. 591/-	to be decided	-do-
4.	Plat Form No. 1 to 7	-do-	-do-	Rs. 111/-	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Flate No. 2, S-IX	R.K. Puram	1.2.92	Rs. 572/-	to be decided	On vacation these shops were sent to L & D O for auction as per the policy of 1979. But these shops could not be auctioned by them. Now these shops have been Directorate of Estates for tendering. Minimum licence fee in respect of shop No. 15 Kamla Market and minimum reserve price of all the four shops are yet to be fixed.
6.	No. 57	Kasturba Nagar Mkt.	22.11.90	Rs. 352/-	-do-	
7.	No. 193	INA Subzi Mkt.	24.7.95	Rs. 552/-	-do-	
8.	No. 15	Kamala Market	21.4.82	-	-	

*List of Vacant Shops of N.D.M.C. Area*

S.No.	Shop No./Location	Vacant since	Reasons
1.	1, Safar Hashmi Marg	31.7.96	Allotment of these shops are with held under the orders of "Tharej a Judicial Committee" which is looking after the work of rehabilitation of verified Hawkers Squatters.
2.	2, -do-	31.7.96	
3.	4, -do-	10.11.94	
4.	5, -do-	10.11.94	
5.	Kiosk No. 10, Palika Parking	16.7.95	Due to some dispute the allotment could not be finalised. Being put to re-tender.
6.	12-B, Janpath	27.8.96	Due to some inquiry, the allotment has been deferred.
7.	110, Mohan Singh Place	28.9.95	Due to Stay granted by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the allotment has been deferred.
8.	M-50, Palika Bhawan	12/96	The case has been processed for allotment.
9.	1-CSC Market, Tilak Lane	30.11.96	Tenders have been invited & allotment under finalisation.
10.	K-15, Palika Parking	6.12.95	Tenders reinvited & allotment under finalisation.
11.	24, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place Complex	24.10.96	Tenders invited & allotment under finalisation.
12.	60, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place	15.5.95	Tender re-invited & processed for allotment.
13.	3, Brig. Hoshiar Singh Road	30.10.96	Tenders invited & processed for allotment.
14.	21, CSC Mkt., Netaji Nagar	7.2.97	-do-
15.	57, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place	15.5.95	Tenders have been re-invited to be opened on 21.5.1997
16.	58, -do-	-do-	-do-
17.	59, -do-	-do-	-do-
18.	72, -do-	-do-	-do-
19.	31, Lok Nayak Bhawan	6.6.96	-do-
20.	M-24, Palika Bhawan	20.02.96	-do-
21.	K-3, Palika Parking	6.12.95	-do-
22.	4-CSC Mkt. Tilak Lane	28.11.95	-do-
23.	13, Palika Parking	24.11.95	-do-
24.	8, R.K. Ashram Marg	16.02.96	-do-

*List of the Shops Lying Vacant in R.P. Cell for Allotment*

S. No.	Total No. of Shops	Size of Shops	Area/Locality	Since lying Vacant	Remarks
1.	1	7'X6'	Hari Nagar	17.7.95	This shop was put to tender on 29.12.95, and 21.8.96 but no reasonable amount was received during tender. It was again put to tender on 18.12.96; the case is under process.
2.	12	8'X10' each	S.P. Mukherjee Marg, Delhi	11.1.96	Tenders were invited for 16.5.96 and 11.9.96 but no sufficient amount was offered during the tender. It was again put to tender on 26.3.97; the case is under process.
3.	11	17'X9' each	Model Town Mpl. Colony	Since 1992	The said shops were put to tender on 25.9.96 and 18.12.96 but no sufficient amount offered during tender. These were again put to tender on 23.3.97; the cases are under process.
4.	6	9'X15' each	Mpl. Colony, Seelampur	Since 1992	As above in serial No. 3.
5.	13	5'X2.5M each	Sub way near, Titarpur (West side)	Since 1994	These was put to tender for 1.12.95 but no sufficient amount was offered during tender. Again put to tender for 26.3.97; the case is under process.
6.	1	6 MX2.5M	-do- (East side)	-do-	As above in Serial No. 5
7.	5	56.43 sq M each	Sanjay Gandhi Tpt. Nagar	-do-	These were put to tender for 9.5.94, 7.10.94, 1.2.95, 8.6.95, 26.3.96, 16.5.95, 18.6.96 and 10.9.96 but every time no sufficient amount was offered. Again put to tender for 23.3.97 and the case is under process.
	3	37.63 Sq. M. each	-do-		
		1596.78 Sq. ft.	Mpl. Mkt., near Gaffar Mkt.	-do-	
		1352.62 Sq. ft.	Karol Bagh, New Delhi		These were put to tender on 7.10.94, 1.2.95 and 8.6.95 but no sufficient amount was offered during tender. Again put to tender on 24.4.97 and the case is under process.
		653.84 Sq. ft.			
		433.45 Sq. ft.			
		29'X18'	-do-	(Possession of these was taken over from Horticulture Deptt. MCD, in March, 1997	Put to tender on 24.4.97 and the case is under process.



**Statement-II**

Delhi Development Authority

*List of vacant shops built up properties lying vacant/  
unallotted as on 30.4.97*

Sl. No.	Name of Market	No. of shops lying vacant	Since when lying vacant
1	2	3	4
1.	Mini Shopping Centre at Pkt. KC-1, Bodella	1	10.8.87
2.	Mini Shopping Centre at Pkt. KC-1, Bodella	1	-do-
3.	LSC at Paschimpuri, A-1	3	29.4.87
4.	CSC at Yamuna Vihar B-3	1	1.9.87
5.	CSC at Blatnagar CHBS Zone B-8 to E-12.	-	-
6.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. O(U)	1	1.4.87
7.	CSS at Dilshad Garden Pkt.H	-	-
8.	CSC at R.K. Puram Sec. 6	-	-
9.	CSC at Trilokpuri CM Complex Mayur Vihar pkt. 1Sch. No. 557	-	-
10.	CSC at Sukhdev Vihar	2	3.12.87
11.	DDA Bldg. at Rajinder Place Distt. Centre.	-	-
12.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. K (U)	2	9.5.88
13.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. S (D)	1	25.4.88
14.	Commercial Complex at Sidhartha Enclave.	-	-
15.	SCS at Saraswati Vihar Block-A.	2	23.8.88
16.	3 Storeyed Shops/Office on plot No. 4 & 7 Mayapuri PH-2	-	-
17.	CSC No. 5 Sec-3, Rohini	40	27.7.88
18.	CSC at Paschimpuri Blk. A Janta Houses.	02	6.6.88
19.	Shopping Centre at Jahandewalan	-	-
20.	CSC No. 10 in Sec-3, Rohini	02	27.7.88
21.	CSC at Asian Games Village Complex	01	18.12.88
22.	CSC in Pkt. B, Sarita Vihar	04	23.3.89
23.	CSC at pkt. K & L Sarita Vihar	04	-do-
24.	CSC at Badarpur	01	-do-
25.	CSC at Pkt. B Sidhartha Exn.	04	16.3.89
26.	CSC at Sarai Juliana CHBS.	08	22.9.89
27.	CSC at Sarita Vihar Pkt. G	02	5.4.89

1	2	3	4
28.	CSC at RBI Cly. Paschimpuri	02	10.7.89
29.	CSC at Sarita Vihar pkt. A	-	-
30.	CSC at Sarita Vihar Pkt. C Sector-1	-	-
31.	CSC at Pkt. 7 Lawerance Road	6	8.11.89
32.	CSC-II at Planning Commission CHBS (Yojna Vihar)	3	30.11.89
33.	CSC No. 7, Sec-G-8, Vasant Kunj	2	7.4.89
34.	CSC at SFS Saiduljab Opp. Saket.	2	2.5.89
35.	CSC No. 1, Sec-4, Rohini	24	24.4.89
36.	CSC No. 1, Sec-7, Rohini	19	16.10.89
37.	CSC No. 3, Sec-II, Rohini	1	11.4.89
38.	CSC No. 5, Sec-7, Rohini	15	31.5.89
39.	CSC No. 3, Sec-4, Rohini	21	24.4.89
40.	SCS No. 2, Sec-5, Rohini	15	21.4.89
41.	SCS at Pkt. IV, Mayur Vihar Ph. I	1	30.5.89
42.	CSC at Lado Sarai	2	23.5.89
43.	CSC at Alaknanda Pkt. A&D	2	-do-
44.	CSC at Paschimpuri A-3	3	22.12.89
45.	CSC No. 8, Sec-7, Rohini	1	19.10.89
46.	DDA Bldg. at Rajindera Place Distt. Centre.	-	-
47.	DDA Bldg. at Bikaji Cama Distt. Centre	3	20.6.89
48.	CSC No. 2 Sec-II, Rohini	9	22.1.89
49.	SCS No. 4 Sec-2, Rohini	2	16.1.89
50.	CSC at Sec-C-9, Vasant Kunj	1	22.9.89
51.	CSC at Sec-C-8, Vasant Kunj	2	-
52.	CSC at Pkt. R(U) Pitampura	-	-
53.	CSC at Vijay Mandal Enclave	5	22.9.89
54.	CSC No. 5, Sec-5, Rohini	37	-do-
55.	CSC No. 4, Sec-5, Rohini	9	-do-
56.	CSC at Pushpanjali Enclave Pitampura Blk. B.	2	-do-
57.	LSC at Block B-2, Paschimpuri	2	-do-
58.	CSC at Lok Vihar Block-A	3	-do-
59.	LSC at Nand Nagri	63	-do-

1	2	3	4
60.	CSC at Vasant Kunj Sec-D-I	3	22.9.89
61.	CSC No. 3, Sec-5, Rohini	27	-do-
62.	CSC at Pkt. 10, Sec-B-10, Vasant Kunj	-	-
63.	Kiosk at rt Kalkaji Extn.,	-	-
64.	CSC at Paschimpuri Blk. A-5/8	-	-
65.	CSC at Dilshad Garden Pkt., J&H	3	22.9.89
66.	CSC at C-1, Vasant Kunj	-	-
67.	CSC at Paschimpuri C-17/CH-13 of 1140 SFS Houses.	2	22.9.89 -do-
68.	CSC at Paschimpuri Pkt. BG-6 near 1092 Janta Houses.	10	-do-
69.	CSC at Sunder Vihar	9	7.2.90
70.	CSC at Pkt. J, Sarita Vihar	2	13.11.89
71.	CSC at Trilokpuri Pkt. A North of Lake.	-	-
72.	CSAC at Shalimar Bagh Blk-B Pkt. U&V	2	16.11.89
73.	CSC No. 6, Sec-7, Rohini	24	-do-
74.	CSC No. 3, Sec-7, Rohini	10	-do-
75.	CSC at Vikaspuri Blk-D near DESU Electric Sub-Station	05	-do-
76.	4 Storeyed office Bldg. Mayapuri Ph. II	-	-
77.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. B (U)	04	8.2.90
78.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. J (D)	04	22.9.89
79.	CSC No. 1 Sec-6, Rohini	13	7.12.89
80.	CSC at A-2, Paschim Vihar	-	-
81.	CSC No. 4 at Patparganj	-	-
82.	CSC at Janta House for Harijan and land less persons at Peeragarhi	4	15.2.90
83.	CSC at First of Loni Road Pkt. C	2	-do-
84.	CSC at Adarsh Bhawan Punjabi Bagh Extn. Site No. 2.	2	-do-
85.	CSC Adarsh Bhawan Punjabi Bagh 2 Extn. Site No. 1	-	-do-
86.	CSC at AGCR Enclave No. 66	-	-
87.	CSC No. 12, Sec-3, Rohini	11	23.1.90
88.	CSC No. 6, Sec-C8, Vasant Kunj	2	-do-
89.	CSC No. 1, Sec-8, Rohini	14	-do-

1	2	3	4
90.	CSC No. 11, Sec-3, Rohini	7	23.1.90
91.	CSC at Delhi School Teachers CHBS Scheme no. 672	5	-do-
92.	CSC No. 1, Sec-3, Rohini	18	5.10.89
93.	CSC at Blk. A, Anand Vihar	2	6.4.90
94.	CSC at Pkt. D Anand Vihar Near Raly. Board, CHBS	2	6.4.90
95.	CSC at Pkt. CH-8/G-17, Paschim-puri 688 LIG Houses.	4	-do-
96.	LSC at Shalimar Bagh Pkt. B(Q)	12	-do-
97.	CSC No. 1 at Kondli Gharoli, Complex Sec-b (Sch. No. 5003).	1	-do-
98.	SCS at Nand Nagri Pkt. F Sch. No. 1248.	4	-do-
99.	CSC No. 4, Sec-4, Rohini	14	20.4.90
100.	CSC No. 2, Delhi Teachers Society CHBS Sch. No. 673	6	-do-
101.	CSC at Pkt. 1, Dilshad Garden	5	-do-
102.	CSC at Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura Block-D.	4	11.5.90
103.	CSC at Paschimpuri Blk. A-4 near CIE Employees CHBS.	4	-do-
104.	CSC at Paschimpuri Pkt. GH-13/G-17 for 1140 SFS Houses (Site No. 1)	6	25.5.90
105.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. F (D)	2	-do-
106.	CSC at Pkt. II (U) Pitampura	2	-do-
107.	CSC at Sect-C-9, Vasant Kunj	2	-do-
108.	CSC at Dilshad Garden Pkt. A	4	-do-
109.	CSC at 1200 houses Pkt. GH-14/G-17 at Pachimpuri Site No. II.	3	19.6.90
110.	CSC at Vasant Kunj Sector B-1	-	-
111.	CSC at Pkt. C(D) Pitampura	6	27.7.90
112.	CSC at Sector-B Pkt. 1, V. Kunj (two storeyed Block).	2	30.7.90
113.	CSC at Pkt. II Sector-D, Vasant Kunj	3	9.8.90
114.	CSC at Pkt. A SFS Wazirpur ph. IV	4	23.7.90
115.	Shopping Centre No. 4, Sec-7, Rohini	17	3.8.90
116.	CSC at Pkt. A (P) Pitampura	1	-do-
117.	CSC No. 4 Sec-D, Vasant Kunj	3	21.9.90
118.	LSC at Block-E, Vikaspuri	11	3.1.91

1	2	3	4
119.	CSC at 288 SFS opp/G.O.I. Press at Mayapuri.	2	21.1.91
120.	CSC at Shalimar Bagh Block-B Pkt. II	7	15.10.91
121.	CSC at Shalimar Bagh Block B (S)15		-do-
122.	CSC at Block C near Distt. Park Vikaspuri	2	11.2.91
123.	CSC at 384 LIG houses in A-1/B, Paschim Vihar.	6	4.3.92
124.	CSC at Pkt. A-8 Kalkaji Extn.	-	-
125.	CSC No. 2 at Zone E-13, Patparganj	-	-
126.	CSC at Blk. B(F) Shalimar Bagh	1	5.3.92
127.	CSC No. 1 at Zone E-13, Patparganj	-	-
128.	CSC at Ashok Vihar Ph-IV Pkt. B&C	2	17.3.92
129.	CSC at Nand Nagri Pkt. E	5	-do-
130.	CSC at PNB, CHBS Zone E-8&13	8	-do-
131.	CSC No. 7 Pkt. 8 Sect-C, Vasant Kunj (Double Storeyed Bldg.)	2	-do-
132.	CSC at Jagriti Enclave	9	20.3.92
133.	CSC at Sainik Vihar in H-4/5 (pt) Pitampura	10	30.4.92
134.	CSC in Sec-B Pkt. 8 & 9, Vasant Kunj	-	-
135.	CSC at Pitampura Pkt. K (D)	3	30.4.92
136.	CSC at GM-10/G-17, Paschim Vihar	-	-
137.	CSC at V(P) Pitampura	20	24.6.92
138.	CSC at 1200 MIG Houses, Pachimpura Site No.1	6	30.4.92
139.	CSC at Pkt. T (P) Pitampura	8	24.6.92
140.	CSC at Maiaveli, Rohtak Road	4	27.5.92
141.	CSC at Rajdhani Enclave, Pitampura	10	27.7.92
142.	CSC at Sarv Hitkari Colony, East of Kailash.	-	-
143.	CSC at Gulabi Bagh	2	25.8.92
770 Nos.			
144.	CSC at MOR Land on plot No. 22 New Rajinder Nagar.	1	25.8.92
145.	CSC at Lawerance Road Pkt. B-4	4	11.8.92

1	2	3	4
146.	CSC at Pul Parlihad pur	2	20.7.92
147.	CSC at Shalimar Bagh Block-C Pkt-C	16	26.9.92
148.	CSC at Gopalpur	15	1.10.92
149.	CSC at Hindustan CHBS at Paschimpuri site No. 2.	7	11.11.92
150.	CSC at Shalimar Bagh Blk. B (T)	2	12.11.92
151.	Cycle Mkt. Ph. II, Jhandewalan (Anarkali Bazar)	2	16.11.92
152.	LSC at A (D) Shalimar Bagh	4	13.11.92
153.	LSC at West of Trilokpuri Mayur Vihar Opp. Pkt. 1.	1	24.11.92
154.	CSC No. 2 Blk. B, Sec-1, Rohini	17	27.11.92
155.	CSC at Zafrabad Pkt. A	10	3.12.92
156.	CSC No. 2, Sec-9, Rohini	2	25.7.92
157.	CSC No. 8, Sec-3, Rohini	22	30.11.92
158.	CSC No. 2, Sec-6, Rohini	11	7.12.92
159.	CSC at Bhirachi at Paschim Vihar	19	14.12.92
160.	CSC at Pkt. GH-5 & 7/C-17 at Paschim Vihar Site No. 1.	18	23.12.92
161.	CSC at Jhilmil Ph. II Pkt. A	7	23.12.92
162.	CSC No. 2, Kondli Gharoli Complex	5	7.1.93
163.	CSC at Pkt. GH-5 & 7/G-17, Paschim Vihar Site No. 2	17	4.1.93
164.	CSC No. 9, Sector-15, Rohini	23	4.1.93
165.	CSC at Pkt. 1, Dilshad Garden	3	1.1.93
166.	CSC No. 6, Sec-16, Rohini	16	28.1.93
167.	CSC No. 3, Kondli Gharoli Complex Site A	12	14.1.93
168.	CSC No. 1 Blk. A, Sec-16, Rohini	17	20.1.93
169.	CSC at Preet Vihar Block-G	-	-
170.	CSC at Daya Nand Vihar Zone-9, 10 & 11	3	12.3.93
171.	CSC at UP Samaj Deepali, Pitampura	3	-do-
172.	CSC No. 3, Sec-11, Rohini	32	-do-
173.	CSC No. 12, Blk. D Sector-16, Rohini	29	1.3.93
174.	CSC at Pkt. M (D) Pitampura	2	15.3.93
175.	CSC No. 9, Sector-7, Rohini	36	26.3.93
176.	CSC at Pkt. W(P) Pitampura	4	31.3.93

1	2	3	4
177.	CSC at Motia Khan	2	31.3.93
178.	CSC No. 5, Sec-11, Rohini	20	-do-
179.	CSC No. 1, Block-A Sec-17, Rohini	28	-do-
180.	CSC at Pushpanjali Enclave (T)	5	-do-
181.	CSC/LSC at Sarita Vihar Pkt H Plot No. 5, 10 & 11	5	14.5.93
182.	CSC at Ashok Vihar Ph. III near MCD Society.	3	12.4.93
183.	LSC at JJ Colony Mangolpuri	03	2.11.93
184.	Community Centre at Sheikh Sarai Phase-I.	-	-
185.	LSC at Site No. 42 (MOR) land at Kalkaji.	9	24.12.93
186.	LSC at Site No. 37 & 38 MOR land at Kalkaji.	1	-do-
187.	LSC in Sector-C Pkt. 9 Vasant Kunj	-	-
188.	CSC at Pkt. D&E, Sarita Vihar	5	22.12.93
189.	Community-cum staff housing Complex, Ber Sarai.	3	31.12.93
190.	11 Shops at Jawalaheri, Paschim Vihar.	2	23.12.93
191.	CSC at Paschimpuri GH-4/C-17	10	17.1.94
192.	Shops at level 761.50 between plot No. 18 & 20 at Rajinder Place.	-	-
193.	CSC No.9, Sector-13, Rohini	18	28.12.93
194.	LSC at Block-H, Vikaspuri	16	-do-
195.	CSC at Paschimpuri Blk. A-4 near S.B. Mills.	5	13.1.94
196.	CSC in block-C at Hastal	17	17.1.94
197.	CSC in Pkt. CH-9 Blk-N, Paschim-puri.	20	11.1.94
198.	CSC at Pkt.-E, Mayur Vihar	7	-do-
199.	CSC at Saini Enclave	15	17.1.94
200.	CSC at Pkt. A-6 near CA Aptt. Paschimpuri	8	-do-
201.	CSC near Galazy Society CHS	9	15.12.93
202.	CSC No. 7, Sector-16, Rohini	30	3.2.94
203.	CSC at 656 LIG houses at Jahangirpuri.	19	11.1.94
204.	CSC at Shashtri Park	27.	25.2.94

1	2	3	4
205.	CSC No. 4 at Kondli Gharoli complex Sector-B.	15	25.2.94
206.	CSC No. 4 in Pkt. 4, Bindapur	20	19.1.94
207.	CSC at Hastal Block-B	15	17.1.95
208.	CSC in Sector A-9, Narela	20	23.2.94
209.	CSC at Shalimar Bagh Blk-D (R)	1	-do-
210.	Build Up commercial units/ commercial shopping centres at Rajindera Place on Plot no. 9, 13, 14 & 15.	2	24.1.94
211.	CSC at Pkt. BG-3/BG-5, Paschim Vihar.	10	31.3.94
212.	LSC at A-6, Paschim Vihar	65	29.12.93
213.	CSC No. 13 Sector-16, Rohini	40	19.1.94
214.	Community Centre at Janakpuri	34	23.1.94
215.	CSC at Hindustan CHBS at Paschim Puri Site No. 1	2	25.3.94
216.	LSC at Naraina, Block-A	-	-
217.	LSC at Koti Nagar on Plot No. 12 & 13	-	-
218.	CSC at Dilshad Garden Pkt.-D	2	23.6.94
219.	Shops on plot No. 8, 9, 10 at Rajouri Garden G-8 area.	96	24.1.94
220.	CSC No. 3, Delhi School Teachers CHBS (Suraj Mal Vihar)	18	6.5.94
221.	CSC at Paschimpuri Block A-4 near University society.	05	-do-
222.	SCS at 356 SFS houses at Madipur	6	7.6.94
223.	LSC at Prashant Vihar Block-D Sector-14.	9	2.6.94
224.	SCS No. 9 Sector-16, Rohini	16	17.6.94
225.	LSC at Pkt.-D&E Sarita Vihar	4	24.6.94
226.	Service Industries Centre at Janakpuri (Third floor)	4	25.10.86
227.	LSC No. 10, Sector-16, Rohini	15	12.5.94
228.	CSC at Pkt. A-2, Janakpuri	7	29.6.94
229.	CSC at Block-B Pkt.-C Shalimar Bagh	20	1.8.94
230.	Stalls at Choti Sabzi Mandi at Tilak Nagar	-	-
231.	CSC at Pitampura Block-B (D)	2	19.8.94
232.	CSC at AG-1 Vikaspuri	-	-

1	2	3	4
233.	LSC at Block-J, Vikas Puri	15	23.9.94
234.	LSC at Block-C, Vikas Puri	4	16.9.94
235.	CSC at Sandesh Vihar Pitampura	5	28.11.94
236.	CSC at Har Govind Enclave	-	-
237.	CSC at East of Loni Road, Pkt.-B	10	20.1.95
238.	CSC at SFS Munirka Near JNU	1	10.1.86
239.	CSC No. 8 Preet Vihar, Block-B	5	28.3.95
240.	LSC at Rohitas Kunj, Pitampura	15	10.2.95
241.	VDV at Manglapur : Village Sarai Sohal.	10	16.3.95
242.	LSC at Pkt.-L (U) Pitampura	25	24.7.95
243.	CSC No. 3, Kondli Gharoli, Sec-B	6	26.4.95
244.	CSC at Hudson Line, Kingsway Camp	8	30.8.95
245.	CSC at Sec-A-10, Narela (4)	17	20.11.95
246.	CSC at Kohat Enclsve, Pitampura	11	30.11.95
247.	CSC No. II at Preet Vihar, Block-C	3	19.12.95
248.	CSC in Janta CHBS (Meera Bagh) in G-17 area in Paschim Vihar	13	20.12.95
249.	CSC at Raksha Vikas, Phase-I Vikas Puri	4	25.1.96
250.	LSC at Yamuna Vihar, Block-C	11	27.2.96
251.	LSC at Prashant Vihar Block-D	17	11.3.96
252.	Office cum shopping centre at Ajadpur	-	-
253.	LSC at Samrat Enclave	70	9.5.94
254.	CSC near Nai Jagriti GHS at Callupura/Chilla	37	18.7.96
255.	CSC in Sector A-10, Site No. 2 Narela	17	14.8.96
256.	LSC at Block C & B in Yamuna Vihar	12	14.8.96
257.	LSC at Block B-IV, Lawrence Road	74	25.10.96
258.	CSC at 624 MIG Houses in Vikas-puri Pkt. DG-2	23	28.10.96
259.	CSC at New Gupta Colony near Rana Pratap Bagh	7	28.10.96
260.	SCS at New Rajdhani CHBS (Preet Vihar) Scheme No. 5026/76	12	1.11.96
261.	CSC at Y (6), Pitampura	23	15.11.96
262.	CSC Dwarka Ph-I Sec-19, Pkt-B Single Storeyed Block.	9	6.1.97
263.	Hog Mkt. at Rajindra Place (Distt. Centre)	7	11.3.97
		2337 Nos.	

**Officials on Deputation**

5139. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many officials including stenographers and peons etc. have been informally borrowed by the Ministry of Finance from various subordinate offices/PSUs under its administrative control and have been working in sensitive sections and with officers who are incharge of these subordinate offices/PSUs over a decade;

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

(c) whether such officials have been continuously retained in sensitive seats for a very long period without any transfer; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not rotating the officials from such sections frequently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDERA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Demand and Supply of Power in U.P.**

5140. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of power in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the actual demand and supply of power in the State at present;

(c) the details of World Bank aided power projects in the State;

(d) whether the World Bank has urged the State Government to scrape the subsidies on power for farm sector;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the power supply in Andhra Pradesh is likely to be improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) & (b) The power supply position in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1996-97 is given below :

	Energy (MU Net)	Peak (MW Net)
Requirement	40240	Peak demand 5940
Availability	31359	Peak met 4540
Shortage	8881	Deficit 1400
%	22.1	% 23.6

(c) to (e) There is no on-going World Bank aided power projects in Andhra Pradesh.

(f) Efforts are being made to improve the availability of power in Andhra Pradesh by arranging transfer of power from Eastern Region (150 MW), maximising the generation

at existing stations, implementation of R&M programme, reduction in T&D losses, proper load management, energy conservation measures etc.

### **SOs Promoted as Under Secretary**

5141. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Section Officers promoted as Under Secretary during 1991 to date and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Section Officers accommodated in these promotions against their quota; and

(b) the criteria laid down for SC and ST candidates for promotion as Under Secretary and the number of SC and ST Section Officers who fulfilled this criteria ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN):

(a) and (b) No select list for making regular promotions to the grade of Under Secretaries of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after the 1986 select list due to protracted litigation regarding *inter se* seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. Consequently, ad-hoc promotions only were ordered from the grade of Section Officers on seniority-cum-fitness basis. The minimum eligibility service for promotion is 8 years. However, according to the instructions, if the number of SC/ST officers is less than the number of vacancies falling to their share in such promotions, then additional SC/ST officers to the extent required are located by going down the seniority list but within 5 times the number of vacancies being filled. Accordingly, 924 Section Officers including 162 SC and 20 ST officers were promoted on an ad-hoc basis on an all-Secretariat basis on different occasions since 4.12.1991.

### **I.T. Office, Patna**

5142. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities propose to shift the office of the investigation wing of the department to revenue building premises at Patna;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give full protection to the investigating officers; and

(d) the matter which these officers are investigating ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Since the present Investigation Wing at Patna is functioning from rented premises, it is proposed to shift this wing in view of the acquisition of additional office space by the department.

(c) and (d) Since the I.T. Department is entrusted with the task of investigating complaints of tax evasion and conducting searches, a request was made to the Govern-

ment of Bihar for providing security to various Income Tax offices. The State Government have deployed a mobile police control room outside the Central Revenue Building and the office of the Investigation Wing at Patna.

### **Removal of Encroachment**

5143. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lt. Governor of Delhi has given orders to the Special Task Force to completely clear the encroachment and unauthorised construction from the Government land;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to identify the land mafia who sold the Government and Gram Sabha land to the innocent people;

(c) whether there is any proposal to identify the civic and DDA officials who allowed the construction on the Government and Gram Sabha land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that Special Task Force was set up by the Lt. Governor of Delhi to investigate specifically crimes related to encroachments and/or illegal disposal of public land; forcible dispossession of the occupants from properties and collusion & corrupt practices of public officials in this regard.

(b) According to Government of NCT of Delhi, the Special Task Force has undertaken to examine the cases relating to illegal sale of Government land & unauthorised construction on it.

(c) The Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that collusion and corrupt practices of the officials who allowed construction on Government and Gaon Sabha land is also to be investigated by Special Task Force.

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

### **Money Laundering Law**

5144. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a money laundering law is being drafted in line with a commonwealth model law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages of such a law following commonwealth model ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Ministry of Finance had appointed a committee consisting of representatives from the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Narcotics

Control Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Reserve Bank of India and Department of Economic Affairs to look into all aspects of money-laundering, and to suggest a suitable legislation to deal with the problem, if necessary. The committee is yet to submit its report to the Ministry.

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

### Oil Exploration

5145. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow hundred percent foreign equity in oil exploration in the country;

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

(c) its impact on the Indian Oil Industry and the economy of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage private sector participation, Government of India has recently announced the New Exploration Licensing Policy. The salient features of policy are :

- Open availability of exploration acreages in addition to existing bidding rounds.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Oil India Limited to compete for obtaining exploration licences on competitive basis alongwith other private sector companies.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and Oil India Limited to be provided a level playing field by providing same fiscal and contract terms as available for private companies.
- Special package to encourage exploration in deep water and frontier areas.
- Freedom to contractors for marketing of crude oil and gas in the domestic market.

As there is no compulsory state participation through Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Oil India Limited, foreign companies will be free to bid and operate on their own. The new policy will augment investment in exploration and development and also induct the latest managerial and technological practices. In the long run this would boost crude oil production in the country and also add to oil reserves, which would in turn help us in saving outgo of foreign exchange on account of crude oil/petroleum products imports.

### Alcoloid Factory at Neemach, Madhya Pradesh

5146. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production work is being carried out in two shifts in Alcoloid Factory at Neemach in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there has been constant demand to increase its production capacity to meet the requirements;

(c) whether foreign exchange is being saved to a large extent on account of the production in this factory; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the production capacity of the said factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a constant increase in the domestic demand for Codeine Phosphate and other basic alkaloids in the country. The production capacity of the Neemuch Plant being limited the shortfall in supply is being met by importing Codeine Phosphate from outside. Foreign Exchange is being saved only to the extent of production of Codeine Phosphate by the two alkaloid plants at Ghazipur and Neemuch.

(d) The Government is exploring the possibility of converting the Alkaloid Plants into a corporate entity enjoying larger powers and greater autonomy in matters like upgradation of technology and enhancing production capacity etc.

[Translation]

### Clearance to Power Projects

5147. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pace of implementation of power projects in 1996-97 has been dismal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of implementation of power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) During the course of monitoring and review of implementation of power projects, the major constraints have been found to be paucity of funds apart from other factors like delays in land acquisition, delays in taking up infrastructural and enabling works, delays in obtaining statutory clearances including environmental and forest clearances etc.

In order to ensure timely completion of power projects, Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority closely monitor the progress and render timely assistance, wherever required, by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities.

*[English]***Extradition of Italian Businessman**

5148. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some diplomatic exercise to extradite Italian Businessman Octavio Quattrocchi involved in the Bofors payoff case has been initiated;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether Malaysian Government has failed to execute the arrest Warrant of Italian businessman despite existence of Commonwealth extradition scheme between India and Malaysia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) A team of CBI officers visited Malaysia from 14.2.97 to 18.2.97 and through diplomatic channels contacted the concerned Malaysian authorities to ascertain the legal formalities, procedures and evidentiary requirements to enable processing of the extradition request by the Malaysian authorities. However, it has been decided to initiate the process only after further material has been collected in this regard as investigations within India and outside are under progress and certain Letters Rogatory have been/are being sent for investigation to various countries.

(c) and (d) The Commonwealth Extradition Scheme is only recommendatory in nature and not binding. Extradition agreements between countries are either on the basis of a bilateral extradition treaty or on the basis of an arrangement. With Malaysia, India neither has an extradition treaty nor any arrangement for the extradition of fugitive offenders.

(e) However, the Malaysian authorities have indicated their willingness to cooperate with India provided the legal formalities, procedures and evidentiary requirements under Malaysian laws are fulfilled.

*[Translation]***Loan to Farmers**

5149. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced to waive loans of the farmers to the tune of Rs. 10 thousand and if so, whether the same has been implemented in several States;

(b) the reasons for recovering the loans by the banks from the farmers of Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribagh of Bihar by attachment and increasing the interest 4-5 fold

(c) whether the Government propose to waive their loans;

(d) if not, whether to provide relief to the farmers the Government would realise principal amount only in 3-4 instalments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the year 1990 Government of India announced a debt relief scheme called "Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990", whereby the loans availed by farmers, landless labourers, artisans and weavers in rural areas who were unable to repay the accumulated dues as on 2nd October, 1989 to Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks, were written off subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower. On similar lines, schemes were formulated by State Governments for borrowers of cooperatives in which case Government of India shared 50% of the burden on account of debt relief provided. The scheme came to end on 31st March 1991 in all States and Union Territories except the States of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir where it ended on 30 June, 1991. Final settlement of claims were made and the period of scheme was treated as 31 March 1995.

(b) The recovery of loans and advances including to agriculture is a continuing process undertaken by credit institutions. The recoveries are made having due regard to terms and conditions governing such loans and advances and necessary provisions of law.

(c) to (e) The ARDR Scheme, 1990 was a one time measure. No such proposals are under the consideration of the Central Government.

*[English]***Import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks**

5150. SHRI E. AHAMED :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether clearance of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks ROB for corrective spectacles has been stopped by Commissioner of Customs-I New Customs House, near IGI Airport against the Bill of Entries filled by importers during July/October, 1996 and the matter is under investigation by SIIB, New Customs House since these consignments were heavily under-invoiced;

(b) if so, the details of such importers alongwith their consignments;

(c) whether these importers have been issued show cause notices in the month of March, 1997 for loading the under-invoiced amount into under-invoiced price and there-after charging customs duty on such enhanced price thereby saving themselves from FERA cases, CBI and Sales tax enquiries;

(d) if so, the reasons for not referring this import scam to all the above authorities for investigating their past imports during the last three years in which they have saved



the customs duty and Sales tax worth crores of rupees; and

(e) the action taken against the culprit customs officials since these importers have taken anticipatory bail ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Two consignment of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks have been imported by Enterprises Trading Company, New Delhi vide B/E No. 152932 dated 15.10.96 valued at Rs. 21.35 lakhs and M/s. Indian Optics Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi vide B/E No. 109497 dated 4.10.96 valued at Rs. 6.50 lakhs.

(c) to (e) A show cause notice has been issued on 10.3.97 to M/S. Enterprises Trading Co., in Delhi. Show cause notice is under preparation for issue to M/s Indian Optics Pvt. Ltd.. The investigation for imports made by them during earlier years is continuing. Action is taken under FERA, Sales Tax and by CBI under independent Acts and by separate agencies, any action taken by any other agencies under any other Law. Issue of Show cause notice by the Customs does not prevent investigation by such other agencies.

#### Indo-Pak Joint Working Group

5151. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan during the talks in Delhi have decided to set up joint working group to deal exclusively with one or more issues of bilateral interest;

(b) if so, the other issues on which agreement has been reached;

(c) whether India rejected Pakistan's criticism on Kashmir issue and spelt out holding of Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, whether any date has been fixed for another talk; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The talks concluded without any final agreement on issues discussed.

(c) We expressed our concern about Pakistan's support for terrorism in J&K and the proxy war it has instigated. We cited the successful holding of Parliamentary and Assembly elections in J&K and the restoration of the democratic process and urged Pakistan to refrain from supporting cross border terrorism.

(d) and (e) It was agreed that the discussions between the two countries would continue in Islamabad on dates to be mutually decided.

#### Child Labour

5152. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of pilot projects for the welfare of child labour set up in the country till March, 1997 as per the recommendations of International Labour Organisation;

(b) the number of such child projects have been set up in Maharashtra alongwith their locations; and

(c) the details regarding the procedure followed with regard to funding and controlling of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Under ILO's International Programme on the elimination of child labour, a total of 120 action programmes and 69 mini programmes on child labour have been funded. These programmes are in different stages of completion. A list of IPEC action programme in Maharashtra and their locations. is given in the attached statement.

(c) The projects sanctioned under IPEC are monitored by ILO-IPEC according to a detailed financial and monitoring procedure which includes a quarterly reporting system developed under IPEC. After the initial payment and signing of agreement, the subsequent payments are made on receipt and acceptance of quarterly reports. The final payment is made only on satisfactory implementation and receipt of final report. The overall monitoring of the programme rests with the National Steering Committee which is chaired by the Labour Secretary.

#### Statement

##### List of IPEC Action Programme in Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Implementing Agency in Maharashtra	Title of the IPEC Programme and the location
1	2	3
1.	All India Trade Union Congress	Sensitising trade union activists and encouraging education amongst child labourers (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted)
2.	Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur	Raising awareness through workers training programme in 12 regions in South West India (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted).
3.	Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur	Workshop for NGOs on Management evaluation and design of IPEC Action Programmes was held in Bombay for NGOs in the North-West States (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted)

1	2	3
4.	Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action, Bombay	Campaign against child labour (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted)
5.	Snehankeet, Pune	Non-formal education and vocational training to child labourers in Pune, Maharashtra
6.	Centre of Indian Trade	Support union members, Unionworkers in general and the public on combating child labour in six hazardous and two non-hazardous industries (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted)
7.	Thekedar Kamgar Sangh Pune	Sensitizing union members on child labour in the beedi industry in the Pune district of Maharashtra.
8.	National Centre for Rural Development	Educating and providing skills to the child workers of Nagpur
9.	Indian National Trade Union Congress	Child Labour Cell in the INTUC (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted)
10.	All India Organisation of Employers	A programme to motivate and sensitise employers' and workers' organisations on the elimination of child labour in hazardous industries (Maharashtra is one of the States targeted)
11.	National Safety Council Bombay	Raising awareness on the hazard to the safety and health of working children in selected industries (Rajasthan and U.P.)

*List of IPEC Mini Programme in Maharashtra*

Sl. No.	Implementing Agency in Maharashtra	Title of the IPEC Programme and the location
1	2	3
1.	Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action-Campaign Against Child Labour), Bombay	Part funding of National Convention of Child Labourers held in Madras

1	2	3
2.	Institute for Socially Disadvantaged Groups Educational Improvement, Kohlapur, Maharashtra	Orientation for young women and parents on child labour held in Kohlapur
3.	The Labour and Tribal Welfare Institution Buldana, Maharashtra	Workshop on Child Labour in Buldana District in Maharashtra
4.	INTUC-Maharashtra Regional Cell Bombay	Counseling workshops for parents of child labourers against sending their children to work
5.	Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies, Bombay	To trace the history of a few cases of inspection undertaken by inspectors trained by the Maharashtra Institute of Labour Studies under the Enforcement Training Programme of IPEC
6.	Maharashtra Rajya Vidi Kamgar Sangh, Pune	Training Workshop for activists of BMS Trade Unions in Sangli district, Maharashtra
7.	Maharashtra Rajya Vidi Kamgar Sangh, Pune	Training Workshop for activists of the BMS Trade Unions in Pune district, Maharashtra
8.	Maharashtra Rajya Vidi Kamgar Sangh, Pune	Training Workshop for activists of the BMS Trade Unions in Nasik Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra

[Translation]

**Foreign Assistance for Civic Amenities**

5153. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Governments of Italy and Japan are willing to provide funds to improve civic amenities for the betterment of environment and providing employment and many a time project reports in this regard have been demanded by them but the Administration of Municipal Corporations have not finalised the concerned schemes, resulting in most of the schemes being taken back from them; and

(b) if so, the action being contemplated by the States and the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No such specific case has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Assistance to Bangladesh**

5154. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :  
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangladesh has sought assistance from India for the completion of its power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise;

(c) the assistance provided by the Indian Government to Bangladesh for the purpose, so far, till date;

(d) the details of agreements held in this regard; and

(e) the number and names of other countries to which Indian Government are providing funds for their power projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) Bangladesh Government is financing the Rajshahi Power Distribution Project Phase-II from the credit line of Rs. 30 Crores extended by Government of India in 1991. During the recent Joint Economic Commission Meeting Bangladesh side stated that they had a supplementary requirement for Rs. 7 crores for completion of the Rajshahi Power Distribution Project-II.

(e) The Indian Government is providing funds to three countries, viz. Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan for power projects.

#### **BIFR**

5155. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI L. RAMANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases assigned to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction since its inception;

(b) the number of cases which have been finalised by this Board till March 31, 1997;

(c) the number of cases in which recommendations have been made for re-opening and closure of sick industries; and

(d) the number of cases recommended for the re-opening have been approved by the Government and the number of those cases which have been rejected for this purpose alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 1899 references were registered with

it since its establishment in May 1987 and upto 31.03.1997.

(b) 1540 cases were finalised by the BIFR upto 31.03.1997.

(c) 594 rehabilitation schemes (including 27 schemes sanctioned by Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) were sanctioned for revival of the sick industrial companies during this period. 514 cases were recommended by the BIFR to concerned High Courts for winding up.

(d) As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), sick industrial companies including such companies in the public sector are required to be referred to the BIFR for determination of remedial and other measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. Where a scheme for revival of a sick industrial company is sanctioned by the BIFR under section 17(2) and 18(4) of SICA, all concerned agencies including Government agencies are required to provide facilities in terms of the sanctioned scheme.

#### **Vacant Post**

5156. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Deputy Commissioners of Income Tax in Bihar lying vacant and since when;

(b) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled and the officers posted will join;

(c) whether the officers are reluctant to join the posts in Bihar;

(d) if so, whether Government have identified the reasons for the reluctance; and

(e) the efforts proposed to encourage the officers to join their posts in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) At present, there are 5 posts of Deputy Commissioners of Income Tax lying vacant in Bihar Region;

(b) to (e) The posts of Deputy Commissioners of Income Tax which are lying vacant in Bihar region are to be filled up in the course of annual general transfers and on the basis of recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committee.

#### **Use of Staff Car in ESI Corporation**

5157. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instructions of Government of India regarding use of staff cars by senior officers from residence to office and vice-versa are applicable in E.S.I. Corporation also;

(b) if so, whether these instructions are being followed strictly;

(c) whether some senior officers of E.S.I. Corporation, who are not entitled to this facility are using the staff car for the above said purpose;

(d) whether these instructions have been circumvented by some officers for using the staff car unauthorisedly;

(e) whether any recovery for unauthorised use has been made; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) The ESI Corporation is a statutory autonomous body set up under the ESI Act, 1948. However, the instructions issued by the Government of India regarding use of Staff Car by Senior Officers are generally followed by the ESI Corporation. Accordingly, senior officers of the ESIC are being provided staff car from residence to office and vice-versa on prescribed rates. Staff cars are also being provided for other officers in discharge of their official duties as and when required. No incidence of unauthorised use of staff car has been reported by the ESIC.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got a list of members who have already given notices.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, I have also given a privilege notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You raise it during the Zero Hour which is why Zero Hour has also been regulated here. I will give you a chance.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : As per the rules laid down, privilege matters get priority soon after the Question Hour is over. That is way I am seeking your permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you given the notice of privilege ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, Sir, I gave it yesterday. I met the hon. Speaker also and he told me to take it up today. This is very clear that papers are not laid before privilege matters are taken up. Privilege matters are taken up before taking any other item after the Question Hour is over.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I have given a notice of breach of privilege against the former Secretary-General. The Speaker said that he was enquiring from the former Secretary-General whose statement was deogatory to the Parliament and the Parliamentarians. I gave the privilege notice long back, in the last session itself. The Speaker said he was enquiring into the matter from the former Secretary-General Shri Subhash C. Kashyap and he would inform the House. Three months are already over. Shri Kashyap is very much in town. Nothing has come out. I want to know about this. He has insulted the entire Parliament and the Members

of Parliament. He has insulted the Chair of the Speaker and all the people working at the Table. This is not a right thing. And he is enjoying everyday. What is this ? Can we not catch hold of anybody ? Are we so poor ? The Parliament should stand on its own feet.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice of breach of privilege against the Allorney General. He has also insulted the entire House. I had given my notice on 29th but so far no chance has been given to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me take up the Business. First of all papers to be laid on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the rules, privilege matters should be taken first before the Papers are laid on the Table.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we have started it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have got a point of order Sir, our rule says that privilege matters should be taken-up immediately after the Question Hour is over – only then any other items should be taken up.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly read out that portion.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : He is saying right but it is in practice that privilege motions are usually raised only after the Papers have been laid on the Table.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with him.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If Atal ji has said this then it is O.K.

12.02 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### Annual Reports and Accounts of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ending on 31st March, 1996 and Auditors Report thereon

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1996, together with Auditor's Report thereon :-

- (i) Kamraz Rural Bank, Sopore Kashmir.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1860/97]

- (ii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Krishnagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1861/97]
- (iii) Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1862/97]
- (iv) Sagar Gramin Bank, Calcutta.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1863/97]
- (v) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kota.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1864/97]
- (vi) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1865/97]
- (vii) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1866/97]
- (viii) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Suri.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1867/97]
- (ix) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1868/97]
- (x) Subansiri Gaonalia Bank, North Lakhimpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1869/97]

(2) A copy of the Income tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 184 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1997 under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1870/97]

(3) A copy of the wealth tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 169 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1997 under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the wealth-tax Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1871/97]

**Memorandum of Understanding between the Rural Electrification Corporation and the Ministry of Power for the year 1997-98**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rural Electrification Corporation and the Ministry of Power for the year 1997-98.  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1872/97]
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the

Power Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1873/97]

**Review by the Government and the Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Ltd., Calcutta for the year 1995 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1874/97]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1875/97]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1876/97]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1877/97]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1878/97]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1879/97]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1880/97]

(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1881/97]

(viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1882/97]

(ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the IBP Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1883/97]

(4) A copy of the production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English versions) between the Government of India and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Vaalco Energy, INC Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited, Tata Petrodyne Limited with respect to contract area identified as Block CY-OS/2.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1884/97]

(5) A copy of the production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English versions) between the Government of India and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Vaalco Energy, INC. Tata Petrodyne Limited, Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Limited with respect to contract area identified as Block CB-OS/1.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1885/97]

(6) A copy of the production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English versions) between the Government of India and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Essar Oil Limited with respect to contract area identified as Block BB-OS/5.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1886/97]

(7) A copy of the production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English versions) between the Government of India and the Oil India Limited and the Essar Oil Limited with respect to contract area identified as Block RJ-ON-90/4.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1887/97]

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Building Construction Corporation Ltd., New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the

National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1888/97]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited and the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1889/97]

**L.I.C. of India Rules, 1997**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to the Chairman and Managing Directors) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 77(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1890/97]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of Section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 :-

(i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 108(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1997.

(ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Development Staff) (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. S.O. 145(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1891/97]

(3) A copy of the Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum, under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1892/97]

- (4) A copy of the Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 224(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1997 under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1893/97]

12.05 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS  
AND RESOLUTIONS

**Eighth Report**

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

**Second and Third Reports**

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances :

- (1) Second Report on requests for dropping of certain assurances.
- (2) Third Report on the implementation of the assurance in respect of Purulia Arms Dropping.

12.06 hrs.

MOTION RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, only yesterday I have given notice about breach of privilege. I also met the hon. Speaker in this regard. He allowed me to raise it today. The matter is that it was published in the Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, No.-1128, Dt.-1st May that -

[English]

**"No. 1128 Arrest and Release of Shri Nitish Kumar**

The following communication dated the 30th April, 1997, addressed to the Speaker, Lok Sabha by the Magistrate, Patna, Bihar was received on the 1st May, 1997 :

Shri Nitish Kumar, Member of Lok Sabha was arrested on the 28th April, 1997 under Section 151 of the Cr. P.C. by the Zonal Officer and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Patna, Bihar for apprehension of breach of peace.

He was released on Personal Bond, the same day."

[Translation]

This is the Bulletin. Mr. Chairman, Sir, my notice of breach of privilege is on two points.

[English]

This is regarding intimation to Speaker regarding arrest, detention etc. and release of Member, Rule 229 states clearly and I quote :

"When a member is arrested on a criminal charge or for a criminal offence or is sentenced to imprisonment by a court or is detained under an executive order, the committing judge, magistrate or executive authority, as the case may be shall immediately intimate such fact to the Speaker indicating the reasons for the arrest, detneion or conviction, as the case may be, as also the place of detention or imprisonment of the member in the appropriate form set out in the Third Schedule."

[Translation]

The term "shall immediately intimate" means the intimation of such facts within 24 hours or the same day itself. It does not mean that intimation should reach after three days. He himself said that I was arrested on 28th April and the intimation thereof was sent by the District Magistrate on 30 April which was received here on 1st May i.e. after three days of his arrest. Contray to this, it should have reached within one, two or three hours. Bihar is a part of the country and it is not out of India. Then why was not this intimation sent immediately ? This is a matter of breach of privilege .....(Interruptions)

My second point pertains to a false information.

[English]

It says, 'He was released on Personal Bond, the same day.

[Translation]

I did not execute any Personal Bond and nothing like Personal Bond was required. Nobody else on my behalf can give Personal Bond. I also did not execute any Personal Bond.

The fact of the matter is that when C.B.I decided to chageshent the people involved in fodder scam, we also decided to take out a procession. On April, 28th we were marching in a procession on the streets of Patna where we were arrested at Dak Bunglow Crossing. When we enquired on what charges we were being arrested, we were merely told that we were being taken under arrest. After the arrest, at a distance of two furlong, we.....(Interruptions) I am finishing within one minute. We were lodged in the Kotwali at a distance of only two furlong from the site of the arrest. When we enquired about the reasons for our detention in the Kotwali, the police official present there come before us with folded hands and said that it was a matter of his livelihood. The District Magistrate had ordered him to detain us for half-an-hour more. We realised that since he was a junior officer and incase we would go out from there, he may lose his job and, hence, we remained there. After half-an-hour he told us that now we were released and we can go back to our

respective places. We went back to our homes. When I came here, I saw in the Bulletin that I have been released on Personal Bond. But where is that Personal Bond ? It is a malacious intention to defame us. This is a misinformation which has misled the House. It is clearly written in "Kaul and Shakdher".....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not go into the details. I am telling you.....

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I want to make my submission. It is in the interest of the House. So, please give me one minute's time.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has already been requested, on 06.05.1997 to furnish comments, officially. Therefore, you need not go further.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is no question of Home Ministry in it. In Kaul and Shakdhar", fourth edition, page no. 246, there is a clear mention.

[*English*]

about presenting false, forged or fabricated documents to the House or its committee. I quote :

"It is a breach of privilege and contempt of the House to present false, forged or fabricated documents to either House or to a Committee thereof with a view to deceive them."

[*Translation*]

This is true that I did not execute any Personal Bond then why any comment is expected from Home Ministry. I will resign right now from the membership of this House, if I had executed any Personal Bond. Nothing can be more big false than this one. This has been done by some indecent officers in order to bring defame to me, insult me and misled the House. The District Magistrate sent the information after a gap of three days which is the contempt of the House. This is against the laid down rules and constitutes breach of privilege. I would insist to proceed further with the case.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, you know that on such matters, we always get the official version certified and then only we proceed further. Accordingly, the Speaker has already referred this matter to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for his comments. When we receive his comments, we will go further. How can we do it now ? Let us go to the next item — Zero Hour.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What official version is there in this, it is simple. Whether this intimation is correct or false.....(*Interruptions*) since I am saying that I did not furnish any Personal Bond.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I am not on the facts of the case which are by themselves very disturbing. I am only on the substance of the matter — the substance relating to the privilege of a Member of this House — the privilege arising firstly, from a delayed submission of information about detention and secondly, that submission which is factually in error. Therefore, it is deliberately misleading the House.

Now, your suggestion that this has been sent to the hon. Home Minister, I am afraid, with due respect, misses the point. The hon. Home Minister comes in, when the Government has to explain if it has either failed to do or has done something. In this case, the issue is squarely and only of privilege and the factors involved are the hon. Member, this House and the Chair. In this case, there are only two options open — either this House should decide the issue of privilege now without reference to the Privileges Committee or to refer it to the Privileges Committee.

In the first case, the House can take cognizance of the matter. This is as per the rules. But if, however, you feel and if the hon. Members feel that the House should not take care of it, then I do urge you to refer the matter immediately to the Privileges Committee and not to the hon. Home Minister. The hon. Home Minister does not even come into the picture. There are only two courses open — either the House seizes of the matter and immediately dispose of the matter or it may be referred to the Privileges Committee. This is what I urge you to do.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : I just want to say only this much. Whatever is said now, is adding insult to injury.

[*Translation*]

Such messages are sent deliberately. The District Magistrate has deliberately misled this House. The hon. Member has stood on his legs to say that he did not furnish any Personal Bond and if it is false, it has been concocted by the District Magistrate. Better if we ask for the facts in this regard either from the state Government or the said District Magistrate or from the Home Minister of that state. Only after that a decision can be taken about this matter. If the House fail to take a decision in this matter and if you deem it fit then better to refer the case this moment itself to the Privilege Committee. This is a matter of the honour and dignity of the House. This is not someone's personal matter.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I want to make a submission. As he has very correctly — as he normally does — summed it up, there are two issues. One of the issues is delayed submission. If the submission is delayed, we can immediately call for action and no proof is necessary. If it is a fact that he was arrested on a particular day and any communication reaching the Speaker has been delayed, immediately it causes a censure. That is one aspect. The other aspect is, he is making an assertion that what they have said regarding personal bond is an untruth.



Now, I do not think there is any scope of a reference to the Home Ministry at all. If his assertion is true, then he has to be punished.....(*Interruptions*)... Why do you not bear with me ? I do support that the matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee immediately. There is no scope. If you feel hesitant, then a reference to the hon. Speaker may be made.....(*Interruptions*)..It is all right that he is in the Chair but he has conceded few things in life.....(*Interruptions*)...The matter does require an immediate reference and whether it is there or not is a different matter altogether. It has to be referred to the Privileges Committee in order to uphold the prestige of the House and the Members of the House. There is no doubt on that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : The facts are before this House and I do think that on the basis of the facts which are presented to the House, it is not difficult for us to come to a conclusion that a breach of privilege has been committed because we can rely upon the assertions made by Shri Nitish Kumar here.

There are two facts. One is, information is delayed and the other is that the bond was not executed by him. We can rely upon him on these two facts. But generally, the practice which is followed by this House is this. We do not punish anybody without hearing him. If this august body, this Parliament, punishes any officer or anybody without hearing him, then I think, it would not be proper. So, generally, the procedure which is followed by us in this House is, the moment a notice is given, it is sent to the person against whom the notice is given and we call for the information. Generally, we get the information saying that they regret for what they have done. The expression of 'regret' is sometimes accepted and sometimes not accepted. In my opinion, in this case, if the notice is given, if it is sent to the Home Minister, it means it is sent to the State Government and through the State Government, it will go to the officer who had not informed this House as he was expected to inform. Now, if the officer expresses regret and begs for pardon, it is for Shri Nitish Kumar, this House and the Presiding Officer to accept that expression of regret. If he comes to the conclusion that it is not sufficient and he should be called to the bar of the House and punished – if that is decided in the wisdom of this House – then, we can do that also. But I do think that the judiciary or the Parliament or any other body which is sitting on judgement on anybody should not proceed against anybody without hearing him. I do think that it would be keeping with the dignity of this House to come to a conclusion properly. I have no doubt in my mind and I know Shri Nitish Kumar. I know what he is saying must be 100 per cent correct and he will ultimately win. But this body should not take any action without hearing the officer. Otherwise, it will not be proper. It may be left for the House to decide.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We are saying that it should be sent to the Privileges Committee.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is our respected former Speaker. Taking it to the Privileges Committee does not mean taking an action. He may express regrets about delay.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have had your say. Please be seated. Now let me hear Shri Sharad Pawar also.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Here, the hon. Member, Shri Nitish Kumar, has made a categorical statement that he has not given any bond.

And the House has been wrongly informed that he is released on bond. I think, it is a clear-cut case and we should send it to the Committee of Privileges. I do not say that you take action against any officer. The Committee of Privileges will definitely send a notice to the concerned officer. That Committee will give an opportunity to him. He will get an opportunity to say what exactly he wants to say. There should not be a direct action. But when the hon. Member is making a categorical statement here that he has not given any bond and if the House has been informed, otherwise, I think, it is a fit case. We should send this matter straightaway to the Committee of Privileges.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, whatever has been said by Shri Nitish Kumar ji, I extend my full support to that because I have suffered such humiliation. I, through you, want to let this House know that whenever such incidents take place, the matter is enquired into and the report thereof is submitted. One such incident occurred with me when a police officer in Ahmedabad slapped me in front of everyone on a square of the city. That time Shri Shivraj Patil was sitting in the Chair. I raised that matter before him. The report was sought and submitted but with the narration that no such incident took place.

[*English*]

I have lost the power of hearing from the left ear because of slapping by that police officer. We had asked for a report. The report had come from the Government. That was a political report that that sort of an incident had never taken place. So, I plead that this sort of an incident, or whenever such a thing happens, should be referred to the Committee of Privileges where the concerned officer should also have an ample opportunity to defend himself. Why are we not unanimous on this issue ?

[*Translation*]

Whenever such incident takes place, matter should be referred to the Committee on Privilege. Asking for a report is not proper, for it gives a chance to the culprits to protect themselves. Therefore I extend my support to Shri Nitish Kumar ji.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, in the case of Shri Nitish Kumar ji, at least his arrest was intimated but when we were arrested on the 25th and released after two hours, report regarding our arrest was not intimated.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter pertaining to privileges given to the M.Ps. is a very sensitive issue. Under the circumstances in

which M. Ps. are required to discharge their duties, very often such kind of situations arise. Being in the chair, you are responsible for protecting the special privileges accorded to them. The Home Minister or the Government is not responsible for protecting their rights and also not empowered to do so when such a categorical statement has been made, it becomes your responsibility to take a decision in this regard and immediately refer this issue to the Privilege Committee. Instead of sending a notice to the Home Minister and seeking his opinion, this matter can be taken up by the Privileges Committee itself. Shri Sharad Pawar has just said that referring a matter to the Privilege Committee does not amount to awarding the punishment. The matter has to be referred to the Privileges Committee for investigation and you have to take a decision in this regard. The Home Minister or the Government have no role in it. You are responsible for protecting those privileges, not the Home Minister or the Government. There is no need to debate this argument further. You can take a decision yourself on the basis of statement made by Shri Nitish Kumar. You have to take a decision immediately and refer the matter to the Privilege Committee.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire House is has a unanimous view in this matter. The way Shri Nitish Kumar has raised this matter and challenged that if what he has said turns out to be untrue he will resign his seat. It is very much apparent that whatever he has stated is true and his sentiments have been hurt. It could be possible that there may have been a delay of a day or two but he has submitted a personal bond.

He has certainly given a personal bond and there is no mistake therein. Then this has been said to insult him. Hon'ble Shivraj Patil has referred to the conventions of the House. There is no denying about that. But this is also true that sometimes such circumstances arise when the House has to take a decision immediately. Even if there may have been some mistake in the first case but on the second time, the intention was to insult Hon'ble Member. Hence you should exercise your rights and refer the matter to the Privileges Committee.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I am sorry I was in the other House. I did hear neither the discussion on the report nor the statement of Shri Nitish Kumar. I am hearing about it now from the other Members. From what I gather, the report of the police has been flatly contradicted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The intimation to the Secretariat was delayed. It reached here two days later. That is one thing.

Secondly, with regard to the personal bond which has been referred to here, it has not been given at all. There are the two things.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Apart from the two days delay, he has categorically denied the question of giving any personal bond, whereas the police says that he gave a personal bond.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Speaker has referred this matter to you for your comments.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, my comment is that if these two things are involved, then, I think, the matter should go to the Privileges Committee....(Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (Mahendergarh) : Sir, I want to say something.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, now there is no point in debating this issue. When the hon. Speaker referred this matter to the hon. Home Minister for his comments and the hon. Minister is unanimous with the view of the House and has said that the matter should go to the Privileges Committee, the matter should end there....(Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Sir, I am sorry to say that I have a different view on this subject. The hon. Member has been insulted. He has made a categorical statement. In this way we are cutting our own hands. Shri Harin Pathak has said that no action was taken when he was insulted. Now again you are referring it to the Privileges Committee.

Sir, I think, the House is unanimous that we should take a decision now and summon that officer....(Interruptions) We should summon that officer here. Otherwise we would be a party to denigrating the privileges of our own Members....(Interruptions) Shri Nitish Kumar has said that he is prepared to resign. Are we doubting his words ? What further enquiry would the Privileges Committee make ? We must trust one of our own colleagues. We should summon that officer and should ask for his explanation....(Interruptions) That is my view.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : It would be against the tenets of natural justice to give punishment on basis of one sided views.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, since you are yet to take a decision on the subject, I would once again like to plead before you that a very serious matter was taken up earlier in this Session concerning the conduct and statement of the former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri Subhash Kashyap. I had moved that privilege motion. The hon. Speaker...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

That is not a separate matter. He has insulted the House. Why refer to it as a separate case ? This is my opinion about all such cases we are unanimous in this regard. Kindly listen to us first. Do not discriminate in this regard.

[English]

Sir, I would only like to request you that there was a commitment by the hon. Speaker that he would ascertain the facts from Shri Kashyap and inform the House whether the matter would be referred to the Privileges Committee or not. I only desire and would like to submit to you that the matter should be decided very quickly at least by the end of

this Session because the matter is still alive and people are making mockery of Parliament. That is not fair.

I must submit that it should be done before the end of this Session. He has condemned the Speaker, and the Members of Parliament of both the ruling as well as the Opposition Parties in a language which I cannot explain to you. If we still keep quiet and nothing is done, I am very sorry about it. Col. Rao was talking about the rights and privileges of the Members. But this gentleman has condemned the entire Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We should find out whether the comments have been received or not; if not, action has to be taken.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Let us have your ruling, Sir. How long can we go on discussing it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If this matter is to be referred to the Privileges Committee somebody will have to move the motion and the motion has to be accepted by the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will have to read this motion then.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I beg to move :

"That the matter relating to the alleged delay in sending the intimation regarding arrest of Shri Nitish Kumar, M.P., on 28 April, 1997 in Patna, Bihar and furnishing of a factually incorrect information in this respect to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, by the District Magistrate, Patna, be referred to the Committee of Privileges for examination and report."

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : I support it.....(Interruptions) I am on a point of order .....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not talk like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, please listen to me.....(Interruptions) What sort of justice is being done ? Atrocities are committed on a dalit woman and we are not even allowed to raise the matter. Do we have any rights or not ? You speak of women's rights but in this case atrocities have been committed on a dalit woman.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may sit down. When I am standing, you cannot stand like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You speak of dalits but you are giving punishment without having listened to the other party. Please listen to the facts of the case and thereafter you may take a decision but please ask for a report in this regard. It is necessary to find out the truth only

then decision should be taken. Please refer the matter to the Privilege Committee and give them the punishment. If they are punished, they are prepared to undergo punishment also but such an injustice should not be done to a dalit and helpless woman.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter is being referred to the Privileges Committee. The officers concerned or anybody can appear before it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have asked for a report you are referring it without asking for the Report first. It can be referred to the Privileges Committee at any stage.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this is the mood of the House.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The motion has already been moved. This is such a serious matter.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : He has not done anything wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not saying anything.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : If there is a dissenting voice, it should be heard.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I gave him the floor.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I asked him if he has to say anything.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we seek justice.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you wish to say something, you may do so.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Instead of sending it to the Privileges Committee.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has been given the floor but he is not saying anything.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the incident that is under discussion.....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have decided to refer this matter to the Privileges Committee just now.....(Interruptions)

\*Not Recorded.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : The decision has not been taken as yet ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may sit down. When I am standing, you cannot stand like this. Let me hear him.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not allow anybody to speak in the House.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to say something, you may do so.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : My submission is that in case the prestige and dignity of any Hon'ble Member is threatened, it is not as if we are asking you not to take any action in this regard but when action is being taken against certain persons the Collector and the officials ....(Interruptions) Please listen to me....(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what my point is that we should definitely pay attention to all the aspects of the case and give natural justice. If you take any decision without listening to them, it will not be justice....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to him first.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want that report should be sought through the Union Home Ministry to find out the truth. Thereafter you will be able to take a decision on the basis of the Report. Ms. Rajbala Verma is a very dynamaic officer, a dalit woman. We speak of dalits and women's right but injustice is being done to them. In my opinion, if any biased action is taken against her, it will not be a justice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my humble request to you that you should give a sympathetic consideration to the matter before taking any decision in this regard and you should take into account the fact that that lady is innocent. It is possible that there may have been some lapse in submitting the Report or some wrong decision may have been taken. But please find out the truth before taking any decision. It will be against the principles of natural justice to take a decision without having listened to what the other side has to say about it. It is not right to rely on the version of just one party. Hence my submission is that I support the motion moved and the matter raised by Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Patil. If you had taken a decision after having investigated into the matter, your action would have been more justified. I request you to ask for a detailed Report and then take any action and in that case, it will be acceptable to all of us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As Shri Shivraj Patil has stated that this is the convention of the House that comments are sought in the case of violation of privileges. When I sought the comments of Minister of Home Affairs, he himself said that the matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee directly. He is not taking any decision in any case. In this regard, the House may.....

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You have to take the decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This decision has been taken that this is a matter of privilege.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : This is a matter of your discretion. You may seek the comments of the House and Hon'ble Minister but the decision has to be taken by you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am already listening to you and I seek justice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is the opinion of all the leaders of the House that this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee. Referring the matter to the Committee does not mean giving punishment to anybody. All the proofs would be submitted there. If punishment is recommended, the matter would be taken up once again in the House. Hence the motion moved by Shri Jaswant Singh and seconded by Shri Sharad Pawar is being put to the vot of the House.

[English]

The question is :

"That the matter relating to the alleged delay in sending the intimation regarding arrest of Shri Nitish Kumar, M.P., on 28 April, 1997 in Patna, Bihar and furnishing of a factually incorrect information in this respect to the Speaker, Lok Sabha, by the District Magistrate, Patna, be referred to the Committee of Privileges for examination and report."

*The Motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter which I am raising today is not a matter to be discussed in brief because it has wider implication.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain news items have been published under various headings on the Front page and Editorial page of Hindi Daily 'Jansatta' on 4th, 6th and 7th May. The news is that the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral has stated in an interview broadcast through Star TV last Friday that the American fighter planes were allowed to be refuelled at the Indian airports during the Gulf war. Replying to the adjournment motion moved in Lok Sabha, the then Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar said that he had allowed the refuelling. This newsitems have raised certain suspicious. The people of the country would like to know as to who had allowed it. Why this matter is being raised now ? What is the secret behind raising the matter now ? A very heated discussion was held in the House on this matter on 22 February 1991 and a adjournment motion was also moved by Shri A.K. Rai in the House as to who had permitted the refuelling of American fighter planes at Indian airports ? The C.P.I., C.P.M. and Congress party members had created a furore and criticised Shri Chandra Shekhar.

C.P.M. Party headed this verbal attack and the severest criticism was made by Shri Gujral. I would like to quote Shri Gujral.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you continue speaking in this manner ? This is the zero hour. This is not the time to deliver speeches. Members have to be brief in the zero hour.

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : I would like to quote him. He had given a statement on Star TV that he had allowed the refuelling of fighter planes at Indian airports. On the other hand, when he spoke on the adjournment motion on 22 February, 1991 in this House the last line of the second paragraph of his speech was :

[*English*]

"But so far as we are concerned, I can only tell you that request for refuelling came to us also which we rejected for the reason that we have already given."

[*Translation*]

At that time he had stated that he did not give the permission and today he admits on Star TV that he had given the permission. Whether India has started dancing to the tunes of U.S.A. ? Have we become sycophants ? It is a question of prestige of the nation because upto now we have followed the policy of non-alignment, not sycophancy. The foreign policy is being discussed since yesterday. We have our own foreign policy and Shri Gujral said that this policy was chalked out during the Freedom struggle and was put into shape by Nehru ji. The Prime Minister had maintained in his earlier statement that he had not given the permission and rejected it. On Star TV, he says that he had given the permission. Shri Chandra Shekhar maintains that he had given the permission. Only one of the two statements is true. Either it is Chandra Shekhar ji or Gujral ji who is speaking the truth. What is the truth.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this controversial matter is being discussed for past few days. Many journalists and friends have asked me to comment on it. But I have no comments to offer because the entire nation and the whole world knows the truth. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and your leaders are very much aware of the true position.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all I have to say is that I do not wish to take any credit for the permission given at that time. That permission was given by the Government of this country. It is not important as to who had given the permission. But I would like to say to my friends who had levelled serious allegations against me and especially to my communist friends and these from the Congress Party that I fail to understand the reasons for their having maintained silence over it for last seven days. If that statement is correct and since Gujral ji is my close friend, I fail to understand as to why did he not lend his support at that time. All I have to say about it is that I do not change my statement with the change in times. I stick to what I had said earlier. At that time also I had said that there was nothing wrong in it and even today I believe it to be the right move. Other people may think about it and ponder over it. If they have not lost their voice and

can speak out, they will do at least some justice to their conscience.

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I regret that some confusion has been caused by a remark made by me in a TV interview in the context of the Gulf Crisis of 1990. The entire Gulf War crisis, so far as India was concerned, carried two parts historically.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, V.P. Singh Government was in office and I was its Foreign Minister. While disapproving the invasion, India kept in step with the UN Security Council Resolution. At the same time, the entire country was very much concerned about the safety and welfare of nearly 170,000 persons help up in Kuwait and another 30,000 in Iraq.

The House will recall that India then undertook a massive evacuation of people; that is now recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. Since, we were supportive of the UN Resolutions, the Government of India was approached to permit, at that time, overflying of the planes; that was a part of the UN operations.

By the time, the Gulf War actually began and this permit of overflying was given, there was a change in the Government in Delhi and Shri Chandra Shekhar, for whom I have great respect, headed the new Government. I am not in a position to say whether permission to refuel of the planes was sought or given by that Government.

A few days ago, while replying to a TV question, there seems to have been some confusion caused that I wish to correct and with regret I say that this wrong impression has gone. During the period of V.P. Singh Government, no permission was sought or given for refuelling.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time in the Zero Hour. I would just state a few things about the industrial scenario.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Industries and hon. Minister of Finance. The workers of national textile units of India are not getting their wages for the last three months because the budgetary support has been withdrawn. The NJMC is facing a crisis because the package has not been cleared. Jute workers are crying at the doors of the factories. In Remington Rand, a known factory, in spite of the intervention of Minister of Labour, the workers have still not got any wages and the unit has not been opened. In the Metal Box factory, in spite of the observation of the BIFR, the workers are crying and committing suicide in Mumbai and Calcutta. MAMC of Durgapur and Shaw Wallace Co. of Calcutta are also facing similar crisis because the Shaw Wallace Managing Director, Manu Chhabaria is looting the empire. There is no intervention by the hon. Finance Minister. Hindustan Copper Unit of Musabani is also facing the similar disaster.

I therefore, request the hon. Ministers of Finance and Labour to take immediate action in this regard. The plight of the sufferings of the NTC workers should be taken due note

of by providing the budgetary support, clearing the package of Jute Mill Corporation and intervening once again in the cases of Remington Rand (Howrah), Metal Box (Calcutta and Mumbai), MAMC (Durgapur), NJMC (Calcutta), Shaw Wallace (Calcutta), Hindustan Copper Metals (Musabani) and National Textile Mill Corporation (All over India).

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue. The scheduled caste women and even M.Ps in Madhya Pradesh are being subjected to many atrocities by the police. Recently, during the last month, a small child was killed in an accident at Kalali Depalpur in my constituency and in protest, people belonging to scheduled caste had blocked the traffic on road, they were also trying to observe bandh in Kalali. Resultantly they were taken into custody by the police. Now they are being subjected to many inhuman sufferings throughout the night. Even women are misbehave and abused when they go to police station for giving food to their relatives.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the police officer who is inflicting such atrocities on these persons, is surprisingly is being given six month's extension. Institution of an enquiry is only an eye wash. People have given even affidavits mentioning the atrocities they are subjected to, but so far no action has been taken.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after fifteen or Twenty days of this incident, there occurred another incident in which a policemen went alone to a scheduled caste area to nab a thief but in the name of catching the thief, he indulged in molestation of women. Men and women are beaten by him. But the most amazing thing is that in spite of such cruelties, these police officers are being granted extension. I through you, demand that stern action should be taken against such police officers and atrocities on SC/ST women should be stopped immediately.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter pertaining to the atrocities on the women of scheduled caste. Therefore, my request is that a report thereon should be asked for from the Government ..... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Primary Health Scheme, intended for the rural poor, was launched upon by the Central and State Governments with much fanfare. But it is a matter of great consternation that its functionaries – several thousands of Community Health Guides and Trained Dais in West Bengal – are being paid very meagerly at Rs. 50 per month, which is almost a day's remuneration in the context of the present spiralling high rise in the prices of essential commodities. Even the unskilled workers are being paid minimum wages, but this category of employees are being totally ignored. So, I demand that the wages of these employees, who render very useful service in the rural areas, are suitably and properly raised with the Central assistance so that they are able to sustain themselves at least.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day we discussed about the virus infection of Hepatitis-B. Now I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India and its Ministry of Health about the spread of the dangerous Tuberculosis disease in India.

More than 1.4 crore people are now suffering from TB. Today, in Delhi over two lakh people are suffering from TB. But the Government of India and the Ministry of Health are claiming that this disease has been prevented and eradicated completely. It is false.

For the last thirty years, in India and abroad medical science and medicines are developed and reformed fastly. In the circumstances, it is high time to review our old TB eradication programme and evolve a new and scientific ways for the purpose. So, I request the hon. Health Minister to take effective steps to contain and eradicate this deadly disease.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Faggan Singh Kuleste, a scheduled caste MP from Mandala constituency of Madhya Pradesh has been sitting on *Dharna* in Mandala for the last many days. Shri Kuleste got his suite reserved in Mandala Circuit House where he went and stayed but when he returned in the evening after a day long tour, he was not allowed to stay in that Circuit House by the SDM in spite of the fact that all the four suites in that Circuit House were vacant. He was humiliated and asked to leave.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain petulant officers are misbehaving with Members of Parliament. He was insulted because he belonged to scheduled caste..... (Interruptions) Such incidents are very common these days in Madhya Pradesh. The M.Ps of scheduled caste are being internationally humiliated. In protest against this incident, he has been sitting on *dharna* for the last eight days with thousands of tribals. I through you, demand that this whole episode should be got enquired into and the officer found guilty of insulting a scheduled caste M.P. should be brought to book.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been giving notices for the last two-three days, but so far my name has not been called..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If your name is in the list, I will definitely call you.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : My name is there in the list?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright. But why are you coming over to here ?

..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to threaten me ?

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are making so much hue and cry that we have to eradicate illiteracy from India. We have to impart education to those who are illiterate by organizing classes for this purpose which we have done. We have granted permission to many schools but the situation today is that these schools are charging very high fees ranging from one thousand to fifteen hundred. There is no check on them when we allot school lands, we put a condition that those schools would reserve 20 per cent seats in the admission for poor students and no fee would be charged from them or they would be imparted education free of any charge. But today these poor children are being ousted from such schools. They are not being given admission in these schools. They are put to many troubles. They are declared as unsuccessful in their exams.

I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this matter and request that such a practice, should be stopped immediately by enacting a suitable law in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter you are raising is a State subject.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : But I have given you a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right that you have given a notice, but it is a State subject.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I have given another notice also in which I have mentioned that due to closure of industry, a poor man has set himself on fire because he had no money for his survival. I do not know as to which subject you have selected for me.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am going by the list. Do not interrupt. By this way, you are losing the time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my notice is in respect of railways. Just now when we were having discussion on the Railway Budget, several hon. Members said that there was a time when people from far flung areas used to come to see a train but now those areas are being linked with railways. However, contrary to this, there are also certain places which were earlier well connected with railways but now rails are being removed from there. The train in which my parents, my son and I, travelled for a long time is no more available now for my grandson. The line between Phatwa and Islampur remained operative for many years which was being run by a company but after nationalisation, that line was removed. I have been raising matter for the last so many years.

I, through you, want to draw the attention of this House towards this matter and request that a new line be laid on that route with the extension upto Bodhgaya. In railways, there are many.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not speaking on the subject for which you have given notice.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : My notice is very much in respect of railways.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your notice is on some other subject.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : I have given my notice only in respect of railways. I have also said in my notice that there are large scale bungling and mismanagement in the railways.....(Interruptions) I have given my notice regarding those mismanagement.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the temple of Guru Ravi Das in Tughalaquabad of Delhi. This temple was constructed 45 years ago and inaugurated on 1.3.59 by the then Railway Minister, Babu Jagjivan Ram. I want to draw your attention as well as the attention of this House towards the dilapidated condition of that temple. Are you aware as to how much damage DDA has caused to this temple ? This 45 years old temple was having its own boundaries which was replaced by the boundaries of DDA which it constructed around the temple.

13.00 hrs.

But now the D.D.A. is demolishing that temple. The area around the temple is inhabited by some of our Dalit and Harijan brothers. The D.D.A. is demolishing their houses also due to which there is a great resentment and anger among the people of the area. My points that this Government on the one hand, claims itself to be the messiah of Dalits and Harijans and on the other, it is allowing the demolition of their houses. There is a road named after Guru Ravi Das. I request you to direct the Government to stop the ongoing demolition immediately.

Shri Jaina is not taking note of my point.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is taking note of it.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : This demolition should be got stopped immediately.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, I want to raise a very important question facing the youth of the country. The very prestigious Joint Entrance Examination of the Indian Institute of Technology was held on 3rd and 4th of this month. For the first time in the history of the Indian Institutes of Technology, the paper was leaked. It is very shocking. This is the only institution which enjoys a very high level of credibility – not only in India but internationally. If the paper is leaked, the credibility of the IITs will be ruined locally and internationally.....(Interruptions) The Controller of Examination has already ordered an enquiry. I request the hon. Minister, who is here, to make a statement on what exactly happened. It is shocking that the paper leak occurred in Bihar and Lucknow. It is very significant.

I request that the role of the private coaching institutions be investigated. They are causing corruption to enter into these prestigious Indian Institute of Technology. There should not be an internal enquiry but an enquiry through C.B.I. and I.B. and all leakage of papers should be checked

and the high credibility enjoyed by the I.I.Ts. should be maintained.....(Interruptions) Sir, the hon. Minister is here. He should make a statement on this, it is a very serious issue.

Thank you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, this is a very serious thing. There should be a statement by the hon. Minister.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Sir, I also gave notice. It is a very serious issue. The hon. Minister should make a statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You and Shri Samik Lahiri have given notices. You can only say that you are associating yourself with Shri Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, the hon. Minister is responding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are two hon. Members associating with you.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, this is very shocking. There is a very bad nexus between the coaching institutions and the concerned authorities.....(Interruptions) I would urge upon the Government to hold a high level enquiry into the matter to check it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may say that you are supporting Shri Chavan. That will do.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, strict punishment should be given to those found guilty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to hear the hon. Minister or not ?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Yes. We want to hear the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : Sir, for the first time, in the history of I.I.T. the Mathematics paper is reported to have been leaked. Immediately after the matter came to the notice, an urgent meeting was held and the Government has already taken a decision to hold re-examination in July. Not only that, the Government has already taken a decision and it has referred the matter to the C.B.I. for enquiry and I.B. also.....(Interruptions) These are very reputed institutions. The credibility and reputation of these institutions will be maintained. The first instance that was reported will not be repeated and we will take all precautions. In this I seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it has caused untold misery to the parents of the students.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards a very serious issue.

As all of you know that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated in the Bay of Bengal, about 1500 km. away from the main land. Wheat and rice is supplied to the Islands by the Government to be sold through PDS at the Fair Price Shops. During the year, 1996-97, the allocation of rice and wheat was 30 thousand tonne and nine thousand tonne respectively. This year the Government have decided to distribute 10 kg. of rice per unit for the people living below poverty line. Today population of these islands is more than 3.5 lakh. From this point of view, PDS quota of rice and wheat should be increased by the Government. But surprisingly this year 1997-98, the allocation of rice and wheat has been reduced from 30 thousand tonne to 12 thousand tonne and from nine thousand tonne to three thousand tonne respectively. Such a situation has been created. All of you know that the islands are situated amidst the sea and this is the monsoon time. During the rainy seasons, ships do not reach in time, thus delaying the delivery of the ration. It means that people of those islands have been virtually put on the verge of starvation.

The Chief Secretary, Secretary and the Deputy Governor of the islands, all of them, have apprised the Union Government of the situation and requested to supply maximum quantity of wheat and rice to islands but just now our Secretary, has told us that there seems no way out to the problem. The Union Government think that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are self sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. But this is not a fact because the rice which is produced there suffice only for local consumption and after which we will not get even one thousand tonne surplus. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should on behalf of the Government clarify the position on this matter and give us an assurance that now onwards there would be no reduction in the PDS allocation of rice and wheat for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only assure the hon. Member that I would bring this issue to the notice of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and steps would be taken to see that there would be no problem in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the bomb blasts which took place recently on the fifth and sixth day of this month itself in East Delhi. The blasts took the lives of fourteen people. The day United Front Government took over the charge at the centre, law and order situation in the capital has started.....(Interruptions)

[English]

Law and order is with the centre.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Do not you have this much knowledge that law and order is with the centre ? Delhi Police is under the Central Government.



SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : The datas made available indicate that in every 16 hours, a murder and a rape case is reported in Delhi. It has been reported in the Women Commision's report that

[English]

Delhi is facing worst crimes against women.

[Translation]

the number of cases of crimes against women are increasing. These are the official figures which tell that 64 cases of murder took place only between two months i.e. January and February of this year and after February almost everyday some or other incident is taking place in the capital. The incidents have increased to such an extent that police have become helpless. On 1st May, the workers were staging a demonstration. Police were also with them but inspite of their presence, a worker set himself afire and they remained a silent onlooker of the scene and did nothing to stop the worker. These incidents are taking place in such a way which indicates or if the police and the Ministry of Home Affairs have become virtually helpless. If law and order situation is like this in the capital then I would like the Home Minister to give a statement on this issue and let us know as to what action is proposed to be taken to keep a check on such incidents. And if the centre fails to maintain the law and order situation in the capital then it should hand over this charge to the Delhi Government so that the Government may hold the State Government responsible for such incidents.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Vijay Goelji, you yourself and Sharmaji have got the same issue you may please say that you to associate yourself with him.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was raising my hands up to say that I had got an important matter to raise, I was told by an hon. Member that the matter of a bomb blast in Delhi did not assume much significance, for bomb blasts were very usual incidents in Delhi. On the 5th at 9.30 P.M. a bomb blast took place in a Maruti Van in Kailash Nagar which claimed the lives of many people. Instead of Kailash Nagar, it could be any other place and any other time because bomb blasts are taking place even in the broad day light. It could be any other vehicle in place of Maruti Van. It was such a powerful bomb that two brothers and three employees were killed on the spot. A girl who was sitting at the neighbour's shop was also killed on the spot. The blast also killed on the spot a woman passing through the site. How many people were injured in the blasts, I am not in a position to give their number. The explosion was so loud that it was heard by the people several kilometers away from the incident site. The window pans were smashed in the surrouding 200 meter area of the incident. Now our Home Minister may say that it was such a big explosion then how it killed only 11 people ? The police suspects the hands of terrorists in the blast. Yesterday this issue was not discussed in the House. The Home Minister or any other Minister did not feel the need to visit the site, not to speak of the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have got the same issue. It is enough now. So, please sit down.

[English]

He has already explained it. Now you will have to say. "I support his contention."

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Kindly, listen to me. In reply to USQ No. 498, dated 26 February, 1997, it was said that three bomb blasts had taken place in Delhi. When the same USQ was asked as SQ by the Member of my party, Shri Drona on 6.5.97, the member of thos blasts were stated as five. This indicates as to how much serious the Government is about these bomb blasts.

Be it Janta Dal, D.M.K. or other party, since they do not have any representative in this Govt., so nothing is being contemplated in regard to bomb blasts in Delhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I am concluding. It's a very serious matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I know that please tell what you want from the Govt. of India.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I want to say that the Delhi Govt. have announced to pay twenty thousand rupees to each victim as a compensation. The Prime Minister as well as Home Minister must visit there and announce compensation of Rs. one lakh for each victim. In addition to this a white paper on this entire episode, he also published so that one must know about the action taken after the bomb blasts during the last year. Whether there were chemical bombs or other bombs, these should he explained ? How the Govt. are going to face the terrorists, these things should he discussed. Please allow half an hour discussion to cover all these aspects. You yourself have said that you are agreed to me so please allow half-an-hour discussion.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Hon. Chairman, Sir, a struggle under the auspices of the Joint Action Council representing the entire employees in the Office of the Accountant General of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram is going on. They are demanding improvement in the deplorable services conditions. They have resorted to computer boycott from 1.4.1997 and work to rule from 7.4.1997. The agitation has entered into a new phase as all the employees' organisations in the AG's Office are now on a hunger strike.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. All the regional offices of the AG's Office are paralysed. All the employees are on a hunger strike. Several representations were made by the employees' organisations to the Government of India and the Ministry of Finance as well as to the Accountant General to solve their problems. The main issue which they are projecting is the deplorable service conditions. There are no avenues for promotion. There is stagnation. The stagnation in the service is some causing heart burning to the employees of the AG's Office. As a result of the ban on recruitment and creation of posts imposed in 1984 and due to various other unscientific measures adopted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the workload of the employees has been increasing manifold. The promotion prospects have been dwindled to zero during these years.

Sir, this is a very serious issue. I urge upon the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India to take urgent steps so that the problems faced by the employees could be

mitigated. There should be a proper discussion with the leaders of the employees' organisation so that this issue could be settled. The people in Kerala are facing problems. The pensioners and other people who are regularly in touch with the AG's Office are facing a lot of problems. So, I humbly request the Union Government to interfere in this issue and solve the problems which are faced in the AG's Office by the employees.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this issue, there was an all-India agreement in 1992, and that agreement should be implemented. Twelve years have passed, the issue of stagnation was accepted and the promotions were due for half of the employees. I want to know from the Government why they are not implementing the agreement reached in 1992. For the last one month, work-to-rule is going on. Now, an indefinite fast is also going on. The situation is worsening and all the employees of the Accountant-General's office, throughout Kerala, are on an agitational path.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want from the Central Government ?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : The Central Government must intervene and implement the agreement reached in 1992. That is my demand.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, hailstorm, were reported from some areas. The crops of the peasants were damaged due to this and the Govt. of India have not provided a single penny as a compensation in this regard whereas Rajasthan Govt. is continuously extending help to them. So I request the Govt. of India to pay compensation to all those peasants whose crops were damaged. Normally the peasants refuse to accept the compensation cause of meagre amount. The stock of wheat lying in the F.C.I. is being rotted and the Govt. are not paying any attention towards it.

In the same way farmers of Haryana and Rajasthan are being given very less amount as compensation. I, therefore, demand that the rate of compensation should be raised and prescribed quota of wheat should be procured by the Government and farmers who have suffered losses due to hailstorm should be given compensation.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an issue pertaining to my Parliamentary Constituency, Mirzapur. I had raised this issue earlier also. My area is facing acute shortage of drinking water. During summer season the level of ground water taken out from handpumps also goes down. Drinking water is distributed through tankers once in a day there and that too is distributed in a measured quantity like edible oil or ghee. In view of the Government's programme for providing drinking water facility to every area I request you to make arrangements for providing drinking water facility for those people also. This area also faces the shortage of water for irrigation, because check-dams have been constructed on local canals for providing water to the residents of Allahabad. When drought had struck there the Government and the officials were collecting revenue but the drought affected persons were not given compensation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would submit that the Government should provide drinking water to those people and compensation to drought affected persons. I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.....(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Please listen to me. I am going to say what you all wanted to say.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are disturbing her. She wants to say something.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue regarding more participation of women in politics is debated in this House time and again. We talk of giving reservation to them, but we must also ponder over that those women who dare to enter politics are subjected to misbehaviour. How many more women will dare to enter into politics under such circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the women in Bihar who are active in politics there have been facing this ill-treatment. I, myself faced such an incident in January. I was slapped and arrested in false case. Recently 'Bihar Bandh' was organised on 3rd of this month. In this bandh, women Members of the BJP and Samata Party were given ill treatment. The extreme part of the sarees worn by of Kanchan Bala and Madhu of Samata Party and several women workers of the BJP were pulled, their arms were twisted and they were detained in the prison. The only woman legislator of the BJP in Bihar is Chandramukhi Devi. Her arm was twisted when she went out to organise the 'bandh'. She had to take shelter in an outlet of Khadi Gramodyog to save her honour. When her husband came forward to protect her his hand was broken. They also tried to set their car on fire.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in such circumstances, how many women will dare to enter politics and how many husbands and family members will permit them to do so. Is this House of the view that women taking part in politics should lose their honours and dignity ? If not, then the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should have been present here and he should have responded to the points raised here on such an important issue. You should create circumstances for increasing participation of women in politics. The Minister of Home Affairs should present a report before the House regarding such incidents.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a submission that the battle of Mahabharata was fought over insult of a woman and now a days, a number of women are being insulted in Bihar. An incident bigger than Mahabharata can take place there. Sir, kindly direct, Home Minister to make a statement on this incident. The House should condemn the ill-treatment meted out to Chandramuki Devi a legislator.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a serious matter and the Government should make a statement on it.....(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, some instructions should be given to the Government. At least

debate should be held in this House on this subject .....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will be taken note of.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not been given a chance to speak .....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you know how many members sitting around you have got a chance to speak ? Please sit down you will also be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't cast aspersions. I do not expect it from you at least. You are justice. I have to fully distribute the time. I have never taken that view.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the western part of Orissa has been facing the problem of drought continuously for many years. This issue has been raised here time and again but the problem remains unresolved. I am very sorry to say that even the drinking water facility which is essential for everyone, could not be provided to these much debated drought-prone districts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the water level has fallen quite low due to continuous drought. The required number of tubewells could not be installed. In Kalahandi district itself more than one hundred cattle like cow and oxens have died and thousands are lying sick. Farmers are unable to provide drinking water to cattle and as a result, they are selling a large number of cattle in nearby areas of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

People are suffering from various kinds of diseases due to non-availability of drinking water. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the problem of drinking water being faced by the most backward area of Orissa will not be solved ? Sir, through you, I demand that 1500 tubewells should be installed in all the drought affected districts of Kalahandi, Naupara, Balangir, Padampur, Sonapur and Bodh and arrangements should be made for drinking water in municipality area.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : All right, I will look into the problem.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have not done justice to farmers while determining the prices of wheat for this year. As you all are aware that the price of wheat was Rs. 800 per quintal when wheat crop was standing in fields but the day it reached the homes of farmers its prices came down to Rs. 415. Farmers have been given bonus of Rs. 60 which is

a meagre amount. There is discontentment among farmers and they have launched an agitation. Our Minister of Agriculture had visited Punjab and we had given him figures on it. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and it is incurring losses. Therefore, I would like to say that a comprehensive policy on agriculture should be formulated to make it beneficial. Today, farmers are reeling under debt burden. In the statement made by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, it has been said that the remunerative price of wheat which has been fixed Rs. 415 per quintal and the bonus of Rs. 60 costs Rs. 785 to the Government. The expenditure incurred on storage, transportation and handling of foodgrains and the money embezzled in various scams has also been included in it. I would like to say one more thing that the figures given by the Minister are wrong. He has written a letter to all the M.Ps to mislead them alongwith the farmers. He has written that :-

[English]

"On an analysis of expenditure figures of transporting the wheat from Ludhiana to Chennai and of importing it from Australia to Chennai, it was observed that the cost of both is almost the same, that is, Rs. 720/- per quintal."

[Translation]

It is totally wrong. You all may be aware that transportation charge of foodgrains from Ludhiana is around Rs. 45-50 per quintal. I would like to say that our farmers should be paid the amount which the farmers of foreign countries from where we import wheat, are given.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Sir, the law and order situation has deteriorated in Uttar Pradesh since the coalition Government was formed there. The workers of Samajwadi party are being killed in selective manner there in broad day light. Now-a-days the trinity of lottery, transfers and filing of fake cases against some specific persons in the name of atrocities against harijans are on its peak in U.P. The law and order situation is such that in the coalition Government.....(Interruptions)\* Officials are dancing to the tune of politicians in power. The persons – against whom 30 or 40 cases are registered, have not been arrested.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That word will have to be withdrawn and it will not go on record.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the students problem has risen in Uttar Pradesh since this Government took over. Farmers are being exploited. The potato produced by them is decaying. The students who had taken Oath in Banaras were killed in the broad day light. The Chairman of a bank in Etawah was murdered. In the same way, murders have been committed in Mainpuri. Communal harmony has been disturbed and communal disturbance was created in Ghaziabad and Mathura.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you know that law and order situation is a State subject ?

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : I am raising this issue here because the law and order situation is now out of

control of the State Government. The Union Government should dismiss the State Government to bring improvement in the situation. Dalit women were raped in Government offices and then killed in Pratapgarh. It is a well planned conspiracy. Please listen to me. Several other issues are discussed here every now and then and not the issue of U.P. which is quite important. The D.Ms are issuing instructions to officials to promote some specific lotteries in the State. Three persons were murdered in Bareilly but so far no action has been taken. Courts are not functioning there. In Mainpuri.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should know that law and order situation is a State subject and you cannot raise it here.

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : The law and order situation is quite grave there (Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : The Uttar Pradesh Government is deliberately implicating the workers of Samajwadi party in false cases due to political enmity.

SHRI RAMSAGAR : In Pratapgarh district, itself a dalit woman named Sheel Saroj was raped in D.M's office by employees there.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name was not given in the list, even then you have said what you wanted to say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SAGAR : Dalit women are being raped there. The day before yesterday three dalit students were raped in the area of the Chief Minister.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing of what Shri Ramsagar says, will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Sir, I have also given a notice to raise my point in the Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling the names as per the list.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What are you saying ? I have not given my permission to raise the issue. Therefore, it will not go on records.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you keep on saying what you want to say without my permission ?

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. Jammu, Rajouri and Poonchh districts fall under my constituency.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time will be wasted if you keep on disturbing in this way. I will give chance to the Members sitting on other side if the members named in the list finish

early. You will not get a chance if time is wasted like that and I shall go for lunch after adjourning the House.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : An area of 350 k.m. from Poonchh to Samba falling in my Parliamentary constituency is adjacent for the border of Pakistan. At the time of harvesting firing starts from Pakistan side. In such a situation the peasants fail to harvest their crops nor they can sow it. They can not have a sigh of relief. I as well as another Members from J&K have several times raised this issue in this House regarding firing from Pakistan side, resulting in loss of life and property. Many people and animals get injured in this firing. The Govt. of India is not taking any effective steps in this regard.

Recently he has taken effective steps against Kargil. We talked to them and they have responded. Firing has stopped but what do the Govt. do in the Jammu area ? I do not understand why are they dealing with it differently ? I want that the Govt. of India should order its defence forces that whenever firing occurs, they should retaliate so that the common man can live peacefully, can sow and harvest their crops with ease.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is creating hindrance in fencing work on Jammu border. Pakistan does not want to see completion of this fencing. This is not of relief in Punjab and Rajasthan due to fencing. We want that this fencing should be created at Jammu's border so that Pakistan is not able to poke its nose in India's matters and people can live peacefully. I want to request the Govt. through you to erect fencing at Jammu's order so that we can live peacefully.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards an important matter of Vidarbha region. The R.B.I. is not providing currency to the S.B.I. In consequence of that the co-operative Banks are not getting money. Today only I have gone through the statement of farmers belonging to Yavatmal and Wardha districts. I did raise this question last year also. I personally talked to the manager of R.B.I. in Nagpur and the manager of S.B.I., Wardha and requested them to provide one crore rupees worth of currency note to the district centre but they have provided a cheque of three crores of rupees and 25 lakhs rupees worth of currency note instead. The peasants of Maharashtra are fed up with the monopoly purchase scheme. They are not getting any money, lecturers are not getting their salary. When they ask for 5000 rupees they get 500 rupees and when they demand 20,000/- they get 2000 rupees. I do not understand the reasons behind this problem.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Govt. as well as Finance Minister the reasons for the shortage of currency notes in the R.B.I. Nagpur and S.B.I. Wardha ? Several farmers are suffering due to shortages of currency notes. The Govt. should pay attention to this problem.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the demand for creation of a separate Uttaranchal State is being raised for the last eight months. Later it was stated that unless this proposal is passed by the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh till then nothing can be done in this regard. I am sorry to say that the Hon. Home Minister in reply to my starred question had stated that no action has been taken in this regard so far. Whether the

Union Govt. will introduce Bill for the creation of a separate Uttaranchal State in this session itself. I do not want to raise the Muzzaffar Nagar and Khatima incidents but this House as well as entire country agreed in toto for the creation of a separate Uttaranchal State. If the Union Govt. tries to drag to feet on this issue then the entire area may plunge into unrest. So, I request the Govt., through you that firstly a statement should have come from Govt. They keep on saying outside that they are going to create Uttaranchal. Hon. Minister is present here hence a categorical statement should come from him that a Bill to create a separate Uttaranchal State will be introduced in this session. The approval of Hon. President be taken at the earliest so that a separate Uttaranchal State is created on the basis of proposal passed by the U.P. Assembly on 24.4.97.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : I would like to raise a very serious matter. More than thirty-two years back about sixty-six refugee families coming from Bangladesh, that is erstwhile East Pakistan, to India were put up at Sharnarthy Mahila Ashram in Karnal, Haryana. All of them are women with their children. They are leading a very hard life. The Government assured to give them a permanent settlement, a rehabilitation. They used to get some ex-gratia payment. But that is also stopped.

That has also been stopped. The State Government has stopped electricity, water and other civic amenities. They are passing through a very hard time in their lives. Most of them belong to backward community. I urge upon the Government to give them permanent rehabilitation so that they can settle there permanently.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

In Kerala, more than fifteen senior officers belonging to Scheduled Castes are due for getting promoted. A proposal was sent to the UPSC by the State Government a month ago. The matter is still pending before the UPSC. No action has been taken so far. The UPSC is unnecessarily asking for some clarifications and some other details. Therefore, I would request the Government of India, that the Ministry of Personnel should urgently look into the matter, take urgent steps to promote these officers and avoid any further delay.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude that you have provided me an opportunity to speak on a topic having international importance.

The question is whether Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India or not. The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh had submitted an application in Chinese Embassy for granting him a visa to attend a cultural programme in China. You will be surprised to know that the Chinese Embassy has refused to grant him Visa on the ground that it is a very sensitive issue as Arunachal Pradesh is an indivisible part of China so the question does not arise to grant you visa for that through you I want to know from the Prime Minister that this is the question of sovereignty. Major Saitan Singh and thousand of people have sacrificed their lives.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister may kindly take note of it.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I want to say that you must tell the Prime Minister that the Chinese Embassy has said that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of China not of India. This has to be contradicted and announced that the Chinese Embassy in India is indulging in such irresponsible act and the letter which was given to the Chief Minister he presented in the House and accordingly action be taken after announcing that Arunachal is an indivisible part of India.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : You please give the directions.

[English]

Sir, we would like to have a reply from the Government.

[Translation]

This is a very important question .....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say one thing in this regard. We accept this that Arunachal is an integral part of our country but our friendly relation with China are also strengthening. We are concluding Agreement with China for keeping peace on border and our forces and our forces are also being withdrawn and China is also saying that they will also withdraw their forces but on the other hand lot of difference is being seen between what is said and what is done by China because a conference was held on Bio-Diversity in the kumbing city under Yenan State of China and a decision was taken therein to invite the people of trans-border areas as the people of Russia were invited in that bio-diversity conference. On this basic MC Aurthur Foundation of America and Chinese Academy decided to invite the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and Chinese Academy sent invitation to them and informed him to apply for VISA in Chinese Embassy, but it is very regretful that when Govt. of China came to know about it, they told Chinese Embassy not to issue Visa to him because Arunachal is a part of China.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What would you like to say to the Government of India.

The Hon. Minister would take note of it.

[English]

The hon. Minister may take note of it.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I want request Government of India to clear the position of Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India and this state is our important border line on Himalayas in the North-East of our country. I want that China should give recognition to it.....(Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Sir, Hon'ble Minister wants to say something.

[English]

YERRANNAIDU : I will inform the hon. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, more than three thousand people of Khoda colony in my Parliamentary Constituency had subscribed their names for telephone. More than two years have passed but they have not been provided the telephone connection so far. There is resentment among people on this matter. I talked to their General Manager on phone. He told me that during 1995-96 they sent a proposal to set up an exchange having ten thousand telephone lines under NOIDA exchange. But Union Government have not taken any action on this proposal so far. Therefore, through you I want to request the hon'ble Communications Minister to sanction setting up of exchange of ten thousand lines at the earliest so that the people can get the telephone facility and their resentment is removed.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious matter. At the time of Punjab Election 30 companies of Security forces were withdrawn from our Doda district and those companies have not been sent back to Doda till date. The result of it is that four days ago, three person were kidnapped from Desa village and their bullet ridden dead bodies have been found there, yesterday. Hon'ble Home Minister is not here, I want to request him to sent the forces immediately which have been withdrawn from there. The result of it is that whole Doda district is virtually surrounded by militants at present. Foreign mercenaries have come there in such a large number that people cannot walk freely. These three persons were the farmers, who came to purchase wood and were kidnapped. Their dead bodies have been found on roadside, yesterday only. I want to request you that since the new Government came to power there, the village defence committees are not being constituted, weapons are not being provided to the people and facilities are not being provided to the village defence committees. You can imagine how people sitting in their houses on the hills at the height of 14 thousand feet can line when army of the Government is on the road. I want to request you for three things. one is to redeploy the companies there which were withdrawn from there at the time of Punjab election. Second thing is to constitute village committee there and give remuneration to them and provide them weapons so that they can work there properly.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House toward a burning issue. There was shortage of small change all over the country some years back. The coins of 5 paise, 10 paise and 25 paise have vanished. But presently there is shortage of currency notes. The currency notes of one rupee, two rupee and 5 rupee are not available anywhere and if we get these notes they are soiled notes. Due to it the people have made their own currency and are running their work by making their own currency of paper and card. Mr. Chairman, Sir through you, I want to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards it and request him to start the circulation of currency notes of small value immediately which have been discontinued by the Government and my other request is that Government has circulated several coins which create confusion. 5 rupee coin is similar to 50 paise coin and two rupee coin is similar to one rupee coin, due to which people commit mistakes and suffer losses, therefore, this is my request to consider this problem seriously.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAJ CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are celebrating the birth anniversary of martyr and leader of Indian National Army

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose all over India. We can pay him our real tributes by naming Andaman and Nicobar Island as 'Shahid' and 'Swaraj' as in 1923 while taking control of Andaman and Nikobar, he had suggested these names but even after the independence the names of these islands were not changed as per his wishes. So I demand from Government of India that on the occasion of birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the names of these islands be changed to 'Shahid' and 'Swaraj' I request that Andaman & Nicobar islands may be developed as tourist spots so that the people of our country and foreign tourists get such information about these two islands that people may be curious to see these islands. The tourist industry will develop by the visits of people. A human size statue of Subash Chandra Bose must be installed in these two islands.

[English]

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Sir, the recent decision of the Government of India to reduce the monthly quota of allotment of fodograins for supply to Tripura by 4000 metric tonnes is very unfortunate. Earlier, the Government had allotted 16,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains as monthly quota. But the recent decision has created a great problem to the people of Tripura. Tripura never gets even 13,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains due to shortage of adequate facilities of the FCI and also inadequate number of wagons of the Railways. Now the population is increasing day by day. So, the Government of India should supply foodgrains at half the rate to the people living below the poverty line and the provision in EAs and other BMNS should supply foodgrains as a part of a remuneration for jobs. The State Government has demanded a supply of 28,400 metric tonnes of foodgrains per month.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government should ensure that. Is it ?

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : It needs to be mentioned here that these impediments in drawing the full quota need be removed at the earliest and the increased demand of 28,400 metric tonnes of foodgrains needs to be fulfilled in order to effectively implement the former Prime Minister's assurance given to the States of the North-East.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to request the Union Government to provide 100% grants for irrigation resources to the farmers of an irrigated areas to improve their economic condition. 100% grants must be provided to instal tubewells in the fields for irrigation and also for electrification.

Sir, through you, I request the Union Government that the crops of Rabi, Kharif like paddy, gram, Tavata, Kodo als, peas, sugarcane, coriander, peanut get destroyed due to draughts and non-availability of sufficient irrigation facilities to the farmers of un-irrigated area due to which the condition of farmers is deteriorating. Farmers are reeling under the burden of debts due to which they are becoming poorer. Therefore, I request that Government of India should make an announcement to sanction 100% grants for providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

13.53 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till fifty five minutes past fourteen of the clock*

15.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six minutes Past Fifteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Loss of Lives and Injuries to Indian Pilgrims in the Fire at Mina during Haj on April 15, 1997

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I fully share the deep concern of the hon. Members of this august House at the tragic death of Haj pilgrims from India in the fire at Mina in Saudi Arabia on April 15, 1997. The grievous loss of life and injuries to our Haj pilgrims from the fire caused profound shock and sorrow to the entire nation. I would like to convey on behalf of the Government sincere and heartfelt condolences to the next of kin of the deceased as well as our sympathies to those who suffered injuries and to the relatives of those who are still reported missing.

As hon. members of the House are aware, a large number of pilgrims from India perform Haj every year. Approximately 81,003 Indian nationals participated in the Haj this year. Of these, 53,664 came through the Central Haj Committee. The balance of approximately 27,000 came from India through tour operators, or from other countries or were residents in Saudi Arabia. The total number of pilgrims from all countries who performed Haj this year is approximately a little under two million.

A fire broke out in the pilgrim encampment in Mina, near Mecca, on April 15 at about 1130 hours local time (2 PM IST) and spread very rapidly, killing number of pilgrims and injuring many other. When the fire broke out, official teams of our Embassy and the Consulate General, camping in Mina took prompt action for orderly evacuation of our pilgrims to safer areas. Several lives were saved and injuries prevented due to this timely move. However, as many of the camps housing Indian pilgrims were located close to the point of origin of the fire and were in the path of the fire and because of the very rapid spread of the fire due to strong winds combined with local topography, many of these camps were destroyed and death and injury to several pilgrims could not be prevented.

As of today, the total number of Indian national identified as dead is 119 and the number of those reported missing is 111. Further, 148 persons are receiving treatment for burns in the Saudi Government hospitals. In addition another 265 persons were injured in the fire and its aftermath. Of these 172 persons are receiving treatment from the Indian medical mission in Mecca. Many of the injured have been discharged after treatment and some of these persons have since returned to India either on their assigned flights as per the Haj charter schedule arranged

by the Central Haj Committee or under arrangements made by private tour operators. Others are awaiting their arrangements made by private tour operators. Other are awaiting their assigned return flights under one of these two arrangements. These pilgrims continue to be under observation by the Indian medical mission in Saudi Arabia and are being rendered all necessary medical care. The Haj charter flights will complete the return journey of the pilgrims by May 22, 1997. Names of injured pilgrims on each return flights are being conveyed to India in advance by the Air India office in Jeddah so as to facilitate their reception on arrival in Delhi and other entry points as well as prompt medical attention and movement to hospitals and clinics as required. Reception of the pilgrims on return is being handled by the concerned State Haj Committee in co-ordination with MEA, Air India and immigration and customs authorities. The operation for identifying the deceased and to locate the missing is continuing.

Information on the details of the dead, injured and missing was initially very difficult to obtain because at the time of the fire the Haj was at its peak and involved an *en masse* movement of nearly 2 million people from different countries out of the Mina Camps. In this situation it was not possible to carry out an immediate count and identification of our pilgrims. This became possible only when the pilgrims reassembled in the encampment in Mina on April 17, Officers of the Embassy and the Consulate General then surveyed the camp and prepared a tentative list of the missing. A list of the injured was also prepared through visits to the hospital where they were being treated. Simultaneously identification of bodies kept in the mortuaries under the supervision of the Saudi authorities also took place on a continuous basis. This is, however, not an easy task as many of the bodies were charred beyond recognition. A more precise list of the missing was prepared after our pilgrims returned to Mecca on the evening of April 19 at the end of the Haj rites. This was done through systematic visits by our official teams to all the residential units allotted to our pilgrims and through verification and counting of individuals. On this basis the updated figures for those who are as yet unaccounted for is 111.

Immediately after the outbreak of the fire, control rooms were set up in New Delhi, Mumbai, Riyadh and Mecca and information obtained about the pilgrims was disseminated to the next of kin in India immediately as it became available. Names of pilgrims identified as dead as well as of the injured undergoing treatment, have been promptly and regularly made known through notifications, through media and through the State Haj Committees. This operation is continuing.

Under authorisation of the Government, our mission and the Consulate General in Saudi Arabia provided all possible immediate assistance and relief including financial help to the destitute and the injured and the families and friends of those missing. Food and drinking water was arranged for over 5000 pilgrims on the night of April 15

itself. On subsequent days, the following comprehensive routine was followed:

1. Visit the morgue near Mina with the relatives of the missing/dead to help identify the dead.
2. Daily visits to all the hospitals in Mecca and Mina by the Indian medical mission to ascertain position regarding the Indians injured.
3. Setting up of a special dressing room for burns in the main Indian dispensary in Mecca.
4. Making arrangements in all the nine branch dispensaries in Mecca for the treatment of the injured.
5. Daily visits by doctors of Indian mission to all the buildings housing Indian pilgrims through the Indian Pilgrims Welfare Forum, Jeddah, which is voluntary organisation of resident Indians.

The Government has taken a number of wide-ranging steps to provide succour and relief to the next of kin of the deceased and for those who were injured. Prime Minister has announced an ex-gratia relief payment of Rupees one lakh to each of the next of kin of dead and free treatment to the injured in government hospitals. Rs. 10,000 has been disbursed to each of the injured pilgrims presently receiving treatment in Saudi Arabia, the pilgrims who have been permanently disabled due to the fire will be given Rs. One lakh each. Government has offered to fly back to India by a special chartered flight our injured pilgrims who were medically fit to travel. However, these pilgrims preferred staying on in Mecca till their turn came for departure by their assigned flight under the Haj charter schedule. Government has also offered to transport the bodies of the deceased pilgrims back to India free of cost. The next of kin of the pilgrims who have died have conveyed that they would wish the bodies to be buried in Mecca for religious reasons. Those who have lost their travel documents in the fire are being issued duplicate documents expeditiously and free of cost. CGI in Jeddah distributed cash and clothes to the needy pilgrims among the injured. Materials required to treat the injured that is bandages, cotton wool and ointments were airlifted to Jeddah by the Government of India.

I would like to record my appreciation of the generous and effective assistance and relief efforts of the Indian community in Jeddah.

A special arrangement has been made in the framework of the Haj cell of the Ministry of External Affairs for implementing the relief measures indicated above. Action for disbursement of relief payment has been initiated. Prime Minister has appointed a two-member Ministerial Committee consisting of Shri C.M. Ibrahim and Shri Maqbool Dar to oversee the implementation of these measures.

A four-member team comprising of three sitting MPs and one former MP visited Saudi Arabia on April 25 to May 1 to enquire about the welfare of the Indian pilgrims, particularly the injured and the next of kin, to advise on further relief measures as well as to take stock of the overall situation regarding missing pilgrims. Members of the team visited the injured in the hospitals and met a large number

of Indian pilgrims. They also held discussions with the Chairman of the South Asian Moussassa. The team has submitted a report to the Government which is being studied.

I would also like to bring to the notice of hon. Members that at present there is no requirement for private tour operators to intimate to Government or to the Central Haj Committee, particulars of the pilgrims who are travelling under their arrangements to Saudi Arabia for the Haj. As mentioned above, approximately 27,000 out of the total 81,000 Haj pilgrims from India fall in this category. Lack of information on these pilgrims has hampered the identification of the dead as well as the location of the missing. Our Embassy in Saudi Arabia and our Consulate General in Jeddah are making all efforts to obtain the names of these pilgrims from the Saudi authorities. Some details in this regard are available i.e., names of some of the tour operator agencies and the approximate number of pilgrims taken by each of them. For the future, Government is considering measures for filling this lacuna, i.e., by obtaining advance details of Haj pilgrims travelling under arrangements made by private tour operators, as well as regulating their work.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the hon. Members that in all our operations of taking stock of the missing, identifying the deceased and caring for the injured, we received full cooperation from the concerned Saudi Arabian authorities responsible for management of the Haj arrangements. The Medical treatment and care made available by the Saudi hospitals to our injured pilgrims won praise from the pilgrims as well as the team that visited Saudi Arabia.

As regards the question of compensation to the victims of the fire, I would like to state that it is not the practice of the Saudi Government to provide compensation in tragic events of this nature. As the Government was conscious of the need for immediate relief to the victims of the Mina fire, the above-mentioned immediate relief measures have been taken. We are examining long term measures such as provision of compulsory insurance to cover such unforeseen events.

Reports in the press on April 24 attributed certain views to the Indian Consul General in Jeddah about the tragic death of Indian pilgrims in the Mina fire. This matter has been examined very carefully and it is concluded that these views appear to be derived from information provided by a few of the injured relating to the conduct of an individual gate keeper. No broad generalisations can be made on this basis. The team that went to Saudi Arabia from April 25 to May 1 visited the site of the fire, have spoken to many pilgrims and concurred with this view.

I would like to convey to the hon. Members that Government is paying close attention to the safe return of all the Indian pilgrims to India and for the implementation of the relief arrangement announced by the Government.

Hon. Member will appreciate that the accidental fire at Mina and its immediate aftermath are totally unforeseen.



We are studying the event in detail to work out the steps required to avert such disasters in future.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : What about the missing persons? Is the Government taking any steps to locate them?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What will you ask after such detailed Statement?

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : About 111 persons were missing. Is the Government taking any steps to find out the missing person?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Instructions have been given, what more can be done.

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Steps are being taken.

15.14 hrs:

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

#### (i) **Need to implement Central Plans for desilting of Sagar Lake (M.P)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Sir, Sagar is known for its historical lake and it was spreaded over 400 acres of land, but now due to encroachments and siltting this lake is shrinking day by day. The schemes have been formulated many times by the State and Central Governments for desilting the lake but the work of desilting the lake could not be done. There is lot of filth and silt in the lake. If desilting of this lake is not done, the very existence of this lake would be in danger. The water of this lake has become so polluted that outbreak of any dangerous disease can occur any time in people and in the animals going into this lake.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to take up the work of desilting of this historical lake on priority basis so that problem of drinking water in Sagar can be solved and Sagar may leave an impression as a tourist place.

#### (ii) **Need for early completion of Rural Electrification work in Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency Bihar**

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman Sir, In order to ensure supply of electricity to the electrified villages of Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency, the then Chairman of Rural Electrification Corporation of India during 1980-84 accorded sanction to following power stations and funds were allocated for them. These places

are in district Giridih. (1) Khadagdih (75% work has been completed). (2) Dwar Pahari, (3) Saria (50% work is completed) (4) Gande (Plant partially completed) (5) Virani (work not started) (6) Jainagar (80% work completed) (7) Markacho (work not started) (8) Barakatha (9) Satgaon in Kodarma district. Therefore, the Government is urged upon to furnish details of the allocations made for each of the above power stations and also an enquiry should be conducted about the irregularities committed and the work pertaining to these power stations should be completed by December, 1997.

#### (iii) **Need for early Construction of the Baji Rout Setu Over River Brahmani in Dhenkanal, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : There has been an inordinate delay in the construction of the high level bridge over river Brahmani on the Nilakanthpur Bhuban Road connecting Mandar-Gondia, Deogaon, Kapilas and Dhenkanal. The project was accorded administrative approval in 1994, It is named after a great freedom fighter, 13 year old boatman Baji Rout who died in police firing at Village Nilakanthpur in 1938 and who is immortalised by the famous Oriya poet, Gnanpeeth award winner Sachi Raut Ray. The people, particularly the small and marginal farmers find great difficulties in marketing their produce due to lack of means of transport in the absence of a bridge. Six steel plants are coming in the area with the hope that the bridge would be constructed soon. Besides connecting the district headquarters Dhenkanal, it will provide a direct communication for the devotees to pay a visit to the famous holy shrine of Kapilash, the abode of Lord Chandrashekher, Therefore, the bridge will be the harbinger of progress, social empowerment and social mobility for a large segment of population living in an under-developed and backward area although having abundant natural resources. It will be a befitting memorial for freedom fighter Baji Rout if the bridge, named after him, is constructed in a year when the nation is celebrating its 50th year of independence. I request the Union Government to construct the Baji Rout Setu over river Brahmani in my constituency Dhenkanal without any further delay.

#### (iv) **Need to look into the grievancea of Handloom Weavers of Tamil Nadu, particularly of Kanyakumari District**

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu, particularly of Kanyakumari district are facing difficulties due to accumulation Handloom clothes in the primary societies, delay in supply of yarn and non-payment of rebates by the Government in time. The remuneration they get out of their hard labour is very low. So they are faced with the difficulty of not relying on weaving. They have become unemployed and poverty stricken and seeking employment opportunities in other field. So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to clear the accumulation of stocks and make quick payment of rebates and timely supply of yarn and redress their other

grievances and make them to carry on weaving as a dependable occupation for their livelihood.

**(v) Need to computerise Employment Exchanges in the Country**

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Unemployment of the educated youth is the biggest challenge facing the country. While full employment is not possible without rapid industrialisation of the country, whatever few jobs that become available, the present state of Employment Exchanges, with their lack of transparency and delay causes great frustration along the youth. There is a need for urgent modernisation of these offices and opening of more offices, even in large tehsil headquarters. These offices must be completely computerised and all of them must be interconnected on the national informatics network. The staff must be increased and trained with career counselling skills.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter.

**(vi) Need to sanction adequate funds for providing financial assistance to the drought affected people in Western Orissa**

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kalahandi, Nuapara, Bolangir, Sonopore and Boudh districts of Western Orissa are facing continuous drought. As a result, farmers are migrating, selling their households and cattle lots for survival. Farmers have lost their capacity to go for the next kharif crop. Banks are not giving loans for seeds, fertilizers etc. The entire population of these drought-affected districts are suffering a lot without any means of survival. Government of India has seriously taken up the crop loss of Andhra Pradesh when the chronic cyclone damaged the coconut crop and adequate compensation was given to them. But the poor farmers of Orissa have not been given any assistance. Unless the farmers are given sufficient compensation for their crop loss and financial assistance for the next kharif crops, the lives of thousands of farmers and their families cannot be saved.

I request the Government to take up the matter of the hapless farmers of chronically drought affected districts of Western Orissa and direct the authorities to sanction sufficient funds for the purchase of seeds fertilizer and compensation for crop loss, etc., to the farmers.

**(vii) Need to provide necessary assistance to West Bengal Government for conducting a fresh census of the Tigers in the Sunderbans Area**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sunderbans in West Bengal is the abode of the legendary Royal Bengal Tiger. The West Bengal Government has expressed doubt about the latest tiger census in the Sunderbans and suggested introduction of 'more scientific methods' to derive the exact figures of the big cats in the Sunderban delta areas with the help of experts. The reconstituted Wildlife Advisory Board had observed that

even though the rate of poaching had dropped sharply in the State, vigil had to be maintained just as earlier. It had also called for conducting fresh tiger census in the Sunderbans, as also the elephant census, from this year. The Board also suggested that pragmatic steps be taken to check elephant depredations in North and South Bengal Corridors to save the paddy fields, houses and tea gardens from attacks of the pachyderms.

While fully supporting the observations of the Wildlife Advisory Board, I request the Central Government to provide some expertise and render necessary assistance, financial and technical, to the State Board to conduct a fresh census of the tigers in the Sunderbans area and check the elephant depredations.

15.24 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1997

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up Finance Bill, 1997, Eight hours have been allotted for all the three stages of this Bill. If the House agrees, we may have five hours for general discussion, two hours for clause-by-clause consideration, and one hour for third reading. Do the Members agree with this?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move :

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1997-98, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman Sir, a great deal has happened since the Budget for 1997-98 was presented in this House on February 28, 1997. The past is past. The economy beckons.

I appeal to the hon. members to look to the future with renewed vigour, confidence and hope.

The foundation of this Budget remains the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government and the broad objectives of this Budget are the same as for the United Front's first Budget presented in July, 1996. Among these are to accord priority to fiscal prudence, inflation control and macroeconomic stability, to ensure rapid growth of employment through broad-based expansion of agriculture, industry and services, to focus on the needs of the poor and ensure provision of basic minimum services under a time-bound programme, to promote higher savings and investment, especially, in infrastructure sectors, to devote special efforts towards promoting human development.

When this Budget was presented in Parliament 69 days ago, it gave a strong boost to confidence in the Indian economy both in India and abroad. In spite of a

[ Shri P. Chidambaram ]

period of political uncertainty, there have been noteworthy economic gains over the past two months. Let me highlight some of these gains.

Foreign currency reserves have risen from US \$ 19.7 billion on February 28, 1997 to US \$ 22.7 billion on May 6, 1997, that is at the rate of over \$ 300 million per week.

The annual rate of inflation has declined from 7.78 per cent in the last week of February, 1997, prior to the Budget to 6.54 per cent in the week ending 19 April, 1997. Inflation has remained in single digit throughout the period of United Front Government and this week is the 106th week has remained so. The average inflation of 1996-97 was 6.3 per cent well below the average inflation of 7.6 per cent in the previous year.

The rupee has remained remarkably stable against the dollar, during the last nine months, the value has hovered around Rs. 35.80 to the dollar.

Open market prices to wheat were ruling at unusually high levels at an average of Rs. 730 per quintal (for dara) in the Delhi markets in February, 1997 have since come down to the range of Rs. 510-Rs. 525 per quintal in the first few days of May. Wheat procurement has also picked up and the Ministry of Food expects procurement to exceed last year's level of 8 million tonnes.

The news on food production is good and output in 1996-97 is estimated at a record 192 million tonnes.

On April 15, 1997, the Reserve Bank of India announced a path-breaking credit policy aimed at sweeping away bureaucratic bottlenecks to the growth of credit, reducing the segmentation between domestic credit and foreign exchange markets, reviving the bank rate as an instrument of policy and catalysing a reduction in interest rates something which is already happening.

Stock market prices, as reflected in the Sensex of Mumbai Stock Exchange remained at an average level of about 3450 in February, 1997. After the Budget was presented, the Sensex rose sharply, and despite political vicissitudes has remained at a fairly high level of 3700-3800 in the last two months.

In one area, industrial production, the date that has become available since the presentation of the Budget shows a sluggishness in industrial growth in the months of November and December, 1996. Overall industrial growth in the period April-December, 1996 was 8.3 per cent and the manufacturing sector grew at 10.1 per cent. Even so, our sights must be set higher. Industry can and should be growing at a rate of at least 12 per cent. The current slow down has sharpened the urgency to have the kind of pro-growth, pro-investment Budget that was presented on February 28, 1997. I am confident that this Budget, combined with the new Credit Policy, will provide the necessary stimulus and be just the right tonic to restore the momentum of industrial growth and expansion. I would urge industry to invest. This is the time to raise funds in the capital market, borrow banks and financial institutions to invest.

I assure this House that I shall keep investment trends in industry under constant review and would be prepared to take further steps if they are needed to boost investment.

The real constraints to the rapid growth of output and employment in our economy, today, are in key, highly regulated and underfunded infrastructure sectors of power, petroleum, telecommunications, roads and ports. I shall not recount a large number of initiatives taken by the UF Government in these sectors both before the Budget and in the budget itself. Suffice to us say, our Government is steadily but surely removing bottlenecks that have held back the inflow of investment and technology into sectors like oil, telecom, roads and ports. I do, however, wish to make special reference to the power sector.

The power sector fared poorly in the Eighth Plan period of 1992-97. Against a target of 30,538 M.W., the actual capacity addition was around 18,000 M.W. The Ninth Plan target for capacity addition is 38,000 M.W. Resource to meet this target have to be mobilised.

The Revised Estimate for Plan investment in the nine central public enterprises in the power sector in 1996-97 was Rs. 5,508 crore of which Rs. 2,068 crore was budgetary support. The 1997-98 plan outlay for these nine enterprises has been fixed at Rs. 6818 crore for which I had originally provided Budgetary support amounting to Rs. 2,320 crore.

After the presentation of Budget in February, I have had extensive discussions with Ministry of Power with a view to increase public investment in power. Based on these discussions, I am happy to announce two new initiatives that will increase the budgetary support for power in the 1997-98 central plan by about Rs. 900 crore.

First, an additional Rs. 700 crore will be provided during the course of the year as budgetary support for the central plan to quicken the pace of implementation of selected projects of the National Hydro Electric Corporation, The North East Power Corporation, The Tehri Power Corporation and the Damodar Valley Corporation.

Second, an additional, Rs. 200 crore will be provided as budgetary support in 1997-98 to the Power Finance Corporation for funding renovation and modernisation schemes of existing power plants run by State Electricity Boards.

These two initiatives that I am announcing today will expedite the Commissioning of about 6,000 M.W. of power generating capacity over the next two to three years.

Mr. Chairman, let me, now, say a word about the tax strategy of this Budget. The experience of the 1990s has clearly demonstrated that a strategy which combines lower tax rates with a wider tax base and more effective tax administration leads to good results in respect of both economic productivity any revenue collections. This Budget takes on more bold step in this direction. Our tax proposals

are also consciously aimed at making us competitive with the high performing Asian Economies.

But there is another side to a lower tax strategy that is often overlooked. It leaves more income in the hands of the people who have clearly demonstrated their capacity for high savings and wise investment decisions. I wish to remind the hon. Members that households in India are the best savers and their savings rate has averaged about 19 per cent of GDP in the Eighth Plan period.

Direct tax collections are only projected to increase in 1997-98 by about 15 per cent in line with anticipated growth of nominal GDP. Annual growth in each of the past three years has been higher. Nevertheless, I intend to pay close attention to revenue performance throughout the year and shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the Budget targets are met.

As the hon. Members are aware that over the years, the Budget Speech has become a vehicle for Government to announce certain policy initiatives; my Budget Speech was not an exception. Leaders of all political parties who met me have articulated their views on a number of policy questions, particularly, Budget Support for new investments in public sector enterprises, disinvestment as an instrument of public sector reforms, revival of sick industries, dereservation of the small scale sector and restructuring of the insurance sector.

These are matters on which I, as well as my colleagues – the Ministers concerned—will have an opportunity to state the Government's point of view during the debate as well as on other occasions. So far as new investments in the public sector enterprises are concerned, I may point out that in 1997-98, the Plan investment in public sector enterprises is estimated to be Rs. 63,309.52 crore. Out of this, Rs. 4,829.94 crore will be budget support as equity and Rs. 2,771.21 crore will be budget support as loans. These investments are large and we owe it to the people of India, whose money we either tax or borrow, that public sector enterprises show better returns on these investments.

As regards revival of sick industries, I have already assured the House that funds will be provided to revive all revivable sick industries where revival plans are approved by the BIFR and accepted by the Government. On disinvestment, the Government is carrying out the policy outlined in the Common Minimum Programme. On the insurance sector, a Bill to establish the Insurance Regulatory Authority as a statutory body will come up before the House and that will provide an occasion for a debate on the subject.

A coherent strategy has been evolved to widen the tax net. For this purpose, on the direct tax side I have already proposed amendment of Section 139 of the Income Tax Act so as to cast an obligation on those residents of large metropolitan cities who satisfy any two of the four specified economic criteria to file their income tax return.

The new Estimated Income Scheme for retailers traders has also been proposed with the same objective in view.

The Voluntary Disclosure Scheme announced by me in my Budget speech is expected to bring in a number of new tax payers. I also intend to accelerate computerisation in the Income Tax Department and also tighten the enforcement of legal provisions.

On the indirect tax side, in my Budget proposals I had outlined a number of measures to widen the tax base and improve tax collections, which include legislative measures to charge excise duty on the basis of capacity of production in respect of goods prone to evasion of excise duty; provision for charging excise duty on the basis of retail sale price on select commodities which are subject to MRP; withdrawal of full exemption and imposition of nominal excise duty on a number of commodities; widening of the service tax levy by bringing in number of services under the tax net; and lowering of customs and excise duties on a number of commodities.

I am confident that the measures outlined above will result in growth of industry, improved tax compliance and increased revenues.

I also wish to assure the House of my resolve to see that nobody who should be inside the tax net would remain out of it.

In the last few days Sir, I had an extensive consultations and useful discussions with the major political parties. I am told that this is an innovation and it is my hope that post-budget consultation will not only become an accepted convention but will promote greater consensus in the budget-making process. The Congress-I, the parties of the Left Front and the BJP have, during the consultations supported many of my proposals. At any rate they did not oppose many proposals. They also made many valid suggestions. Many hon. Members have also met me and made useful suggestions. I am deeply grateful to all of them for fully involving themselves in the process of making a budget.

It is not surprising that some of the suggestions are common to all political parties. Naturally, I am more easily persuaded to accept such suggestions. I also acknowledge that each of the three Groups made some exclusive points. I am happy to state that I have been able to accept some of these suggestions as well. I wish I could have done more but I have to keep in mind the important interest of the revenue.

Sir, I now turn to the changes I propose in the clauses pertaining to direct taxes.

Clause 3 of the Bill, *inter alia*, proposes to withdraw the tax exemption on Income by way of lease rent paid by an operator of aircraft to a foreign enterprise. It is being represented that this will hit the airlines company badly including Indian Airlines and Air India particularly because the existing agreements between them and the foreign lessors have been made taking into account the said income tax exemption. I find merit in the grievance and, therefore, propose to withdraw the exemption only in respect of agreements entered into on or after 1.4.1997. As a measure of rationalisation, I also propose that there will not be a gross-

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ing up of income, that is, the tax paid on the lease money under agreements entered into on or after 1-4-1997 will be exempt from tax.

Clause 5 of the Bill proposes to allow weighted deduction on expenditure of capital nature incurred by a company on in-house scientific research. The intention was to allow such weighted deduction on capital as well as revenue expenditure. However, this was not correctly reflected in the Finance Bill. I, therefore, propose to rectify this and some other drafting errors.

Clause 6 of the Bill proposes to allow amortisation of expenditure incurred as fee for obtaining licences to operate telecommunication services. This benefit is allowed prospectively with effect from 1st April, 1998. However, representations have been received that the said benefit should be allowed with effect from 1st April, 1996 which is the beginning of the fiscal year when the first telecom licence was issued. There is merit in these representations. Hence I propose to change the date to 1st April, 1996

Clause 14 of the Bill proposes to introduce special provisions for computing profits and gains of a retail business on presumptive basis. It has been represented that profits of a firm should be computed after excluding salary and interest paid to partners in accordance with the limits laid down in Section 40(b) of the Income-tax Act. It has also been represented that the requirement of maintenance of accounts and audits thereof in the case of an assessee who does not offer income on presumptive basis is sufficient and there is no need for compulsory scrutiny by the Assessing Officer. After careful consideration, I accept both these demands and, accordingly, propose suitable amendments.

Clause 25 of the Bill which proposes amendments to Section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act requires a few further changes. I propose to give effect to the decision to allow tax holiday to production of mineral oil in North-Eastern States. For the purposes of tax holiday to hotels located in a hilly area or a rural area or a place of pilgrimage, I propose to change the date of commencement of business from 1st April 1998 to 1st April 1997.

Clause 30 of the bill proposes to amend Section 88(2) (xvi) of the Income-tax Act with a view to extending the benefit of additional tax rebate to investment in telecom sector as is available to other infrastructure sectors. It was represented that bonds and shares issued by public financial institutions should also be eligible for this benefit. The omission was unintentional and is being corrected now.

Clause 37 proposes to amend Section 115JA of Income-tax Act regarding Minimum Alternate Tax so as to exclude the profits derived from the export of goods or merchandise to which Section 80HHC applies from the purview of MAT. I propose to extend the exclusion to profits derived from export of software which are exempt under Section 80HHC of the Income-tax Act.

Clause 38 of the Bill which proposes to provide a mechanism for carry forward of MAT also requires certain clarificatory amendments which are proposed to be made.

Clause 40 of the Bill provides for levy of additional tax on distributed profits of domestic companies. Certain clarificatory amendments which are necessary are proposed to be made including an amendment to Section 32 of the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 to omit Sub-Section (3) thereof.

Chapter IV of the Bill introduced the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Scheme 1997. None of the political parties which met me opposed the scheme. The provisions of this scheme were considered in the light of suggestions received from various quarters and it has been decided that disclosure may be allowed only under the Income-tax Act 1961. It is, therefore, proposed to rename the scheme as 'Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997'

There will, however, be no liability for payment of wealth tax, if any, arising out of such disclosed income for the past period and any liability to wealth tax will be only prospective.

It is also proposed that in a case of disclosure of investment in jewellery made in a year earlier than the Assessment Year 1987-88, the market value of the jewellery may be taken as its value on 1st April, 1987 for the purpose of computation of the amount disclosed.

There are some other minor or consequential amendments which are self-explanatory and I shall not elaborate them.

In my budget proposals presented on 28th February, I had proposed reduction in the peak rate of customs duty from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. I had also proposed reduction in customs duty on chemicals and capital goods. In addition to these I had proposed some reduction in customs duty on coal and coke and on some other goods.

On the excise side, I had made several proposals to further rationalise the duty rates and widen the tax base. I had also proposed to introduce some new services into the tax net.

Many hon. Members have made very useful suggestions. I express my gratitude on this account. In deference to their wishes, I am inclined to make certain changes in my budget proposals relating to customs and excise.

Some representations have been received on the reduction of customs duty on capital goods. Capital goods attract the same rate of customs duty as project imports at the rate of 20 per cent plus two per cent. There will also be an additional duty of customs (popularly known as CVD) which will be equivalent to the excise duty on domestically produced capital goods. The only exceptions that have been made are in the following four sectors.

Firstly, fertiliser industry has been exempted from both customs duty and CVD since many years. I have not proposed any change in this regime in my budget proposals.

Secondly, the power generation sector will continue to attract 20 per cent duty in additions to the special customs duty of two per cent without the burden of CVD. I have made no change in this behalf also.

Thirdly, in my budget speech, I had proposed that refineries will be allowed to import capital goods during the 9th Plan period at a concessional duty on par with the fertiliser sector. In fact, what I have done is to allow zero per cent customs duty only in respect of those capital goods for refineries which are not generally produced within the country. Further, this benefit will be confined only to the 9th Plan period. As regards domestic producers supplying capital goods for refinery projects, they will have the benefit of deemed export status.

Fourthly, in the telecom sector, in respect of capital goods not produced within the country, there will be customs duty of 20 per cent plus two per cent special customs duty, but they will be exempted from CVD for a period of two years. It will thus be seen that no major change has been made in the taxation on the capital goods sector.

On the demand of domestic manufacturers of machine tools I propose to reduce the customs duty on CNC systems from 30 per cent to 20 per cent.

Catalytic converters and their parts are charged to a nominal duty of five per cent on their import, I propose to extend this concessional rate to specified raw materials required for manufacture of catalytic converters or their parts in India.

I propose to reduce the customs duty on ferro nickel from 20 per cent in order to provide further relief to the steel industry.

I also propose to reduce the customs duty in a few more cases in response to the demands of user industries. I propose to reduce the duty on litharge, a material used for producing glass shells and parts for Colour Picture Tubes, from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

I propose to reduce the basic customs duty on Epichlorohydrin from 30 per cent to 20 per cent, on carbon black feed stock from 30 per cent to 20 per cent and on specified raw materials for the manufacture of medical syringes and needles to 10 per cent.

I propose to withdraw the exemption from additional duty of customs on plastic bags used for preserving blood and its components in order to provide a level playing field for the domestic producers. I also propose to exclude sewing needles from the list of goods entitled to be imported at concessional duty by the leather industry because of the indigenous angle.

In my Budget proposals I had proposed to charge customs duty on almonds on *ad-valorem* basis. I am informed that this may lead to problems of valuation and avoidance of tax. I propose to revert to specific duty on almonds. Almonds in shell would be subjected to customs duty at the rate of Rs. 55 per kg and shelled almonds will be subject to customs duty at Rs. 100 per kg.

Hon. Members will be happy to know that I am persuaded to withdraw the excise duty on umbrellas.

SHRI A.C. JOS : That is for Kerala.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : And Bengal also.

I also propose to exempt roofing tiles from excise duty.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is also correct.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I propose to reduce the excise duty on silicon from 13 per cent to 8 per cent and also to withdraw the exemption from additional duty of customs on import of this item.

I propose to reduce the excise duty on fruit juice based non-alcoholic beverages from 18 per cent to 8 per cent. However, with a view to rationalise the duty I propose to charge fruit pulp based non-alcoholic beverages also to duty at the rate of 8 per cent. Both will have the same rate of duty.

There is some apprehension arising out of levy of 8 per cent excise duty on preparations of vegetables, fruits, nuts etc. The general SSI exemption upto Rs. 30 lakh will take care of small manufacturers. Modvat facility will also be available. Hence, the net incidence to duty will be extremely small. Besides, by notification, made some time ago, soya products, *papad*, *namkeen* such as *bhujia* and *chabena* and a variety of mixes like *idli*, *vada*, *dosa*, *jalebi* and *gulab jamun* mixes as well as all sweetmeats and snacks are already exempt. Hence, there need be no apprehension on this account.

Aluminium circles meant for producing utensils have for many years been charged to excise duty. In the current Budget, I raised it to Rs. 2,500 per metric tonne. Aluminium circles for other purposes have also been charged to excise duty for some year at an *ad-valorem* rate of 15 per cent. I have received many representations that this dual structure creates practical problems for small producers of aluminium circles. Hence I propose to charge all aluminium circles to a uniform rate of Rs. 2,500 per metric tonne. I also propose to introduce a scheme of compounded levy for producers of aluminium circles. The details are being worked out.

In my Budget proposals I had withdrawn the benefit of small scale exemption for producers of pile fabrics. I propose to restore the benefit of this exemption to unprocessed corduroy cotten fabrics. This would benefit a large number of small scale loom owners producing such fabrics.

I propose to further reduce the excise duty on synthetic sewing thread from 18 per cent to 15 per cent.

I also propose to reduce the excise duty on switches, plugs etc. from 18 per cent if they are made by hand-operated moulded machines.

In my Budget proposals I had reduced the excise duty on sanitary towels, napkins for babies and similar sanitary articles to 13 per cent. I propose to further reduce the duty on these goods to 8 per cent.

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I propose to reduce the duty on matches produced in the mechanised sector from Rs. 3 to Rs. 2.70 per hundred boxes of fifty matches each, responding to respected Shri Jyoti Basu.

Many hon. Members have represented to me about increased effect in the excise duty on tread rubber. I propose to restore the excise duty on tread rubber produced by small producers to the pre-Budget level of 15 per cent. The special scheme applicable to them since 1995 will continue to be in force.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : What about reduction of excise duty on foams made of natural rubber? ....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is a special scheme of 150 thousand. That scheme continues.....(Interruptions) I am coming to it.

Some hon. Members have suggested that more fiscal incentive be provided for the use of non-conventional raw materials in the manufacture of paper and paperboard. I propose to allow the benefit of the concessional rate of five per cent duty on the use of non-conventional raw materials upto 15,000 metric tonnes in a financial year as against the existing limit of 10,000 metric tonnes.....(Interruptions) All small and medium paper mills will be covered under this limit.

I also propose to exempt cruise ships, boats, cargo ships, etc. from excise duty. This will include wooden vessels, fishing boats etc.

Some hon. Members have expressed apprehensions about the simplified scheme of excise duty for the SSI units which I had announced in the budget. Just to put things in perspective, I wish to say that out of more than 27 lakh registered SSI units, only about 47,000 are under the excise net. I believe that the scheme announced by me is simple and relieves the SSI units of cumbersome excise procedures and formalities. However, it has been represented to me that the pre-budget facility of availing Modvat and paying concessional excise duty should also be available to the SSI units as an option. I may point out that, hitherto, there were two schemes and I am told that more than 25000 units availed one of the schemes and the remaining availed of the other scheme. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to announce a scheme which would be the sole alternative scheme to the one announced by me in the budget speech. However, after consultation with the SSI sector, I shall, in due course, notify an alternative scheme for the SSI sector under which the SSI units will be eligible to avail of Modvat even while paying concessional excise duty. For the present, the scheme announced by me and which came into force from 1st April, 1997 will continue to operate.

The House may recall that I had made some modifications in the customs and excise duty structure on petroleum products in my last budget. This included increase

in excise duty from 10 per cent to 15 per cent on some petroleum products which are subjected to administered price regime and which are included in the Modvat scheme. At the same time, I had announced that there will be no change in the prices of administered petroleum products as a result of these modifications. In order to achieve this objective, the increased amount of duty is being borne by the oil pool account. However, I am informed that some users of Modvatable petroleum products are taking Modvat credit at the rate of 15 per cent though the incidence of excise duty passed on to them was not increased. Logically the users should be allowed credit only to the extent of 10 per cent *advalorem* duty. I have accordingly amended the Modvat Rules by a notification No. GSR 240 (E) issued on 3rd May, 1997. I propose to move an official amendment in the Finance Bill to give retrospective effect to this notification from the 23rd July, 1996.

Many hon. Members and industry associations have expressed some apprehensions about the service tax. It is true that a number of new services have been brought under the service tax net. This is, as it ought to be, given the fact that 42 per cent of our GDP is from the services sector. However, it is not my intention to levy the tax immediately upon the Finance Bill becoming law. In each case, an opportunity will be given to the industry concerned to make their representation about the manner in which the tax will be collected and exemptions, if any, which deserve to be granted. Thereafter, rules will be made. Upon the rules being made, the tax will be levied from a prospective date. Hence there need not be any undue apprehension at this stage.

The changes proposed above in respect of customs and excise duties involve a net loss of revenue to about Rs. 55 crore on the customs side and Rs. 56 crore on the excise side in a full year.

Copies of the notifications relating to excise and customs duty changes will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : There is no buyer for the rubber milk which we produce and the latex which we produce...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Debate will take place. Please take your seat. Let him complete his speech. You can raise all these issues during the debate. How can you force him?

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You participate in the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You make all these points during the debate. Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : At least he should say that he will consider it sympathetically.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am happy to make two announcements at the instance of the hon. Prime Minister.

The upkeep of the National Memorial at Jalianwala Bagh and its further development and maintenance require funds. The hon. Prime Minister has announced a grant of Rs. 2.50 crore to the Jalianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust Amritsar.

Secondly, beginning August 15, 1997, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Independence. Khadi enjoys a normal rebate and a special rebate during certain short periods in a year. However, to commemorate the 50th anniversary, Khadi will enjoy a special rebate of 15 per cent during the whole year from 15th August, 1997 to 14th August, 1998

16.00 hrs.

With these words, I commend the Finance Bill, 1997 to the House and I request the hon. Member to give their whole-hearted support to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposal of the Central Government for the financial year 1997-98 be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the demand of 10 lakhs of rubber growers in Kerala, all of whom are marginal farmers, that the excise duty on foams made of natural rubber should be reduced.

[Translation]

MR CHAIRMAN : You raise your point during debate.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about the Ex-Servicemen and the Gallantry Award winners who fought in the Kashmir War of 1947. He had made a categorical assurance.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, he should please listen to us and do something for us.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, this is the 50th year of Independence and we do not want to honour our Ex-Servicemen and the Gallantry Award winners who perished for this country. The Finance Minister had made a categorical assurance.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now only Shri Joshi's speech will go on record. You can make all these points during the debate. This is not the way. The debate has started. This is not one-to-one discussion where you will ask something and he will reply to it. This is not Question Hour.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, where do I go? I have met the Finance Minister umpteen times. I have met him at least

four or five times and I have explained to him. It is the demand of 10 lakhs of rubber growers. The import duty on artificially made foams is reduced every year and when the foams are made of natural rubber by our farmers there is no excise duty reduction for that. Therefore, we cannot compete with them. There is no buyer for the rubber milk which we produce and there is no buyer for the latex which we produce.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, is this the way the debate will take place? Thousands of representations come.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Where do I say all this? I met him three or four times.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, please take your seat now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I cannot go to my constituency. There are more than a lakh of rubber growers in my constituency and there are 10 lakhs of them in Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have some complaints against the Finance Minister and you are obstructing Dr. Joshi.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir I protest against this attitude. By this way he is helping big industrialists. He is helping Reliance Industries because they are importing polyurethane which is competing with natural rubber. I charge this Finance Minister. I have met him three or four times. I explained everything to him. Why has he made so much announcement? I charge him. He is siding with big industrialists. He has no consideration for rubber growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot go on like this.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I walk out in protest.

16.02 hrs.

[Prof. P.J. Kurien then left the House]

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. You can raise these points during your speech.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I would not get chance for speech because there are 14 speakers from my party. Therefore I won't speak. Sir he had made a categorical assurance.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You speak in the debate.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I hope you will reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You are different from Prof. Kurien.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Chairman, I listened to Finance Minister's speech very carefully.

16.03 hrs.

[Col. Rao Ram Singh in the Chair]

I also listened to the announcements which he made about his Budget provisions and after that I also listened to



[ Dr. Murlī Monahar Joshi ]

some amendments in finance bill and some relaxations but 6, 7 points which he mentioned in beginning, surprised me that this finance bill supports basic concept of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front. The full consideration has been given in it to fiscal prudence inflation control, employment, generation, improvement in agriculture, poverty alleviation savings, human development etc. But after going through the whole finance bill and provisions of the budget, I feel that nothing is going to be implemented in this finance bill. Any Finance Bill realizes the provisions of the budget and decides the economy and economic management and tells how we use national resources and revenue of the country. Main thing is in whose interest we will use all these. We should come to know by this Finance Bill that from whom we will collect revenue and for which areas of the society and nations we will use it.

But I feel very sorry to know that it is very clear by this finance bill that it is not in favour of Indian industries. Instead of giving encouragement to small industries it exploits them and hurts them seriously. We have observed just now that how workers working in rubber industry under small scale industries of Kerala are facing difficulties. This is the proof of it that this Finance bill is not only discouraging the small and cottage industries but also hunting their interests

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please do not adopt Prof. Kurien's argument without knowing the facts. I could have answered him. But out of politeness I did not answer him.

DR. MURLI MONOHAR JOSHI : I am not adopting his arguments. I am just referring to what he was saying.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is not as though I do not have an answer to what he says. I have answered him personally. I have invited him to meet with the Member (Customs) and Member (Budget). The file is being shown to him contrary to normal rules of the Government. Yet if Prof. Kurien does not understand the basic facts, there is nothing I can do to help him. He will call me at midnight, he will call me at 5.00 in the morning for pressing a case. I could easily charge him with being a lobbyist for an industry, but I do not want to charge him for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, in all fairness, I think, you should have said that when he was present.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I did not want to say but Shri Joshi is adopting his argument and saying that we have done something to hurt him.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am not saying that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not want to charge him with anything. The point I am trying to make is, let him participate in the debate and I will answer the debate. What is the point in using abusive language at me.

(Translation)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : But I will give you some more examples which will prove that this Finance Bill

is not in favour of small and cottage industries. Indian Industries and entrepreneurs. The provisions of this Finance Bill neither increase the job opportunities nor they help in generating employment. It also does not give any encouragement to agriculture and the most important thing is that this Finance Bill and budget do not have any practical and beneficial provision for 36 percent people living below the poverty line. This Finance Bill does not contain any concrete measures about downtrodden, exploited, unemployed persons and villages where there is no development, where faces of the people are covered with wrinkles and there is no hope in their eyes. In a manner, this finance bill is import friendly it encourages the imports and it may be beneficial for some of the major industries and their products but it seems that it is providing a Divine opportunity for the foreign producers and further it is the golden opportunity because when our minister of Finance invites the foreign investors then he generally tells them "You come to India, here is the profit, here is the market, you are welcome here and do your business here". This finance bill does not represent India as a human society, a cultural society, an ancient nation but it represents it as a market for modern foreign producers. This country has to think over it. This country seriously as to how far this philosophy and attitude of a Finance Bill by basic Character of a country into a market unit instead of converting it into a nation or a cultural unit is correct. I think that finance bill and budget should be prepared in accordance with the original ideology of a nation I have to say with regret and disappointment that it is not in accordance with the main stream national character national expectations and original philosophy of India and the point which is of great importance is that it is not in consonance with the common minimum programme also.

You had stated in your speech that you have been successful in containing the budget deficit last time upto 4.5 percent. But it is an illusion the original deficit is much Rajhen that that of 4.5 per cent. You might remember that in the last budget you had allocated Rs. 5,000 crores to meet the increase in salaries made as per recommendation of the pay commission. It is approximately 0.5 percent of G.D.P. You have saved Rs. 9,500 crores in respect of expenditure in this way, approximately Rs. 10,000 crores have been saved. I myself and my friend Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is sitting here, in conversation with several ministers on these issues we have asked that what is the meaning of these savings. In C.A.G's report there are several paragraphs indicating that there has been savings in the several ministries. Now when I look at these things seriously then I find that you have not spent funds or spent less funds as per the budget estimates of 1996-97 in respect of fertilizers, education, petroleum, rural development, rural employment and water resources and atomic energy, Rs. 2171 crores are spent on fertilizers instead of Rs. 2610 crores Rs. 2574 crores are spent on education instead of Rs. 3888 crores. Rs. 11403 crores are spent on petroleum instead of Rs. 13526 crores, There was an estimate of Rs. 6790 crores for power and Rs. 1798 crores are spent. There was a provision of Rs. 6437 Crores for rural employment but only Rs. 5977 are spent. There was a provision of Rs. 1267 crores for water resources but only Rs. 831 crores

are spent. There was a provision of Rs.1130 crores for atomic energy; you have spent Rs. 1064 crores. In this way you can see that you have saved approximately Rs. 10,000 crore in total. From your estimated expenditure of rupees 87 thousand crore you have saved 10 thousand crore rupees and you can see that it is 0.9 per cent of the GDP. If we add the 0.9 percent and 0.5 percent then deficit of 1.4 percent was not shown at that time. There was five percent deficit last year, if you add this then there was a budgetary deficit of 6.4 percent not 4.5 percent.

You should put forth the budgetary figures properly and explain the country as to why the budget estimate, the provisions made in the budget, are not spent. Many a times it appears to me that you deliberately show higher allocation in the budget and then you spent less and you tell the world that we have made savings, we have reduced the budgetary deficit. Your method of controlling budgetary deficit and reducing budgetary losses is not in accordance with any financial principles. You can show the world bank or I.M.F with the help of heavy network of figures that you have reduced the deficit. But the reality is that if you spent less on rural employment, if you spent less in power sector, if you spent less than one third on education then you tell me as to how you are helping the nation's development and how you are correcting the losses. It is very disgraceful that government is spending less on all those programmes which are meant for poverty alleviation, national development, power generation making the people literate, which provide employment to the rural people and then you people say that we have reduced the budget deficit. I think that this type of approach is a mockery with the people. This is mockery with the normal development of the country. This is mockery with the aim and philosophy of the country. An improbable thing is being explained and it is being explained to the whole country that our budget deficit is less because we have reduced the expenditure on certain items.

You have talked inflation. I am unable to understand that how you are going to contain the inflation. You have kept Rs. 16,000 crore for monetarisation in this year's budget. It means that you are going to print currency notes of Rs. 16,000 crore. Now a days you are talking about oil pool deficit, it is also of the size of Rs. 20,000 crore. When ever these prices will be hiked, what may be its magnitude this is an issue of concern for every citizen of this country. Will the economy of this country be able to endure an inflation of the order of Rs. 36,00 or 40,000. We are repeatedly being informed that our inflation rate is reduced. How do you determine this inflation rate? When we go to the market to purchase anything then we find costlier. On the basis of certain items for which you have liked the weightage for the purpose of calculating wholesale price index, you claim that index of inflation has come down but when the prices of wheat increases, when the price of sugar increases, when the price of cloth increases, when the charges for electricity increases, and the budget of the common man is disturbed, when the government itself provide its employees every year, after certain months and increase in the dearness allowance then I am unable to understand that where you are checking the inflation. For correcting the

index of inflation primarily its weightage should be corrected. It should be known to all that how you are going to determine the inflation, what are the norms, the items and the rate of their consumption taken into consideration while determine inflation. What would be the part of food products in that, what would be the part of manufactured goods. Every Indian do not purchase motor cars, scooters and such other things on the basis of which wholesale price index is determined.

Inflation has no meaning. Unless you determine the rate of inflation with the common needs of poor people which are required for the sustenance of their life. I understand that the rate of inflation is not around 7 to 8 percent, as you quote, but in practice it is not less than 10 to 12 percent.

Now you have provided facility for the import of large amount of foreign exchange in the country. Further you have provided facilities for the portfolio investment upto 30 percent instead of 24 percent. And as I remember you have allowed foreign investment in the instruments of government debt, now they can trade in this sector also. In the foreign operators that they can occupy the major important sectors of country's economy. Before, that I would like to ask you that you have estimated that approximately 19 billion dollars of foreign exchange is to be invested in the country. External commercial borrowings are of approximately six billion dollars, foreign direct investment is of approximately four billion dollars, in voluntary disclosure scheme you have estimated that approximately two billion dollars of money is likely to be collected and approximately seven billion dollars are likely to be collected in portfolio investment. If this much of money, 19-20 billion dollar would come to India then is it possible for the Indian economy to absorb this in a normal way and operate.

At present in this situation I can see that foreigners are occupying major important sectors of industrial and financial activities. The whole automobile industry now exist in their possession and till now the spare parts, which were manufactured by the workers of our country, the way in which you have reduced the custom duties, now the complete range of spare parts will be imported because it will be cheaper than the indigenous ones. Nobody will manufacture them in India. All types of motor cars are being manufactured by the foreign companies. Major manufacturing is being carried out with the foreign spare parts and the only small amount of spare parts which used to be manufactured here, you have stopped that also and the entire automobile industry is now in the hands of foreign companies. Information sector is also going into their hands and on the total network of cellular Phones and telephones, they are strengthening their hold and if these instruments of foreign debts, the instruments of government debts once gone into their hands then it seems that you have made every arrangements, with these finance bill and with this budget, to hand over economy if this country into the hands of foreigners. I am unable to understand that whether you are handling the finance ministry as the representatives of indians or as the representatives of foreign producers.

[ Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ]

I am unable to understand that whether our friend Nirmal Chatterjee is supporting it or opposing it? Whether he is supporting the supremacy of foreign capitalists on the Indian economy? Whether he is supporting these budgetary provisions? I would like to ask the every supporting party, I would like to ask my friends in Janata Dal, they were my good friends in the Rajya Sabha, they used to protest these provisions and at present such people are sitting in the Cabinet, who were used to oppose these provisions till the last year. I do not know that how they have become helpless. Would you prefer to invite the foreign capitalists in the country to keep the Bhartiya Janata Party out of power, whether this is your approach? Whether the Janata Dal's approach is that the complete economy of the country may go into the hand of foreigners but the Bhartiya Janata Party should be kept out of power whether you think in this way.....(interruption) Ram Kripal ji, these are very serious issues, so you please do not interrupt .....(Interruptions) These are not the issues relating to providing duplicate licence or helping in getting duplicate licences in the villages of Patna. These are very serious issues, so please listen and understand.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Whether duplicate licenses are issued in Patna? Why are you giving wrong information, why are you misleading the House?

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : But not importing fodder.....(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please sit down. Hon. Finance Minister, you have said so many things regarding the alleviation of poverty. The provisions for the alleviation of poverty in the budget are of Rs. 9096 crores.

There are 36 crore poor people in the country so in this way Rs. 253 per person per year is spent on the alleviation of poverty. It means that provision of 10 paise per day per person is made in this budget for the alleviation of poverty. You have provided not even a rupee. How can you alleviate a person's poverty with 70 paise?

I have very keenly studied the poverty alleviation projects. It's report will come before the Parliament very soon. Therefore I will not discuss that in detail. But if you study the paragraphs of Comptroller and Auditor General's report then you will find that these poverty alleviation projects are going into the hands of some special officers, some special contractors and in the hands of some special public representatives, these projects are not benefitting the poor.....(Interruptions) 60 paise may go or even 65 paise may go.

I have seen in many States that there is no muster role for poverty alleviation plans, there is no specification, there is no identification, that who is poor person and who should be benefitted with that. There are such states where we have asked the officers as to whether this muster role as correct then they had replied that that was not correct. You will be surprised to know this, they have provided us the figures that if the minimum wage is Rs. 25 and Rs. 500

lacs were allocated simply by dividing Rs. 5.00 lacs by 25 they declare the number of man days created. When the Comptroller and Auditor General inspected, then it was found that even one third of that result was not achieved. False figures are given.

[English]

The figures have been fudged.

[Translation]

In this way national figures are shown. We have inspected several places and found that not even a single man day has been created there. The persons shown in the muster roll were not present there. Therefore, the way in which you are implementing this and what you have stated in your common minimum programme about the alleviation of poverty, on the basis of that we can say that you should review all those projects. It should be ensured that these projects be conducted in a right manner, they reach the common man, the common man gets benefit therefrom. What is going on in Nirmal DG's State in regard to these projects, it must be reviewed. except one or two States there is no such state where proper attention is given toward these aspects. Therefore the targets are not achieved, to which you have given main importance in your common minimum programme.

You say that attention is being given on agriculture. Agricultural production is declining. Your Agriculture Minister says that he will import foodgrains. The production of foodgrains has not increased. You must be aware of the fact that 200 kg per capita total food is being supplied annually in this country. In 1860, the Britishers had stated :

[English]

'It is just necessary to meet the famine conditions'.

[Translation]

If the production of foodgrains in this country is 200 Kg per capita every year, it will only save them from starvation during famine. At present, the production of foodgrains is about 192 million tons and our population is 96 crores. Thus, the per capita availability of foodgrains is still 200kg every year.

[English]

You are just on the verge of famine conditions.

[Translation]

You know the conditions prevailing in Orissa. Food riots have taken place in Madhya Pradesh. Power riots are taking place in Andhra Pradesh. Which is that agriculture and who are those India's farmers you are talking about.

Today, foodgrain is being imported in India and the quantity of import is increasing every year. Last year you talked of 2 million tons. Now we are listening about 5-6 million tons. I am afraid that with the passage of years, you will import 10-15 million tons of foodgrains. In the opinion of some experts, you are heading to import 25 million tons of

foodgrains. It is for what? What have you done for the Indian farmers? Have you paid any attention towards their condition? I am unable to find anything about farmers in this bill after going through this budget. I have not seen anything about farmers and agriculture in the taxation system too. In the country you have tried to obstruct the marketing of the products of the farmers by imposing taxes and excise duty on food processing industries. I don't think that any appropriate provision has been made for the farmers in this budget or in the Financial Bill.

Today, even after 50 years of our Independence, people of India don't get sufficient food to eat. In 1991, 511 gms. per capita foodgrains was available. Today, 450 gms is available. In these six years the availability of foodgrains has declined by 66 gms. This is below nutrition. If you make a study of the nutritive diets additives of the world you will see that India is at the bottom. Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are ahead of us. This is the position of agriculture that you have made. What more I can say about it? But I want to give you a general warning that if you will not pay attention towards agriculture and power generation, there will be a crisis of food-grains and power and riots and troubles are apprehended.

I was greatly surprised to know that we are lagging behind the target of 18,000 M.W. power generation during the Eighth Five Year Plan, what will be done for that? How will you achieve that target of Ninth Five Year Plan about which you have mentioned in your speech? I could not understand that. You have stated that you have fixed the target of 38000 M.W. power generation, then what will happen to the backlog of 18,000 M.W. power generation of Eighth Five Year Plan? If we include that also then total power generation should be 56,000 M.W. You are fixing the target of 38,000 M.W. for Ninth Five Year Plan and include that 18,000 M.W. therein, then the target of Ninth Five Year Plan will be only 20,000 M.W. But if 38,000 M.W. are not included in it, then we will have a total shortage of 56,000 M.W. How will you meet it? Which foreigner will give funds for it? Can you collect funds from abroad also. What is your strategy for it? For how long you will keep this country in power crisis? Your taxation, your taxation system and your budget management are very despairing and I do not think that you are doing anything for the economic progress, and for the industrial and agricultural progress of this country.

Now, I would like to give some suggestions regarding the provisions made by you in respect of customs, excise duty and Income tax. First of all I would like to say that you have accepted some of the suggestions which we and other members have made. But except two or three suggestions none is much result oriented. I will talk later on. But you have shown some sympathy and sensitivity. You are not so heartless like our Home Minister. You too have some feelings in your heart for it. I want that it should increase further. You should feel the nerve of the poor and the common people. You should have a place for them in your heart. But this should not be so that after accepting only some small suggestions, you try to prove that you have

accepted all the major suggestions. You have certainly accepted some suggestions at the appropriate time and I will tell about the points where I agree. But I would like to say that you should not show your sympathetic attitude towards officers only. Professor Kurien might have told this in a specific reference. The building of this country is not in the hands of a few big industrialists or high mill owners or foreign capital but this country is built by 96 crores people. This country is built by the resources available here by the youths, workers and farmers of this country. In our budget and in the whole system attention should be given towards it also. I am very much disappointed to see this budget. Now, you have reduced the custom duty. You have reduced the import duty from 50% to 40% and on several items you have reduced it from 40% to 30%. You are determined to reduce the tariff because you are associated with World Trade Organisation. So in order to become the most favoured nation, you are doing all these things to abolish the tariff. You are going far ahead than the kind of speed needed. Please do not go so fast. It is better to be in the race but after the year 2004 we have to decrease tariff in a lot of things. In some areas, we have to make zero percent tariff. But why don't you use the time and opportunity available for that.

If we expect 40 percent tariff, then you reduce it to 30 per cent. From whom do you want to get praise? Who will say that you are doing a good job. I feel that our Finance Minister is running fast in that direction for getting appreciation from somewhere and wants to say that look I should have reached here. I have got double promotion. I have been promoted from seventh class to tenth class direct and not to eighth class because I have reduced the tariff which was not expected from any other person and I have done it. Now, the former Finance Minister is also apprehensive about it. He is also speaking the truth. He is a such type of man who used to say something else earlier and when he became Finance Minister then he started saying something else and now when he is not a Minister, he is saying something else but even then he is the financial head of your party. Your several policies are the same. But I have read in the newspaper that he is not satisfied with most of your policies. He has also started speaking gradually against your policies....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Perceptions change while in the Government and while outside the Government.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is what is happening with you also. You are supporting certain things when you are supporting them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I remember your Finance Minister speaking and I now hear you. So, I know that within the Government and outside the Government which kind of changes come.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Finance Minister of BJP had no opportunity to present a Budget. He would

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have presented a Budget which would have been a pro-poor and pro-common man and pro-Indian Budget. Once the opportunity will come again we will see that we will produce a Budget which will fulfil the aspirations of this country. Very soon the opportunity is coming when we will be presenting the Budget and that Budget would be the real Indian Budget....(Interruptions) Anyway, whatever it is.

[Translation]

You have reduced the custom duty to the large extent but you have shown the increase of eight thousand crore income in excise duty. In my opinion, excise duty should also be reduced in proportionate to custom duty otherwise Indian industry will face difficulties in competing with others. Today there are several industries which are facing many difficulties. One of my friends told me that several industries in Mumbai are being closed and they are facing a lot of problems. I not know to what extent it is correct. But they say that the goods of Baroda Rayon are not getting customers. They are not able to sell the PVC manufactured by Nosil. PIL, which makes polio offence, is almost closed. Grasim has not got money from market and Jai Corporation is on the verge of closure...(Interruptions).

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : These are the four companies only....(Interruptions)

MR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : They are feeling difficulty. Their inventory has increased. they could not sell the goods....(Interruptions) They are worried for the last few days that their inventory is increasing, there is no market before them. Foreign goods have pushed them back....(Interruptions) They are not able to compete. They say that if the situation continues it will create problems for us. If it is true, I will urge upon the Finance Minister to conduct an inquiry into it to see as to which are the industries of India, which are facing difficulties. They talk of reviving the sick industries but why he is making the running industries sick? If you let the industry operate, if you let the Indian industries operate if you let them operate with the Indian resources and Indian system, then they will not become sick and you will close down B.I.F.R. Then there is no need of it. The Indian industries should be allowed to run and you should not create problems for them by dumping foreign products.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : May I just inform Dr. Muli Manohar Joshi that it is one of the facts that the investment rate can grow by just accumulating inventory and not capital formation, it is really an indicator of sickness and not of growth.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Industries never become sick.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Bureaucrats and industries never become sick. This is absolutely correct.

The problem is that you support all such types of financial management. The Major ill effects of reducing the tariff can be seen in the sector of pharmaceuticals. The people of pharmaceutical industry have told us that you have reduced the tariff on many bulk drugs. Therefore, the capacity of bulk drug manufacturers is not being utilised fully in India and if it will not be utilised fully, those industries will be closed down. Today, Chinese bulk drugs have entered in the Indian market and due to which problems have been created for our manufacturers. You are requested to keep it in mind that due to reduction in tariff on foreign goods, the goods manufactured by Indian industrialists do not become non-viable and non-competitive. If it happens so the only consequence of reducing tariff will be arrival of foreign goods. Then Business Houses in place of Industrial Houses will come up in India and only commission agents will remain here. This country will not remain the country of entrepreneurs and industrialists. Therefore, there must be a difference of duty between finished goods, raw material and mediatory components. Minimum tariff should be imposed on raw material and on components, it should be more than that and on finished goods, highest tariff should be imposed. This is a general rule. If you want to protect Indian industrialists, You will have to take care of it. Besides, if you reduce tariff, then please reduce excise duty in that proportion too. So that Indian entrepreneurs could get an equal ground and they can compete. But this is not happening.

Regarding the problem of Balance of Payment, world Bank and I.M.F have received the information by your ministry that there is no B.O.P. crisis now in the country. The commerce ministry of this country says that we are still suffering from B.O.P crisis but Finance Ministry of our country says that there is no B.O.P crisis. Now, if it is not the crisis of Balance of Payments, then you will not get the protective provisions which you were getting so far. Therefore, now there is a pressure upon you to remove the quantitative restriction on all consumer's durables. The quota will remain in textiles. But you will not be able to stop arrival of foreign readymade garments. You will have to remove the restrictions. On the one hand, you have removed the tariff barriers and on the other non tariff barriers too are being removed just to benefit the foreigners. If you had removed the tariff barriers, then you should have not removed the non-tariff barriers. You could keep that alternative in your hand. We have not done this. We have not to destroy our industries. If quantitative restrictions are removed from textile industry a large number of people will become unemployed in our country. Therefore I will request you to reconsider this policy. This is not a good policy.

You have talked about excise and have made enabling provision into effect under section 4(A). You want to impose excise duty on the maximum retail price which in unconstitutional to impose tax over price is a sales tax this. If you are selling a certain things imposing any certain tax, then it is a sales tax. The state govts. are also eligible to impose that tax they have right to impose sales tax on many more things. You are doing two things when you impose excise on M.R.P and excise on sale price. At the one hand you are charging the definition of excise and on the other, the tax

which you should have imposed on the production of producer, you are imposing on sales.

You are also accepting sales as a deemed manufacture. If you have any doubt regarding M.R.P then you can find out a way to remove the wide gap existing between the rules of Production and sale. Nobody would like that any product should reach the consumers on 10 to 20 times more prices than ex-factory price I will never support it you must determine a fixed price by saying that at any cost these can't be more than one to one and half percent or one to two percent or one to three percent difference between manufacture price and sale price. A line has to be drawn somewhere. You want to bring excise at par with the sales tax. This attitude and philosophy is not good. This is also philosophically and constitutionally wrong let the excise be an excise. Logic is given that it is a global phenomenon. A lot of things are happening in the world but nowhere in the world 36 crore of its people are poor. There are a few countries in the world whose population is 96 crores hardly any country in the world has a Finance Minister like Sh. Chidambaram. It's true that we do not wish to lag behind in the world. We want to walk step by step with the world. I am of the opinion that we must go a head of the world but never lag behind I do not agree to the theory that since something is happening around in the world. So we must do it you must follow the taxation policy keeping in view your country population, requirements of its people and entrepreneurs as well as its constitution. If you link the excise duty with the M.R.P. then I fear, it may be challenged in the court of and this will be unconstitutional and will be pending before the court.

You should enhance the sources of tax. We will not have any objection to it. The B.J.P. is agreed to this fact that the number of tax payers be increased in this country. I have also studied this aspect. You can make this work done through the employers of Directorate of Enforcement and income tax department. Today the officers of income tax Department do not have any facility. You want to keep them involved in looking into the income tax forms of salaried sections. They do not have anything to do apart from it. Today 1.25 crores people are income tax payees in the country and out of them 80-85 lakh people belong to salaried class. If your officers are heavy in handling this much of people, then the tax base can never be widened. You must streamline the systems of income tax department and excise department. I am sorry to say that today there are arrears of crores of rupees of excise duty crores of rupees were given in arrears in the name of provisional assessment of tax.

[English]

There is a connivance, there is a financial accommodation by the Excise Department and the Customs Department.

[Translation]

We have proof regarding frauds of 500 crores of rupees committed in custom house. Orders were issued to take disciplinary action against those officers but even after the lapse of two years, no disciplinary action were taken against

them. I do not know who are protecting them? Today you want to impose tax on small businessmen, howkers, small tent owners and taxi operators but first of all you must discipline those officers who are involved in the scams of rupees thousands of crores, make public all those accounts which are in call books and which are kept hidden multinational Companies and big entrepreneurs. If, you go through the CAG Report, you will find that thousands crores of rupees are pending in arrears in excise department, customs department and Income Tax department why do not you recover them if you recover them, then the people will have faith in your honesty about the recovery of tax. Let this tax go to the government exchequer. This is our experience that the excise department itself promotes corruption very much. Corruption increases wherever it reaches. Please ask our inspectors not to harass the people. You can not increase the tax base till corruption is not rooted out from the income tax Department, excise Department and customs department they are the main constraints in improving the tax base which I will tell at the right time. I cannot tell those things right now. I will explain how the orders of ministers issued against the officers involved in corruptions were not implemented for two years.

The people at high places and officers have given protection to the corrupt officers. I cannot say with certainty that inspite of today's outbursts action will be initiated against the corrupt officials or not. If you root out the corruptions prevailing in customs and excise then you will be able to collect large amount and will be benefited. But I want to know from you that whether you are serious to maintain the sanctity of Finance Bill? Do you mean to say that tax be imposed as per the provisions made in Finance Bill? I wanted to know whether it is correct? I want to know from this House whether it is appropriate for the Govt. to issue a notification to bring amendment in tax structures after voting out the Govt. on 11th April? Is it possible?

[English]

A copy of Central Excise Notification No. 19/97 dated 11th April 1997.

[Translation]

Can we maintain honour and sanctity of the House this way? Is it not an insult to the House? Do you have constitutional Legislative propriety for such change?

[English]

In the table for Serial Nos. 115 and 116 and entries thereto the following shall be substituted, namely.....

[Translation]

I do not want to go into the details but you must see why it was changed? It could be announced in the House and you could move amendments as you have done today. I want to know if it was issued by some one's order on 11th April? Have the officers done it themselves and if they have done so then there must have been connivance in it. This has been done in order to provide financial benefits to someone and it is signed by Rajiv Talwar, Under Secretary to Govt. of India.

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Mr. Chairman Sir, you should direct the Finance Minister to lay all the files and documents related to this case before the House so that we can come to know that how and on what condition the officers did so. Will you maintain the honour and sanctity of the Finance Bill in this manner? Are the officers free to do what they liked? A number of notifications were issued the day when the Govt. was voted out of power. Such a notification is here in my hand. I want to request through you, Sir, that an investigation should be conducted to know whether any such circular in regard to financial accommodation was issued or not. This is a serious matter. Mr. Chairman Sir, by seeking protection from you I want an explanation from the Finance Minister. At least those amendments be withdrawn which were done on the basis of this document. The House must also know that what action will be taken against those officers who have done so. If it has happened by your orders, then the matter is even more serious. Then who did it and how it happened on 11th of April?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have talked about the small scale industries. I am sorry to say that you have done a great injustice with small scale industries. You have deserved fourteen items on the basis of Hussain Committee report but what happened to other things? As per the Report of this committee. You had to provide relaxation to the time of Rs. 500 crores as a waiver of interest to those small scale industries whose reservation was withdrawn. But you have not given that. You had to provide loan at concessional rates for the improvement in technology but you did not do so. You had to provide financial assistance to the Technology Development Institutions but you did not do so. You should have opened training schools for small scale industries on the line of East Asian countries but you did not do so. A national small Research centre was required to be opened but it did not take place. A fund was required to be established in order to extend help to small investors, that did not take place the Govt. was to provide fund to the small industries for infrastructural facilities but that also did not happen. Those industries should have been kept out of the purview of labour laws where fifty labourers work but that did not take place. Consequently as per the Economic survey and Reserve Bank's Report, the production of small scale industries was Rs. 2 lakhs 41 thousands and 648 crores in 1993-94.

out of that they were provided loan of Rs. 22,617 crores only which was approximately 9 percent their total production was of Rs. 3,56,213 crores in 1995-96 but the loan was only 8.9 percent. They are being given only 9 percent loan whereas the Abid Hussain Committee's Report recommended for 20 percent loan. They are not getting any facilities. He said that these items can be dereserved provided certain things are done. You have deserved them because it helps the multinationals, big industrial houses. Due to this, any Indian Ice Cream manufactures will not manufacture ice creams they will not manufacture biscuits you have mentioned 14 items— biscuits, ice cream, pulse mill, rice mill etc— which you have deserved. If multinationals and big houses enter in this area then what will happen to the small

industrialists? You have done dereservation but there is no mention about those eight facilities in the Budget and Finance Bill which have been recommended in the Report. The way you are imposing excise on small industrialists is enough to wipe them out what is your view regarding these small industries? You are against the interest of small industries. You do not want it to flourish whereas these institutions provide largest number of jobs and export earning to the country.

The Hon. Minister has imposed a number of taxes. I have discussed about service tax and M.F.P. So far as excise is concerned, I must say that I do not agree with you. The limit of Rs. 30 lakhs for clearance which you have fixed, was made in 1986. From 1986 to 1997, 11 Years have passed. This limit of Rs. 30 lakh is a very small one my suggestion is that you should raise it to Rs. 1 crore and bring further amendment. You have said that many units will go out of tax net but you will see that with the increase in production of items the Govt. revenues from sales tax and from other thing will also increase. You should make arrangement to check their account streamline the income tax people so that they take care of their work carefully and I will not have any objection if you do so but if you take any such step which affects the production it will ultimately severely affect the country. We have suggested that 0% duty be imposed upto clearance of rupees one crore. 3 percent duty from Rs. 1 crore to 2 crore industries, 5 percent duty from Rs 2 crores to 3 crores and full rate modvat facility be imposed over Rs. 3 crores.

Please save the small scale industries. This sector co-ordinates employment, production and labour in the country and requires less capital. Very few people can establish large scale industries and every big industrialist is a small industrialist in the beginning. Nobody becomes a big industrialist at once and we know well what the big industrialists are doing. So, all of us should take care of small industries. Regarding the provisions made for the food processing industries my request is that no tax, no excise duty be imposed on them. It is retrogressive. Let them sum and prosper for some time. I am told by the men engaged in food processing that how it will destroy the industries and ruin the farmers. So, you should make such a provision under which tax be imposed on big industries and not on small industries you can make a provision under which tax excise duty is levied on those manufactures who produce things costing Rs. 150 or 200 per kg but do not impose tax on small manufacturers. Therefore, I earnestly request you to take care of it and save these industries from being closed.

I am happy that you have withdrawn excise duty from sanitary napkins, diappers and umbrella. If you withdraw excise duty from sunglasses, it will be another feather in your cap. A large number of Indians are suffering from eye diseases. Half of the blind people of the world live in India and a large number of our people suffer from trachoma eyes also get infected due to sun and dust. If you withdraw the excise duty on sunglasses it will not be a big loss please withdraw excise duty from sunglasses.

I am happy that you have withdrawn excise duty on clay tiles? Am I right?

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am thankful to you for that.

[Translation]

You have done a good job. In the whole budget if anything has been done in favour of the poor then it is the withdrawal of excise duty on clay tiles.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : But he has not withdrawn on *ayurvedic* medicine.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Do not worry, I am coming to that also....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

If the ceramic tiles produced in India is imported from foreign countries, then tax should be levied on it Ceramic tiles are manufactured in India on a large scale. In the same way, you have forgotten book-binders. You have proposed a tax.

[English]

Textile fabric coated with gum or amylaceous substances of a kind used for the outer cover of books or the likes.

[Translation]

Eight percent and five percent duty is proposed on it these book binders Indian are not multinational. They are not big industrialist. They are small people without application of amylaceous substance of gum or vacuum pressure if this work can be done, than it is a different matter otherwise in all type of binding the use of gum is a must. Would you like that the books of the people remain in damaged condition? Would you like that children bring there books which become damaged in a few days. You should think seriously on this book binding. In a partnership concern you have given relief in Income tax, I would like to welcome it because you have given rebate on salary and interest in tax, you have made such a promise that with an exception of Chartered Accountants, Income tax practitioners may also help them. This is a good step. But, I would like to submit that there are anomalies in the rate of Income tax proposed to be levied on them. Previously he was paying tax on individual basis if person is paying tax on single basis then it is less but if his wife is also a partner then tax rate of Income tax is higher if both husband and wife are partners in trade then they would get separated. Please do not create such a circumstances on the Income a single trader, Income tax of thirty thousand is proposed if family member become partners in business then they would have to pay Rs. 75,000. This anomaly should be corrected and rationalised. It is a separate thing that after rebate it would come to Rs. 50,000 crore then there is a big difference between Rs. 30,000 crores and Rs. 50,000. Therefore I would request you to save partnership firms. Since this

phenomenon is hardly there in the world. Then you may find Japan is incorporated, America incorporated, therefore, such type of phenomenon should also not happen in India, this principal is not correct.

[English]

Let India remain a partnership. You yourself say that India is on partnership. Your Government is a Government partnership. Why are you destroying partnership? You must learn to live with partnership and strengthen partnership. I wish that your partnership should be strengthened. Why are you destroying the partnership in business? Please do not destroy it. Learn to live with partnership. It may be something different that you have to meet a very difficult partner in Nirmala or a very unaccommodative partner in Shri Santosh Mohan Dev or may be a very billigerant partner in some other friend. But still you have to live with partnership and let partnership live both in Government as well as in business. Please do not be so harsh. Be a little accommodative, considerate and humane.

[Translation]

A Finance Minister should have a kind hearted attitude. My view is this that you should widen tax basis and should also levy it but it should not become an unhuman affair. Nobody should be unduly affected by this tax structure. If my part of the body is cut by knife etc. then the blood circulation is affected and when cut is given the artery or the vein then the person starts bleeding. If this process is applied in a nationalised manner then it would not be in the interests of the country.

17.00 hrs.

I would like to make one more submission. Provision has been made for Income dividend, rebate has been given in Income tax, and the individual income tax payers have got relief but in all this process equalities should be maintained i.e. it should be ensured that benefits of the provisions made should equally the poor and the rich.

17.01. hrs.

[ SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair* ]

I would like to quote a simple information before the budget a person having annual income of Rs. 6000 had to pay Rs. 3,000 as income tax that mean his disposable income is Rs 57,000 but after the Budget has been presented he is liable to pay Rs. 2,000 as Income tax. Now his disposable income would be Rs 58,000 It would mean a 1.75% increase in the incremental dispersible income. On the other hand a person with an annual income of Rs 3 lakh, had to pay Rs. 93,000 as income tax in pre-budget time but after this budget he should have to pay Rs 65,000 only as income tax In my opinion. This gap is rather high. On the one hand there is increase of 1.75% on the other side the increase is of 13.5% If this income is being utilised on the production work then it good but as our leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in his budget speech that such income promotes consumerism and would be more useful for foreign investors and foreign manufacturers. In my view this income should be used for the production purposes but, no attention has been paid on this.



[ Dr. Murlimanonhar Joshi ]

Although I agree with you on the point that the rate of income-tax should be decreased but attention should be paid to the manner in which the money will be utilised? Whether that money would be utilised for investment in the country? Would it be used for productive work could or would it be used to purchase items of preferential luxury items? The same factor comes in the case if dividend too. Attention has not been paid to the way the dividend money would be utilised by the public. You should pay attention to this side. I am worried about it because the figures as regards to the benefits given to multinational companies are with me and they are astonishing.

During the last ten years the 56% of profits of the investment made by America in other countries of the world has reached the country back. The figures regarding this are also with me. In developing countries, 47% profit reached the country back where as 71% of the profit earned by America through investment in underdeveloped countries had reached back. Yesterday, the Professor who had come to meet you....(Interruptions) He must have given you the information regarding the extent to which the interest from under developed countries is reaching the Developed countries i.e. at the rate of 1.40,000 dollar per minute.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : But why are you not asking for tax on dividend?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am saying that the whole structure should be so designed that it is equitable.

[Translation]

It should be reduced but at the same time the surplus income should be utilised for productive works in the country and in that system to which investment and savings are friendly. You can decrease it but at the same time it should be linked with investment and savings that is why we have submitted that if the income incurred through voluntary disclosure scheme belongs Central Government then it should be utilised in the works as infrastructural, power, drinking water, rural reconstruction roads construction of houses for the poor and slum-dwellers so that it is used for the development of the country. You also want the same that black money should come back in circulation be utilised for developmental jobs.

Mr. Chairman Sir, this income should be invested in the desired field. If this attitude is not adopted, you can well imagine the future of the country. Munsiji, you are supporting them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please..... Now conclude.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I always obey you. I speak in brief ordinarily but the topic of discussion today is a matter related to the poor of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Fifteen members of your party have to express their views and I have to pay attention to this factor also.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Fifteen more members are for the poor. I am very happy.

Mr. Finance Minister, I would like to request you that this savings should be utilised for the good of the poor. The country would remember you. Otherwise like dream the poor could find that nothing has changed. Do not do this. Do not live in dream world. Please tackle the difficulties of the poor men with practical approach.

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Finance Bill, 1997, on behalf of my party as my Party is one of the supporting parties for this Government. But there are certain areas where I may have to express some reservations and criticism.

The Finance Bill which has been introduced by the Finance Minister deals with the sources of revenue of the public exchequer. This House had the occasion to discuss the General Budget which generally deal with the allocations and the priorities of expenditure regarding the social services and many other schemes. The Finance Bill primarily deal with the sources of revenue from Direct and indirect Taxes. The policy of taxation which the Finance Minister has adopted now is a continuation, affirmation and adoption of the tax reforms which were initiated by the earlier Government. The earlier Government's tax reform policy is only one of the facets of the economic policy which was introduced in June 1991. And it has yielded results in every sphere of our life, economic, industrial, agricultural, in social services and also in poverty alleviation measures.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for the reason that in a new experiment in our political life with 13 political parties with their discordant voices, he has been able to prevail and adopt this new tax reform policy which is one of the items in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government. Why I say with discordant voices' is, one of the supporting parties - I mean the Left Front, the CPI (M) and other Left Front political parties - speaks in two voices. As the earlier Finance Minister pointed out on many occasions, when they come to this House, they oppose the policy of liberalisation and the new economic policy; but when they go to their own State, they invite foreign investments, and rightly so. Their leaders go on touring abroad spending crores of rupees for inviting foreign investment.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : And yet nothing comes.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : Yet nothing comes. Only a lot of expenditure is incurred on touring. When they come to this House they vehemently oppose the new economic policy.

In spite of the discordant voices, the Finance Minister has been able to prevail over and adopt the new tax reform policy.

One of the objectives of the tax reforms, as Dr. Raja Chelliah Committee had pointed out, is that there should be reduction in the tax rates. Tax should be simple and at the same time, there should be a rigid compliance of the

taxation laws. The Finance Minister has also adopted this policy. Consistent with this policy, he has reduced the rate of taxes, both for individuals and also for the corporate sector. Undoubtedly, the tax that will be levied now, on individual income up to Rs. 65,000, 10 per cent; from Rs. 66,000 to Rs. 1,50,000, 20 per cent; and beyond Rs. 1,50,000, 30 per cent, Undoubtedly, it is a welcome measure. It will give relief to the middle class people, and also to the millions of taxpayers. As rightly pointed out by him, in a country of 95 million pay tax. It is all the more strange that only 12,000 people pay tax whose income is above Rs. 10 lakh. Therefore, if the tax net is to be widened, then much more emphasis is to be given on those people whose income is much larger, but their number is only 12,000. Therefore, attempt should be made to plug these loopholes.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for reducing the rates of taxes in the corporate sector. The Surcharge of 7.5 per cent which was also promised by the earlier Congress Government has been, now, abolished. Corporate taxes have been reduced from 40 per cent to 35 per cent. This, certainly, will give encouragement to the corporate sector to plough back their profits for development. But at the same time, the Finance Minister has introduced a new tax rate of 10 per cent on the dividend being distributed by the corporate sector. The companies distribute dividends out of their taxed profits. The profits, after having been taxed, are available for distribution. Those taxed profits, viz., the dividends are again taxed at 10 per cent. So, there is double taxation on the same income. I would request the Finance Minister to consider this aspect. Ultimately, the rate of tax will not be 35 per cent but it will come nearer to 40 per cent. It is because if the companies distribute their profits, say 50 per cent by way of dividends, then the rate of tax will be at 10 per cent. So, ultimately, the rate of tax will not be 35 per cent but it will be a little more than that. It will come to nearabout 40 per cent.

The Finance Minister has given an explanation that the companies very often distribute larger amount of profits by way of dividends and leave little of nothing for the development, and investment in the corporate sector. Well, I think that is not a proper explanation. If the rates of the companies are low, then, naturally, they will try to re-invest much of their profits in their business and in the corporate sector.

The Finance Minister has also abolished tax on dividends under Section 10 Sub-Section 33. It is a very welcome measure. It was long due. It is because if the dividend is taxed, that means you are taxing on the same income twice. You have already taxed the income in the hand of the company and you are again taxing the same income in the hands of the taxpayer. So, I would request the Finance Minister to consider exemption of tax on dividends. If tax on dividends is exempted, then the same concession should also be extended to the dividend given by the UTI or the Mutual funds. In fact, under the Law, the amount that is being distributed by the Unit Trust is deemed as dividend under the Unit Trust of India Act. Even under

Section 80L, when the exemption was allowed partially, the tax on dividend income from Mutual funds, interest from Mutual Funds, and also the dividend from Unit Trust were put on the same footing.

But now, as a result of this exemption restricted only to the dividend income, this will create difficulties. Many of the middle class people invest their funds either in Mutual Funds or in the Unit Trust of India in order to avoid the uncertainties of the dividend from the shares of companies. Therefore, if this exemption is not extended to them, in my submission, it will be creating difficulties for the middle class people for whom the Finance Minister has got so much of concern.

Now, even in the corporate sector when ten per cent tax is based on distributions of dividend, it may create difficulty. I give you one illustration. A company has distributed profit by way of dividend of Rs. 10 lakh. The other company has received that amount by way of a dividend because it is a shareholder. If that company again distributes that income by way of dividend to its own shareholders, again ten per cent tax will be levied; and if the third company again distributes out of that dividend income to this own shareholders, again ten per cent tax is to be levied. Therefore, there should be some proviso that once a company has suffered ten per cent tax, if any dividend is paid by this latter company, then that should not again be subjected to tax.

The Finance Minister has introduced certain modifications in the Minimum Alternative Tax. Last year, when he introduced this Minimum Alternative Tax, I spoke in this House and I pointed out that in 1991 this tax was abolished because that creates a dumper of the investment in the corporate sector. The Finance Minister has now accepted that as a result of the introduction of this Minimum Alternative Tax, representations have been received about the deleterious effect on the industry as a whole. In fact, when the Finance Minister introduced his Budget for 1996-97, there had been a shortfall of Rs. 500 crore in spite of the tax on zero tax companies by way of Minimum Alternative Tax. So it shows that by way of this Minimum Alternative Tax much realisation of revenue has not been made. But he has introduced certain redeeming features by way of a tax credit which he has given to the companies who in subsequent years make profit; then the difference between the tax payable on profit and the Minimum Alternative Tax which has been paid in the earlier year will be the tax that is to be given and it will continue for five years.

Now, there are certain difficulties which I point put for the Finance Minister to consider. Suppose a company has been amalgamated. These days sick companies or companies which are unhealthy ones are amalgamated with the healthy or big companies. If the sick company has paid the Minimum Alternative Tax and when it is amalgamated, there is no provision for the tax credit being given, although it has been paid earlier by the amalgamating company which has now been amalgamated.

A similar provision is there in the case of investment allowance under Section 32 A Sub-Section 6. If a company

[ Dr. Debi Prosad Pal ]

is amalgamated then the amalgamated company will be entitled to enjoy the continuance of the investment allowance for the period which was available to the amalgamating company. I think, the Finance Minister should consider this aspect of the problem and give relief in an appropriate manner where a company is amalgamated with another one.

Now, with regard to sick companies, I have something to say. The Finance Minister has given exemption from the Minimum Alternative Tax on certain types of cases. For example, Section 80(i) (a) where there are infrastructure industries, he has given exemption and rightly so, he has given exemption; for example, in the case of profits from exports under Section 80 HHO. Otherwise this export industry cannot survive if they do not get the benefit of 100 per cent exemption. But if they are to pay 30 per cent of the book profit, then that will create a difficulty.

I am glad that, today, the Finance Minister has, in his Speech, ensured that this exemption would also be available to the software industries which are entitled to the tax benefit holiday under Section 80 (h) (h) (e).

With regard to the sick industries, this is creating a problem. The exemption has been allowed only from the day when the industry is declared sick, in the previous year relevant to the assessment year right up to the assessment year during which the industry has lost its sickness and has regained, namely its net assets had increased their liability. But the moment it has gone out of sickness, then it is expected that no sick industry will be earning profit, which will be more than 30 per cent of its book profit. That is normally the position. And, therefore, the moment the sick industry goes out of sickness, Section 115 J(A) will be applicable; minimum alternative tax will be applicable and it will have to pay tax on 30 per cent of its book profit. I am not telling a hypothetical illustration. I am getting several representations. And even in my profession also I have seen in many of the cases when the sick industries go out of sickness, if they have to pay the minimum alternative tax then they have to go again into sickness. Therefore, a situation has arisen where the sickness will be continued if this minimum alternative tax is to be imposed upon them right from the day when they have gone out of sickness.

I will request the hon. Minister of Finance to consider that for at least two year or three year from the day when the company has gone out of sickness this exemption should be available. Otherwise, it will not be possible for them to regain their health in the industry and they will again go into sickness.

When the Minister of Finance has introduced the minimum alternative tax, introduction of tax credit will be giving some relief to the companies because if they are making profits then the tax credit on account of M.A.T will be adjusted for five years.

The Minister of Finance has also introduced certain areas where he wants to widen the tax net. The widening of

the tax net has been introduced through a new scheme under which if some of the two criteria are fulfilled, then they will have to file their compulsory tax return. And for that, Section 139 of the Income-tax Act has been amended. One of the criteria is having telephone connection. About the others, of course, I have got nothing to say. If the foreign travel is there, then certainly it creates a presumption that the person must be an income earner, who is to pay taxes. But when we take the criterion of having a telephone connection, I am only reminding the Minister of Finance that even in Delhi there are 12 lakh telephones and it will be an administrative impossibility and an administratively impossible task. At the present moment the Finance Minister is restricting it only to the metropolitan cities. When 12 lakh telephones are there in a city like Delhi, similarly we have in Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. So, it will be an administrative difficulty. The cost and energy which have to be spent by the Department will be much more than the collection which the Minister is expecting. Therefore, some other criterion has to be adopted.

I am certainly in favour of widening the tax net because in a country like ours, there are very few tax payers when compared to the total number of population. We have got our Survey Department. The Survey Department goes from house to house. I do not know why they have not been able to collect the information of those persons who are not paying taxes. There is some fault in the entire machinery or if I may say so, with a little amount of frankness, corruption is there. We have a full-fledged Survey Department. Their surveyor is expected to go to every house. If he goes to every house, then he can not only find out the telephone connection but also everything. In spite of this, I do not know why the number of tax payers is not increasing.

The other thing which the hon. Minister of Finance has introduced is the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. He has introduced it and the rate of tax which has to be paid is at 30 per cent of the amount which has been disclosed. About disclosure schemes, I have got, in principle, to say something.

When the Wanchoo Committee headed by the Former Chief Justice of India which was appointed for simplification and also for prevention of the black money gave the report, there were already free disclosure schemes and in spite of that, the Wanchoo Committee had pained out the disclosures had not served any useful purpose at all. We have seen the disclosures every time. On the other hand, such disclosures can be resorted to only in times of emergency, for example, after the war or at times of crisis. Otherwise, in the normal way. If disclosures are made from time to time, we have found that the expected result has not been as we have anticipated excepting certain amounts which we have got from the bearer bonds scheme.

Now even the Acharia Committee has given a Report. The Wanchoo Committee has recommended that such disclosures should not be normally resorted to and too frequently because in that event, the honest taxpayers might lose their confidence in the efficiency of the tax administration. It is because you are giving a premium and you are

encouraging the blackmarketeers to reap the benefit of the scheme.

The Acharia Committee has also pointed out that it does not serve much useful purpose. Why? It is because we will find the names of ladies and minors in the Disclosure Scheme. They come with the disclosures and these disclosures ultimately are utilised for a subsequent evasion. Therefore, even the Acharia Committee also had recommended not to resort to these disclosures too frequently.

There is one important thing in Disclosures Scheme which I want to bring to the notice of the Minister Finance. We are in the year 1997-98. The disclosure Scheme points out that from the commencement of the date which will be announced by the Government and right upto the period of 31st of December 1997, if disclosures are made, then they will have to pay 30 per cent of tax and the immunity has been granted from penalty, prosecution and even proceeding under the FERA.

Now I am giving one example. The disclosures can be made with regard to those who have not yet filed their tax returns of those who have, after the return has been filed not disclosed their income truly and properly. Therefore, a person who has filed the return for the assessment year 1997-98 has to be taxed according to the rate prevailing in the year 1997 because this rate will be applicable from the next year 1998-99 at the rate of 40 per cent. tax. It will be applicable only for the next year. In this year, an honest taxpayer will have to pay 40 per cent but the person who has made a disclosure, will pay 30 per cent. This, in my view, needs to be examined. Therefore, I will request the Minister of Finance to examine this aspect. I have gone through the matter. He has pointed out when we have discussed because it is a novel thing, if I may say so.

I congratulate the Minister of Finance that he has introduced a new device of inviting all the major political parties before the Finance Bill is presented to the House and discussed with them. We have got certainly a very good response from the Finance Minister. He has accepted or he has at least responded to many of the suggestions. But in the year 1997-98, if person files a return of income as he is bound to and if he disclosed his income, he will be assessed according to the rate prevailing, that is 40 per cent. Thirty per cent will be applicable only from the next year, that is from the financial year, 1997-98 for which the assessment year is 1998-99. But if the same person discloses his income within the period of December, 1997, then he has to pay 30 per cent. The anomaly is writ large. Therefore, something has to be done. Otherwise what will happen? You will be tempting all the honest taxpayers to be dishonest. They will not file their true income in this year of 1997-98. They will show it in their disclosure; thereby they will save 10 per cent tax. Now this is possible and it might be unintentional. But as Finance Minister, you will kindly look into the problem.

If my submission is right, then something has to be done in order that the honest taxpayers should not be made dishonest. The Minister of Finance also introduced the

service taxes. Service taxes undoubtedly constitute a major part as we expected to be.

There are certain difficulties which have been pointed out. One of them is the case of truck operators. This is one of the important areas where we have got to consider how much it would be practicable to realise the taxes from these people who are rendering the services. There will be concealment of income very often in this field.

The disclosure scheme will be effective provided your machinery is certainly an efficient and honest one. Today the entire administration of tax laws is vitiated by corruption. You will be appreciating that even the highest person in the administrative machinery—not in the State—is not immune from all these allegations. I know of a particular case where multinational companies were brought in and they were told that a particular gentleman was retiring, who was to raise Rs. 1 crore. They were not agreeable. Therefore, harassment was made by appointment of special auditors. We had to go to the court of law for obtaining the order of injunction. Thereafter the assessment is still going on without special auditors. If you cannot check this corruption, then all your attempts for raising the undisclosed income will be absolutely futile. Therefore, attempt should be made to stop corruption.

The Raja Chellaiah Committee has pointed out that if you find that an Income-tax Officer, Customs Officer or a Central Excise Officer is making an over pitched assessment and that overpitched assessment is set-aside by the Appellate Tribunal even at two stages, then he owes an explanation as to why he has made that overpitched assessment. Therefore, action should be taken against such an officer because normally it is found that such an overpitched assessment is made for reasons which are very obvious. Then, you are not getting any stay. The courts are now very rigid in granting stays. Then, what will happen? If your income is Rs. one lakh and you are assessed at Rs. 20 lakh—very often it is done—and if it is not upheld by the Appellate Tribunal Authority, then he owes an explanation as to why he has done such an overpitched assessment. If he cannot give an explanation, the action should be taken. If you cannot stop corruption in your department, you should not expect much from this disclosure scheme.

You will also kindly remember that the disclosure scheme is only regarding evasion of income. You have said that out of this undisclosed income which is obtained, 77.5 per cent will go to the States. It is a very good thing. But then will the States cooperate with you? Many of the evasions come from the stamp duty, sales tax, etc. These are State subjects. Then, the States also should equally cooperate with you and see that there is no evasion in stamp duty, sales tax, etc., which is very rampant. Evasion also takes places in the Central Excise. Therefore, if the disclosure scheme is confined only to the undisclosed income, it may not serve your entire purpose.

Now I want to say about the indirect taxes excise duty and customs duty. The hon. Minister of Finance has

[ Dr. Debi Prosad Pal ]

introduced, if I may say so, many measures which are very welcome. In the customs duties, he has reduced the import duty. But there is an apprehension; and rightly so, that by the reduction of import duty, there may be infiltration of foreign goods in our country.

Dr. Joshi has pointed out that there is a danger of foreign investment coming into the country. I am not at all apprehensive of that. Even in a country like China there is foreign investment at least 15 to 20 times more than that in India

Therefore, if China could absorb the foreign investments in its own economy, there is no reason why for accelerating industrial growth we should not have foreign investments. The foreign investments might come in this country either in the shape of the share capital or in the shape of technical knowhow and personnel. In the case of technical knowhow, I should remind one thing to the hon. Minister of Finance. So long the foreign exchange was earned by individual persons or consultancy firms by their technical expertise, scientific skill or technical knowledge that was available to the foreign Government or foreign enterprise and they would bring foreign exchange as much as any industrial undertaking could bring foreign exchange from their exports. So long, under Section 80(0) relief was given at 50 per cent of the earnings from the consultancy services which were available to the foreign Government or foreign enterprises. Unfortunately, in this year, that has been excluded. Under Section 80 (0) he has restricted it only to patents, trademarks, copyrights and such other things which are available to the foreign Governments or foreign enterprises for the purpose of bringing foreign exchange. But why a scientist or a technical consultant or any other person who brings foreign exchange. But why a scientist or a technical consultant or any other person who brings foreign exchange by his technical knowhow should be denied of this concession? The Indian expertise today is very much improved. In our software industries our technical personnel or our scientists yield to none anywhere in the world. Then, if they bring foreign exchange into the country by making this technical skill available to the foreign Governments or the foreign enterprises. Why this tax benefit should be denied to them? The only explanation given in the memorandum I find, is that there is a loophole in this matter. The loopholes can always be plugged. But that does not mean that genuine persons who are having their consultancy which they make available to foreign countries and earn foreign exchange should not be given the benefit. Why is the discrimination? I have not been able to understand it.

Regarding excise duty I find on thing. There are many types of commodities where the duty on inputs and the duty on final product are the same. Well, this will create difficulties. Under the MODVAT scheme, normally the scheme is that the inputs bear a lesser excise duty so that they are adjusted against the duty on the final product. But there are many cases where the excise duty on inputs and the excise duty on the final product are the same.

I want to say one more thing only. I have found another important deviation which has been introduced by the Finance Minister under Section 4A of the Central Excise Act. Now the excise duty shall be levied on specified goods by reference to the maximum retail price. Well, excise duty is a duty on manufactured goods. I want to know whether Parliament has the power to impose excise duty on the basis of the maximum retail price. The hon. Minister of Finance himself is an eminent lawyer of repute and, therefore, he will examine this aspect as to whether such a duty can be levied at the maximum retail price. The retail price means the sale price of the goods which are sold. The retail price can never be the criterion for imposing the excise duty on the goods manufactured. Normally the goods are manufactured under a duty which is levied by reference to the price which is capable of fetching at the place of removal. Therefore, this is a matter where, apart from constitutional difficulties, it is also according to the very principle of excise duty, it will not be a proper one. It will be entrenching upon the States' area, the State' power of imposing sales tax upon the retail sale price. This is a matter which the hon. Minister of Finance may kindly examine.

Now the Finance Bill has, by and large, made— if I may say so— certain measures which has fulfilled the expectations from many of the sectors of the people, from the middle class people, from the investing public and, therefore, he has to be congratulated.

But at the same time, when I find how the expenditure is to be met, there is already a discussion on the priorities of allocation and time does not permit me to go into it. But all that I can say is that whatever he has said regarding poverty alleviation scheme, social service sector etc., I can point out that if we see the amount which was spent or earmarked by the earlier Congress Government in Budget for 1995-96, the amount which the Finance Minister has earmarked now is not more than that; it is much less than that. Even under the Indira Awas Yojana 10 lakh houses were to be built, but now only seven lakh houses have been earmarked to be built in the Budget for 1997-98.

As regards primary education, social service programmes, medical scheme etc., the amount which has been allocated is not more than what had been allocated by the earlier Congress Government. Therefore, there is nothing which may be called as a progressive one in the allocation of priorities and coupled with that, Rs. 16,000 crore will now be injected into our economy. Well, how far it will have a pressure upon the inflation, only the time alone and the future months will show. In addition to that, we are already threatened with oil price rise. Even it has been pointed out by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as well that oil price is a part of the Budget figures. Therefore, when we determine the question of inflation, if we exclude oil price which is increased, that is not proper.

Sir, by and large, the Finance Bill is, undoubtedly a good one. I shall support it with the reservations which I have spelt out. I again congratulate the Finance Minister of the

difficult task which he has undertaken. It is a difficult task undertaken by him because of the welter which is created by 13 political parties, each one going in its own way. Somebody says that insurance should not be privatised and somebody says some other thing. They do not speak in one voice.

At the same time, the Finance Minister, in his boldness, has proceeded to have a joint venture in the field of insurance and I hope that that will only be a prelude now to many more progressive measures which he will introduce.

With these words, I thank the Finance Minister for the Budget which he has presented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, now it is the turn of the Janata Dal. I will speak tomorrow.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Chairman Sir, are we sitting beyond six o'clock also or only upto six o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the decision of the Business Advisory Committee, I think, we are sitting up to seven o'clock.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that for the whole of this week, till the Finance Bill is passed, we would be sitting up to seven o'clock.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Shri Chatterjee, please speak today. Otherwise, how can we finish the debate ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You will interrupt me.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have not interrupted anyone. I will resist the temptation to interrupt you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really sorry that I have not been able to buy the approach of the Finance Minister underlined in the budget and the Finance Bill. In his concluding speech on the Budget, the Finance Minister said that the approach to the Budget should not be viewed in terms of whether it is pro-rich or pro-poor. What was relevant to him, at that time was growth and growth alone.

Sir, we are also the votaries of growth. We know that growth is a necessary condition for development of human development Indices. But it is not a sufficient condition. May I draw your attention to some simple historical facts? Over the last 500 years the world economy has grown and tremendous development has taken place. People in the under-developed countries grew, you know all that, but they became poor. Even with in the developed countries like United States, despite a very high per capita level of income, 15 per cent of the population is considered to be below the poverty line. We have to understand this. So, we do feel that minus the growth in technology, minus the growth in production, the world could not have progressed. What we wanted is that this growth must take place in a certain manner which generates equity and which gener-

ates justice. Unless this growth takes place through equity and justice, it is meaningless to the population at large. Therefore, in trying to appreciate any approach to the Budget one has to look into the equity consideration involved in this Budget.

Sir, only yesterday we had discussed in the Appropriation Bill and today also it has been mentioned by some other including Dr. Joshi that more money needs to be spent on certain sectors but not at the cost of other sectors. But wherefrom would the money come? We have to gather much more than we propose to gather and what has been proposed also is quite doubtful. I will come to that later on. Without doing that we will not be able to satisfy the demands. There was the promise that after three months there would be a review. The Finance Minister is large hearted enough to say that he will give more. He has to get it from somewhere. Even at the time of the Budget Speech, I mentioned that even in leading in a developed countries of the world the fraction of GDP which is spent through the Government varies between 40 and 50 per cent. Please check up. This was one of the issues on which Mr. John Major was defeated.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : He was defeated because of you people.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : She says that Mr. John Major was defeated because of us. It is because he touched Calcutta that is why he was defeated.

In our country taking into account both the State and the Centre, our Government expenditure does not exceed 30 per cent. So, if we want to have more on agriculture, if we want more on the Railways, if we want to have more on irrigation, more on power, we have to get much more in the Government kitty than the attempt indicates. Can the Government collect from all those people who are below the poverty line? From whom can they collect? It is said that after taking into account the countryside and the urban areas no more than 20 per cent of population have the capacity to buy modern industrial goods.

Sir, all the figures are quoted wrongly. I have pointed it out so many times, but it is our habit to persist any number of times with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is statistics.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We have individual income-tax payers on our list, whose number is not 1.20 crores. They are only 88 lakhs. That figure refers to a combination of those who talk about double taxation of corporate dividend as well as individuals. They tend to forget that out of 1.20 crores, there are 88 lakh individuals and the rest are corporates. These who talk of double taxation do not want us to understand that they are different entities in terms of taxes and, therefore, it is not a question of double taxation. If we say that these 88 lakh individual constitute one per cent of the population, then, in terms of families, it will be much more than one per cent. There are some 20 crore families in India and if we make the assumption that one in each family is the earning person, then

[ Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee ]

it will mean that at least five per cent of the families are being taxed. If we add the rural sector and the agricultural sector—we can say that they are exempt from tax—another five per cent may come. So ten per cent of the families are able to pay direct taxes. The figure is not more than ten per cent. What the Finance Bill has done precisely is to give relief to them so that those people, who could have contributed to the Government kitty, need not pay anything.

We talk about tax nets. Dr. Joshi is not here. In a certain sense, even the person who is below the poverty line is included in the tax net. Why are they in the tax net? When we talk about the spread of tax net, we do not refer to indirect taxes, but we really refer to the direct taxes. I am sorry to say that, in trying to spread the tax net, we have developed a net with such large holes that all sharks will pass through them. In a certain sense, this approach should be considered as counter progressive or anti-progressive. Let me tell you why I say so. Here are the figures. I am surprised that a very radical person like Dr. Joshi did not refer to these things. I will come to him later. He just wanted to know what the Government is doing with regard to multinationals and others.

Let us see the proposed growth rate.

17.54hrs.

[ SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair* ]

Mr. Chairman, before you retire, would you kindly inform Madam Chairperson about our agreement that I will speak up to 7.00 p.m.?

It is accepted even by the Finance Ministry people that one of the indicators of the progressive nature of the tax net is that you get more from direct taxes than from indirect taxes. Indirect taxes, in their nature, are regressive. You will charge ten paise for a match box from the poorest of the poor as well as from the very rich, who are buying it.

This is considered to be regressive. But direct tax is progressive because it is not proportional at all and not even regressive. It is assumed and nobody denies that if you have a larger income, then you can spare a larger fraction, not the same fraction as the person who is having a lower income. That is why, the preference is - and I can inform the House—that even Karl Marx, in his first historic book known as "Communist Manifesto" suggested this even during the socialist phase of society—that there should be income tax because in this nature it is progressive. Therefore, the claim of Shri Manmohan Singh was that we are starting to collect more from direct taxes than from indirect taxes. What is the proposal this time? For growth rate, I have taken the figures of revised estimate though that is not correct. It should be compared to Budget Estimate. Even then, I am considering that. The direct taxes, according to his proposal which I shall question later, are to grow by 14 per cent and the indirect taxes are to grow by 15 per cent. That is, you are tilting your collection further against direct taxes. Of course, who will welcome and who considers this to be a dream? It is the people who pay direct taxes. It is their dream. It really means that when our eminent ex-Finance Minister

recommends the Chidambaram Budget which we are going to pass.

The whole direction of the tax imposed is that direct taxes will be collected less and indirect taxes will be collected more. This is the first point I wish to make. The Finance Minister has admitted that also in his own speech. He has said that the net additional collection would be Rs. 300 crore. Why? Because there will be a sacrifice of Rs. 600 crore of direct taxes on Rs. 900 crore of plus indirect taxes. So, the net is Rs. 300 crore. That is the part of his speech. All of us are welcoming this approach in the Finance Bill and the Budget. But I am sorry I am unable to buy it.

Then I come to the rest of the points. I have said that more should be collected. In fact, more is not being collected. I have mentioned at the time of Budget speech that it is obvious, almost a tautology, that we do not require a Chidambaram to say that we collected about 15 per cent more than last year because, according to his own estimate, had there been no changes at all, then the collection also would have been 15 per cent. Therefore, he has to make an estimate to show that despite reduction in direct taxes, despite reduction in Customs Duties and despite reduction in Excise Duties, we will achieve all that. I fail to buy this argument and the estimates.

Let me point out very plainly that you have said that there will be no tax on dividend. It is excellent. Now let us say that there is in this country, or any other country, one segment which has earned income via salaries or provisions and, the other segment which has unearned income in the form of dividend etc. That is the normal division. Now can you say that through salary, upto now before the revision in terms of Pay Commission, what is the maximum that the Government servant gets?

18.00 hrs.

They get only Rs. 20,000/- Please multiply that by 12. Then, it comes to Rs. 2,40,000/- You have income tax payees in terms of having an income of rupees ten lakhs and rupees five lakhs. I will give you the figures. It is all unearned divided income. When you say that you will not tax the dividend, you will not discover anybody having an assessable income of more than rupees ten lakhs or even an income of more than rupees five lakh. I have calculated the number of income tax payees whose income is over rupees ten lakh. The old figure is given in the C&AG Report to which Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi was referring so frequently, some 10,000 people are there who are having an income of above Rupees ten lakh. It will mean that at least Rs. 1000 crore or Rs. 2000 crore of tax that you get. But you forego that. Instead of collecting more, you are foregoing the Rs. 2,000 crore of tax. There are 36,000 people who are having an income of above rupees five lakh, according to this Report. These figures are also wrong. Coming to my point, according to the C&AG report, the estimate is that there are 36,000 persons who are having an income of above Rs. five lakhs – within rupees five and ten lakh.

Mr. Minister, you forego another Rs. 3,000 crore. You come here to promise that you will give more to the Railways, Agriculture and Power. All our demands are in a friendly chat. This is a new device that has been found. It is indicative that he is going to respond saying like; "Sorry, excuse me. I cannot accommodate." At the present stage, it is just really saying 'no' in a polite manner. I will tell you about this. Let me get into the figures.

Mr. Minister, you say that the growth rate in income tax would be the same as before. First of all, if the GDP grows more, what will happen? Once again, let me tell you what the C&AG Report says as to what is happening in the course of the last five years. There is such a thing called buoyancy in tax collection. What is the buoyancy? Of course, the additional growth in GDP, additional growth in tax collection help us. But do you know the story of the last four year? According to the C&AG Report, this buoyancy is coming down. From 0.6 per cent. in the course of the last four years, it has come down. Mr. Minister you say that you will collect more. All the estimates that have been proffered before us in terms of income tax collection, corporate duty collection match the objectives. First of all, perhaps, I should also add that the number of tax-payers, of course, is not the same thing as has been mentioned here. They submit their returns, it is not necessary that they pay tax. We knew about the Zero Tax companies. They all submit their returns. There are 2,000 or 3,000 or 4,000 such companies. They are included in the list as tax payers. But they are not tax-payers. They are tax returnees. Many individuals are also there, if this bill is passed, next year, I will not pay any tax. I will submit the return. I will be listed as one of the individuals paying tax. But I will be paying zero tax. So, this is not the way of widening the tax base that you want.

The hon. Minister is aiming at getting tax from the telephone owners. Your estimate is some 12 lakh telephones.. But many of the telephones are in the offices. Many of the telephones are in the name of wives, Your do not have a joint tax. You do not impose tax on families. We want that one. When the telephones are in the name of wives, who would you catch?

This is happening. Earlier the buoyancy was 0.06. It came down to 0.03 and then it came down to 0.02. What will you collect?

Now, I will come to other things, I welcome today's announcement about *Khadi*. We wanted that in another context. We should not discuss 'Expenditure' today because that was part of our General Budget Discussion. Today we should concentrate on mobilisation of resources. But since, he had referred to, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi also was provoked and he spoke on expenditure. Now, we wanted that there should be subsidy. But the subsidy on the handloom sector and *khadi* remains constant over the years. The prices are rising, inflation is there, real value of money is decreasing and the figure is constant. Now, fortunately, taking a plea of the 50th year of Independence, on *khadi* he says that throughout the year, there will be rebate, it means, it will not remain Rs. 50 crore but it will be more than Rs. 100

crore. That is a welcome step, even if it is accidental ....(Interruptions)... After demolishing the economy, they have started demanding.

Now, I will come to the Direct Taxes. I definitely request the entire House to demand that dividend must be taxed. Now Dr. Manmohan Singh is regretting. There is a book published by the Research Organisation which says about the ownership pattern of shares in the country. This is not an unknown book. Who owns shares? Most of the Government employees own shares. By whom are the most of the shares owned? The number of owners of shares are in millions but the number of people who own millions of shares is very few. The promoters, are requested that in floating a company they will have to own 25 per cent shares. They stipulate these conditions sometimes. And, it is these people who will escape the tax net. He will virtually have nobody else but the salary earners in his tax net.

Forget the Indirect Taxes. I am talking about the Direct Taxes. How do you want me to buy these shares when I know that it is the rich who should pay to the kitty of the Government so that the Motherland can develop? I wanted my BJP friends to say about it. Instead the demand is coming now. I think, Dr. Paul has demanded that even the dividend of the units should not be taxed. It seems that the rich of the country and of the world are united against the poor people.

I repeatedly contacted the BJP leaders to find out if they want that the tax from dividend should be withdrawn. They could not give a forthright answer

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) The poor people, more than 30,000 people who have got shares and who do not pay tax will unnecessarily be taxed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There are millions and million who own small shares. Already there is Section 80-L to have Rs. 15,000 of your income to be tax free. If my BJP friends wanted to help them, I do not have any objection. They demand that 80-L limit should be raised to Rs. 25,000; they say 80-L figures should be raised to Rs. 40,000. But why do they, under this cover, allow those who own millions of shares to escape?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : It is because those employees of the company who have got shares with them, will be unnecessarily taxed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why should they be taxed? They will not be taxed because their total income will not come under the tax net. Why should they be taxed?

I do not know who is befooling him.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : There is a problem in getting refunds.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is a different administrative matter. I will sympathise with you there. The problem is, in that case let us drop the idea of widening the tax net because our administration is not



[ Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee ]

competent to do that. Why then, if it is not feasible, have we demanded from various Committees, including the PAC.....

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : The thrust of the argument was that the company, the corporation, which is giving dividends, is paying the tax there. Now again it is taxed at the individual's level. It would amount to double taxation. That should be avoided. That is the point.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I know, you were not here when I was referring to that particular point. My statement is that this is not double taxation. I give you the figures. Even Vajpayeeji was making a mistake in his Budget speech. The total figure of one lakh twenty-two thousand is decomposed into eighty-eight lakh individuals and the rest corporates. When you total it up, you say they are independent identities and then you say it is double taxation. Is that a valid logic? In terms of income tax these are different entities altogether. Otherwise you will enter into an impossible position. Suppose you have a large income, you pay income-tax. Suppose you employ a person who is also above income-tax line and say he should not be taxed because you are paying him an income which is out of your income which has been already taxed, this will be an impossible argument in the society. This is not considered to be double taxation simply because these are different entities. Double taxation really refers to the single entity. That is, I am taxed in my country; again I am taxed in a foreign country. It is I, the single entity, who is being taxed twice. That is how the concept arose. The rich of the country very conveniently confuse the people here and use the term double taxation for this purpose. Anyway, I think because he is a reasonable person, he will be able to accept it.

Just for the indication of the nature of bias in favour of the rich is so very explicit that a committee for simplification of taxes was appointed by the Ministry itself. Can you imagine that the Finance Minister has accepted selectively their recommendations? Look at the process of selection. Their recommendations are in this book. It is mentioned in the amendments which have been circulated that—on 10 per cent, we are all fighting together—between Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 70,000 it should be 10 per cent. The Finance Minister has not agreed to it. He has made it from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000. He has rejected that. And he has also rejected the recommendation in the same report that the maximum rate of income tax should not be reduced below 35 per cent. He has rejected that also. He has brought it down to 30 per cent. Does it indicate a bias? Even among the tax payers, he refuses to agree with the Committee in terms of the lower grade payers of income tax and concedes more for the higher grade income-tax payers, That is the bias which cannot be covered up in terms of growth orientation of the economy.

Then I come to the other parts.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : You were talking about multinationals.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The best figure has been given by Dr. Joshi.

I congratulate him. The only problem is that it is that good and they would not be hurt if I say that he has been isolated in his thinking even within his own Party....(Interruptions)

I was talking about the multinationals. That is where 71 per cent dividend goes and they do not tax it. They get 71 per cent dividend in their companies and it is not taxed because the tax on dividends has been withdrawn.

Whom are they helping? They say that they are in search of growth. I have said several times that growth can be had in many ways. But the path chosen by them for growth is to pamper the rich at the cost of the poor. Even Shri Raja Chellaiah who was very close to Dr. Manmohan Singh - and Dr. Manmohan Singh were opposed to the withdrawal of tax on dividend. Had they been in the Ministry, I do not know what they would have said about it. For, Dr. Manmohan Singh, when he was not a Minister took a stand on South-South cooperation; but when he became a Minister, he opposed that very stand; and now that he is not a Minister again, he has again taken the earlier stand. I can also immediately quote Shri Jaswant Singh. When he was the Minister of Finance, he was welcoming the multinationals and giving them concessions. Today, he is out of Office and Dr. Murlidhar Manohar Joshi represents his Party in this debate....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We want to know what is happening to Shri Somnath Chatterjee. He has been isolated. Why do you talk about Party matters? Why do you not simply put your views?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope, hon. Members remember that there is somebody in the Chair.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, he is all the while addressing only Members on our side.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am seeing that he is yielding. That is why I am not naming anybody.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Let us now take the question of amnesty. I think, he was not present when I was speaking on the Budget. I mentioned a very simple figure about the income tax collections that they have made this year.

There are four ways of collecting taxes, One of them is through advance taxes, which are at a particular rate. Then there are other ways like self-assessment. The interesting figure that I mentioned was that the advance tax collections were coming down even this year. I am glad that Dr. Debi Prasad Pal—without hearing me, of course - has independently come to this conclusions.

Had somebody paid the advance tax, they would have paid it only at 40 per cent. So, the amnesty scheme is something which would succeed in generating more black income. I have circulated an amendment which says that if at all they are to be asked to pay, as Dr. Manmohan Singh says, it is because they have committed some crime. All right, if they are in difficulty, they should bow down. It is like our supporting the United Front Government. There could be a

variation in the structure whereby they can pay 60 per cent and save 40 per cent. We are asking them because we do not have enough funds and so we want foreign capital. But to what extent do we have to bow down? Is it to the extent of handing it over to the foreigners? They do not know the international economic situation. Do they think that the taking over of DCM by Daewoo or Lakme by the Tatas is simply some Indian phenomenon? There are about 30,000 multinational corporations in the world.

Of that, only 200 transnational corporations control the economy of the world. What does IMF or World Bank or Clinton or the Labour Party Leader, Mr. Tony Blair mean? These 200 multinational dominate the thinking of the WTO, of the IMF and of the World Bank. But we know that through the exploitation of ages since capitalism was born, fortune has been amassed in the hands of some; and we want that to be back because that was at our cost. Therefore, you are prepared to make concessions. To what extent? We want to concede in order that we can stand up on our own. But what are you doing in terms of amnesty and in terms of dividend which I have mentioned?

Today also, the hon. Finance Minister mentioned that this is an incentive to saving. Does this Budget say so? We have suggested that you can save up to Rs. 40,000 under Section 88, in the Public Provident Fund. It will have two advantages. Small savings will generate savings in the hands of the Government and the Public Provident Fund can be transferred to the States. It is not my view alone, but it is the view of the Planning Commission also that over the last five years—including in this Budget the States are getting proportionately less from the Centre. That could have been instrumental. You may have a tax and tell them that if you deposit Rs. 40,000 on your dividend in Public Provident Fund, from Rs. 15,000 under Section 80(1), you do not have to pay tax. They said, "No". That is not suitable to them because the concessions have to be made to the rich in order that there would be growth in the country. This is what we are unable to buy.

I was going through the figures of the Public Provident Fund. Do you know the estimate of the small savings which has been provided for? The Budget Estimate for 1996-97 was Rs. 14,000 crore. He says that incentives for saving have been given, is this not a savings instrument? Is this not a household savings? In the Revised Estimate, it is Rs. 15,000 crore. For this year, what kind of a figure do you anticipate? It has been brought down to Rs. 14,000 crore. This is a reflection on which kind of incentive has been provided for saving. The entire Budget outlook is to bank on consumerism. I agree with Dr. Joshi on this. He did not mention those figures, but I would.

With an income of Rs. 10 lakh, with the new rates, you can save simply Rs. 1 lakh. They have given the figures. Where will that Rs. 1 lakh go? It will go to buy either an Opel Astra or Ford Escort or the new ones. The egging on is also reflected in the excise duty and customs duty changes. We are always in favour of reduction in excise duties because that is an indirect tax. We are always in favour of that with one condition....(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : One of the Members of my party cannot stay on for tomorrow or the day after. His name is the next one. If Shri Nirmal is helpful, he can speak today; otherwise, he has to sit for another half-an hour extra for that....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name is not the next. There are other names also. But then, Shri Nirmal has to be a little bit brief. He has already taken a lot of time.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The whole House is a witness that before I started my speech, I made it clear....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : In that case, you may have to extend the time of the House today....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : How much time do you require?....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : How much time do you require, Shri Chatterjee? At least, the time allotted to me should be given to me. Madam, you may kindly extend the time of the House by one hour....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why do you not speak tomorrow? I will give you an opportunity tomorrow morning....(Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Madam, the former Chairman and the hon. Minister allotted time upto 7 O'clock for him to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The House is a witness to that....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Madam, you may kindly extend it upto seven O'clock....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not think that five Chairpersons can run the House. Only one Chairperson has to run the House, whoever it may be. Otherwise, we shall be nowhere.

Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, how much time do you require?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It depends on the wish of the House. I can sit down now. I can sit down in another five or ten minutes, whatever you want. But I will try my best to conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken forty minutes. That is why, I am saying this.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Madam, please extend the time of the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : All right. I will be sympathetic to the House. I was talking about excise duties....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is strong enough. He does not need anybody else's help.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Madam, kindly extend the time by at least half-an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him finish first. The question of extension or non-extension arises only after he finishes. He must finish first.

SHRI A.C. JOS : You may extend upto eight o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is your proposal. Let him finish first.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I was talking about excise duties. The general approach is that there should not be any burden as regressive on excise duties on the people at large. Yet, we may get a distinction. We say that in case of resources, you have to have an excise duty. Even there, you distinguish between commodities and goods that the goods which are consumed by the rich have a higher level of duty rather than the goods consumed by the poor. This distinction is also universally accepted. Is that done in this particular case? I will indicate to you that duties have been reduced for goods which are meant for only the rich. You will appreciate a telling figure which I will give you. You will see that the duty on bulk drugs is increased from 10 to 18 per cent. For whose benefit? Is it for the multinationals who have formulated the drugs and are bringing in here? Now, for medicinal grade oxygen, it is raised from 5 to 8 per cent. You have all welcomed this Budget a dream Budget. Whose dream is it? Nobody knows it. Look at the position for cosmetics and toilet preparations. It is reduced from 40 to 30 per cent. Do you think that this is a sensible Budget? There is a reduction of duty on goods which are consumed by the richer section and on goods which are a necessity for all people like drugs, there is an increase. It is reduced for perfumes, hair oil, etc.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : But you are going to support the Budget, I suppose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, you do not look at them. You look at me. After all, I am your own colleague.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, he is criticising the Budget but ultimately, he will support the Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In any case, there may be points.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : For your satisfaction, I will not utter that word. Is it all right? ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not do like this.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Look where reductions in the Excise Duty have taken place. He has conceded about matches. There is really a problem. Those who exploit child labour in Tamil Nadu- the State of the Minister of Finance are Duty-free. Because they exploit child labour for 12 hours a day, they have become competitive with the manufacturers of machine-made matchbox. Now,

our dilemma, of course, is that we say that the small scale industries should be supported. The WIMCO company is in my constituency. You have imposed duty because of which they cannot compete with the exploited child labour there. But he has agreed that this should be reduced.

Now there is a reduction in excise duty on travellers' goods and leather manufactures. Do not think about low-priced shoes and leather garments. You can imagine that a person below the poverty line shivering in winter will like to have a leather jacket. Therefore, this concession is there. This is the approach contained in reduction of the duty. The duties on luxury goods are reduced, but also increased. You welcome the Budget. I am unable to buy it. The concession on roof tiles is very good. We welcome it. But under that cover, will very poor people also use the glazed tiles? Their Duties have also been reduced. I am running through the book....(Interruptions)

This is the kind of definition of people living below the poverty line. Only those who use the glazed tiles are below the poverty line !.....(Interruptions) Look at this. He has conceded about ships and boats. We made a representation about that. This is a very welcome step. That was a very dangerous thing. Ships and boats may be dangerous. Why ? I tell you that there is no Customs Duty on imported ships and boats. What I suggesting is that there is a distorted vision in itself. There is no Customs Duty on imported ships and boats. Now, in order to provide a level playing field for the imported ones, he has imposed Excise Duty of eight per cent on domestic production. This is just unthinkable. Fortunately, after our representation, he has corrected and withdrawn that Excise Duty.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Then, you should support it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am supporting a bit unlike you.

So, this is another indication : glass and glassware and kitchen and tableware' perhaps of glass which decorate the MPs' houses. Are they below the poverty line ? The Duties on these items are reduced.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Do not say about all the houses of MPs.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am only indicative without being exhaustive because that will take too much time. There is an increase. It is very welcome. But there is an increase from 10 per cent to 13 per cent on watches of value exceeding Rs. 600. What about the ornamental wrist watches costing Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 2 lakh or Rs. 3 lakh ? Why do you not impose a higher Excise Duty ? It is inherent in the approach that concessions to the rich will save the country.

I leave this area. There is a reduction on air-conditioners which is a necessity for many MPs and not for those people who are below the poverty line. The Excise Duty has been slashed. I do enjoy an air-conditioned car in the hot summer of Delhi. But it is we - not those who are on the streets - who would use it. For whom does the country really exist ? You have to answer that.

Sir, let us turn our attention to Excise Duty. What economic function do the baggages have? It has been rightly pointed out by Dr. Joshi that the Government is reducing maximum rate of import duty after they stealthily joined the WTO on 31st December without consulting the Parliament. The Government is bound by that vice. The Government is caught in that vice and they have to reduce the import duty, no matter if this country need protection. I appreciate the argument and I have told earlier also that at the time of Independence we felt that in order to combat foreign capital and because private capital is weak we would require public sector so as to be able to become increasingly efficient in terms of productivity and compete with the outside world in the economic field. It is right that the big business houses have failed this country. They refused to be more productive and they should be punished. I agree with the contention. I also agree that one of the modes of punishing them is to raise the import duty a little. But punishment does not mean hanging them altogether. The Government would have to try and put them on an efficient path without killing them. That approach is not there.

The Government is reducing the maximum duty from 300 per cent to 240 per cent; and then there has been subsequent reduction to 130 per cent; to 80 per cent to 60 per cent and finally year it has been brought down to 40 per cent. But for whose benefit is this being done? The Government wants to flood this country with foreign goods. There is a justification for foreign capital. But why do you want to flood it with foreign goods? I am just giving an illustration.

I asked the Finance Minister as to what economic function does the baggages in the aircraft have. Who brings these baggages from outside which are checked in the customs? They are brought by absolutely poor people. These are brought by those people who do not get to fly in the aircraft. You have reduced the import duty on these baggages. Now, in the name of growth of the economy we have made an innovation. That was an innovation that has been welcomed in order to be responded with silence .....(Interruptions)

Now, if you see the Television you would find that elephants are being shot at and are being killed. It is a very nasty sight. It is being followed by a caption which says, 'save the elephant by the not buying Ivory'. It is that culture which can save the elephant, not the smuggling of ivory. Smuggling exists because of that culture.

In the 50th year of India's Independence they cannot make the promise that they would not adopt that kind of a culture of consumerism. The game is over for all of us. That cannot happen. India is too important and too ancient a country for that. I just wanted to indicate in terms of Excise Duty. There are many areas where it has been done just to feed the rich and have a consumer orientation.

Our proposal is very simple. Why is the process being hastened? Keep it on hold for one year. Now there is a Tariff Commission. Let them be asked to review all the tariffs and let them be asked to find but at what level each of the items

should be given protection so that there is production and yet goading for productivity. Do not decide it here. I would not like to go into the detailed list but I would like to request – we, the Left Parties, have requested them – that if the Government waits for one year then the heavens will not fall.

The masters abroad will not be able to kick us into the ocean. Submit it to each of them and let them also study the Excise Duties. Together let them make a report we will all participate in that discussion – and have a schedule of tariffs for Customs and Excise Duties. Will they agree? They will not buy my suggestion either.

I must mention the petroleum price hike. It is very correct that the deficit in the economy is not just here. The fact is, they have spent only Rs. 2,000 crore less last year. The Revised Estimate is only Rs. 2,000 crore. Why is it so? It is because they have not spent on the necessities, but egged on by you, they spent more on the Defence. In certain priority areas they have saved. Perhaps all of us have forced them and they have spent the money. Therefore, the net reduction is only Rs. 2,000 crore. The Budget Estimate was Rs. 2,04,000 crore and the Revised Estimate was Rs. 2,02,000 crore. I have participated in that discussion. They have deliberately asked the Departments not to spend. Today, if you say that they could not spend, that will be travesty of truth and will be not becoming of an honest Minister.

This year also similar things will happen because the revenue will not come. I mentioned Customs Duty estimates. They have projected 19 per cent growth not only here but in various fora. On the basis of their estimates that they have a two per cent general duty on imports – they have collected Rs.1, 400 crore and they propose to collect Rs.2,550 crore – how much should be the increase in imports so that this much can be collected? They have a different estimate when they say that last year they have collected this much on the basis of existing rates; there will be a shortfall of Rs. 2550 crore and yet the growth would be 19 per cent. Are these estimates believable?

If you approach it from two different sides, two different projections for import growth merge. How do they want me to buy it? We cannot collect the Customs revenue unless the balance of trade goes against us very severely. I know, the answer will be, "Let the balance of trade drop; we shall collect via our friends, the NRIs and all those moneys which have been illegally taken outside will be brought back and paid for the deficit in balance of trade." I do not buy that argument.

My proposals are very concrete. I want dividends to be taxed, at least above a certain level. There should be no withdrawal of that. That saving, that extension, should be in the form of saving opportunities. On Corporation Tax, all right, they have to save their face. There is a three per cent surcharge, and let them eliminate that, that was a long time promise to them. The corporate sector did not expect this kind of a reduction. They were to taken aback that they were pressurising, whether a Government in the country existed or not, for passage of the Bill. They are so enamoured by this. Of course, we cannot support this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : According to the Business Advisory Committee's recommendation, we have to sit up to seven o'clock. That is all.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Madam, I will make two other comments and conclude.

On petroleum price hike, why should it be subsidised in that manner ? Is there no alternative?

Madam, petroleum prices in the Gulf are also coming down. But, additionally, Rs. 10,000 crore of deficit would be accumulated here. Is there any way out to collect it ? Why are we objecting then ? It is because any increase in the prices of petroleum products would have a cascading effect. The Ministry was nervous when the prices were going up because of hike in petroleum prices. Now, that phase is over. Therefore, the Wholesale Price Index is coming down. It is quite right that in terms of the Consumer Price Index, the inflation rate continues to be 10 per cent and most of the countries in the world calculate the inflation rate in terms of the Consumer Price Index unlike India which calculates inflation rate in terms of the Wholesale Price Index. Is there any way out ? Yes, there is a way out. You have a lower Presumptive Tax on Maruti car owners. They spend much more on petrol. You charge certain sum from these Maruti car owners. If somebody owns an Opel Astra, you charge a Presumptive Tax at the rate of Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 20,000. Of course I will excuse owners of Contessa ! It is because, my friend, who is sitting near me, gives me ride on Contessa ! So, this will be a very thing.

I said that diesel is also consumed by trains and by transporters. Do not tax them. In trains, you have a diesel tax on AC-I and AC-II Class travellers. You distinguish between the rich and the poor. They are the biggest consumers of diesel. You impose a tax on them. You collect tax from them and take care of deficit in petroleum. It will come down. You take these measures instead of increasing the prices of petrol and diesel. If you increase the price of diesel, the bus and truck fares will go up. The peasants would suffer. It is because the peasants use diesel for power. The richer sections of the consumers should be taxed without hurting them. They are, of course, our brothers ! They exploit us, yet they are our brothers ! This is the way out instead of hiking the prices of petroleum products.

Madam, now, I will conclude. I was surprised about the Finance Minister's understanding. He is so confused about it. Excuse me for saying so. He is not here. What is this Service Tax ? We produce goods and services. He is taxing on the production of goods and services. I would say it is not a direct tax. It is not an Income Tax. It is not a Corporation Tax. He is trying to collect maximum from them. The transport operators do not pay Income Tax. You try to catch them in a different manner. Instead of doing that, you are opposed to that. Do not impose that Service Tax there. However, in other areas, you impose tax. What I want to say is that in terms of excise duties, you have to be careful so that the common people are not hurt. We do not believe in God but we do say that for God's sake, hold your tongue. We also say for God's sake, hold this Budget.

I am holding my tongue, if you all agree to hold the Budget.

I conclude by thanking everybody around with this remark that if there is no justice all growth is meaningless and therefore, we are unable to buy the Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members we will be adjourning the House at 7 p.m.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Madam, since the number of speakers is more, we can sit upto 8 o'clock and tomorrow also we have more time, those who wish to speak can speak then.

SHRI A C. JOS : Yes Madam we should continue till 8 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will see.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Respected Madam Chairperson, I stand to welcome and support the proposals, especially the Budget, presented by the hon. Finance Minister. It has been a radical attempt to bring about a sustained growth rate for the country and it also addresses itself towards carrying out the promises made in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government. Among the programmes are the basic minimum services which are sought to be given more importance and these basic minimum services include provision of drinking water, shelter, health services, communication and other important services required by the people of the country.

The proposals of the Government have sought to ensure a stable rate of growth. It has also sought to keep under check the rate of inflation and also to bring down rate of deficit in the economy. With these objectives in view, the Finance proposals, especially relating to the direct and indirect taxes proposed by the hon. Finance Minister, go a long way.

The direct tax relating especially to income tax has sought to rationalise the tax structure, has sought to reduce the rate of tax, has sought to reduce the slabs in the rate of taxation and also to increase the amount of deduction in respect of the income of salaried class also. Apart from this, it is generally felt that a higher rate of taxation would result in evasion of taxes and further result in reduced revenue for the Government.

With the streamlining of the tax rate, reduction in the rate of taxes and the other fiscal measures, Government has ensured that there is minimal evasion of taxation that revenues will be increased.

Apart from this, the concession given to the senior citizens in respect of payment of income-tax is also a welcome step.

Now, in the field of increasing revenues for the Government, the hon. Minister of Finance has certain proposals which will not unduly burden any section of the people of the country, be it the poverty-stricken poorer section, be it the middle class or the affluent section whose income is sought to be taxed to a great extent.

This proposal will also encourage the industrial growth. The thrust on the basic infrastructural facility is also there. It should result in investment in this field to provide power and other infrastructural facilities to augment the industrial growth rate. Also there are proposals relating to increased agricultural production and also allied activities.

At this juncture, while welcoming the major policy proposals in the Finance Bill, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government, through you, Madam Chairperson, that the proposals relating to service tax on outdoor caterers, *Pandal* and *Shamiyana* contractors, need to be reviewed. And also there is a proposal to increase the tax on thread rubber. Earlier, the small scale thread rubber manufacturing units came under the general exemption category. Unfortunately, while the taxation in respect of most of the categories has been reduced by the hon. Minister of Finance, the tax on thread rubber is sought to be increased in the financial proposals. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to reconsider this. Thread rubber is being used by common people, who cannot normally afford to purchase new tyres, who cannot afford to spend money on the maintenance of their vehicles whether two-wheelers or four-wheelers. This thread rubber would be useful for them. The small scale industrial units manufacturing thread rubber were getting the exemption earlier. I feel that there is a need to continue this exemption so that they are not only able to manufacture but also to compete with the other major producers of rubber.

Also there is a proposal to tax on tiles. Tiles are normally used by the poorer sections of the people for their housing needs. I feel that there is a need for the Government to reconsider this proposal.

SHRI A.C. JOS : That has been withdrawn today .....(Interruptions)

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Sorry, I was not present at that time. I was not aware of that. I welcome this step.

In relation to the newsprint policy, import of newsprint is allowed. At the same time, there is a hue and cry raised by the newsprint manufacturers within the country that this liberalisation on import of newsprint has resulted in dumping of newsprint in the country, and this needs careful consideration by the Government. There should be a balance in the policy of taxation at this level so that while allowing newsprint for genuine users of newsprint, the local industries should not be allowed to close down or become sick.

19.00 hrs.

So this balance, I feel, is necessarily to be maintained by the Government and by the hon. Minister of Finance in this respect.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : It not only applies to one industry but it also applies to so many industries.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Narayana Swamy, you have some more things to say, I believe. In that case, as it is seven o'clock, we have to adjourn the House and you continue your speech tomorrow.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY : All right.

19.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 8, 1997/Vaisakha 18, 1919 (Saka).*

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