

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 5, 2003/Agrahayana 14, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely, Shrimati Marjorie Godfrey and Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, A.N. Singh Deo, Member of the Ninth Lok Sabha had also passed away. I had written to you also. He passed away on the 1st of December, 2003.

MR. SPEAKER: We will take it up tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Marjorie Godfrey was a nominated Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977, representing the Anglo-Indian community.

Earlier, Shrimati Godfrey had served as a nominated Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly for four years.

A teacher by profession, Shrimati Godfrey was a dedicated educationist. She served as the State Representative on Inter-State Board for Anglo-Indian Education. She served as the Superintendent-in-charge of Examinations and Selections for 17 years; and as the Assistant Commissioner, Girls Guides.

Shrimati Godfrey was an active social worker. She was the Vice President of the Governing Body of the All India Anglo-Indian Association. She was also a member of the Central Social Welfare Advisory Board, T.B. Board, Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Guntakal Division; and Ladies of Charity. Driven by her desire to serve humanity, particularly the poor and downtrodden, she helped in securing jobs to the unemployed and in getting admissions for the needy in schools and hospitals.

A sports enthusiast, Shrimati Godfrey was associated with the Gidney Club and Catholic Club, Hyderabad.

Shrimati Marjorie Godfrey passed away on 27 October 2003 at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, at the age of 84.

Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi was a Member of the Seventh, Eighth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas from 1980 to 1989 and from 1991 to 1997, representing the Sambhalpur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa.

Dr. Bhoi was the Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Department of Education, from 1995 to 1996.

Earlier, Dr. Bhoi was a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1971 to 1973 and from 1974 to 1977. He also served as the Minister of State of Community Development and Panchayati Raj from 1972 to 1973; and Cabinet Minister of Transport, Commerce and Mining and Geology, from 1974 to 1977 in the State Government.

Dr. Bhoi was a dedicated parliamentarian. He was the Chairman of the Estimates Committee from 1994 to 1995 besides being a Member of several other Parliamentary Committees and also of the Consultative Committees of the Ministries of Steel and Coal.

Dr. Bhoi was a man of letters. He published several books, booklets, political journals and a daily newspaper, *Dainik Ganabara*. He also composed poems and wrote articles on social and political affairs.

Dr. Bhoi was a well-known political and social worker. He was associated with welfare work during several epidemics and natural calamities. A medical practitioner himself, Dr. Bhoi was associated with various medical institutions and he held important positions therein. He was a member of the Governing Body and Selection Committee of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, from 1984 to 1989.

Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi passed away on 15 November, 2003 at Delhi, after a brief illness at the age of 61.

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

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

11.04 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

11.06 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Notices for Suspension of Question Hour and Motion for Adjournment

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice for the suspension of Question Hour...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have already faced the consequences of opposing the construction of Ram Temple in the recently concluded elections for legislative assembly for four states. People will not forgive them...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, please allow me...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. How will the Question Hour start if they continue to create pandemonium in such a manner. I request that the Question Hour be started...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, what do you want to say? You have given one notice for Adjournment Motion, please let me know what you have to say.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the Notice for suspension of Question Hour and I rise to assign the reason therefor. 11 years have passed since the demolition of Babri masjid on 6th

December, 1992. The order of the Supreme Court and the Constitution was violated...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is being repeatedly raised for the last 11 years...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, something happened in 1992; what is the point in raising it today...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have allowed Shri Banatwalla to speak. You resume your seats. Let me listen him.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, a conspiracy is being hatched to enact a law in the House to construct a temple in place of Babri masjid. Sir, the Government would have to come forward and assure that no temple would be constructed in place of masjid...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla has given me notice for suspension of Question Hour. I want to know why he wants the Question Hour to be suspended. That is all. There is nothing more than that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Similar notices are received from Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I have heard the arguments and I do not allow the suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, you listen to me also.

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, you will reproduce what he has said.

[English]

Suspension of Question Hour on this issue cannot be accepted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (*Amroha*): Sir, I have also given notice for Adjournment Motion on it.

MR. SPEAKER: I have yet to give ruling on Adjournment Motion.

[*English*]

After the issue of suspension of Question Hour, we will decide about the Adjournment Motion. I am only listening to the points about suspension of Question Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (*Bankura*): Sir, please allow me to speak. I have also given notice. I have a different argument...(*Interruptions*) Please allow me.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, how will it do if the Question Hour is not allowed to take place everyday...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have given notice for suspension of Question Hour...(*Interruptions*) I also gave notice for Adjournment Motion...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (*Bolpur*): Sir, this is such an important matter that I request that you do not go by formalities. This is a matter in which we wish to express ourselves. Please allow us...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Government is using the CBI to dilute the case...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Babri Masjid was demolished by the hoodlums of BJP, RSS, Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad...(*Interruptions*) Action has not been taken against the main accused in the demolition case. Some of them are in the Cabinet...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not a matter for suspension of Question Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What we demand today is that action should be taken against the accused...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no necessity of repeating.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the past chargesheet was issued...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not an urgent issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This Government is pressurising the CBI to change the chargesheet and exclude the name of one of the accused...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (*Aurangabad, Maharashtra*): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I don't have any notice from you.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Shiv Sena is being mentioned I want to speak about it. I be given only one minute time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have his Notice.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, as Shiv Sena is being mentioned, I have to speak on it for a while...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they are now trying to justify the demolition.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What we want is that action should be taken against the accused who are responsible for the demolition of Babri Masjid. It was a day of national shame. December 6 is the day of national shame.

They have not demolished the Babri Masjid but they have demolished the symbol of secularism of our country....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Achariyaji, you please sit down, else Sumanji will not get an opportunity to speak. Sumanji, you speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 6th December...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today is 5th not 6th December.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you ask him to sit down, else I will not be able to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that day the efforts were made to disintegrate the country...(Interruptions) They are reactionary and want to divide the country...(Interruptions) No action has been taken against the guilty persons despite the passage of so much time...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir 6th December is holiday, hence I also want to speak on it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the arguments of Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri G.M. Banatwalla for suspension of Question Hour and I have disallowed the notices for suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have now taken up the notices for Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can it be an issue for discussion? It is not a subject for discussion. Every year the House discusses the events of 6th December...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion will continue as long as the guilty are not punished...(Interruptions) Who is he to stop us...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Suman ji, I have permitted Somnath ji to speak. Somnath ji, you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole country knows, even then they keep on digging into old issues...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, my appeal to all...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether they are guardian of this country?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I inform the hon. Members that in the interest of going ahead with the Question Hour, I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee to say whatever he wants to say on the issue of Adjournment Motion?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Khaire ji, please sit down. Somnathji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to all sections of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please co-operate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Irrespective of the subject matter, when notice for an Adjournment Motion is given, we should listen to the points.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Khaire, ji, please listen to me first.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I want to ask the Members who have given adjournment motion notices as to what is the issue? I would like to start question hour. Somnath ji, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am appealing to all sections of the House that please do not treat it as a mere routine matter. It is not a very simple matter. There are strong feelings...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the name of Babri Masjid, how long the sentiments of Hindus will continue to be played with. For the last 11 years only one issue has been repeatedly raised in the House in December...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, is there no

other problem facing our country? there are various problems...(Interruptions) Uttar Pradesh is in the grip of riots. House ought to discuss the law and order issue of Uttar Pradesh, but instead of doing that they keep on raising the issue of Babri structure and create disorder in the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: They want to disintegrate the nation. Communal forces are being suppressed in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: You know who initiate communal riots...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: They keep on interrupting unnecessarily. Communal forces are being kept at bay in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me go to the Question Hour in two minutes time. Please cooperate with me. It is just a matter of two minutes. He wants to make an argument on this, and if I am convinced by his argument then I can allow this Adjournment Motion. Otherwise, I can say that the Adjournment Motion is not allowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Thereafter, we can start the Question Hour. It is in everybody's interest that I take a decision on the Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me too to speak for a moment...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to listen to him first.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to all sections of the House to have some consideration for our feelings on this side also.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I they have doing it for the last 11 years...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra ji, you are a senior Member.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Shri V.K. Malhotra, I am saying this because you have not been able to assuage our feelings.

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: They are trying to raise a dead issue. They are raising one issue for the last 11 years. Why do they not get a resolution passed from the House?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir if they continue to behave like that, he won't be able to speak? They are unnecessarily interrupting the speech of a senior Member like Somnath Chatterjee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough? Please sit down. There is something called limit. Please do not go beyond that. Please sit down. Now I have permitted him to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Communal elements are being 'reformed' in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want the House to function, please do not say so.

[English]

Please sit down. You are trying to disturb the House. This is not desirable. Please sit down.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The law and order situation of Uttar Pradesh should be discussed here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted him to speak for two minutes. He will conclude within that time. It is good for you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Somnath ji, you should address me.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that when one wants to raise an important issue, there is disturbance. There is disagreement on this issue, and who is denying that. Can I not have a say in the Parliament of India because of this? I am saying this because that is what is being done here. We are not being allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nobody should disturb him now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, an unfortunate attempt is being made to derail this matter by referring to the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh, which this House has no jurisdiction to discuss. They are trying to create further complications in this issue. How can one bring the Uttar Pradesh matter regarding the present law and order situation here?

Why are we raising this issue again? Sir, we shall continue to raise the issue related to the events of 6th December 1992, unless...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak, you need not stop.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, how can I speak? I am being interrupted again and again.

MR. SPEAKER: I am in a position to listen to you. You kindly go ahead.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we shall continue to raise the issue related to the events of 6th December 1992, unless, according to us, the perpetrators of the crime are suitably punished and dealt with. Sir, we consider it as a day of national shame, and it is a black day...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: How is it a national shame?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a black day in the history of India, which has a glorious tradition...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is not a black day in history of India...(*Interruptions*) It is a day of pride for India...(*Interruptions*) When Babri Mosque structure was demolished...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not appropriate that despite my permission, you are not allowing a Member to speak. He has not spoken even two sentences.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. All of you may sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too want to say something...(*Interruptions*)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, only one issue is being raised in the House and tears are being shed for that Babri Mosque...(*Interruptions*) If they want to shed tears, they can do so at their homes...(*Interruptions*) Please do not waste the precious time of this House by raising that matter again and again...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, 6th of December this year happens to be a Saturday, and the House will not sit on that day because it is a holiday.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Somnath Chatterjee is saying will go on record and nothing else.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we have given notice to you. We have submitted the notice of Adjournment Motion because today is a working day and tomorrow is a holiday.

As I said, we, a large section in the House, consider it to be a black day and, therefore, a national shame...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: How can it be a black day? It is saffron day...(*Interruptions*)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sixth December is a symbol of pride for India...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not consider my friends as the only protectors of Hinduism. There are many followers of Hinduism in this world. We are not against the Hindus, we are not against Hinduism and we are not against 'Jai Sri Ram'. What are they talking of? Have they got the monopoly right to represent everybody in this country?

Sir, what they call the 'disputed structure' and we call it the 'Babri Mosque' did not automatically fall down. It was demolished under previous arrangement. There was a conspiracy to do that. People were assembled there.

We wish to express our abhorrence to the act of sacrilege that was committed on the 6th of December, 1992.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the only question is whether this can be a matter of an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I do not find a more serious issue that is still pestering the body politic of this country.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the recent occurrence in this regard?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Nobody has suffered for this. They are being extolled; they are being eulogised. Today, the Members of the Treasury Benches are eulogising them. We are strongly against this.

We submit that the House should take up the Adjournment Motion on this subject and that no other business can be transacted today.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dasmunsi please be in brief...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Khairi ji, you are a very disciplined person. Mr. Speaker has granted me permission to speak first...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully endorse what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said. The recent occurrence—while the trial was on against

the accused, who abetted or participated in the demolition—is the way in which the cases of those accused have been handled by the CBI. In one case, CBI has gone to the High Court against the acquittal whereas in the other case, where the accused was discharged by the Raebareli Court, the CBI has not yet gone to the High Court to defend their own case. This is how they are deliberately trying to dilute the whole case and they want to protect those accused in the demolition case. That is the recent occurrence and, that is why, this notice of Adjournment Motion should be admitted.

We condemn all your manipulations and machinations aimed at making the CBI to discharge all your colleagues and, this, putting the CBI to shame. Earlier, the CBI was known as the 'Central Bureau of Investigation', but now it is known as 'Clear Before Investigation'.

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the notices of Adjournment Motion. Please sit down. I have heard you, and I have disallowed the notices of Adjournment Motion. I shall now go to the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have made up my mind that there is no recent occurrence and, therefore, I have disallowed the notices of Adjournment Motion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have made up my mind and I have already given my ruling on this.

Now, Question Hour, Shri Ramsheth Thakur.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ramsheth Thakur ji, you ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Considering the importance of the issue, I have permitted a few Members to speak. Every Member cannot be permitted to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, please review your decision...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, in protest of the demolition of the Babri mosque, we stage a walk out...(Interruptions)

11.25 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we too walk out of the House...(Interruptions)

11.26 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and some other hon. Members left the House)

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR (Kulaba): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as all of us know...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I too want to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You too want to speak on this subject.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not granted permission to everybody to speak on this subject. How can I give permission to everybody. It is all right for 10-15 minutes, but now I have to conduct question hour also. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): 6th December is black day in the history of the country...(Interruptions) This day is a stain in the history...(Interruptions) We were champion of secularism in the world...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramseth ji, you please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After this whatever Raghuvansh ji say, will not go on record.

11.27 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House)

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, they have walked out from the House on this issue. They need not raise it on the floor of the House again. Please allow the Members one-by-one to speak and this issue will be over.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you tell me under which rule I can permit him?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: They asked for Adjournment Motion and you have allowed them to make their points.

MR. SPEAKER: If he wants, he can raise a point of order.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Each political party must express its opinion on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: No debate will be allowed. If he has a point of order, I am allowing him.

[Translation]

Do you have a Point of Order.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: They play politics in the name of Ram temple. If the temple of Lord Rama will not be built in Ayodhya then where will it be built. On 11th October Shiv Sena had also organised a grand Rambhakat Sammelan...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point or order?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I would like to submit to that the Ram temple should be built so that there may not remain any political issue left for those who keep on raising their issue frequently.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to submit something in this regard...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Gudhe ji, you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please give me on minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless you have a point of order, I will not allow.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I am on a point of order, Sir.

My point of order is that this matter is *sub judice*. This matter is pending in the Supreme Court. Once the matter is pending in the court, there is no need to raise it every time on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask question.

[English]

There is no substance in the point of order.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: The Telugu Desam Party will abide by the court decision. In the meanwhile, if both the parties sit across the table and settle the issue, everybody will appreciate that. Otherwise, we have to wait for the pronouncement of the court. This matter is purely *sub judice*. They have no right to raise it on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already taken up Question Hour.

Shri Ramsheth Thakur.

11.29 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

WTO Meet at Cancun

*61. +
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fifth Ministerial meeting of WTO held at Cancun, Mexico in September, 2003 has concluded without any fruitful achievements;

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

(c) the details of issues put forth for discussion by the developed countries and developing countries led by India, separately;

(d) the views of developed countries on the issues of developing countries and vice-versa;

(e) whether China and other developing countries have fully supported India's view in respect of issues related to agriculture and cheap import of drugs;

(f) if so, the overall outcome of the meeting; and

(g) the further reaction of India and other developing countries including China with regard to the protection of the interests of poor countries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (g) The Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was held at Cancun, Mexico, during 10-14 September, 2003 to take stock of the progress in the negotiations under the Doha Work Programme, provide necessary political guidance and take decisions as necessary. A decision was required to be taken at the Fifth Ministerial Conference by explicit consensus on the modalities of negotiations on the four Singapore issues viz. Trade and Investment; Trade and Competition Policy; Transparency in Government Procurement; and Trade Facilitation. In view of the serious differences among Members, the Conference ended without taking necessary decisions.

A draft Ministerial Declaration was forwarded by the Chairman, General Council and the Director General, WTO, to the Ministerial Conference at their own responsibility. The views held by a large number of countries were not adequately reflected in this draft Ministerial Declaration.

On September 13, 2003 the Chairman of the Ministerial Conference came out with a draft Declaration which did not provide sufficient balance to the expectations of the Members on the outcome of the Ministerial Conference.

On Agriculture, correction of distortions as a result of the policies of the developed countries was a major demand. The effect of removal of such distortions has a lag effect and therefore the developing countries required calibrated changes to market access. The developing countries also required special safeguard mechanism to deal with the ill effects of surge in imports as well as designation of certain products as Special Products, which would meet lower reduction in tariff.

On Singapore Issues, the developing countries were not clear about the nature and extent of obligations that were required to be undertaken. Therefore, developing countries felt that clarification process on these issues has to continue and run its full course. Some of these issues could result in denial of adequate policy space for the developing countries in their quest for development.

On Implementation Issues and Special Differential Treatment Issues, the concerns of the developing countries for speedy resolution were not adequately addressed. On the issue relating to Cotton, the developed countries sought to deflect attention from specific action suggested by certain Members to remove distortions existed in the trade of cotton by bringing in issues relating to man-made fibers and textiles.

On the issue relating to provision of drugs to those countries that did not have adequate manufacturing capacity to produce such drugs, the General Council of the WTO at Geneva resolved the matter by adopting a decision on 30th August, 2003.

A group of 20 countries was formed at the initiative of Brazil, India, Argentina, China and South Africa to voice their dismay at the attempt by US and EC to continue with distortions in the agriculture trading system, while demanding large market access from developing countries. Another group of 16 countries was formed to voice the concerns of developing countries on the Singapore Issues. China is part of this 16 Member group as well.

The Ministerial Conference ended on 14th September, 2003 recognising that more work needed to be done in some key areas to enable WTO Member countries to proceed towards the conclusion of negotiations under the

Doha mandate. The Chairman of the General Council of the WTO, in close coordination with the Director General, has been asked to coordinate the work on outstanding issues and to convene a meeting of the General Council at senior officials level no later than 15th December, 2003 to enable successful and timely conclusion of the negotiations.

India has always supported the smooth functioning of a rule based and fair multilateral trading system. At the same time, we have also been emphasizing that if further progress is to be expected, all WTO Members should show genuine commitment to re-start the multilateral process. The concerns of large number of developing countries and least developed countries will have to be taken into account and the 'development' dimension envisaged in the Doha mandate will have to be retained in letter and spirit. Agriculture has been at the core of the ongoing WTO negotiations and it is important that negotiations are concluded in a manner which not only leads to increased market access but also removes the distortions and inequities in the international trade in agricultural products. In our view this could be achieved through a process of decision-making that is both transparent and inclusive, without ignoring the sensitivities of the developing countries. In this regard a number of developing countries, including China, have been supporting our stand.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: My question is regarding Cancun Ministerial Conference. Being the CPI member I too had to go however, this question is very much important for the entire country. We all know that it was due to the Stalemate between developing countries and developed countries that Cancun Ministerial Conference was concluded without any result. It is very unfortunate that such an important conference regarding W.T.O. was concluded without any result. The developed countries are adopting arbitrary attitude. The developing countries are becoming victim to the wrong policies. The developing countries are feeling very insecure...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask question.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: My submission is that agriculture sector is important in our country and subsidy is provided to this sector. The developed countries are of the opinion that developing countries give too much subsidy to this sector so we are being pressurised by them to reduce it. All efforts are being made to restrict access

of goods of developing countries to the international market. It is on account of this that small and marginal farmers and small scale industries are experiencing hardships. My submission is that developed countries dominate over the draft agenda which is prepared by the Chairman of the ministerial conference of W.T.O. I would like to know from the Government whether our hon'ble Minister raised the issue that their views cannot be imposed on us as well as the interest of the developing countries cannot be compromised and due importance will be given to agriculture sector. Second thing is that for this till 15th of December...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramsheth ji, why do you not ask question?

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: I would like to know as to what question was raised by the Government of India in this regard there. What questions were raised by the Government of India to counter their pressure? In the part (b) of the question, I would like to know that the Chairman of the General Council of the WTO had decided to call a meeting of Senior officers upto 15 December, 2000 with the intention to make the discussion held in the Conference successful. I would like to know whether the meeting expected to be held till December, 15 has been held or not and if it is held, whether issues which are cause of concern for our country were raised by the Government of India and the discussion held in regard thereto in that meeting. If the meeting is not held, the time by which the meeting is proposed to be held.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask rest of the question in supplementary.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Member that he declared it a very important issue and cutting across the party line urged to hold discussion on this issue in the interest of the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Because he is of my district.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: There are several aspects of the question that has been asked by the hon'ble Member. First thing that he submitted is that the developed countries pressurise India to withdraw subsidy and exert pressure on agriculture sector. I would like to clarify that no country has pressurised India to reduce or to withdraw subsidy. There are basically two types of subsidy. One is

called domestic support subsidy which is given to farmers by the developed countries. The second type of subsidy is given on export which is linked with capacity. Out of these two types of subsidy India does not provide any of them. It is on account of the said subsidies that the agriculture market will be distorted and it adversely affects our farmers. Keeping in view this fact, India had formed a group of 21 developing countries which has been known as G-21. Serious efforts were made by this group within Cancun to reduce this subsidy and ultimately phased it out and that group is going to hold meeting on 12th December once again in Brazil. As far as the question of informal discussion is concerned, the discussion is going on at the level of officers and the Government and officer level discussion is going to be held again in Geneva on 15th December. As per the definition of WTO the subsidy that is provided by our Government come under the category of the minimum subsidy. According to that developing countries have been permitted to provide upto 10 percent subsidy and the subsidy which is provided by our Government is within that limit and is permissible. There is no demand from any quarter to withdraw that subsidy. It depends on our capability whether we provide full subsidy or part of it and it has nothing to do with W.T.O. or any other country. It is directly related to our own economic capability and it has bearing on it.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is performing his role in this regard quite aptly. Views of the State Government should be taken into account while preparing suggestions to be forwarded to WTO agenda on behalf of the Government of India. We have different regional political parties and farmers have small holdings. Therefore, it is necessary to take their priorities into consideration since agriculture gets affected by it. Different states produce wheat and rice or paddy. Therefore, I feel, it would have been better, if farmers give suggestions. Therefore, their suggestions are much essential whether the Government have taken their suggestions into consideration. If so, it is good, and if not, the reasons therefore? Will hon. Minister seek suggestions from various political parties or have discussion with them before the proposed meeting? Hon. Minister should clarify the Government's policy in this regard?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever ministerial level conference is held or such issue is taken up for discussion we do not decide the agenda. All member nations finalise WTO agenda and it's Secretariat plays major role in it. We take a stand and react as per what we feel appropriate there. Prior to that discussion is

held with stake-holders all over the country and also with concerned Union Ministries. In addition, suggestions of State Government are also invited. This time, prior to Cancun Summit detailed discussion was held with each political party, trade union, farmers organisations, NGOs and economists separately and their suggestions were taken into account, then only we went there.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khanji is not here. Shri A.C. Jos.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Much is talked about agriculture here. I come from Kerala. Our problems relating to agriculture are different. We are the main producers of rubber. Unfortunately, rubber is not treated as agricultural produce and hence it has gone out of the arena. We are producing all cash crops. We are also producing spices, etc. We produce all export-quality materials. Traditionally, from time immemorial, they are being exported to different countries. During the discussions in the WTO, the Minister or the Government of India has not taken seriously about the problems of export of spices, rubber, coconut, etc. Apart from this, we have given a lot of concessions to Sri Lanka, Materials are coming from different countries to Sri Lanka and from there they come to India with zero duty, for example, clove and pepper, which creates serious problems and with the result all our cash crops are ending in losses.

My question to the hon. Minister is, as far as WTO is concerned, will the Minister be much more serious about bringing rubber into agricultural field and declare it as agricultural produce? The Minister may also think about spices, including cardamom, pepper, clove, coconut, etc. separately and try to negotiate to boost export of these materials.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The hon. Member has no reason to doubt the seriousness of the Government of India in these matters. As far as rubber is concerned, I am quite conscious of the fact that a large part of Kerala's economy depends upon these plantations and we are seized of the issue. Several steps have been taken. The concerns of our plantation growers are adequately reflected before WTO, whenever discussions do take place. But let me tell the hon. Member that today, as far as rubber in particular is concerned, there has been a great improvement in the market of rubber as a result of which our prices of rubber also have significantly improved.

SHRI A.C. JOS: What about declaring it as agricultural produce?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: These issues are being taken up. But these decisions are taken at a multilateral level and not at the Government of India level. The Government of India voices its concern about these issues.

The hon. Member has also mentioned the other products and also that export of certain products is taking place. Given the context that we have Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka, let me tell the hon. Member that after the Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka, there is a huge increase as far as bilateral trade between India and Sri Lanka is concerned. If he sees at the sheer volumes, our exports to Sri Lanka today are several times more than what their imports to India are. Therefore, in bilateral trade if there are several commodities in which we are gaining, our bilateral partners will also gain as far as certain commodities are concerned. That is the methodology in which the bilateral trade goes on and that is what the hon. Members will really have to appreciate.

Consumer Disputes Redressal

*62. ⁺ SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee for quick and easy redressal of consumer disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the disputes of customers remain unresolved for years together for want of quick action;

(d) if so, the number of cases which are pending in the Consumer Court for more than 3 years, 5 years and 10 years, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which the formation of Committee is going to resolve such disputes within a short time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):
(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) There is no proposal with the Govt. to set up a Committee empowering them with judicial powers to redress consumer disputes. However, to provide quick and easy redressal to consumer disputes, a quasi-judicial consumer dispute redressal machinery has already been set up at the district, state and national levels under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) which under section 24B of the Act monitors the institution, disposal and pendency of cases has informed that 21,65,510 cases have been filed with the consumer disputes redressal agencies since their inception, out of which 18,05,465 cases (83.37%) have already been disposed of by them. The age-wise and state-wise details of cases pending for more than 3 years, 5 years and 10 years received from the NCDRC are given in the enclosed Annexure. It may be stated here that the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was comprehensively amended very recently through the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 which has been brought into force from 15th March, 2003. The major objective of this Amendment was to facilitate quicker disposal of complaints by the consumer dispute redressal agencies, by enhancing the capability of redressal agencies, strengthening them with more powers, facilitating faster execution of their orders, streamlining the procedures and widening the scope of the Act to make it more functional and effective. Some of the important amendments made to facilitate quicker disposal of complaints/appeals include the provision for:

- (1) Creation of Benches and appointment of additional Members in the National Commission and State Commissions;
- (2) Holding of Circuit Benches by State Commissions and National Commission;
- (3) Prescribing of time limits for admission of complaints, issue of notices and disposal of complaints as well as appeals;
- (4) Prescribing parameters for adjournments to avoid frequent adjournments;
- (5) Substantial enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction of consumer forums at all the three levels; and
- (6) Empowering senior-most Member to preside the Forum in the absence of President.

In addition to the amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, the Central Government has been taking a number of steps for improving the functioning of consumer forums. Some of the important steps taken are—

- (1) An amount of Rs. 61.80 crores was released during 1995-99 to the States/UTs as one time grant to supplement their efforts for strengthening the infrastructure of consumer forums;
- (2) The performance of the consumer forums in periodically reviewed in the meetings of Central Consumer Protection Council and other review meetings held with States and Consumer Forums;
- (3) Training of Members/Presidents of consumer forums is organized at the Indian Institute of Public Administration with a view to enhance their efficiency; and
- (4) Setting up of Additional Bench of the National Commission on 24.9.2003, for which necessary staff was provided. In addition, additional manpower has also been provided for effective functioning of the National Commission and also to enable the Commission to exercise administrative control over consumer forums.

Annexure

Cases pending between 3-5 years, 5-10 years and more than 10 years in National Commission, State Commissions and District Forums, as on 31.10.2003.

	Cases pending between 3-5 years	Cases pending between 5-10 years	Cases pending more than 10 years.
National Commission	3108	1237	8*

Remark:*Four cases remanded by Hon'ble Supreme Court, two cases adjourned *sine die* by Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Court and two cases were pending due to stay in High courts and are now before the National Commission as stay vacated.

State Commission:

Sl. No.	Name of States	Cases pending between 3-5 years	Cases pending between 5-10 years	Cases pending more than 10 years	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	0	0	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	0	
3.	Assam	486	309	30	
4.	Bihar	2958	748	5	
5.	Chhattisgarh	392	0	0	
6.	Goa	268	4	0	
7.	Gujarat	3330	362	0	
8.	Haryana	1058	48	0	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	23	0	0	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	Information awaited.

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	
12.	Karnataka	236	75	0	
13.	Kerala	1024	10	0	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	632	36	0	
15.	Maharashtra	3183	1208	1	
16.	Manipur	-	-	-	Information awaited.
17.	Meghalaya	2	4	0	
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	Information awaited.
19.	Nagaland	-	-	-	Information awaited.
20.	Orissa	1331	1546	0	
21.	Punjab	230	0	0	
22.	Rajasthan	2375	5187	0	
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	
24.	Tamil Nadu	1540	177	2	
25.	Tripura	170	7	0	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6056	13120	3671	
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	
28.	West Bengal	1026	148	1	
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	
30.	Chandigarh Adm.	34	1	0	
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	D&N Haveli & D&D having combined Commission.
32.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	
33.	Delhi	1028	1055	87	
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
35.	Pondicherry	1	0	0	
Total		27472	24046	3797	

District Forums:

Sl. No.	Name of States	Cases pending between 3-5 years	Cases pending between 5-10 years	Cases pending more than 10 years	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2868	437	4	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	Information awaited.
3.	Assam	615	922	309	
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	Information awaited.
5.	Chhattisgarh	368	15	0	
6.	Goa	802	27	0	
7.	Gujarat	11056	7047	89	
8.	Haryana	3950	156	0	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	89	7	0	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	Information awaited.
11.	Jharkhand	461	73	0	
12.	Karnataka	477	32	1	
13.	Kerala	333	31	6	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2436	328	0	
15.	Maharashtra	4745	1190	21	
16.	Manipur	-	-	-	Information awaited.
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	Information awaited.
19.	Nagaland	-	-	-	Information awaited.
20.	Orissa	193	1	0	
21.	Punjab	1	2	0	
22.	Rajasthan	2861	676	4	
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	
24.	Tamil Nadu	1158	120	19	

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tripura	-	-	-	Information awaited.
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14531	6964	260	
27.	Uttaranchal	703	0	0	
28.	West Bengal	39	5	0	
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0	0	
30.	Chandigarh Adm.	69	0	0	
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	16	0	0	D&N Haveli & D&D having combined Forum.
32.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	
33.	Delhi	760	193	0	
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	
Total		48531	18226	713	

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government proposes to set up a committee for quick and easy redressal of consumer disputes. If so, the details thereof.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to Consumer Forum, there is a three-tier arrangement in the country i.e. District Forum, State Commission, National Commission. It is a quasi-judicial body. Therefore, no Committee is constituted for redressal of any case. I would like to make it clear to hon. Member that neither such type of Committee can be constituted nor it has ever been constituted.

So far as Consumer Forum is concerned, 83 percent cases have been disposed off by this forum. Despite several bottle-necks and being a quasi-judicial body, it has been functioning very efficiently. There is evidence to prove that 83 cases have been disposed off and the

number of pending cases have declined sharply. In view of these problems Consumer Protection Act has been amended. Even timings have been re-adjusted so that it can act more effectively. Enough has been done in this direction.

[English]

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Sir, what is the number of cases which are pending in the consumer courts for more than three years, five years, and 10 years?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 7,765 cases are pending in National Forum; 1,07,060 in State Commission and 2,45,220 cases are pending in District Forum. Out of a total of 21 lakh cases, 18 lakh cases have been disposed off and 3,60,045 cases are pending. Certainly I do agree that these cases are pending and thus changes have been incorporated in Consumer Protection Act in March, 2002. I also agree that cases

are pending in State Forum because of financial constraints. The Government extend help within their limits but that is inadequate to make the States capable. The Government are working in this direction. I am sure, the courts are functioning well and they are to be strengthened further. Our endeavour is to provide coordination to the States to ensure smooth functioning in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the State-wise details available with the hon. Minister condition of consumers in Bihar is pitiable. Whether he is aware or not the condition of consumers in Bihar is most pitiable. Whether hon. Minister is aware of condition of consumers in Bihar? If so, what action he proposes to take in this regard? Alongwith it, I would also like to know about number of pending cases in Bihar. Because of pitiable condition of consumers in Bihar, the poor are unable to get justice. What is reaction of hon. Minister in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member wanted to know—how many types of cases are pending in Bihar? Whatever information is available with me, that I would like to give to hon. Member, 2998 cases have been pending in Bihar for the last 3-5 years, and 262 cases for the last 5-10 years. No case has been pending for more than ten years. The condition in Bihar is similar to that of other States. Large number of such cases are pending in Maharashtra and Haryana. I am telling this on the basis of information available with me at present.

[English]

Remittance of Profit of Foreign Banks

*63. **SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed foreign banks to remit profits to their respective countries every quarter without the prior permission of the RBI;

(b) if so, the reasons for this new relaxation given to foreign banks by the RBI;

(c) the total profits remitted by foreign banks during the year 2002-2003 bank-wise; and

(d) the likely impact of such remittance on economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Periodic remittances enable foreign banks to mitigate their foreign exchange risks and provide cash flow to their Head Offices to pay interim dividend to their shareholders.

(c) As per Reserve Bank of India only the following nine foreign banks have remitted profit during the year 2002-03:

(Rupees in crores)		
Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount of profit remitted
1.	Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	1.82
2.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait B.S.C.	4.90
3.	Barclays Bank PLC	7.41
4.	Citibank N.A.	50.00
5.	Deutsche Bank AG	54.73
6.	JP Morgan Chase Bank	11.81
7.	Sonali Bank	0.25
8.	Standard Chartered Bank	259.12
9.	The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd.	40.92

(d) Quarterly remission of profits by foreign banks does not impact on the economy.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity given to me. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the guidelines fixed by the Reserve Bank of India for remittance of profit by foreign banks to their respective countries.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, my apologies to the hon. Member. I could not hear him clearly. Would the hon. Member repeat the question?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brahmanaiyah, you can ask the question again.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Sir, what are the guidelines fixed by the Reserve Bank of India for the remittance of profit by foreign banks to their respective countries? That is my question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I think, this has already been answered.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Are there any guidelines?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This has already been answered. If you would kindly see the reply it has been mentioned that they are allowed to remit. This is the guideline. They cannot remit something which is not a profit. The guidelines already exist and everything is done in accordance with the guidelines.

MR. SPEAKER: There are no specific guidelines.

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Is there any adverse impact on the Indian economy due to this remittance of profit?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any adverse impact?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is contained in a sentence in the reply. The sentence is quite explicit. It does not impact upon the Indian economy.

Dues of CBEC

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*65. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Dues of CBEC at rupees 14,222 crore on 53,600 pending court cases" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated August 13, 2003;

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

(c) the *modus operandi* to be followed by the Government for recovery of the dues and disposal of the court cases; and

(d) the target date by when all the cases are expected to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Excise dues as on 31.10.2003 are approximately Rs. 12,814 Crore, inclusive of penalty. Similarly the Customs dues as on 31.10.2003 are approximately Rs. 2,917 crore. Of the above two taxes, a total sum of Rs. 5,978 crore is under stay by various Courts, Tribunals and Commissioners (Appeals).

(c) and (d) Litigation and recovery of arrears is a continuous process. All efforts are made for early recovery of revenue arrears.

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to note that my original question was not like that. My original question has been clubbed with the question of Dr. Manda Jagannath. It is surprising for me. My original question was regarding the outstanding amount of Rs. one lakh thirteen thousand crore of direct taxes under dispute. If it is recovered by the Government then the annual fiscal deficit can be bridged. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the institutions, companies and persons from whom outstanding dues are to be recovered by the Government and the efforts being made by the Government to recover it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member complains that his original question has been clubbed with the present question.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has not been properly clubbed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If it is so then, it is not my mistake.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I wanted to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble Speaker.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am glad that your complaint is not aimed at me.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about the efforts made to recover it. This question is *suo motu* concerned with CBEC. I have given detailed information in this regard. One more question regarding the Direct Taxes is coming and if the hon'ble Member wants to ask anything he may ask.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the reply of my original question should be furnished.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will reply if original question is asked, presently that is not included in question.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question has not been clubbed with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister you please reply the question of the hon'ble Member.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will try to reply the question of the hon'ble Member after comprehending it.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my original question has been omitted however, in my supplementary question I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about such 20 institutions, companies or persons against whom maximum amount regarding Direct taxes is outstanding which is to be recovered and is disputed. Whether the Government have prepared any time bound Programme to recover the amount. If the said amount is recovered then will it bridge the fiscal deficit?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon'ble Minister see the reply of question no. 69 he will

find desired information in this regard. I will reply about rest of the things, so he should please wait. The reply to the question as to what steps have been taken by the Government for its recovery has not been incorporated in reply. However, I would like to tell him that he has asked a pertinent question as to what steps have been taken by the Government for the recovery of direct or indirect taxes. I would not like to make any comment regarding this that the said recovery will bridge the fiscal deficit of the country. As the hon'ble Member will be aware of the fact that several steps have been taken by the government for its simplification. If the stay at the Commissioner level is more than 6 months, it will be automatically vacated. The Government have issued 25 new ordinances under which benches are being set up for the recovery of direct and indirect taxes. Out of that 15 benches are for direct taxes ten batches are for indirect taxes. I expect and hope that the work of recovery of taxes will be completed soon.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Qn. No. 66. Shriprakash Jaiswal is not present Qn. No. 67—Shri G.S. Basavaraj—not present. Shri Y.V. Rao.

Growth of Infrastructure Sector

*67. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target of growth rate of infrastructure industries set by the Government for the year 2003-2004;

(b) the extent to which growth rate has been achieved till Oct., 2003;

(c) the growth rate for the first half of this fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, industry-wise;

(d) whether growth rate of some industries has declined during this fiscal year particularly in the months of July to October, 2003;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and up to what extent; and

(f) the details of steps taken by the Government to give impetus to the lagging core sector industries to achieve the target growth rate in this fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion compiles performance of six infrastructure

industries, which include crude petroleum, petroleum refinery products, coal, electricity, cement and finished steel and account for a weight of 26.7 per cent in the Index of Industrial production (IIP). As per the information available with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the performance of these six infrastructure industries against the targets during the first half of the current financial year was as indicated in the Table I below. Table II provides month-wise growth in the six infrastructure industries.

Table 1: Performance of Six Infrastructure Industries during April-September, 2003

Item	Unit	Target		Production April-September		Percentage variation over Actual April-Sep.
		2003-04	April- Sept. 2003	2002	2003	
Power	Billion	572.900	280.186	262.029	269.457	+2.8
Generation	Unit (BU)					
Coal	MT	345.05	155.60	151.15	157.51	+4.2
Finished Steel	MT	37.055	18.395	16.551	17.845	+7.8
Cement	MT	126.0	59.25	56.81	59.70	+5.1
Crude Oil	MT	33.500	16.225	16.538	16.303	-1.4
Petroleum Refinery	MT	116.760	57.369	55.537	58.917	+6.1

Note: MT refers to Million tonnes

Table II: Month-wise Growth in overall and six infrastructure Industries during 2003-04

Period	Crude Petroleum	Petroleum Refinery	Electricity	Coal	Finished Steel	Cement	(in per cent)
							Overall
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Weight (%)	4.17	2.00	10.17	3.22	5.13	1.99	26.68
2003-04							
April	-1.9	6.6	2.0	3.1	11.9	-2.9	3.9
May	-5.3	-0.4	5.0	3.5	7.2	7.8	4.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
June	1.0	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.6	9.5	4.7
July	0.4	7.5	-1.9	2.7	7.7	3.4	2.6
August	-2.8	7.1	0.9	3.5	9.4	5.7	3.8
September	0.0	11.0	5.0	4.9	7.8	7.2	5.9
October	2.7	0.1	1.6	-1.0	6.8	6.0	3.0

(e) and (f) As per the information available from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation the shortfall among the six infrastructure industries pertains to Power and Steel against the targets set during the first six months of the current year. The shortfall from the target in case of power generation was due to lower thermal (3.1 per cent) and hydro (10.2 per cent) power production. In the case of steel the shortfall from target was due to lower production of Steel Authority of India Ltd., VSP and secondary producers by 0.5 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively.

The broad directions of policy in this area of infrastructure over the last decade have been reinforced by the specific initiatives announced in the Budget for 2003-04. It has provided a major thrust to infrastructure, principally roads, railways, airports, and seaports, through innovative funding mechanism. These initiatives are likely to have a favourable impact on the demand for a wide range of goods and services and construction materials like cement and steel in particular.

The passage of the Electricity Act, 2003, provides for a legal framework for a competitive market for electricity and marks an important milestone in regulatory reforms in the electricity sector. It is expected that there will be much more power trading and better utilisation of existing capacities in generation. Many states have embarked on structural reforms in distribution. Thermal generation has been delicensed and no Central Electricity Authority clearance is necessary any more for setting up a thermal generation plant. Captive generation has been freed from controls. The new law also ensures non-discriminatory open access for transmission of electricity generated from captive generating open access for transmission of electricity generated from captive generating plants to end-use destinations, subject to availability of transmission capacity. Non-discriminatory open access in transmission has been introduced. Finally, generation and distribution of electricity in rural areas does

not require any license from the Regulatory Commission. These are expected to reduce power theft, and improve cost recovery and have a favourable impact on the supply and availability of power.

With a view to improve the production of crude oil, Oil and natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has undertaken Enhanced Oil recovery/Improved Oil Recovery Schemes in 15 oil fields at an estimated investment cost of Rs. 10,000 crore.

SHRI Y.V. RAO: Sir, the budget of 2003-2004 laid special emphasis on infrastructure development. To what extent the measures announced in the Budget are helping to boost the growth of infrastructure industries?

I also want to know whether the Government have reviewed the situation and if so, do they propose to take any fresh measures for boosting the growth rate.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as boosting the infrastructural areas are concerned, there are several areas where in terms of roads and highway, there has been an extensive activity which has been going on. At the same time, there is an investment which is proposed in the railways, seaports, airports and in convention centres.

As far as power sector is concerned, the Parliament has already approved the Electricity Bill as a result of which several steps are now being taken after the de-control of the power sector. In several other sectors, like telephony, seaports and highways, which I already mentioned, steps are being taken pursuant to whatever the Finance Minister had announced in his Budget speech. In these sectors, the Government is moving ahead and giving topmost priority as far as infrastructure sectors are concerned.

SHRI Y.V. RAO: In the reply it has been stated that power theft and recovery cost of electricity are two of the

causes which lead to decline in growth of infrastructure sector. I would like to know the concrete steps to be taken by the Government to improve the power supply so that industrial growth does not suffer.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the hon. Member must have gone through, in detail, the provisions of the Electricity Bill which has been passed in this regard. That states the comprehensive view of how the thrust in the power sector is to be given. The thermal sector has been already de-licensed.

As far as the structural reforms are concerned in the power sector, the Bill has sought to propose them. Particularly in the area of distribution, the problems which the hon. Member has mentioned do take place. Therefore, a large number of States are now showing increased enthusiasm in implementing several projects under the power generation activities itself.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that Punjab produces the best seed potatoes in the world because it has got the most conducive climate for doing so. But these potatoes are not being exported to Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh because we do not have any facilities to export them. These countries import seed potatoes at ten times the price from European countries like Holland and other countries. What does the hon. Minister propose to do to export seed potatoes to these countries?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The issue of seed potatoes is not directly or even remotely related to this Question. This Question is about infrastructure projects and how to give boost to various infrastructure projects of the Government of India.

I would still reply to the hon. Member because he has raised a very important question. Over the last few years the Government has come out with an increased thrust as far as agriculture sector is concerned, particularly with the object of improving the export potential of agri products itself. Last year, for instance, in the entire agriculture plantation and in the marine sector, our exports totalled almost Rs. 31,000 crore, which is the highest ever that we have done.

Two years ago, my predecessor, Shri Maran, had come out with a detailed policy in this regard, particularly with regard to setting up of Agri Export Zones. Several of these Agri Export Zones have been set up in several parts of the country. One of the objects is to use them

as an opportunity in specific areas like seed potatoes to trigger the exports as far as our surplus agriculture produce is concerned.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Please pay special attention to seed potatoes.

Structural Adjustment Loan

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*68. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sought the approval of the Union Government to get structural adjustment loan from the world Bank;

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

(c) the present status of their requests?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Proposals for availing Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) from the World Bank have been received from the following States:

Karnataka

Andhra Pradesh

Orissa

Punjab

Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu.

(c) Of these proposals received from four States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa & Tamil Nadu have been posed to the World Bank for assistance. The World Bank has appraised SAL proposals in respect of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Orissa. It may not be possible to consider Karnataka SAL proposal during the current year since the State has failed to achieve the targets under the Medium term Fiscal Reforms Program (MTFRP). The proposal for Structural Adjustment Loans to Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are under process.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: What are the conditions to be fulfilled by the State Government to get structural adjustment loans which is mentioned in the reply?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, if I have understood the hon. Member's question correctly, what he wishes to know is about the criteria that the State Government must fulfil before it becomes entitled to structural loans from the World Bank.

This is a very useful facility that goes by some other names also. It comes in one tranche. It is very beneficial. It must adhere to certain minimum required fiscal reform packages; must move towards economic liberalisation and reform. There are various other similar criteria which are actually part of the total programme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Growth Rate

*64. **DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:**
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of growth rate fixed for the current financial year and the achievements made during the first half;

(b) whether the Government are going to relax the growth rate target for the second half;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps to be taken by the Government to achieve the increased growth rate during the remaining period of the year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Growth targets are not fixed annually. The Central Statistical Organisation, at factor cost, at constant prices in the first quarter (April-June) of the current year has estimated a 5.7 per cent growth compared with 5.3 per cent during comparable period of last year.

(d) The Union Budget for 2003-04 has proposed a number of initiatives for development of agriculture, industry and infrastructure through public-private participation, promoting private investment and measures

aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.

Reconstruction Package Fund

*66. **SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiative steps to revive the NTC mills across the country;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a 'Textile Reconstruction Fund';

(d) if so, the purpose and objectives of the fund;

(e) the time by which the above Fund would be constituted; and

(f) the extent to which it will be helpful to the textiles sector viz. handloom, handicrafts and powerloom etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) As per the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR/Government, 53 viable NTC mills are to be revived and 66 unviable mills are to be closed at a total cost of Rs. 3,918.84 Cr. The following steps have been taken towards implementation of these schemes:

- All assets of NTC unencumbered by settling the dues of Secured Creditors under One Time Settlement (OTS). Rs. 248 Crores paid through Government guaranteed NTC Bonds.
- VRS scheme has been modified to offer greater benefit to the workers whose wages were not revised for a long time. With this, the average VRS package increased to about Rs. 3 lakhs equalling roughly 75 months of wage. Rs. 1250 Crores has been mobilised through NTC Bonds and utilised to give VRS to nearly 30,153 employees in 61 mills.
- Modernisation Plans for 53 mills proposed for revival are updated and steps initiated for procurement of machinery.
- Surplus assets worth Rs. 292.76 Crores have been sold through a transparent process.

(c) and (d) In order to prevent sickness in viable/potentially viable textile mills, Government announced a package on 9th September 2003 permitting Banks/FIs to access external commercial borrowings and convert rupee term loan into foreign currency loan in cheaper rate who in turn restructure debt portfolios of textile units.

(e) The scheme has come into effect from 15th September 2003.

(f) The scheme is applicable only for organised textile sector with a minimum debt exposure of Rs. 2 Crores.

I.T. Defaulters

*69. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the top twenty individuals and corporate bodies who have defaulted in paying income tax during the last two years as on 31st March, 2003 and as on date;

(b) whether the Government are considering to make the recovery of income tax dues from these defaulters;

(c) if so, the measures taken so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The names of twenty assesseees with the highest outstanding demand as on 31.3.2002, 31.3.2003 & 30.6.2003 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Measures taken to realise Income Tax dues depend on the facts of each case. Recovery of tax is being effected through the machinery as provided under Chapter XVII and Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(d) Most of the assesseees in the list are Notified Assesseees where recovery is possible only with the approval of the Special Courts. Some cases are pending before Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) where recovery has not been possible in view of provisions of Section 22 of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. In some cases instalments have been granted or demand has been stayed by either Income Tax Authorities or the jurisdictional/TAT/High Court.

Statement

S.No.	Names of Assesseees with highest outstanding demand		
	As on 31.3.2002	As on 31.3.2003	As on 30.6.2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Harshad S. Mehta	Harshad S. Mehta	Harshad S. Mehta
2.	Sahara India Financial Corp. Ltd.	A.D. Narrotam	A.D. Narrotam
3.	Hiten P. Dalal	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.
4.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.	Hiten P. Dalal	Hiten P. Dalal
5.	Shaw Wallace Co. Ltd.	IDBI	Smt. Jyoti H. Mehta
6.	Bhupinder C. Dalal	Smt. Jyoti H. Mehta	IDBI
7.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	Bhupinder C. Dalal	Bhupinder C. Dalal
8.	Ashwin S. Mehta	GTC Industries Ltd.	GTC Industries Ltd.
9.	Smt. Jyoti H. Mehta	Ashwin S. Mehta	Ashwin S. Mehta
10.	S. Ramaswamy	S. Ramaswamy	S. Ramaswamy

1	2	3	4
11.	Sahara India Airlines	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.
12.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Triump International Ltd.	Triump International Ltd.
13.	Growmore Research & Asset Mngt. Ltd.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd.
14.	GTC Industries Ltd.	ICICI Ltd.	First Global Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd.
15.	Triump International Ltd.	Shaw Wallace Co. Ltd.	Cascade Holding (P) Ltd.
16.	Premier Automobiles Ltd.	Growmore Research & Asset Mngt. Ltd.	Shaw Wallace Co. Ltd.
17.	Max Telecom Ventures Ltd.	Rolex Holding Ltd.	Rolex Holding Ltd.
18.	Sudhir S. Mehta	Ganpati Exports Ltd.	Growmore Research & Asset Mngt. Ltd.
19.	U.P. Forest Corpn. Ltd.	Triump Securities Ltd.	Ganpati Exports Ltd.
20.	NALCO Ltd.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.	Sahara India Mutual Benefit Co. Ltd.

Production of Cement

*70. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cement during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the annual production of cement is sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to fill the gap between demand and supply of cement in the country;

(d) whether the Government are aware about recent price rise in cement;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the price rise in cement?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The production and consumption of cement during the last three years and the current year in respect of large cement plants are given in the statement below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Installed Capacity	Capacity Utilization%	Production	Consumption (Domestic)	Exports
2000-01	114.91	81	93.61	90.29	3.15
2001-02	129.76	79	102.40	99.01	3.38
2002-03	136.97	81	111.35	107.59	3.37
2003-04 (upto Oct'03)	141.88	80	66.05	63.85	1.88

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

(d) to (f) Cement is a fully decontrolled commodity and its price is determined by market forces of demand and supply. The Government does not have any role in fixing the price of cement. It, however, monitors the price trends. The price prevalent in major consumption centres

as given in the enclosed Statement since November, 2002 shows a marginal increase in price in few major consumption centres during the month of November, 2003 over the price prevalent in October, 2003. However, the prices of cement in major consumption centres for the month of November, 2003 were comparable to prices prevalent in November, 2002.

Statement

Region/Centre	Nov'02	Dec'02	Jan'03	Feb'03	Mar'03	Apr.'03	May'03	June'03	July'03	Aug'03	Sep.'03	Oct.'03	Nov'03	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NORTHERN REGION														
Delhi	133	130	122	121	126	126	131	128	123	125	120	124	132	126
Karnal	137	135	130	128	128	129	133	133	130	131	127	131	137	131
Chandigarh	145	142	142	142	142	144	146	146	143	144	144	144	149	144
Jaipur	125	119	111	108	111	117	122	117	115	113	111	111	123	116
Rohtak	127	124	119	117	118	119	125	126	122	122	118	122	129	122
Bhatinda	143	139	139	139	139	144	141	141	140	141	141	141	146	141
Ludhiana	151	143	143	142	143	153	154	154	151	147	147	147	155	148
Jammu	188	186	185	182	185	185	187	187	187	187	189	189	189	187
Shimla	157	155	155	154	157	160	159	158	154	153	153	153	153	155
EASTERN REGION														
Calcutta	153	153	153	151	153	156	156	156	156	154	154	154	154	154
Patna	136	136	131	128	138	143	143	138	138	137	137	130	131	136
Bhubaneshwar	141	140	141	141	145	146	145	148	145	145	140	128	130	141
Guwahati	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172	172
Muzaffarpur	138	138	133	127	136	143	144	143	138	137	136	133	139	137
Silcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WESTERN REGION														
Bombay	166	164	163	163	164	166	164	158	153	153	149	154	159	160
Ahmedabad	131	136	136	130	131	132	132	126	121	118	113	113	105	125

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Nagpur	122	124	117	120	120	119	117	122	118	118	111	124	129	120
Pune	140	145	131	130	134	139	133	131	133	117	110	130	135	131
Rajkot	131	136	136	130	131	132	132	126	121	118	111	113	105	125
Baroda	131	136	136	130	131	132	132	126	121	118	111	113	105	125
Surat	131	136	136	130	131	132	132	126	121	118	111	113	105	125
SOUTHERN REGION														
Chennai	130	130	150	155	158	158	160	158	160	147	144	134	137	148
Thiruvananthapuram	139	146	162	165	165	165	170	169	170	159	153	142	150	158
Bangalore	145	145	145	145	150	150	160	159	155	147	144	140	142	148
Hyderabad	135	135	135	135	125	125	121	113	106	99	95	101	118	119
Calicut	144	148	162	165	165	165	170	169	170	159	153	142	150	159
Visakhapatnam	145	145	145	145	130	130	130	128	120	115	115	118	127	130
Goa	143	149	141	137	145	141	157	155	145	138	124	131	133	141
CENTRAL REGION														
Lucknow	125	121	119	122	124	132	136	129	122	123	117	118	118	124
Meerut	130	128	125	125	125	131	135	133	129	126	124	126	131	128
Faizabad	118	115	115	115	120	129	136	128	121	120	112	117	118	120
Bareilly	131	126	125	126	130	133	135	133	131	126	120	130	128	129
Bhopal	112	112	111	110	110	117	116	114	113	113	109	108	110	112

Interest Rates of Home Loans

*71. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain private/foreign banks have recently announced aggressive cuts in home loan rates, which may lead to unethical war;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to issue some kind of guidelines on housing loan rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government is aware that more loan interest rates are coming down due to competition amongst banks.

(b) to (d) Government has advised Reserve Bank of India to ensure that fair Practice Code for lenders is adhered to, full disclosures made, and the promised benefits made available to borrowers.

*[Translation]***Loan to Sugar Mills**

*72. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans have been provided out of the Sugar Development Fund for revival of sugar mills in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which revival of mills has been effected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A loan of Rs. 5.28 crores has been approved on 7th April 2003 in respect of M/s The India Sugars & Refineries Limited, Hospet, Distt. Bellary in Karnataka as per the rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by the BIFR which is under implementation. The sugar undertaking has not yet availed the loan.

Procedures of Investment by NRIs

*73. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made efforts to simplify the procedure of investment by Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received from NRIs for investment during the last two years and the number of Non-Resident Indians who have actually made investments;

(d) the reasons for withdrawal by the NRIs of their investment proposals after having duly applied thereof; and

(e) the efforts being made to remove the problems arising out of the foregoing reasons?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal policy for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), wherein most sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route where no prior approval is required and only a notification of investment is to be made to the Reserve Bank of India. Proposals for FDI in sectors/activities where Government approval is required are considered in a time-bound and transparent manner through the mechanism of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

(c) The number of investment proposals received from NRIs for Government approval during 2001, 2002 and 2003 (up to October 2003) are 68, 57 and 53 respectively. Investor-wise information is not maintained for NRI investments.

(d) and (e) Submission or withdrawal of investment proposals to the Government depend on the commercial considerations of the investors. A statement indicating details regarding applications withdrawn is enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Applicant Company	Reasons for withdrawal
1.	Uniso Trading Pvt. Ltd.	The application was withdrawn on 5.9.01 without citing any reason.
2.	Jagowal Foods Pvt. Ltd.	The proposal was considered by FIPB on 19.12.02 & 02.01.03. The Applicant informed on 15.01.03 that they are withdrawing the proposal as an approval/decision on the application had not been received.
3.	Asap Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	The applicant withdrew the proposal on 14.5.03 for applying afresh.
4.	Mayfair Limited	The applicant requested on 13.10.03, for ignoring the application in view of the Applicant Company getting merged with a group company pursuant to approval of amalgamation scheme by High Court, Mumbai.
5.	Planet Outsourcing Parks Pvt. Ltd.	The application was withdrawn on 23.9.03 without citing any reason.

[English]

**Employment of Local Experts in
Construction Sector**

*74. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the commitments made by foreign countries under General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) in respect of employment of local experts and skilled workers in their construction projects in India;

(b) the manner in which the deployment of foreign experts by such companies in India is regulated;

(c) whether any violation of commitments by foreign companies has come to light so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) with regard to employment of local experts and skilled workers in foreign construction projects in India cannot be made by foreign countries. Grant or denial of access for specific categories of service providers in the Indian market can only be done by India as per India's existing commitments under the GATS, access is only available for employees of foreign juridical persons, at the level of managers, executives and specialists, who are transferred for a temporary period to a branch of representative office of that firm in India or an Indian firm under its ownership or control.

(b) The deployment of foreign service personnel by foreign companies in India to subject to grant of employment visa by the immigration authorities. Such visas are granted only after establishment that the employment is at a senior level or a skilled position and that there is proof of contract with an Indian firm.

(c) to (e) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

National Micro Finance Fund

*75. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mooted a National Micro Finance Fund;

(b) if so, the objectives of this fund;

(c) whether RBI propose to use this Fund to do away with priority sector lending by banks;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the manner in which RBI is likely to make the Micro Finance Fund compatible with priority-sector lending policies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Fall in FDI/FII

*76. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has registered a fall in FDI and FII during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the extent of the fall;

(c) the extent of fall in respect of each State/UT; and

(d) the steps taken to bring more FDI in the country in near future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (data in line with international best practices) and investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) during the last three financial years is given below:

	(US\$ Million)		
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
FDI	4029	6131	4660
FII	1847	1505	562.40

(c) The details of State-wise FDI inflows during the last three financial years are given in Statement I to III enclosed. It is clarified that investments by FII cannot be classified into a state-wise category as these are investments in the capital markets.

(d) Government has put in place a liberal FDI policy and most of the sectors have been put on the automatic route, except for a small negative list. While inflow of FDI is largely dependent on factors such as commercial

judgement of the investors, global market conditions, the FDI flows in the 1st half of the current financial year (2003-04) is US\$ 1707.14 million as against US\$ 1604.16 million during the corresponding period of 2002-03.

Statement I

State-wise (RBI's Region-wise) breakup of inflow from 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001

(Amount in Million)

Sl. No.	State Name	Inflow		
		Rs.	US\$	% to total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3054.65	70.08	2.95
2.	Assam	3.50	0.08	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.50	0.01	0.00
4.	Gujarat	239.43	5.55	0.23
5.	Karnataka	6358.58	145.79	6.13
6.	Kerala	534.68	12.33	0.52
7.	Madhya Pradesh	34.96	0.81	0.03
8.	Maharashtra	32448.46	748.16	31.30
9.	Rajasthan	25.28	0.57	0.02
10.	Tamil Nadu	3617.55	83.34	3.49
11.	West Bengal	375.94	8.54	0.36
12.	Chandigarh	1632.20	37.96	1.57
13.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2.00	0.05	0.00
14.	Delhi	36111.04	822.34	34.83
15.	Goa	279.14	6.38	0.27
16.	Pondicherry	22.35	0.50	0.02
17.	State not indicated	18939.51	436.18	18.27
Total		103679.78	2378.68	

Note: State-wise FDI inflows are classified as per Region-wise inflows furnished by RBI Mumbai.

Statement II*State-wise (RBI's Region-wise) breakup of inflow from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002*

(Amount in Million)

Sl.No.	State Name	Inflow		
		Rs.	US\$	% to total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3380.89	73.86	1.83
2.	Assam	55.80	1.16	0.03
3.	Gujarat	1086.57	24.14	0.59
4.	Karnataka	13483.59	296.30	7.29
5.	Kerala	661.82	14.62	0.36
6.	Madhya Pradesh	128.68	2.81	0.07
7.	Maharashtra	51373.38	1103.16	27.79
8.	Rajasthan	52.28	1.16	0.03
9.	Tamil Nadu	13625.69	293.12	7.37
10.	West Bengal	872.39	18.84	0.47
11.	Chandigarh	59.35	1.29	0.03
12.	Delhi	54601.68	1210.17	29.54
13.	Goa	157.14	3.28	0.09
14.	Pondicherry	2970.33	66.01	1.61
15.	State not indicated	42353.18	917.76	22.91
Total		184862.76	4027.69	

Note: State-wise FDI inflows are classified as per Region-wise inflows furnished by RBI Mumbai.

Statement III*State-wise (RBI's Region-wise) breakup of inflow from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2003*

(Amount in Million)

Sl.No.	State Name	Inflow		
		Rs.	US\$	% to total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2426.46	50.75	1.89
2.	Assam	25.86	0.55	0.02
3.	Gujarat	5507.07	115.90	4.28

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Karnataka	9752.37	204.60	7.58
5.	Kerala	674.51	14.14	0.52
6.	Madhya Pradesh	58.32	1.21	0.05
7.	Maharashtra	23664.04	494.20	18.39
8.	Rajasthan	12.20	0.26	0.01
9.	Tamil Nadu	9901.59	207.81	7.69
10.	West Bengal	1779.59	37.45	1.38
11.	Chandigarh	8438.91	175.82	6.56
12.	Delhi	30622.24	639.29	23.79
13.	Goa	1390.87	29.01	1.08
14.	Pondicherry	0.15	0.00	0.00
15.	State not indicated	34452.55	721.63	26.77
Total		128706.72	2692.62	

Note: State-wise FDI inflows are classified as per Region-wise inflows furnished by RBI Mumbai.

External Debt

*77. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's foreign debt has increased by 5 billion dollar during the first quarter of current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of India's total foreign debt at present;

(c) whether short term loan and external commercial borrowings have also increased during said quarter;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the debt burden of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. As per latest available

information, India's foreign debt stood at US\$ 109.6 billion as at end-June, 2003 against US\$ 104.6 billion as at end-March, 2003.

The Short-term debt increased from US\$ 4.6 billion at end-March 2003 to US\$ 5.8 billion at end-June 2003. This increase is attributed to rise in short-term non-resident deposits and short-term trade credits mainly due to spurt in India's imports during the quarter. The commercial borrowings during the same period increased marginally from US\$ 2.23 billion at end-March 2003 to US\$ 2.34 billion at end-June 2003 mainly due to increase in commercial bank loans.

(e) The Government follows a prudent external debt management policy that focuses on concessional and less expensive fund sources, longer maturity profiles, keeping vigil on build up of short term debt, premature retirement of high cost debt and encouragement to non-debt creating capital flows. In terms of indebtedness classification, the World Bank has categorized India as a less indebted country since 1999. Among top 15 debtor countries of the world, India has improved its position from 3rd debtor in 1991 to 9th in 2001.

Hawala Scam in Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.

*78. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the internal probe conducted into the Rs. 336 crore Hawala Scam in Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.;

(b) whether even after the passage of three years since the Hawala transactions has originated, only one junior level officer has been dismissed;

(c) whether the authorities of the Lord Krishna Bank at the Head Quarters were not aware of the violations of RBI regulations in the aforesaid transactions;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to complete the problem promptly; and

(f) the further steps envisaged by the Government to prevent such fraudulent transactions in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inquiry has revealed that banking channels were utilized by certain people for transfer of large volume of money from Mumbai branch of Lord Krishna Bank Ltd. to various places in Kerala and Coimbatore. Money was deposited in cash at branches in Mumbai and transferred to Kerala and Coimbatore by telegraphic transfers and was withdrawn in cash immediately. Major portion of funds viz. Rs. 232.74 crore out of Rs. 377.39 crore was transferred from Main Branch, Mumbai of Lord Krishna Bank Ltd. The bank staff failed to inform their controlling officers regarding cash transactions as required under RBI guidelines. A penalty of Rs. 5.00 lakh was imposed on the bank for violating the RBI instructions. The bank has dismissed two officers in connection with this lapse.

(f) In order to prevent recurrence of such transactions, banks have been again advised to strictly adhere to the 'Know Your Customer' guidelines issued by RBI on August 16, 2002. A copy of these guidelines is available on RBI website www.rbi.org.in

NPAs of Banks

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

(a) the details of the loans written off by State Bank of India and other public sector banks as non-performing assets during the last financial year;

(b) whether the write-off done in the last financial year is more than that of previous year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of recoveries of NPAs by these banks during the last financial year in comparison to previous year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) The details of loans written off and recoveries made by State Bank of India (SBI) and Public Sector Banks for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Banks	Amount written off		Recoveries made	
	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03
State Bank of India	2626.23	4071.39	4559.35	6668.35
Public Sector Banks	6428.00	9448.00	14059.18	18730.15

Banks have been able to increase provisions for Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) due to their improved performance. These provisions have been utilized to write off NPAs and cleanse balance sheets, avail tax benefits and to bring the level of NPAs down to the internationally accepted benchmarks. However, these write off are technical in nature and banks continue their efforts to make recovery even from written off accounts.

World Investment Report

*80. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China attracts seven times more of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) compared to India according to World Investment Report, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of FDI received in India and China during 2001 to 2003;

(c) whether the Government have studied the reasons for such a low level of FDIs in India, compared to China;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve FDI in India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Foreign Direct Investment flows to developing countries which stood at US\$ 238 Billion in 2000, fell to US\$ 205 Billion in 2001 and further to US\$ 190 Billion in 2002. FDI flows into India, however, have not gone down in 2002 despite the global trends.

India's Official statistics on FDI inflow for the relevant years did not include reinvested earnings (by foreign companies), inter-company debt transactions and overseas commercial borrowings by foreign direct investors in foreign invested firms, as per standard IMF definitions. This is in contrast to China, which has been reporting FDI following the standard IMF nomenclature.

Owing to the fact that India's Official RBI Statistics on FDI systematically understates inflows compared to the accepted IMF methodology, the International Finance Corporation has estimated that actual FDI inflows into India during 2001 could range between US\$ 5 Billion to US\$ 8 Billion. Furthermore, according to 'Global Development Finance, 2002, 'round tripping' (that is flows from Hong Kong into China and *vice versa*) accounts for nearly 50% of China's FDI. Both these factors do not reflect a fair comparison of official FDI figures between India and China.

The International Finance Corporation has done an exercise to readjust FDI inflows in both India and China, for the sake of comparability. According to this exercise, China's FDI to Gross Domestic Product ratio is twice that of India's.

Since mid-2003, reinvested earnings and equity capital of unincorporated bodies are being included in FDI data on an annual basis. The liberal policies of the Government is expected to lead to enhanced FDI flows in the future.

Representation of the People Act, 1951

602. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to bring in an amendment to the Representation of People Act, 1951 in order to make all the Parliamentary Constituencies falling within the Bodoland Territorial Areas District in Assam under the provision of Article 330(C) of the Constitution;

(b) if so, action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment of Financial Institutions

603. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the investment of financial institutions purpose-wise, institution-wise and State-wise during each of last three years; and

(b) the reasons for low investment in some States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The information as put out in the Report on Development Banking in India 2002-03, brought out by IDBI is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Investment activity is a function of expected profitability which is influenced by wide array of factors including *inter-alia* level of infrastructure development, proximity to markets, availability of raw materials and overall policy and regulatory regime in the state. Owing to these factors some states account for low investment as compared to others.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Purpose	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
A. Disbursement of Financial Institutions purpose-wise				
1.	Project Finance	29027.7	20968.3	6086.2
2.	Non Project Finance	34615.3	26261.0	13346.4

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Refinance	6341.2	6396.4	9164.9
4.	Bill Finance	1464.5	1072.8	764.2
5.	Loans to and investments in shares/ bonds of FIs including NBFs	588.1	612.5	208.7
6.	Retail Finance	3463.7	7607.0	—
7.	Secondary Market Operations	1001.0	971.8	1147.5
B. Financial Institution-wise Disbursement				
1.	IDBI	17473.6	111151.0	3924.2
2.	IFCI	2152.7	1096.9	1796.5
3.	ICICI	31664.5	25831.0	—
4.	IIBI	1709.8	1070.0	1091.9
5.	IDFC	766.5	1506.1	949.3
6.	SIDBI	6441.4	5919.3	6789.4
7.	Exim Bank	2070.5	3869.2	6047.8
8.	NABARD	1412.0	1897.0	2216.4

C. Disbursement of Financial Institutions State-wise

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Disbursement		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3368.2	3095.0	943.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.7	2.1	—
3.	Assam	183.9	53.1	6.5
4.	Bihar	169.6	67.4	34.4
5.	Chhattisgarh	578.2	281.6	17.0
6.	Delhi	7339.2	4143.1	2293.8
7.	Goa	219.9	82.4	39.8
8.	Gujarat	4261.7	3108.0	1391.2
9.	Haryana	1653.4	1621.6	368.7

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	551.7	557.7	67.3
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	183.8	366.0	67.0
12.	Jharkhand	140.7	174.4	9.6
13.	Karnataka	4434.2	2828.0	1137.3
14.	Kerala	734.8	781.3	351.8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1202.3	704.2	186.9
16.	Maharashtra	15184.6	11962.1	3860.1
17.	Manipur	7.3	1.5	-
18.	Meghalaya	5.4	14.4	4.4
19.	Mizoram	2.1	0.8	-
20.	Nagaland	5.8	2.5	-
21.	Orissa	947.3	492.1	80.3
22.	Punjab	1907.0	974.3	420.1
23.	Rajasthan	1629.4	827.8	266.4
24.	Sikkim	54.9	7.3	0.2
25.	Tamil Nadu	4367.7	2543.3	1318.8
26.	Tripura	6.5	1.3	5.2
27.	Uttaranchal	86.8	152.6	11.3
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2482.3	1353.5	418.0
29.	West Bengal	3454.6	1427.7	343.8
30.	Union Territories	489.2	462.0	86.1
	(a) Andaman & Nicobar	-	0.1	0.7
	(b) Chandigarh	198.5	316.6	36.0
	(c) Dadra & Nagar Haveli	160.4	84.5	36.3
	(d) Daman & Diu	75.1	33.3	3.1
	(e) Lakshadweep	-	-	-
	(f) Pondicherry	55.2	27.5	10.0
31.	Multi-State/Others*	3775.1	7922.2	647.2

* Pertains to ICICI, IDFC and SIDBI

Note: Following the merger of ICICI Ltd. along with two of its subsidiaries with ICICI Bank Ltd., effective May 3, 2002, ICICI Ltd. (The erstwhile DFI) ceased to exist. Consequently, ICICI Ltd. do not provide operational data for 2002-03.

Visit of Senegalese President

604. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Senegalese President during his recent visit invited Indian investors to tap Senegal market because of locational advantage; and

(b) if so, the action taken to boost Indian exports to Senegal especially rice, cotton, yarn and pharmaceuticals which are in great demand in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Senegalese President invited Indian investors to tap the Senegalese market because of proximity advantage to the US. The Government of India is keen to boost Indian exports to Senegal and it is one of the focus countries under the Focus: Africa Programme of the Government. During the financial year 2002-03 India's export to Senegal increased from 23.03 US \$ Mn to 51.35 US \$ Mn registering a growth of 123% mainly due to increase in exports of Rice, Cotton, yarn and Pharmaceuticals.

[Translation]

Computer Centres in Ashram Schools

605. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ashram Schools where computer centres are being run alongwith the amount of money

spent thereon during the last three years; and

(b) the number of the Ashram Schools and the computer centres being run in Maharashtra alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ashram Schools for STs, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides construction grant to the State Governments on 50:50 sharing basis. No grant is provided for computer Centres in these Ashram Schools.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ashram Schools for STs, an amount of Rs. 333.04 lakhs has been released to the State Government of Maharashtra since the inception of the scheme, for 183 Ashram Schools.

[English]

Profit/Losses of RRB

606. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Financial results of RRBs as on 31st March, 2003;

(b) the amount in terms of operating profit of the RRB system as a whole for the last three years;

(c) the reason for losses in case of loss making RRBs; and

(d) the steps taken to make loss making RRBs into profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Details of Financial results of RRBs as on 31st March, 2003 are as under.

(Rs. in crore)

Owned Funds	4619	Profit (156 RRBs)	734
Deposits	50098	Loss (40 RRBs)	215
Borrowings	4799	Net Profit	519
Investments	33063	Accumulated Losses	2752
Outstanding Advances	22158	CD Ratio	44.23
Loans issued	12641	NPA %	14.45
		Recovery % (as on June 30, 2002)	71.52

(b) Operating profit of the RRBs as a whole for the last three years in as under:

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	2001	2002	2003
Operating Profit	730.18	776.23	709.48

(c) The major reasons for losses in case of loss making RRBs are the low capital base, poor quality of lending portfolio, poor recovery levels and mounting overdues, rising management costs and slender margins.

(d) Some of the steps taken to make loss making RRBs into profitable are as under:—

1. RRBs were permitted to relocate their loss making branches to potentially good business location centers with the objective of building them up as sustainable rural financial institutions.
2. Loss making branches of RRBs have been allowed to be converted into satellite mobile offices without impairing their performance of service area obligations.
3. Recapitalisation support of Rs. 2188 crore was extended to 187 RRBs.
4. 139 RRBs were identified for the purpose of conduct of Organizational Development Intervention (ODI) under Swiss Development Cooperation.
5. Scheme for inter RRB redeployment of staff was introduced.
6. One Time settlement scheme for recovery of NPAs was introduced in RRBs.
7. RRBs have been encouraged to finance more through SHGs in which recovery performance is good.

Foreign Accounting Firms

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

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India have submitted their report to the Government about the operations of foreign accounting firms with regard to specifying the role of the Indian and foreign firms practicing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the ICAI; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

JBIC Investment in Assam

608. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Japan Bank for International Cooperation agency visited Assam in August this year and evinced interest in investing in infrastructure, social and other sectors of development in the State;

(b) if so, whether any further talks have been held with the agency for securing Japanese Cooperation in the development of the State, especially in the infrastructure, power, roads, bridges and the social sector; and

(c) the prospect of cooperation that have emerged thereby and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Complaint against I.T. Officials

609. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation into the complaints received in the year 2003 against the officers of the rank of Chief Commissioner and Commissioner of the Income Tax Department has been completed as per the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 4000 dated August 22, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

[English]

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

Bank Branches Abroad

610. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Banks which have set up their branches in Foreign countries;

(b) the countries where these banks have set up their branches;

(c) the number of branches of those banks in those countries; and

(d) the location thereof, country-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The details of country-wise and bank-wise branches of Indian banks at overseas centers as on 1st May, 2003 is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Country-wise Branches of Indian Banks at Overseas Centres As on May 1, 2003

Name of the Country	Public Sector Banks							Private Banks		Total
	SBI	BOI	BOB	IND Bank	IOB	UCO Bank	Canara Bank	Syndicate Bank	Bharat Overseas Bank	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sri Lanka	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	6
United Kingdom	3	6	7	-	-	-	1	1	-	18
United States of America	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Japan	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Maldives Islands	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
West Germany	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bangladesh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bahamas Island (NASSAU)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bahrain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belgium	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Singapore	1	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hong Kong	1	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	7
Cayman Islands	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
France	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Channel Islands	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fiji Islands	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Kenya	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mauritius	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
United Arab Emirates	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Seychelles	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
South Africa	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
South Korea	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Sultanate of Oman	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	21	18	38	3	6	4	1	1	1	93

Remittance made by NRI

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

(a) the total annual remittance made by the NRIs to India for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the total annual remittance made by the expatriates to Kerala for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Non-Plan Expenditure of Government

612. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-plan expenditure of the Government is increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have decided to impose some cuts in its non-planned expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The increase in non-plan expenditure during the last three years is lower than the increase in plan expenditure of the Government. The non-plan expenditure has increased by 23.9% from 2000-01 to 2002-03 (Provisional) whereas the Plan expenditure has increased by 35.6% over the same period. The details of non-plan expenditure during the period from 2000-01 to 2002-03 are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)			
Particulars	Actuals 2000-01	Actuals 2001-02	Actuals 2002-03 (Provisional)
1. Interest Payments	99314	107460	115630
2. Defence Expenditure	49622	54266	55455
3. Subsidies	26838	31207	40415
4. Grants to State & UT Govts.	14717	15327	14095
5. Other Non-Plan Expenditure	52432	52999	75292
6. Total Non-Plan Expenditure	242923	261259	300887

(c) and (d) Government is committed to reducing the non-development expenditure. The measures include limiting of fresh recruitment to 1% of the total civilian strength over a period of 4 years from 2002-03, rationalization of subsidies, introduction of cash management, etc.

Inclusion of Castes

613. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Castes/sub castes/groups included from West Bengal in the Central Tribal list;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for inclusion of more castes/sub castes/groups/sub groups recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) 40 Castes/groups are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Ministry has received several proposals for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes in West Bengal.

(d) These proposals have been processed as per the modalities approved by the Government of India.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Textile Mill

614. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the textile mills in Maharashtra and Bihar are being modernised with foreign assistance;

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

(c) the countries and financial institutions which provided funds for modernisation; and

(d) the details of the funds made available by them, year-wise during the last 3 years in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No foreign assistance is being provided by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation of Funds

615. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTC is operating some textiles mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their profit/loss incurred during each of the last 3 years, mill-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to revive some of these loss making mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interests of workers of those mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and

(b) A statement giving names of NTC mills in the country along with their profit/loss incurred during each of the last 3 years is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Government have decided to revive all revivable mills and close the non revivable mills after giving VRS to affected employees. As per the Schemes sanctioned by BIFR/Government 53 viable mills are to be revived and 66 unviable mills are to be closed. The Government have also revised the Voluntary Retirement Schemes for employees of closing mills with a view to provide enhanced compensation.

Statement

National Textile Corporation Limited Statement showing Mill-wise net Profit (+)/Loss(-) for the period from 2000-01 to 2002-03 (Prov.)

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Mills/Subsidiary	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
NTC (DPR) Ltd.				
PUNJAB				
1.	Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg. Mills	7.46	-7.94	-17.00
2.	Kharar Textile Mills	-5.77	-5.23	-5.53
3.	Panipat Textile Mills	-8.83	-10.08	-10.75
4.	Suraj Textile Mills	-5.29	-5.26	-5.74
RAJASTHAN				
5.	Edward Mills	-5.43	-7.48	-6.89
6.	Mahalakshmi Mills	-5.68	-5.86	-6.46
7.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	-4.91	-4.90	-5.24
8.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	-4.71	-5.78	-5.24
NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.				
CHHATTISGARH				
9.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	-17.95	-8.89	-35.30

1	2	3	4	5
MADHYA PRADESH				
10.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	-13.42	-5.40	-6.10
11.	Hira Mills	-11.35	-0.69	-24.84
12.	Indore Mahwa United Mills	-18.16	-14.31	-41.29
13.	Kaiyanmal Mills	-16.69	-10.81	-40.66
14.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	-12.52	-4.81	-5.45
15.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	-10.46	-2.81	-18.87
NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.				
16.	Atherton Mills	-11.58	-12.67	-36.58
17.	Bijli Cotton Mills	-2.54	-1.99	-5.31
18.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	-14.71	-16.54	-37.65
19.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	-7.65	-1.40	-19.13
20.	Muir Mills	-19.29	-9.17	-51.26
21.	New Victoria Mills	-20.67	-7.11	-28.20
22.	Raebareli Textile Mills	-2.44	-4.23	-6.84
23.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	-4.61	-4.94	-16.19
24.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	-4.94	-1.51	-5.07
25.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	-20.81	-18.58	-46.05
26.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	-17.05	1.38	-14.18
NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.				
27.	Apollo Textile Mills	-12.89	4.58	-15.83
28.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	-2.51	-1.50	-2.48
29.	Barshi Textile Mills	-1.37	2.14	-1.14
30.	Bharat Textile Mills	-13.26	-4.97	-14.38
31.	Chalisingaon Textile Mills	-5.79	-5.47	-7.08
32.	Dhule Textile Mills	-7.11	-2.70	-8.89
33.	Digvijay Textile Mills	-17.70	-5.17	-19.11

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Elphinstone Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-12.22	-13.56	-14.04
35.	Finlay Mills	-15.68	-14.83	-18.21
36.	Gold Mohur Mills	-12.74	-11.36	-14.05
37.	Jupiter Textile Mills	-17.36	12.06	-14.19
38.	Mumbai Textile Mills	-15.85	5.89	-14.59
39.	Nanded Textile Mills	-8.11	-3.59	-7.56
40.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	-12.39	-13.89	-15.36
41.	New Hind Textile Mills	-17.14	3.00	-17.00
42.	Podar Processors	-7.78	-8.39	-9.26
43.	Shree Madhusudan Mills	-8.41	-9.83	-10.13
	NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.			
44.	India United Mills No. 1	-23.40	-16.67	-24.69
45.	India United Mills No. 2	-15.69	-11.12	-15.82
46&47.	India United Mills No. 3 & 4	-23.34	-19.51	-19.70
48.	India United Mills No. 5	-13.42	-5.77	-13.63
49.	India United Mills Dye Works	-11.03	-7.87	-12.15
50.	Jam Mfg. Mills	-9.39	-11.97	-10.97
51, 52, 53.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1, 2 & 3	-17.71	-19.58	-19.18
54.	Podar Mills	-11.94	-13.93	-14.92
55.	Model Mills	-21.20	-9.74	-20.32
56.	R.B.B.A. Mills	-9.13	-3.78	-20.32
57.	R.S.R.G. Mills	-6.99	-6.20	-9.86
58.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	-5.44	-2.29	-5.84
59.	Shri Sitaram Mills	-8.60	-10.18	-8.81
60.	Tata Mills	-20.57	-21.99	-24.10
61.	Vidharbha Mills	-6.76	-6.15	-7.46

1	2	3	4	5
N.T.C. (Gujarat) Ltd.				
62.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	-17.10	-8.66	-17.63
63.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	-16.92	-8.89	-19.09
64.	Himadri Textile Mills	-12.70	-3.53	-13.55
65.	Jehangir Textile Mills	-21.07	-7.45	-21.34
66.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	-13.20	-1.93	-13.98
67.	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	-14.89	-8.59	-12.94
68.	Petlad Textile Mills	-6.94	0.04	-5.88
69.	Rajkot Textile Mills	-6.06	-3.30	-4.97
70&71.	Rajnagar Textile Mills 1 & 2	-19.59	-8.56	-20.51
72.	Viramgam Textile Mills	-12.30	-8.65	-10.60
N.T.C. (APKK&M) Ltd.				
ANDHRA PRADESH				
73.	Adoni Cotton Mills	-1.91	-1.04	-4.56
74.	Anathapur Cotton Mills	-4.88	3.45	-4.08
75.	Azam Jahi Mills	-8.71	3.59	-21.26
76.	Natraj Spinning Mills	-4.53	8.02	-3.51
77.	Netha Spinning & Weaving Mills	-2.15	-1.45	-4.20
78.	Tirupati Cotton Mills	-3.84	6.35	-2.85
KARNATAKA				
79.	M.S.K. Mills	-10.72	-2.47	-30.36
80.	Minerva Mills	-14.03	-9.76	-27.76
81.	Mysore Spg. & Mfg. Mills	-8.59	-0.53	-8.83
82.	Sree Yallamma Cotton Mills	-5.17	7.90	-4.03
KERALA				
83.	Alagappa Textile Mills	-4.58	2.12	-6.38
84.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, CAN	0.37	-1.25	-0.17
85.	Kerala Lakshmi Mills	-0.75	7.12	-3.20
86.	Parvathi Mills	-13.89	15.97	-10.18
87.	Vijaymohini Mills	-1.81	1.44	-2.86

1	2	3	4	5
	PONDICHERRY	-6.63	-7.32	-8.23
88.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Mahe	-0.76	3.88	-1.57
	N.T.C. (TN & P) Ltd.			
89.	Balaramavarma Textile Mills	-1.37	-2.41	-2.54
90.	Combodia Mills	-0.76	-4.55	-4.59
91.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	-2.16	-1.66	-1.51
92.	Kishnaveni Textile Mills	2.08	-1.56	-0.10
93.	Om Parasakthi Mills	-1.06	-2.56	0.07
94.	Pankaja Mills	0.27	-3.57	-4.11
95.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	0.86	-2.22	-2.37
96.	Sri Rangavilas S.&W. Mills	-0.21	-4.87	-4.38
97.	Somasundaram Mills	-2.33	-4.22	-2.58
98.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	3.01	-3.98	-3.56
	NTC (HC) Managed by NTC (TN&P)			
	TAMIL NADU			
99.	Sri Sarda Mills	-4.60	-5.98	-6.21
100.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-12.94	-14.38	-17.04
101.	Kaleeswaarar Mills 'A' Unit	-10.78	-15.75	-10.56
	PONDICHERRY			
102.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	-8.35	-10.00	-7.12
103.	Sri Bharati Mills	-5.99	-6.69	-7.92
	N.T.C. (WBAB&O) Ltd.			
	ASSAM			
104.	Associated Industries	-4.63	-4.78	-2.49
	BIHAR			
105.	Bihar Co-op. Weavers Spg. Mills	-3.55	-3.70	-3.29
106.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	-7.15	-7.23	बंद

1	2	3	4	5
ORISSA				
107.	Orissa Cotton Mills	-5.40	-5.28	-5.20
WEST BENGAL				
108.	Arati Cotton Mills	-4.91	-4.58	-3.96
109.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	-3.94	-3.75	Closed
110.	Bengal Fine S. & W. Mills No. 1	-9.01	-8.41	-3.17
111.	Bengal Fine S. & W. Mills No. 2	-2.77	-2.69	Closed
112.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	-10.56	-9.89	-3.75
113.	Manindra B.T. Mills	-7.51	-6.50	Closed
114.	Jyoti Wvg. Factory	-4.04	-4.71	Closed
115.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	-6.07	-5.36	-3.74
116.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	-10.14	-9.77	-3.49
117.	Central Cotton Mills	-12.39	-13.40	Closed
118.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	-10.22	-11.35	Closed
119.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	-3.35	-3.37	-3.37
		1051.19	-623.29	-1313.15

Job on Compassionate Grounds

616. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided job on compassionate grounds in Chandigarh zone of State Bank of India during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the number of dependents of bank guards applied for jobs on compassionate due to untimely death of the serving bank guards of the branches falling within the above zone alongwith the number of such cases rejected by the bank during the above period;

(c) whether in many cases jobs on compassionate ground have been provided to those dependents whose family income was more as compared to those whose applications were rejected; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The category-wise number of persons who were provided job on compassionate grounds in Chandigarh Zone of the State Bank of India during last three years is as under:

Category	Number
Clerks	11
Subordinate Staff	26

(b) 23 dependents of bank-guards applied for job on compassionate grounds within Chandigarh zone, out of which 18 applicants were not found eligible.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Regional Rural Banks

617. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by the regional rural banks in West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir during the last two years;

(b) whether farmers are not getting substantial benefits due to rampant corruption in these banks;

(c) if so, the outcome of review conducted in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the corruption in these banks alongwith to improve their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total loans disbursed by the RRBs in West Bengal in Jammu & Kashmir during the last two years are as under:—

	(Rs. crore)	
State	2001-2002	2002-2003
Jammu & Kashmir	55.04	75.98
West Bengal	537.77	675.82

(b) to (d) The loans issued by the RRBs increased from Rs. 42.93 crore during 2000-2001 to Rs. 75.98 crore during 2002-03 in the state of J&K. Similarly in the state of West Bengal the loans issued by RRBs increased from Rs. 403.18 crore during 2000-2001 to Rs. 675.82 crore during 2002-2003. The steady growth in loans and advances in these states reveal that farmers are getting the benefit of the RRBs consistently. There are systems and procedures in place to look into the complaints/charges of corruptions etc. levelled by the public/farmers against the staff of RRBs for sanction of loans, etc. and to take corrective measures. The following steps have also been taken to further improve the performance of the RRBs:—

(i) Introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding in an annual basis

for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way and introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, assets classification and provisioning norms;

- (ii) Diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- (iii) Rationalization of branch network including relocation and merger of loss making branches;
- (iv) Deregulation of interest rate structure;
- (v) Great role of the sponsor banks in the management of RRBs; and
- (vi) Skill upgradation of RRB employees.

[English]

Rate of Foodgrains under SGRY

618. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from different States including the Government of Maharashtra to fix the rates of foodgrains to be sold/distributed under the Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana below the rate of Below Poverty Line foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Cotton Textiles

619. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cotton textile during each of the last three years;

(b) whether its production has registered steep fall during the aforesaid period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to arrest such declining trend and to increase the production of cotton textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The production of cotton fabrics during each of the last three years is as follows:—

Year of production	Million square meters
2000-01	19718
2001-02	19769
2002-03	19300

(b) and (c) The production of any item is based on its demand. In the year 2001-02 there is increase in production of 51 million square meters but in the year 2002-03 there is a decrease of 469 million square meters which may not be assumed as steep.

(d) For the growth and development of textile industry the measures taken by the Government include:

- (i) Introduction of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate modernisation and upgradation of textile sector.
- (ii) Completion of CENVAT chain in entire Textile Value Chain with simultaneous rationalization excise duty on fibres, yarn, fabric/made-ups and readymade garments (RMG) in Union Budget 2003-04.
- (iii) Concessional rate of import duty of 5% on specified, textile machinery with state of art technology.
- (iv) Deservation of woven readymade garment from SSI sector.
- (v) Development of apparel parks for production and export of garments.
- (vi) Launch of Cotton Technology Mission for boosting production and quality of cotton.
- (vii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in this sector with certain exceptions.
- (viii) Rationalisation of DEPB rates for certain textile products.

(ix) A programme has also been launched to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernize 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(x) Announcement of a package for restructuring of debt portfolios of potentially viable textile units having debt exposure of Rs. 2.00 crores and above.

Export of Rubber

620. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has taken several steps to boost the export of rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of rubber exported during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To boost export of natural rubber, Government/Rubber Board have taken a series of measures which include providing financial incentives to exporters of natural rubber for quality upgradation, certification, transportation etc., identifying overseas export markets, sponsoring trade delegations and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions.

(c) Total quantity of rubber exported during each of the last three years is given below:

Year	Export (in tonnes)
2000-2001	13,356
2001-2002	6,995
2002-2003	55,310

Reform Strategies by ADB

621. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to collaborate with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to formulate reform strategies in five key areas of economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks have been held with ADB in this regard;

(d) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out for this purpose; and

(e) the areas identified for reforms with the help of ADB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The Country Strategy & Program (CSP) of the ADB between 2003 to 2006, which has been jointly decided with Government of India identifies Transport, Energy, Urban Infrastructure, Financial, Agricultural and National Resources sectors for proposed ADB assistance during the period.

Collection of IT

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

(a) the amount collected by Income Tax Department as Income Tax during the last three years, circle-wise; and

(b) the amount collected as Income Tax by the Department from Income Tax Payees of Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The amount collected by Income Tax Department as Income Tax during the last three Financial Years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is Rs. 30702.48 crores, Rs. 30996.98 crores and Rs. 35005.03 crores respectively. The information is compiled Chief Commissioner Region-wise and not Circle-wise. Such details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount collected as Income Tax by the Department from Income Tax Payees of Sikkim for the Financial Year 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 is Rs. 1.0 crore, Rs. 2.75 crores and Rs. 4.56 crores respectively.

Statement

Income Tax collected by the Income Tax Deptt. during the last three Financial years

(Rs. in crores)

Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Region	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4
Ahmedabad	1964.64	1725.21	1964.06
Bangalore	2582.87	2630.38	2928.00
Bhopal/Raipur	789.59	999.36	828.56
Mumbai	7389.24	7049.90	8613.45
Kolkatta	1788.65	1799.22	1950.39
Cochin	635.23	683.76	765.24
Hyderabad	1429.63	1627.28	1630.26
Jaipur	637.09	654.00	681.99
Chennai	2629.01	2830.79	2935.50
Delhi	4190.79	4022.22	5126.86
Chandigarh/Panchkula	1568.75	1789.27	1967.14

1	2	3	4
Kanpur	398.08	414.35	410.83
Meerut	459.21	435.75	555.16
Lucknow	678.43	677.92	768.06
Pune/Nagpur	2219.60	2194.07	2300.26
Patna/Ranchi	572.63	731.98	806.60
Guwahati	544.13	379.65	437.20
Bhubaneshwar	242.91	351.87	335.47
Total	30702.48	30996.98	35005.03

Allocation of Foodgrains as Relief Measure

623. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the quantum of foodgrains allocated by the Union Government to various State Governments as relief measures to deal with the drought/flood situation during the last year and as on date;

(b) whether the Government have provided foodgrains to foreign countries as humanitarian aid during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.

Statement I

Allocation of Foodgrains made by the Union Government to various state Governments as relief measures to deal with the drought/flood situation during 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04 (as on date)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	13.20

1	2	3	4
2.	Bihar	0.25	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	3.29	2.38
4.	Gujarat	1.48	1.58
5.	Haryana	0.25	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.85	—
7.	Jharkhand	0.40	—
8.	Karnataka	5.30	3.55
9.	Kerala	0.52	—
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4.17	4.74
11.	Maharashtra	1.16	1.66
12.	Orissa	4.00	5.22
13.	Rajasthan	18.98	13.06
14.	Tamil Nadu	1.25	3.75
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2.00	—
16.	Uttaranchal	0.50	—
Total		64.40	49.14

Statement II*Foodgrains provided to foreign countries as humanitarian aid during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Country	Food Aid Quantity	Date
1.	Sri Lanka	3,00,000 MTs of (wheat)	Agreement signed on 03.07.2002.
2.	Cambodia	10,200 MTs of (rice)	Donation of Rice as humanitarian assistance through STC vide MEA letter dated 13.9.2002
3.	Armenia	750 tonnes of wheat and 250 tonnes of rice (at export price)	Instructions issued to FCI dated 18.1.2002
4.	Afghanistan	Committed assistance of 1 million tonnes of wheat. Supplied in the form of fortified Biscuits. (a) 1st Tranche-9526 MTs of fortified biscuits supplied. (b) 2nd Tranche-7496 MTs of fortified biscuits.	MEA letter dated 29.11.2001.
5.	Zambia	2250 MT of rice at export price	MEA letter dated 13.01.2003
6.	Ethiopia	10,000 MTs of wheat	MEA letter dated 27.01.2003
7.	Tajikistan	Wheat-4536.50 MT Rice-1376 MT through STC	MEA letter dated 9.4.2002
8.	Cambodia	Release of 10,200 MT of rice through STC	MEA letter dated 13.9.2002
9.	Dji Bouti	Wheat-2500 MT Rice-1912 MT	Date not available.
10.	Ivory Coast	Rice-5100 MT	Date not available.
11.	Zimbabwe	Rice 45300 MT	Date not available.
12.	Myanmar	Wheat-10,000 MT	MEA letter dated 14.7.2003.

High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram

624. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a bench of Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No

complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala to establish a Bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court, and as such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Integrated Home Loan Village Development Scheme

625. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Homeloan Village Development Scheme has been extended to the entire country;

(b) if so, the number of villages covered under the scheme in each State of the country; and

(c) the details of amount disbursed during the last three years under the scheme and results achieved thereof in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The scheme implemented by the Central Government had been Integrated Handloom Village Development (IHVD) scheme and not Integrated Homeloan Village Development Scheme. The IHVD scheme was introduced in the year 1991-92 and discontinued w.e.f 1.4.1997. However, committed liabilities towards the sanctioned projects are still being entertained.

(b) The details of villages covered under the scheme in each state are as under:—

S.No.	Name of the State	Villages covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46
2.	Assam	49
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	6
5.	Gujarat	5
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1
7.	Karnataka	3
8.	Kerala	10
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5
10.	Maharashtra	2
11.	Manipur	14
12.	Meghalaya	2
13.	Mizoram	3
14.	Orissa	18
15.	Rajasthan	2

1	2	3
16.	Tamil Nadu	13
17.	Tripura	9
18.	Uttar Pradesh	15
19.	West Bengal	3
Total		208

(c) As the projects sanctioned are at various stages of implementation and as also the benefits accruing to the weavers thereof are only supplementary and cumulative in nature, it will be difficult to quantify the achievements exclusively under the scheme. The details of amount disbursed under the scheme during the last three years are as under:—

S.No.	Year	Name of the State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2000-01	Andhra Pradesh	129.00
2.		Madhya Pradesh	10.00
3.		Tamil Nadu	63.00
4.	2001-02	Kerala	71.07
5.		Manipur	2.00
6.		Tripura	10.50
7.		Uttar Pradesh	6.00
8.	2002-03	Andhra Pradesh	17.50
9.		Uttar Pradesh	9.00
Total			318.07

World Bank Loan for Elimination of Poverty

626. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has appealed to the richer countries to provide more or even double the aid to help out poverty around the world by 2015;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank Chief has pointed out that Asian and African countries are most in need of the funds;

(c) if so, the extent to which the World Bank has agreed to provide loans to the Asian and African countries to eliminate the poverty;

(d) whether India has been benefited by this; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the World Bank has provided loans to India, Bangladesh and Vietnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) World Bank has been highlighting need for higher aid levels from the developed countries, better policies and more effective use of aid in the developing countries to reach Millennium Development Goals including reduction of poverty by 2015.

(b) The Bank has emphasized focusing mainly on low income countries with relatively good policies, which are predominantly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

(c) to (e) During Bank Year 2003, lending commitments of US\$ 18.5 billion for various development programmes including poverty reduction were made, with share of South Asian and Sub-Saharan countries being 16% and 20% respectively. The total lending commitments to India, Vietnam and Bangladesh were US\$ 1.5, 0.293 and 0.154 billion respectively.

[*Translation*]

Export of Granite

627. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exported Granite during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned on account of Granite exports during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government do not export granite. However, the total export earnings on account of export of granite from India in the last three years are as follows:

Year	Export (In million US\$)
2000-01	428.40
2001-02	429.20
2002-03	510.40

(Source: CAPEXIL)

[*English*]

Economic Reforms

628. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have had any meeting with Chief Ministers of States/UTs to ensure the implementation of economy reforms and related matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the instructions issued by the Union Government to States in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Implementation of economic reforms is a continuous and ongoing process which, inter alia, involves discussions and meetings with the States and the Union Territories. Following the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, State Governments were asked to draw up Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programmes (MTFRP). The objectives of the MTFRP include fiscal consolidation, power sector reforms, public sector restructuring and transparency in budgetary classification and processes. So far the monitoring committee under MTFRP has approved the fiscal reforms programme of 23 states.

Customs House Agents Licensing Rules

629. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been actively considering to amend the Custom House Agents Licensing Rules to streamline operations to boost exports and imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received number of representations also to amend the customs rules; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) It is a fact that the Government have been actively considering amendments to the Custom House Agents Licensing Regulations, 1984, (not Rules) so as to enable the Custom House Agents to perform in a professional manner which in turn would facilitate trade and reduce transaction costs. Representations have also been received in this regard from Custom House Agents Associations and their national Federation. Views have also been obtained from Commissioners of Customs all over India. All these aspects will be taken into consideration at the time of finalization of the amendments to the said regulations.

[Translation]

Trade between India and Israel

630. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade between India and Israel has increased during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the increase registered in export between the period from April to November, 2003 as compared to corresponding period of previous year; and

(d) the factors which played vital role in this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a)

to (d) As per the latest available official trade figures, total trade between India and Israel during the period April-July 2003 were worth US \$ 408.73 million as compared to US\$ 405.10 million in the same period last year, reflecting a marginal increase of about 1% Trade in commodities like Gems & Jewellery, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, plastics & linoleum products, machinery & instruments, electronic goods, computer software in physical form etc. contributed to the current year's turn over.

[English]

Levy Sugar Price

631. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for lowering the price of levy sugar sold from Public Distribution System outlets to the levels of the other foodgrains available under this scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh have requested for lowering the price of levy sugar sold from Public Distribution System (PDS). Their demand has not been accepted as any reduction in retail issue price under PDS will mean more subsidy burden on the Central Government.

[Translation]

Universal Health Insurance Scheme

632. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started a "Universal Health Insurance Scheme" in order to provide health care to the weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main features of the scheme; and

(c) the State-wise number of persons/families covered under this scheme till date alongwith the number of such

persons who availed medical reimbursement under this insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Policy provides for reimbursement of medical expenses upto Rs. 30,000/- towards hospitalisation, floated amongst the entire family, death cover due to an accident for Rs. 25,000/- to the earning head of the family and compensation due to loss of earning of the earning head

of the family @ Rs. 50 per day upto a maximum of 15 days, after a waiting period of three days, when the earning head of the family is hospitalised. The premium under the Policy is Re. 1/- per day (i.e. Rs. 365/- per year) for an individual, Rs. 1.50 per day for a family of five limited to spouse and children, and Rs. 2/- per day for covering dependent parents within the overall family size of seven. A subsidy of Rs. 100/- per family per year towards annual premium for "Below Poverty Line" families is also provided under the Scheme.

(c) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Coverage under Universal Health Insurance Scheme

Position as on 28.11.2003

States/UT	Families Covered (Nos.)	Persons Covered (Nos.)	Claims Reported (Nos.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	27165	98116	11
Arunachal Pradesh	63	209	0
Assam	7938	24867	1
Bihar	2822	7849	0
Chhattisgarh	1516	5849	0
Chandigarh	1889	3218	0
Delhi	2586	7032	1
Goa	173	285	0
Gujarat	19448	66264	4
Haryana	3346	8338	2
Himachal Pradesh	1050	2540	0
Jammu & Kashmir	1000	1592	0
Jharkhand	397	1172	0
Karnataka	16022	43167	3
Kerala	16579	46270	1

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	9377	30659	4
Maharashtra	54456	149334	21
Manipur	184	815	0
Meghalaya	200	540	0
Mizoram	78	256	0
Nagaland	63	183	0
Orissa	808	2674	0
Pondicherry	457	1020	0
Punjab	15250	39007	9
Rajasthan	28405	98048	8
Tamil Nadu	26581	65112	1
Tripura	439	894	0
Uttaranchal	829	2023	0
Uttar Pradesh	9362	21106	0
West Bengal	1359	4161	0
Daman	32	117	0
Sikkim	23	35	0
Total	249897	732752	66

[English]

Revamping of ITPO

633. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to revamp the India Trade Promotion Organisation to suit the present needs of the country's business prospect;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The exhibition halls of Pragati Maidan which have been built over a period of last 30 years are proposed to be modernised in a phased manner. It is also proposed to augment the infrastructure and public facilities to meet the growing needs of trade and industry.

Accordingly action has been initiated to undertake a feasibility study to assess requirements for new facilities in view of expected requirement of trade and industry for fairs and exhibitions. No funds have been earmarked for this purpose as yet.

Impact of Import of Fruits on Fruits Growers

634. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruits growers especially of Jammu and Kashmir and H.P. are being adversely affected due to permission of import of apple and other fruits under the Open General Licence;

(b) if so, whether a survey or a study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess the adverse effect; and

(c) the facilities being provided to them for increasing the exports of apple and other fruits by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import restrictions on apple have been removed in accordance with the economic liberalization policy and in keeping with our international commitments. However, subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, the customs duty on apple imports was raised from 35% to the maximum bound rate of 50% during 2000-2001. In addition, import of all primary agricultural products, including apple, are subject to an import permit to be issued by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, as per Plants, Fruits, Seeds (Importation into India) Order, 1989.

(c) Government has approved creation of an Agri Export Zone for overall development of apple industry for export in Jammu & Kashmir. A Technology Mission for integrated development of horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, H.P. and Uttaranchal is under implementation. Assistance is also being provided for promotion of processing of fruits and vegetables and for development of market infrastructure facilities. Government has also been encouraging export of fruits including apples through various schemes such as,

arranging buyer-seller meets, participating in international fairs and exhibitions, setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international airports etc.

[*Translation*]

Export of Wheat/Rice

635. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exported wheat and rice during the previous years at the cost lower than the economic cost of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the economic cost and year-wise subsidy during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 separately alongwith the total quantum exported; and

(c) the share of private exporters out of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Rice and wheat are offered to the exporters, for export, from the Central Pool at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices. Post delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are also allowed to the exporters.

(b) and (c) The quantity of wheat and rice lifted for export during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 alongwith subsidy amounts released by the Government are as under:

Year	Quantity lifted for export (in 'MTs)	Amount of subsidy released to FCI (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
Wheat:		
2000-2001	2043440	1213.00
2001-2002	3964531	531.90
2002-2003	6793273	1949.18

1	2	3
Rice:		
2000-2001	42108	Nil
2001-2002	2349868	836.47
2002-2003	8071.502	3793.51

Kisan Credit Cards

636. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued so far, State-wise;

(b) the amount of loan given to farmers through these cards till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications for Kisan Credit Cards pending as on date, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued by the banking sector and the credit limit sanctioned to the farmers through these cards since inception of the Scheme, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), upto 30th September, 2003 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The data reporting system of NABARD does not generate information regarding the State-wise number of pending applications of KCCs. However, it is targeted to issue KCCs to all eligible farmers by 31.3.2004.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards Issued by banks and the amount sanctioned since inception (As on 30th September, 2003)

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Cards issued	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1853	199
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5781951	958164

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2561	274
4.	Assam	66373	7449
5.	Bihar	818833	117628
6.	Chandigarh	5	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	391217	110594
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	7
9.	Daman & Diu	0	0
10.	Goa	5079	5580
11.	Gujarat	1543626	572987
12.	Haryana	1312501	592664
13.	Himachal Pradesh	92736	20651
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	36022	5911
15.	Jharkhand	178203	21266
16.	Karnataka	2150838	674738
17.	Kerala	1202436	240595
18.	Lakshadweep	132	33
19.	Madhya Pradesh	1683644	534858
20.	Maharashtra	3683530	1118032
21.	Manipur	2256	280
22.	Meghalaya	6241	639
23.	Mizoram	2620	134
24.	Nagaland	1414	73
25.	NCT of Delhi	2403	1165
26.	Orissa	1941932	291885
27.	Pondicherry	15962	3746
28.	Punjab	1320143	646695
29.	Rajasthan	2154339	653117

1	2	3	4
30.	Sikkim	1412	155
31.	Tamil Nadu	2435079	471963
32.	Tripura	8958	926
33.	Uttar Pradesh	6388486	1089846
34.	Uttaranchal	232455	43335
35.	West Bengal	669262	95851
Total		3,41,34517	8282510

[English]

Production of Vegetable Oil

637. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of edible oils during the last three years, category-wise, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the demands for the above varieties of edible oils in the country;

(c) whether the supply of edible oils is sufficient to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Data relating to production and demand of edible oils, category-wise and State-wise is not maintained as there is no restriction on the inter-State movement of oilseeds/oils. The production of edible oils during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production of Edible Oils (Quantity in Lakh MTs)
2000-2001	54.99
2001-2002	62.00
2002-2003	48.86

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some of the steps taken are as under:

(i) Import of edible oils (except coconut) is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL).

(ii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is in place to augment the production of oilseeds.

ADB and World Bank Loan

638. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to prepay 2.6 billion Dollars to ADB and World Bank as loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the savings accrued by way of interests payable in coming years; and

(c) the stand of Government on foreign aid for high cost social and economic projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As a part of its prudent debt management policy, Government of India, prematurely repaid costly foreign currency loans amounting to US\$ 2.8 billion to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2002-03. During 2003-04, the Government prepaid high cost World Bank loans amounting to US\$ 1.4 billion. Besides, bilateral loans amounting to US\$ 0.59 billion have also been prepaid in the current financial year. Concessional foreign assistance from multilateral development institutions and some bilateral donors supplement domestic resources for public investment in social and economic projects.

Enquiry against Officers In DGS&D

639. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any officer of Director-General Supplies and Disposals has been under enquiry from Central Bureau of Investigation or other investigating agencies in last three years and current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir. During the last three years (2000, 2001 & 2002) and during the current year i.e. 2003 (upto November

2003) CBI has made enquiries into seven cases, involving four officers of Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D).

(b) Investigations have been completed in two cases and in the remaining five cases, investigation reports are awaited from the concerned agencies. Particulars of cases and status of investigations against these officers are given below:

Year	Details of case	Designation of the Officer
2000	Based on the findings of the CBI Report, a departmental enquiry was conducted. Inquiry Officer Report has been received and under examination. CBI has filed Criminal Petition in the Hon'ble High Court, Bangalore which is pending for final hearing.	Assistant Director (Q.A.)
	CBI, Shillong is investigating the case. Detailed report from CBI is awaited. CBI has been reminded to expedite.	No particular officer of DGS&D has been identified.
2001	A case regarding inspection of sub-standard material is under investigation by the Rajasthan Police and CBI.	Assistant Director (QA)
	CBI, Mumbai is investigating a case regarding supply of sub-standard HDP Pipes to the Department of Telecommunications.	No particular officer of DGS&D has been identified.
2002	Based on CBI Report and CVC recommendation, department enquiry has been initiated. Charge sheet has been issued.	Assistant Director (QA)
	CBI, Kolkata is investigating the case regarding supply of sub-standard material.	Assistant Director (QA)
2003	CBI, Chandigarh and Punjab Police are investigating a case regarding irregularities in the Inspection of HDP Pipes supplied to the Punjab Government.	No particular officer of DGS&D has been identified.

Photo Identity Cards

640. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in providing Voters Identity Cards by the Election Commission during the last one year;

(b) the percentage of electorate provided Identity Cards by the Election Commission so far, State-wise;

(c) the total cost incurred thereon, State-wise;

(d) the time by which all the voters are likely to be provided such cards and its use made mandatory;

(e) whether the agencies engaged to take the photographs for the preparation of EPIC are absolutely blemished and do not reflect the originality of a person; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that only efficient agencies are engaged which could produce better quality of photographs for EPICs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recovery of Guarantee Fees

641. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4947 on August 24, 2001 regarding recovery of guarantee fee and state:

(a) whether the Government have been able to collect only 0.33 per cent of the guaranteed amount outstanding as on March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for recovering such a small amount and by when the entire amount will be recovered?

(c) the total amount of guarantee fee yet to be recovered as on date; and

(d) the steps taken for speedy recovery of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Guarantee fee is being levied and recovered on the basis of circulars issued from time to time. In a number of cases guarantees pertain to periods prior to application of the orders and hence would be exempt from payment of fee. In certain other cases the government has decided not to levy guarantee fee as part of restructuring of Public Sector Undertakings. In other cases guarantee fee concessions have also been provided.

(d) The receipts from guarantee fee are monitored by all Ministries/Departments. As per the existing orders

in force, guarantee fees is to be paid on the date of guarantee and thereafter on 1st April each year.

Jobs for Youths In Nagaland

642. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have drawn any plans to utilize Rs. 100 crore as announced by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to find suitable jobs to 25,000 youth in Nagaland;

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

(c) the time by which the plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sugar Free Product

643. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific study of "Sugar Free" product in country has been conducted by the Government to know if it contains any harmful contents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government where such products are found to be harmful?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sugar free products contain artificial sweetener. The use and sale of specified artificial sweeteners is restricted in specified foods with maximum limits of their use under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, under proper labelling. Violation of provisions of the PFA Rules, 1955 attract penal provision under the PFA Act, 1954.

High Court Bench in Karnataka

644. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a High Court Bench of Karnataka in the northern part of the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, for establishing a Bench of the High Court in North Karnataka, it has not been possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

Pay Scales

645. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to work out a revised wage package within four months for the National Textile Corporation mills workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The clerical staff working in NTC mills were claiming parity in pay with clerical staff in Corporate Offices who are in IDA/CDA pay scales and had filed petition in the Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 14572 of 1996 *vide* its order dated 14.10.2003 while observing that priority in scales may not be possible, have directed *inter-alia* the Government to take a decision within four months after taking help of an expert if need be, on the extent of relief to be granted to the staff and sub-staff working in the mills.

The Government has asked NTC to make a proposal in conformity with the Judgement of the Supreme Court,

after due consultation with the petitioners and within the time limit set.

Branches of SBI

646. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of India in Karnataka;

(b) the number of those branches in that State which have been computerised so far;

(c) the date by which the remaining branches are going to computerised; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) There are 312 branches of SBI in Karnataka all of which have since been computerised.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Vanished Companies

647. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 60% of the companies listed on the Mumbai Stock Exchange are in the "Unknown category" with a serious credibility crisis and that a number of companies have been identified as "vanishing companies";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated amount as a consequence thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Non-Banking Finance Companies

648. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that five leading non-banking finance companies had not paid huge amounts to its depositors on various plea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made by Reserve Bank of India in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to realise the amount of depositors from these defaulting NBFCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government is aware that fourteen Non-Banking Finance Companies with Public Deposit of Rs. 10 crore and above having total public deposit of Rs. 1615.04 crores, are defaulting in repayment of Public Deposits.

(c) to (e) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes, *inter-alia*, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBCs. RBI takes various actions against

errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has introduced Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. The Standing Committee on Finance presented its report to the Hon'ble Speaker on 30th June, 2003. The report is under examination of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Mahila Samridhi Yojana

649. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector banks have introduced 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' for the betterment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of other such schemes introduced during the last three years; and

(c) the loan provided and the rate of interest charged by public sector banks under these schemes during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. however, the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have introduced Schemes for betterment of women. The details of some of such Schemes of major PSBs are as follows:—

Name of Bank	Name of Scheme	Salient Features of Scheme
1	2	3
Bank of India	Priyadarshini Scheme	Under this scheme women are assisted for setting up Small Scale Industries, village and cottage industries. The bank is offering 1% concession in rate of interest to limits over Rs. 2 lakh for women.
Bank of Baroda	Special scheme to encourage rural women for dairy pursuit in Gujarat.	Under this scheme a number of women beneficiaries have availed of finance.
Central Bank of India	Kalyani	This scheme is for the betterment of women entrepreneurs and for catering to the requirement of women engaged in different activities.
Oriental Bank of Commerce	Oriental Mahila Vikas Yojana	This scheme covers the credit requirements of women entrepreneurs on concessional terms. This include 2% concession in interest rate for loans above Rs. 2 lakh and upto Rs. 10 lakh and 1% concession in interest rate for loans above Rs. 10 lakh.

1	2	3
State Bank of India	The Shree Shakti Package Scheme	Under this scheme there are concessions in promoters' margin and rate of interest. The scheme aims at imparting entrepreneurial skills to aspiring women and offers a credit package on concessional terms.
Syndicate Bank	Pigmy Deposit Scheme	This is a daily saving scheme, which caters to a large section of women entrepreneurs.
Union Bank of India	Viklang Mahila Vikas Yojana	This scheme envisages financing handicapped women for starting their own vocations. The physically handicapped women are identified and their aptitude ascertained for starting of suitable vocation in the locality. Financing of Rs. 25,000 is provided for starting expansion of any productive venture.

(c) RBI has no information on loan amount sanctioned and the rate of interest charged thereon because, the Bank does not capture data on implementation of these Schemes.

[English]

Dispute with EU

650. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has decided to block import of textiles items from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the further reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Revival Package for Closed Tea Gardens

651. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce a revival package for the affected workers of the closed tea gardens in various States;

(b) if so, whether that revival package has been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement that revival package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) To address the problems of closed tea gardens in the country, Government had appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of such gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. According to the Reports of these Committees, the estates would require substantial investment in the factories and the plantation itself for their revival. Meetings were held by Deptt. of Commerce and Tea Board with the promoters of the closed tea gardens and their bankers to identify the gardens which are potentially viable and to work out a revival package. Any financial package for revival of such gardens, which are considered potentially viable, would require contribution from their promoters, the concerned Banks advancing further loans against collateral securities with restructuring the entire account, besides assistance from the Central Government which would be in the form of interest subsidy, limited to a maximum of 5%. This would be met from a special fund, which has been set up by the Government for the development, modernization and rehabilitation of the tea plantation sector.

Debt Relief to Highly Indebted Countries

652. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide debt relief to some of the highly indebted poor countries and to support some South-African countries;

(b) if so, the details of these countries which have been provided debt relief and other support; and

(c) the amount written off, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The outstanding dues of seven Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) pertaining to previous GOI lines of credit extended to such countries are proposed to be written off. The amounts of outstanding dues are given as under, country-wise:

Name of the country	Outstanding dues
Tanzania	Rs. 37.30 crore
Mozambique	Rs. 19.91 crore
Zambia	Rs. 13.40 crore
Uganda	US\$ 5.332 million
Ghana	Rs. 0.01 crore
Nicaragua	Rs. 22.02 crore
Guyana	Rs. 2.78 crore

Medical Benefit Scheme for SBI Employees

653. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has replaced its medical benefit scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the new scheme with points of difference between the two;

(c) whether the new scheme stipulates higher contribution by employees than before; and

(d) if so, the impact thereof on the employees salaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) State Bank of India has reported that it has not made any changes in the medical benefit scheme available to its (serving) employees.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

VRS for RBI

654. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the Optional Early Retirement Scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the benefits being given to its employees under OERS;

(c) the main reasons for introduction of such scheme; and

(d) the response of the RBI employees to the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In addition to the normal retirement benefits like pension and gratuity, those who retire under Optional Early Retirement Scheme (OERS) are eligible for ex-gratia amount equal to 60 days pay plus Dearness Allowance for each completed year of service and part thereof in excess of six months or pay plus dearness allowance for remaining service upto the date of superannuation, whichever is less.

(c) The bank has introduced OERS with a view to rationalize the staff strength.

(d) The Scheme will be closed on 31.12.2003. So far 3491 employees have submitted their applications under OERS.

Cases of Liquidation Pending

655. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer given to Unstarred Question No. 3918 on March 22, 2001 regarding cases of liquidation and state:

(a) the number of companies out of 658 companies in respect of which the official liquidator has submitted the list of creditors before the Mumbai High Court;

(b) the present position in regard to settlement of claims of different claimants against these companies particularly M/s Western Paques (India) Ltd.; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for ensuring early disposal of all pending cases of liquidation of companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Since April 2001, of these 658 companies, list of creditors (including workmen) in respect of 27 have been submitted to the High Court by the Official Liquidator.

(b) With regard to M/s. Western Paques (I) Ltd.:

- (i) The premises at Pandurang Colony were handed over to Mrs. Nalini S. Kulkarni in pursuance of the order dated 5.2.99 passed by the High Court.
- (ii) The premises at Western House Lane No. 5 Prabhat Road Pune were handed over to M/s. Three A Enterprises and M/s. Gadgil Investment Pvt. Ltd. in accordance with the directions given by the High Court.
- (iii) Of the total receipts of Rs. 55,12,081 the OL has paid a compensation of Rs. 9,44,936 to M/s. Three A Enterprises; Rs. 17,18,065 to M/s. Gadgil Investment Pvt. Ltd.. Further, the OL has made a payment of Rs. 7,53,856 to M/s. Bhagwati Allied Services for security charges for guarding the premises of the company.
- (iv) The OL has received 26 claims from workmen for an aggregate amount of Rs. 13,23,235 as also claims from deposit holders and shareholders. The balance available with the OL as on date is approximately Rs. 20 lakhs.

(c) The Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 passed by the Parliament in December 2002 provides for the establishment of the National Company Law Tribunal and a new insolvency regime with the objective of expeditious disposal of company cases, including those of liquidation.

[Translation]

Performance of NABARD

656. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development in various States during the last three years, particularly in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the details of lacunae, if any, found in the implementation of the State projects; and

(d) the details of the projects sanctioned during the last two years alongwith the locations thereof and the number of such projects sanctioned/approved by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, State-wise, particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are monitored by Government on an on-going basis. An in depth review of its operations is conducted by its Board of Directors comprising amongst others, senior representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The activities of NABARD are also reviewed by the Central Board of Directors of RBI every year. An annual review of NABARD's activities is also tabled in Parliament alongwith the annual report of the institution.

The details of the State-wise refinance assistance provided and the loans given to State Governments including the State of Himachal Pradesh for the last three years are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) NABARD has reported that deficiencies observed in the implementation of projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in States include, *inter-alia*, inadequate budgetary provision, poor progress in implementation, non-receipt of project completion reports, delay in land acquisition, low level of draws, deviation from approved estimates, inadequate monitoring, etc.

(d) The State-wise details of the RIDF projects cleared during the last two years are given in the Statement-II enclosed. The details of the RIDF projects sanctioned/approved by NABARD in Himachal Pradesh during the last two years are given in the Statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

Details of NABARD refinance assistance to States during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/Union Territories	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Target	Max. O/S*	Target	Max. O/S*	Target	Max. O/S*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	327	322	273	306	450	405

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Andhra Pradesh	285794	235766	270514	246539	591756	270642
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9630	3504	7228	3764	18991	3805
4.	Assam	12572	13049	4858	10392	52502	10974
5.	Bihar	27693	26436	30638	19953	55927	15978
6.	Chandigarh	12	12	9	9	625	625
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	24031	19074	76544	16695
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	67	67	14	14	9	9
9.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Goa	3631	2006	3489	3157	8597	2179
11.	Gujarat	135594	79128	124603	87020	258045	91934
12.	Haryana	145989	135271	165568	147733	248915	151130
13.	Himachal Pradesh	22889	19863	30918	24662	100237	32084
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	19728	10822	25896	18956	86980	19100
15.	Jharkhand	—	—	4695	4675	25779	4035
16.	Karnataka	155380	135440	163937	131375	318263	150931
17.	Kerala	83240	51870	95028	77177	169636	66698
18.	Lakshadweep	9	9	9	9	0	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	141496	110715	146366	126551	312744	124682
20.	Maharashtra	141902	125887	163887	131375	318263	150931
21.	Manipur	1020	187	155	55	1571	542
22.	Meghalaya	4358	2655	2791	2903	13273	2382
23.	Mizoram	1042	1814	1681	2336	8550	3418
24.	Nagaland	6510	1295	389	1471	8992	1026
25.	NCT of Delhi	669	669	627	627	681	679
26.	Orissa	83565	79833	100972	90288	203763	91496
27.	Pondicherry	930	877	932	932	1098	1098
28.	Punjab	132320	111738	128026	120194	242377	137589

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29.	Rajasthan	123325	106932	147493	116781	301536	118030
30.	Sikkim	740	1079	883	1596	4868	848
31.	Tamil Nadu	163708	135528	180020	146408	340029	156490
32.	Tripura	7860	3565	1599	1964	16944	3706
33.	Uttar Pradesh	189037	184373	208782	201262	489788	195540
34.	Uttaranchal	-	-	8165	2778	24651	9513
35.	West Bengal	82264	65511	98919	72197	285240	82717
Total		1983301	1646222	2140214	1811933	4632706	1860677

*Maximum Outstanding/Drawal

Statement II

*State-wise details of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)
projects sanctioned during the last two years*

(Rs. crore)

S.No.	Name of the State	2001-2002		2002-2003	
		No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2882	627.28	2266	909.56
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	69.41	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	36	76.23
4.	Bihar	178	78.76	4491	218.93
5.	Chhattisgarh	87	84.42	218	281.30
6.	Goa	69	15.79	2	16.10
7.	Gujarat	2793	40.90	8	283.82
8.	Haryana	251	227.95	206	270.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	396	174.51	739	196.85
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2039	216.80	131	175.64
11.	Karnataka	5842	236.77	737	246.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Kerala	296	191.76	259	196.55
13.	Madhya Pradesh	102	311.89	132	575.23
14.	Maharashtra	1272	529.73	963	443.09
15.	Meghalaya	28	18.30	21	19.39
16.	Mizoram	9	7.33	7	2.00
17.	Nagaland	1	0.95	15	6.68
18.	Orissa	148	153.25	395	246.83
19.	Punjab	715	240.26	536	210.17
20.	Rajasthan	1637	435.12	2230	346.75
21.	Sikkim	45	5.48	171	4.89
22.	Tamil Nadu	775	353.55	978	388.13
23.	Tripura	15400	6.79	53	50.13
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1802	338.50	607	322.71
25.	Uttaranchal	6	53.96	174	75.43
26.	West Bengal	4087	474.41	7076	520.73
	Total	40865	4893.87	22461	6084.50

Statement III*Himachal Pradesh—Details of Projects Sanctioned under RIDF VII (2001-02)*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Name of Project	Activity	District	Potential (HA/KMM)	NABARD Loan	State Govt. Contribution
1	2	3	4	5	6
Himachal Pradesh					
Hallana Mattan Sidh Riar	Rural Roads	Hamirpur	7	131.71	0.00
Jharet Ghanetta Drang P	Rural Roads	Kangra	20	102.89	0.00
Bir Palampur	Rural Roads	Kangra	25	142.20	0.00
Rehan Houri Devi Hatli Ba	Rural Roads	Kangra	11	109.81	0.00
Sain Gujra-Ra-Ropru	Rural Roads	Mandi	9	111.76	6.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
Panjai Thachi Road	Rural Roads	Mandi	15	180.03	0.00
Ahju Basai	Rural Roads	Mandi	12	124.74	0.00
Mehli Shogi	Rural Roads	Simla	22	313.86	3.27
Br. on Marwari Badsali Road	Rural Bridges	Una	264	130.36	14.49
Jhinkari Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	30	5.22	0.58
Khera Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	15	1.86	0.21
Pandwin Nallah (I&II)	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	20	2.07	0.23
Rashola Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	19	1.88	0.21
Kathyani Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.07	0.23
Drug Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	45	2.53	0.28
Rahhzal Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	1.91	0.21
Deoth/Amned Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	25	2.59	0.29
Sera Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	18	1.69	0.19
Salwin Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	4.14	0.46
Budhwin Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.95	0.33
Plasi Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	18	1.33	0.15
Jharlog Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	15	1.37	0.15
Ladraur Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	15	1.46	0.16
Nadan Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.47	0.27
Khansan Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.02	0.22
Badhar Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	18	1.75	0.19
Panjot Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	25	4.14	0.46
Simnal Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	1.82	0.20
Ballag Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.18	0.24
Paplah Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	19	3.01	0.33
Jarol Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.11	0.23

1	2	3	4	5	6
Lindhi Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	3.60	0.40
Garsar Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	1.28	0.14
Bhukhar Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	1.12	0.12
Ukhalona Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	33	3.08	0.34
Bhaur Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	1.93	0.21
Luddar Nanwin Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	36	4.52	0.50
Kot Chamarda Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	3.96	0.44
Berry Brahmna Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	2.20	0.24
Jakhyol Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	20	3.24	0.36
Badoh Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	2.34	0.26
Ladrour Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	3.87	0.43
Samirpur	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	15	1.96	0.22
Sangroh	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	30	3.96	0.44
Khansan	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	32	2.88	0.32
Barara	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	34	2.90	0.32
Dungri Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	18	4.77	0.53
Takauta	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	4.49	0.50
Luddar	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	25	5.67	0.63
Jar	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	20	5.94	0.66
Beri Brahmna	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	7.13	0.79
Kallar Choe	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	140	10.80	1.20
Batran Manglar Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	79	4.90	0.55
Biroo Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	37	3.46	0.39
Bannie Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	116	4.68	0.52
Ropa Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	31	4.59	0.51
Puwaha Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	74	4.90	0.55

1	2	3	4	5	6
Handoo/Mandoo Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	174	9.58	1.07
Bainwalla Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	80	5.58	0.62
Rajnaub Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	104	8.37	0.93
Tyongli Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	115	7.92	0.88
Goharpat Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	111	6.84	0.76
Dhanda Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	112	5.94	0.68
Keor/Pangh Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	22	3.42	0.38
Marron-Basol Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	4.81	0.54
Beri Gardoon Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	48	6.05	0.67
Trangwal Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	50	5.76	0.64
Nareha Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	65	5.04	0.56
Khatia/Chukal Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	85	6.30	0.70
Amroh	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	18	1.35	0.15
Doog Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	287	7.81	0.87
Kusad Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	323	11.97	1.33
Bauru Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	174	7.56	0.84
Churdu Ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	36	5.15	0.57
Ghoru Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	63	4.68	0.52
Chukri Ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	164	8.19	0.91
Balasi Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	4.14	0.46
Bal ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	72	6.75	0.75
Jarol Ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	97	8.37	0.93
Lairi Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	68	6.21	0.69
Raini Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	51	6.39	0.71
Pool Choe	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	48	6.66	0.74
Kuthera Bula	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	21	4.90	0.54

1	2	3	4	5	6
Dudhana Lohia	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	26	2.97	0.33
Badan Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	32	5.76	0.64
Jhilarari Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	29	3.87	0.43
Chuwan Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	97	7.92	0.88
Daichera Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	200	14.04	1.56
Kotia Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	128	14.58	1.62
Dhumma Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	59	7.38	0.82
Chukhaniar Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	41	6.66	0.74
Darkoti Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	212	18.11	2.01
Jajri Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	454	27.00	3.00
Railly Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	139	13.86	1.54
Biharo Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	213	18.27	2.03
Mahrat I & II	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	204	19.80	2.20
Dandru Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	36	6.21	0.69
Panyali Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	104	10.26	1.14
Bein Da Choe	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	90	89.27	1.03
Salasi Khad	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	81	7.92	0.88
Piplu Ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	31	3.51	0.39
Bah Rakh Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	29	4.82	0.54
Amad Ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	78	10.98	1.22
Kunda Da and Leh Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	36	7.83	0.87
Beli Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	22	3.96	0.44
Adu De Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	26	5.49	0.61
Handu/Bazuri Da Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	8.01	0.89
Sagrati Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	20	4.77	0.53
Beli Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	19	5.83	0.86

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chowki Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	16	3.87	0.43
Bhole Ka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	32	6.66	0.74
Bara/Chota Ropa Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	44	6.03	0.67
Chokri Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	18	4.66	0.52
Banne De Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	17	3.64	0.40
Khuan Da Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	42	9.09	1.01
Drug Khad	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	125	13.95	1.55
Nari Nalah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	9.07	1.01
Karot Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	19	1.97	0.22
Bhagol Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	6.70	0.75
Nalahi Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	38	5.45	0.61
Tikkar Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	4.54	0.50
Chamot Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	25	3.59	0.40
Banal Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	28	4.90	0.55
Kudana Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	28	3.29	0.37
Bagehra Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	31	5.65	0.63
Dadhla Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	4.70	0.52
Jangal Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	25	4.34	0.48
Kheri Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	33	4.23	0.47
Tikka Nallah	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	10.44	1.16
Thalli Bansa	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	20	5.31	0.59
Lagdevi	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	30	5.13	0.57
Bakniar	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	3.78	0.42
Nanot	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	36	3.89	0.43
Charian-di-Dhar	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	50	5.08	0.56
Utpur	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	5.38	0.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
Purali	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	25	4.01	0.44
Bharara	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	20	2.93	0.33
Ropa	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	4.85	0.52
Chabutra	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	3.76	0.42
Guhai	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	1.71	0.19
Suhal	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	40	10.44	1.16
Andrell	W.S.M.	Hamirpur	35	1.78	0.20
E-Governance Project	Citi. Info.	Many	–	389.70	43.30
Swan Flood Protection	F.P.	Una	746	2,699.69	99.96
Jhunga Devi Road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	8	96.00	0.00
Lanar Lambagaon road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	9	128.00	0.00
Bilwan Kotla road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	4	49.00	0.00
Oddi Kinjal road	Ru. Roads	Simla	7	90.00	0.00
Khaghatri road	Ru. Roads	Simla	8	94.00	0.00
Kotri Bangaswar road	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	4	47.00	0.00
Kolanwale Bhoad road	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	13	69.00	0.00
Saranan Chandigarh road	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	14	99.00	0.00
Barohwala Gunsia road	Ru. Roads	Solan	10	97.00	0.00
Basantpur Gamberpul road	Ru. Roads	Solan	18	95.00	0.00
Kunda Ladvi Kunihar road	Ru. Roads	Solan	11	108.78	1.22
Solan Jaunaji Darja road	Ru. Roads	Solan	10	110.00	0.00
Baron Dharamshala road	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	218	306.00	34.00
Brover Kaffota Koti road	Ru. Bridges	Sirmaur	95	324.90	36.10
Baron Sirsa river	Ru. Bridges	Solan	346	684.90	78.10
Balance work of Berthi-C	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	7	105.30	11.70
Balance work of Kothi Ju	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	20	108.90	12.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
Balance work of Kuthera	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	27	117.80	13.10
Balance work of Rakhaloo	Ru. Roads	Chamba	8	85.00	0.00
Balance work of Jangrigh	Ru. Roads	Chamba	10	76.00	0.00
Balance work of Dramman	Ru. Roads	Chamba	8	133.00	0.00
Balance work of Sihunt	Ru. Roads	Chamba	5	77.64	0.36
Balance work of Churi B	Ru. Roads	Chamba	5	108.00	0.00
Balance work of Chowari	Ru. Roads	Chamba	6	101.00	0.00
Balance work of Masroon	Ru. Roads	Chamba	13	97.00	0.00
Balance work of road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	15	110.00	0.00
Balance work of Bhoran	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	9	120.33	7.67
Balance work of Panyali	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	9	108.00	0.00
Balance work of Chauri	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	12	105.00	0.00
Balance work of Rangus	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	13	84.00	0.00
Balance work of Jhania	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	10	111.60	6.40
Balance work of Dadoo-Ch	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	8	122.00	0.00
Road from Dharamshala to	Ru. Roads	Kangra	13	98.00	0.00
Balance work of Ranital	Ru. Roads	Kangra	23	125.00	0.00
Road from Seorballah Jar	Ru. Roads	Kangra	12	118.17	0.83
Balance work of Dhamin	Ru. Roads	Kangra	7	84.00	0.00
Balance work of Chobu B	Ru. Roads	Kangra	9	109.00	0.00
Balance work of Panihar	Ru. Roads	Kangra	10	102.00	0.00
Balance work of Mand Mi	Ru. Roads	Kangra	9	102.00	0.00
Balance work of Nallian	Ru. Roads	Kangra	6	103.03	5.97
M/T Luhri-Dalash Chowal R	Ru. Roads	Kulu	29	382.00	0.00
Gurkotna-Chowki Jhor-Dha	Ru. Roads	Mandi	9	98.10	10.90
Talyar- Pingla-Tharota	Ru. Roads	Mandi	18	127.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Balance work of Durgapu	Ru. Roads	Mandi	11	128.00	0.00
Katanda-Pokhi Road (0/0)	Ru. Roads	Mandi	5	84.45	7.55
Balance work of Paddar B	Ru. Roads	Mandi	15	120.00	0.00
Balance work of Rissa Ma	Ru. Roads	Mandi	9	118.00	0.00
M/T and balance work of	Ru. Roads	Simla	12	161.00	0.00
Tarahan to Sainkhad roa	Ru. Roads	Simla	12	133.00	0.00
Balance work of Rajgarh	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	7	116.00	0.00
Balance work of Pallar	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	7	108.00	0.00
Balance work of Jamta Ra	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	15	123.00	0.00
Balance work of Kaffota Kot	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	12	89.00	0.00
Bhojnagar Galghat Chakki	Ru. Roads	Solan	10	108.00	0.00
Balance work of Salogra	Ru. Roads	Solan	8	104.40	11.60
Balance work of Bhat ki	Ru. Roads	Solan	7	106.00	0.00
Widening and M/T of Una-B	Ru. Roads	Una	17	249.30	27.70
RCC bridge over Khajjian	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	43	32.40	3.60
RCC bridge over Grail Kh	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	40	36.00	4.00
214 Mtr. span double la	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	214	702.90	78.10
Bridge at Parel on Charm	Ru. Bridges	Chamba	86	300.60	33.40
72 M. single lane pre-str	Ru. Bridges	Solan	72	107.10	11.90
Chalong	Minor Irr.	Chamba	13	5.35	0.60
Jinno	Minor Irr.	Chamba	8	3.32	0.38
Dangadi	Minor Irr.	Chamba	10	5.18	0.59
Thwari	Minor Irr.	Chamba	6	2.62	0.30
Targrawn	Minor Irr.	Chamba	7	3.15	0.36
Lehal	Minor Irr.	Chamba	7	2.93	0.34
Pal-Chakoki	Minor Irr.	Chamba	10	4.65	0.53

1	2	3	4	5	6
Gohanana	Minor Irr.	Chamba	9	3.06	0.35
Baroti	Minor Irr.	Chamba	10	4.16	0.47
Kathala	Minor Irr.	Chamba	10	4.28	0.47
Baggi	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	5	1.49	0.16
Bharmail	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	5	1.11	0.12
Bari-Batrahan	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	15	3.74	0.42
Akrana	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	8	2.16	0.24
Ree	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	5	1.11	0.12
Sachh-Machhi Bhawan	Minor Irr.	Kangra	35	16.07	1.79
Sambal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	11.59	1.29
Lakhamandal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	21	6.68	0.74
Raj Palwan	Minor Irr.	Kangra	77	9.00	1.00
Tiambal-II	Minor Irr.	Kangra	10	2.88	0.32
Chanour Khas	Minor Irr.	Kangra	16	4.86	0.54
Sakoh	Minor Irr.	Kangra	15	4.51	0.50
Joku Kuhal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	7.67	0.85
Dugiari	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	7.20	0.80
Rajul Kuhal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	40	5.40	0.80
Sanjwan	Minor Irr.	Kangra	12	3.64	0.40
Nagal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	8	2.85	0.32
Thoda Bhaloon	Minor Irr.	Kangra	12	4.35	0.48
Rail Pal/Bhalakh	Minor Irr.	Kangra	14	5.29	0.59
Chambi	Minor Irr.	Kangra	8	3.07	0.34
Bassa	Minor Irr.	Kangra	18	6.62	0.73
Kharoth	Minor Irr.	Kangra	19	5.80	0.84
Bhol	Minor Irr.	Kangra	12	4.37	0.48

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ludhiar	Minor Irr.	Kangra	18	6.62	0.73
Joi Nallah (Jat Beli)	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	7.88	0.87
Chatta	Minor Irr.	Kangra	16	7.84	0.87
Math Bali Kuhal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	7.66	0.85
Dratti	Minor Irr.	Kangra	21	6.84	0.76
Panjala	Minor Irr.	Kangra	15	8.15	0.91
Nagni Kuhal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	30	9.00	1.00
Dhaneti Charuin-Garlown	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	5.85	0.65
Buhla Kohla	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	7.68	0.85
Narwana Sariethana Ph-I	Minor Irr.	Kangra	26	8.10	0.90
Samlet/Hathi Dhar	Minor Irr.	Kangra	15	5.81	0.65
Chetru	Minor Irr.	Kangra	15	4.60	0.51
Kakrain	Minor Irr.	Kangra	16	4.31	0.48
Rumbale Da Pail/Rappar	Minor Irr.	Kangra	12	3.56	0.39
Bandi Karyata	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	7.70	0.85
Sudher-II/Sudher	Minor Irr.	Kangra	30	9.33	1.04
Sehol	Minor Irr.	Kangra	17	4.55	0.50
Narwana	Minor Irr.	Kangra	20	6.30	0.70
Balehar	Minor Irr.	Kangra	18	5.75	0.64
Bhaloa	Minor Irr.	Kangra	8	2.88	0.32
Sahura	Minor Irr.	Kangra	30	7.58	0.84
Dhanag	Minor Irr.	Kangra	70	8.94	0.99
Malari (Bardot)	Minor Irr.	Kangra	10	3.34	0.37
Ghana	Minor Irr.	Kangra	28	6.87	0.76
Khadiala Kuhal	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	6.68	0.74
Atara/Rit	Minor Irr.	Kangra	10	3.46	0.38

1	2	3	4	5	6
Nihual at vill. upper Baya	Minor Irr.	Kangra	30	9.60	1.07
Manbhari	Minor Irr.	Kangra	18	6.62	0.73
Gagar Haar	Minor Irr.	Kangra	17	6.48	0.72
Dah Kulara & Balkhol	Minor Irr.	Kangra	25	9.33	1.04
Khabal Lakhanahar	Minor Irr.	Kangra	7	2.54	0.28
Aleo	Minor Irr.	Kulu	43	13.50	1.50
Parsha	Minor Irr.	Kulu	12	4.41	0.49
Sumra Khad-Jaon	Minor Irr.	Kulu	38	16.47	1.83
Mihar	Minor Irr.	Kulu	16	6.08	0.68
Chamba Ropa	Minor Irr.	Kulu	25	7.50	0.83
Shwad	Minor Irr.	Kulu	12	5.21	0.58
Segli	Minor Irr.	Mandi	25	10.13	1.12
Kigas	Minor Irr.	Mandi	20	8.10	0.90
Taroh	Minor Irr.	Mandi	11	3.47	0.38
Sakra	Minor Irr.	Mandi	30	10.80	1.20
Thathari Chandani	Minor Irr.	Mandi	48	10.92	1.21
Navlaya	Minor Irr.	Mandi	20	7.56	0.84
Bhanwad	Minor Irr.	Mandi	20	5.56	0.62
Bhamai	Minor Irr.	Mandi	10	2.93	0.32
Bag (Tor)	Minor Irr.	Mandi	20	6.11	0.68
Behad	Minor Irr.	Mandi	11	3.24	0.36
Pingla-Katwandhi	Minor Irr.	Mandi	15	6.68	0.74
Chowki	Minor Irr.	Mandi	13	3.88	0.43
Tikkari	Minor Irr.	Mandi	48	14.82	1.65
Nawani	Minor Irr.	Mandi	14	4.57	0.51
Kundekh	Minor Irr.	Mandi	24	7.12	0.79

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kandyol	Minor Irr.	Mandi	11	3.25	0.36
Smaifa	Minor Irr.	Mandi	10	3.32	0.37
Baggi Banola	Minor Irr.	Mandi	10	2.59	0.29
Damehar	Minor Irr.	Mandi	46	15.10	1.68
Ropari	Minor Irr.	Mandi	15	3.93	0.44
Gokhara	Minor Irr.	Mandi	12	3.78	0.42
Patran	Minor Irr.	Mandi	13	4.31	0.48
Guin Jazar	Minor Irr.	Mandi	10	3.92	0.44
Nihar-Saroni	Minor Irr.	Mandi	13	3.36	0.37
Nerwa-Hareue	Minor Irr.	Simla	10	3.74	0.41
Sainj	Minor Irr.	Simla	12	3.79	0.42
Khabbal	Minor Irr.	Simla	42	17.38	1.93
Dharara	Minor Irr.	Simla	19	4.84	0.54
Pashard to Neoti	Minor Irr.	Simla	10	3.62	0.40
Bagna	Minor Irr.	Simla	35	14.30	1.59
Tara-Seema	Minor Irr.	Simla	10	4.13	0.46
Kapu	Minor Irr.	Simla	16	7.01	0.78
Koon	Minor Irr.	Simla	20	7.20	0.80
Dhanat	Minor Irr.	Simla	10	4.05	0.45
Kanda	Minor Irr.	Simla	50	17.54	1.95
Mamvi Pujarli	Minor Irr.	Simla	25	8.49	0.94
Rehal Khanal & Jamog	Minor Irr.	Simla	12	4.32	0.48
Keryati	Minor Irr.	Simla	10	3.60	0.40
Bhoot	Minor Irr.	Simla	40	15.55	1.73
Nlohta Dubor	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	22	9.74	1.08
Pab Manal	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	21	9.16	1.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
Fohrar	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	24	10.80	1.20
Nahar No. II	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	16	7.89	0.88
Nahar No. I	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	20	6.89	0.77
Pipnor	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	30	12.38	1.38
Baag	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	20	8.10	0.90
Jalcha Majhnaal	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	13	6.13	0.68
Tikker	Minor Irr.	Solan	18	7.24	0.80
Bringal (Kohla)	Minor Irr.	Solan	6	1.92	0.21
Barog	Minor Irr.	Solan	8	1.49	0.17
Behndu	Minor Irr.	Solan	31	7.45	0.83
Balam Pathri/Chadog	Minor Irr.	Solan	13	4.08	0.46
Dhaurar	Minor Irr.	Solan	14	1.94	0.22
Kanwarla	Minor Irr.	Solan	10	1.84	0.20
Kotla Lian	Minor Irr.	Solan	45	6.68	0.74
Koti	Minor Irr.	Solan	8	2.21	0.24
Salumni	Minor Irr.	Solan	10	2.99	0.33
Bhagrah Khad	Minor Irr.	Solan	6	1.92	0.21
Gahar	Minor Irr.	Solan	10	2.91	0.32
Baddu (Pokhatu)	Minor Irr.	Solan	6	1.79	0.20
Patta Panjal	Minor Irr.	Solan	10	3.12	0.35
Takrota	Minor Irr.	Solan	16	5.05	0.56
Chirgra	Minor Irr.	Solan	10	3.15	0.35
Jaton	Minor Irr.	Solan	8	2.57	0.28
Bisha	Minor Irr.	Solan	12	3.29	0.37
Halda	Minor Irr.	Solan	12	3.78	0.42
Didoo and Ghamoo	Minor Irr.	Solan	14	4.14	0.46

1	2	3	4	5	6
Dadog	Minor Irr.	Solan	11	2.14	0.24
Kinnu	Minor Irr.	Una	12	3.17	0.35
Duhal Bhatwala	Minor Irr.	Una	8	2.13	0.24
Behar (Lohara lower)	Minor Irr.	Una	6	1.73	0.19
Saloh Beri	Minor Irr.	Una	20	4.44	0.49
Lohara Lower (Chhaprolan D)	Minor Irr.	Una	8	2.08	0.23
Joh	Minor Irr.	Una	50	8.04	0.89
Badhmana	Minor Irr.	Una	12	3.91	0.48
Ghanghret	Minor Irr.	Una	13	3.65	0.40
Rautanwala	Minor Irr.	Solan	22	9.90	1.10
FIS Pangna Khad	Minor Irr.	Mandi	177	15.39	0.00
TW OEL-1	Minor Irr.	Una	32	23.27	2.59
TW Bhanjal	Minor Irr.	Una	32	24.07	2.69
TW 20 No. Nurpur area	Minor Irr.	Kangra	706	396.32	44.03
TW 10 Harizan Basti	Minor Irr.	Kangra	54	33.17	0.00
TW Bhol Jagir	Minor Irr.	Kangra	30	20.36	2.26
TW 20 No. Chhatter-III	Minor Irr.	Kangra	47	21.85	0.00
TW 20 No. Sukhari	Minor Irr.	Kangra	47	21.85	0.00
10 No. TW Jaral-1	Minor Irr.	Mandi	31	16.59	0.00
10 No. TW Jugahan	Minor Irr.	Mandi	21	18.47	0.00
TW Kotlakunjhal	Minor Irr.	Solan	13	7.19	0.80
TW Behli Mastanpur	Minor Irr.	Solan	45	11.33	0.00
TW Manpura Kuhian	Minor Irr.	Solan	25	16.64	1.85
TW Chakkan-III	Minor Irr.	Solan	33	12.51	1.39
Kashmir (Kasmia)	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	30.	24.30	2.70
Rohilionin Pattu	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	15	12.37	1.38

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhadriana	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	33	28.95	3.2
Mangrot Sundoll	Minor Irr.	Bilaspur	328	158.95	17.66
Hawani Khuban	Minor Irr.	Bilaspur	18	8.89	1.00
TW Baroona	R.D. Water	Solan	-	45.41	0.00
TW Jogon	R.D. Water	Solan	-	49.09	0.00
TW Dattwal	R.D. Water	Solan	-	51.79	0.00
TW Rajpura	R.D. Water	Solan	-	16.37	0.00
TW Satlwala	R.D. Water	Solan	-	31.90	0.00
TW Koundu Narayanpur	R.D. Water	Solan	-	32.92	0.00
LWSS Doghi upper/lower	R.D. Water	Una	-	15.19	0.00
WSS Kasba-Kotta	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	82.32	9.15
WSS Kiarwan	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	24.40	2.71
Naini Khad Chuhan road	Ru. Roads	Chamba	16	104.00	0.00
Nagbari-Shimla Tikka road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	25	179.00	0.00
Shahpur Jawali road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	6	71.00	0.00
Nagari-Hanglo road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	4	33.00	0.00
Mandi Ganpati Kunkatar road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	18	130.00	0.00
Jagothi Nalla A. road	Ru. Roads	Simla	7	80.00	0.00
Feeduj-Debas road	Ru. Roads	Simla	31	270.00	0.00
Br. over Khappar nallah	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	69	79.20	8.80
Br. over Ghaman nallah	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	40	88.40	7.60
Br over Bathu Khad	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	55	87.30	9.70
Br. over river Sutlej	Ru. Bridges	Simla	80	237.64	0.00
3 br. over Manakpur Khad	Ru. Bridges	Solan	62	52.20	5.80
Causeway over Behar Jas.	Ru. Bridges	Una	78	63.90	7.10
				1745.11	873.33

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Himachal Pradesh—details of projects sanctioned under RIDF-VIII (2002-03)</i>					
Jotlu Bhatia	Minor Irr.	Simla	13	7.02	0.78
Oddi Gad to Neri	Minor Irr.	Simla	121	44.03	4.89
Krangla	Minor Irr.	Simla	35	21.28	2.37
Panji	Minor Irr.	Solan	8	5.36	0.59
Gan-ke-ser Kanah Bajnal	Minor Irr.	Solan	17	9.33	1.04
Basolda in GP Dhullara	Minor Irr.	Chamba	8	3.82	0.42
Mochka Khagra Kuhl	Minor Irr.	Kulu	175	41.93	4.66
Bagipul Nore Lanj	Minor Irr.	Kulu	124	50.78	0.00
Mamel to Girjanoo	Minor Irr.	Mandi	34	1.99	0.22
Dual Banar-Chont Ouhai	Minor Irr.	Mandi	57	29.12	3.24
FIS to vill Malwana	Minor Irr.	Mandi	14	3.07	0.34
Patghar	Minor Irr.	Simla	12	11.16	1.24
Jaghed	Minor Irr.	Solan	29	26.29	2.92
Larech	Minor Irr.	Solan	34	32.90	3.66
Rugra Kanair	Minor Irr.	Solan	65	67.81	7.53
Devlan, Sukara Parlo	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	27	24.55	2.73
Khodri-Majri	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	77	14.72	1.64
Adian, Mehruwala, Bhud, cho	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	80	79.02	8.78
Khadri	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	27	2.53	0.28
Bhawai	Minor Irr.	Sirmaur	41	38.30	4.26
Kuriah	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	30	16.68	1.85
Chhatoli Jaure AMB	Minor Irr.	Hamirpur	45	30.56	3.40
Tripale	Minor Irr.	Kangra	140	98.95	10.99
Jandour.	Minor Irr.	Kangra	47	30.60	3.40
Bharoli	Minor Irr.	Kangra	291	44.84	4.98
Tiara Baidi	Minor Irr.	Kangra	185	44.76	4.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ratwah Kandheri	Minor Irr.	Kulu	41	30.47	3.39
Tharash	Minor Irr.	Kulu	53	44.37	4.93
Lis Balh Gadiyara	Minor Irr.	Mandi	45	48.34	5.37
Bhaderkalinew Project	Minor Irr.	Una	25	23.12	2.57
Nangal Jarialan	Minor Irr.	Una	30	26.88	2.99
Thathal-I, II & III	Minor Irr.	Una	105	75.34	8.37
Andhoura I & II	Minor Irr.	Una	70	50.52	5.61
Abada Barana	Minor Irr.	Una	36	29.07	3.23
2 Nos. T/WS Sasan & Toru	Minor Irr.	Kangra	58	43.72	4.86
Kumsoo Matherwal	R.D. Water	Simla	0	14.83	0.00
LWSS Saril Basech	R.D. Water	Sirmaur	0	5.45	0.60
WSS Sadhnaghat	R.D. Water	Sirmaur	0	19.95	2.22
WSS Vill. Munidich (TM)	R.D. Water	Sirmaur	0	5.00	0.57
WSS Bandr (Bag)	R.D. Water	Sirmaur	0	35.52	3.95
Rajban Muglonwala Karta	R.D. Water	Sirmaur	0	65.35	7.27
LWSS Gulabgarh	R.D. Water	Sirmaur	0	41.43	4.60
LWSS Mehli Phase-II	R.D. Water	Solan	0	50.45	5.60
LWSS Damrog	R.D. Water	Solan	0	29.18	3.24
WSS Dillanwali Labana	R.D. Water	Solan	0	157.28	17.47
LWSS Samoh to Bhajroun	R.D. Water	Bilaspur	0	48.21	5.36
LWSS Panyali Sareri	R.D. Water	Hamirpur	0	36.00	4.00
LWSS Baldwara	R.D. Water	Mandi	0	91.14	10.13
WSS Kharoun, Bhararrou	R.D. Water	Mandi	0	44.85	4.99
LWSS Johad Saroa	R.D. Water	Mandi	0	20.00	2.22
WSS Vashishat	R.D. Water	Kulu	0	17.13	1.90
WSS Bosh Dasha Rangri-C	R.D. Water	Kulu	0	24.73	2.75

1	2	3	4	5	6
WSS Ghour Dour Larankel	R.D. Water	Kulu	0	21.29	2.37
WSS Choil Jouli	R.D. Water	Kulu	0	44.45	4.94
WSS Bhappu Raja-ki-Khasa	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	80.87	8.99
LWSS Sanda Bari	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	128.82	14.31
LWSS Jambal (T/W)	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	22.87	2.54
WSS PC Habitation	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	44.82	4.98
WSS Dadhumb & Dhanotu	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	57.08	6.34
WSS Vill Bharoon Ghurtha	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	28.73	3.19
WSS Sidhpur & Fatehpur	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	41.49	4.61
WSS Dhameta	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	44.92	4.99
LWSS Khatiar	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	68.43	7.60
WSS OEL Tatehra (T/W)	R.D. Water	Una	0	45.63	5.07
WSS Nangal Khurd (T/W)	R.D. Water	Una	0	29.15	3.24
LWSS Badehra (T/W)	R.D. Water	Una	0	70.75	7.86
WSS Behdala Bazar	R.D. Water	Una	0	21.31	2.37
WSS Bharmani Colony Durg	R.D. Water	Una	0	68.81	7.64
WSS Kamla Triyu	R.D. Water	Chamba	0	25.99	2.89
WSS IND Kahlo Kiani	R.D. Water	Chamba	0	17.90	1.99
Narail Kalvi Dharpur	Ru. Roads	Simla	4	85.43	0.00
Dadadhu Bechar-ka-Bag	Ru. Roads	Simaur	10	128.44	0.00
Ahhar Kohina via Rishikes	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	12	93.60	10.40
Barato Jeehan	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	7	108.36	8.45
Paurhi Pahlroo	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	3	130.20	8.01
Dhamu Masar Manaul	Ru. Roads	Mandi	5	95.40	10.60
Tatapani Shakra Road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	10	122.00	0.00
HC Tutrala Motorable Rd.	Ru. Roads	Chamba	2	108.90	12.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chawari Bhariri Road	Ru. Roads	Chamba	8	214.00	0.00
Gopipur Chamukha Road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	13	162.66	0.00
Link Lower Sakoh-Dari	Ru. Roads	Kangra	8	123.47	4.38
Lina jaijon Road	Ru. Roads	Una	12	144.90	16.10
Jaiai River-Jamta Bagthan	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	50	43.46	4.83
Jamniwala Khala Rd 1/345	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	50	73.45	0.00
BHFO Khan on Kherian	Ru. Roads	Kangra	51	84.42	9.38
Devhoda Sudhangal Khad	Ru. Roads	Kangra	25	30.21	3.36
Jal bar Khad Near Thora	Ru. Roads	Kangra	215	171.15	3.18
Chandapur to Dail road via M	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	5	101.83	11.31
Rajpura Cilla Charan more	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	5	106.48	11.83
Ropal Khad Ghandalwin via	Ru. Roads	Bilaspur	13	166.00	0.00
Nabai Chamyanu Jukain Ba	Ru. Roads	Mandi	8	95.72	2.84
Polan Dhalwan, Masyani B	Ru. Roads	Mandi	8	100.71	0.40
Dharpur to Sandhole rd	Ru. Roads	Mandi	17	127.30	0.00
Jagir Lihi road (3/5 to	Ru. Roads	Chamba	5	104.84	0.00
Chamba Kohairi Chilbanglo	Ru. Roads	Chamba	4	74.65	0.00
Rakhlu Jarsourgarth Beol	Ru. Roads	Chamba	4	68.23	0.00
Chahargar Haler Har	Ru. Roads	Kangra	18	122.10	0.00
Jalag Behru	Ru. Roads	Kangra	7	87.40	5.01
Chughera Kandi Saroot road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	5	129.57	0.00
Gagath Gheta rd (2/200 t	Ru. Roads	Kangra	7	50.30	0.00
Rohan Houri Devi Hatli Ba	Ru. Roads	Kangra	10	130.76	0.00
Chhughera Chandrot road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	4	85.50	9.50
Dhamin-Kharrian road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	7	99.60	0.00
Dehlan Jakhera Morbar road	Ru. Roads	Una	8	122.64	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Link rd. Pangl to Thopen	Ru. Roads	Kinnaur	6	93.60	10.40
Karchham to Sapni road	Ru. Roads	Kinnaur	8	113.50	0.00
Bal. Pulbahal sarain road	Ru. Roads	Simla	9	121.00	0.00
Link rd. Kimmughet-Chakki	Ru. Roads	Solan	8	116.59	3.41
Br. over river Chenab	Ru. Roads	Lahul & Spiti	110	114.61	12.73
Br. to connect Khalara Nal	Ru. Roads	Kulu	32	135.90	15.10
Br. over Kashmirpur Khad	Ru. Roads	Solan	81	90.00	10.00
Mohin-Kottu (0/0-8/375) road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	8	114.50	0.00
Dharmiana Riya Rehni road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	9	115.65	0.00
Masandar Jole Sapper road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	11	115.00	0.00
Patta-Tiyalan-Da-Ghat road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	5	114.65	2.74
Mair to Mehal road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	9	109.63	0.00
Chhadian Kunwin L road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	11	133.62	0.00
Ropri Janahan Chakmoh road	Ru. Roads	Hamirpur	11	114.63	0.00
Slapper Seri K-Phase I	Ru. Roads	Mandi	8	135.00	0.00
Salappar Batwara road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	6	118.90	13.21
Lohana-Kulani via Bandia	Ru. Roads	Kangra	13	144.02	6.35
VIII Chartgarh-Kanpur road	Ru. Roads	Una	5	33.72	3.75
Bundapur Balwal road	Ru. Roads	Una	20	113.91	0.00
SK Tarahan Kupvi road	Ru. Roads	Simla	9	236.76	7.96
Devidhar Ghansal road	Ru. Roads	Simla	6	110.10	0.00
Br. over Janed Khad	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	60	85.37	9.49
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Bilaspur	-	236.07	26.23
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Hamirpur	-	236.07	26.23
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Chamba	-	239.94	26.68
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Kangra	-	321.21	35.69

1	2	3	4	5	6
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Kulu	-	236.07	26.23
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Mandi	-	313.47	34.83
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Simla	-	317.34	35.26
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Solan	-	239.94	26.66
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Sirmaur	-	236.07	26.23
Const. of School buildings	Sec. School	Una	0	236.07	26.23
LWSS Jhamrarian	R.D. Water	Bilaspur	-	13.32	1.48
LWSS Maharal Dakhyora	R.D. Water	Hamirpur	-	67.14	7.46
WSS Rakkar Majhna	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	40.84	30.04
WSS Kandwari	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	14.62	28.98
LWSS Kotla Lahri Bhatwera	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	21.48	80.34
LWSS to vill Bheyol Khuthe	R.D. Water	Bilaspur	-	30.85	3.43
LWSS Sirdi Sai Baba	R.D. Water	Hamirpur	-	4.73	0.53
LWSS Jogipur Natehar	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	21.91	49.31
WSS Ghungar Tanda	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	47.69	6.30
LWSS Ghar Bodhal	R.D. Water	Kangra	0	16.37	31.82
WSS Uppreti Dari & Baroli	R.D. Water	Kangra	-	16.10	28.25
Aug. WSS Chir Bhayotu	R.D. Water	Mandi	-	5.00	0.55
Aug. LWSS Makan Sandha	R.D. Water	Mandi	-	35.89	3.99
LWSS Kanger Chambi Bharar	R.D. Water	Mandi	-	62.29	6.92
Aug. LWSS Neri Chimnu	R.D. Water	Mandi	-	27.43	3.05
Balance work on Brahgal	Ru. Roads	Chamba	11	186.15	20.68
Samoli Parsa Lower Koti C	Ru. Roads	Simla	7	106.43	0.00
Patsari Metasa Nankari Jh	Ru. Roads	Simla	7	118.58	0.00
Village Shalota rd (0/0 to	Ru. Roads	Simla	3	42.80	0.00
Banuti to Pahal rd (11/19	Ru. Roads	Simla	6	116.02	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Benuti-Didughatti Kanach	Ru. Roads	Simla	12	114.30	0.00
Piploo Bhiambi road (0/0 to	Ru. Roads	Una	6	98.08	10.90
Jole Amberhra Kukkhara road	Ru. Roads	Una	6	119.15	0.00
Chsma Bhawal Sangrah road	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	8	133.43	7.27
Shillal Naya Lets Suntrar	Ru. Roads	Sirmaur	8	119.00	0.00
Kunhar Bainj Ki Hatti Sh	Ru. Roads	Solan	15	134.12	0.00
Bridge over Beer Khad at	Ru. Bridges	Bilaspur	92	107.46	0.00
Bridge over Beer Khad at	Ru. Bridges	Bilaspur	110	197.14	21.91
Bridge over Ghangsi Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	34	45.78	5.09
Bridge over Dehar Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Chamba	68	136.27	15.14
Bridge over Niyangali Nai	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	20	33.76	3.75
Bridge over Dada Khad bri	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	153	71.58	0.00
Bridge over Sukad Khad (3	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	90	83.73	7.08
4 Nos. causeway on Daulatpur	Ru. Bridges	Una	504	155.31	0.00
Bridge over Rainsary Khad	Ru. Bridges	Una	93	87.58	9.73
Bridge over Adean Khala	Ru. Bridges	Sirmaur	90	70.12	7.79
Bridge over river Chenab	Minor Irr.	Lahul & Spiti	68	172.80	19.20
Bridge over river Chenab	Minor Irr.	Lahul & Spiti	68	172.80	19.20
Badhu	Minor Irr.	Mandi	16	12.39	1.38
Chhaprohal	Minor Irr.	Mandi	93	44.83	4.98
Anu Darbehar	Minor Irr.	Mandi	47	13.98	1.55
Rori Kori	Minor Irr.	Kangra	43	31.48	3.50
Diwan Chand Kuhl (Imp.)	Minor Irr.	Kangra	289	33.42	3.71
Benalk Bahot	Minor Irr.	Mandi	45	38.01	4.22
Kshaud	Minor Irr.	Mandi	104	71.40	7.93
Dharar Prehoo	Minor Irr.	Bilaspur	58	53.72	5.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
TW 2 in Rakkar Colony	Minor Irr.	Una	56	58.45	8.49
TWS in upper Rore	Minor Irr.	Una	84	87.28	9.70
TW in Barera Dhatwara	Minor Irr.	Una	26	27.58	3.07
TW in Talwali and Katli	Minor Irr.	Mandi	68	44.82	4.98
10 TW in Fatehpur area	Minor Irr.	Kangra	74	52.63	5.85
10 TW in Hamote Gural	Minor Irr.	Kangra	74	52.25	5.81
Tubewell in Doon Area	Minor Irr.	Solan	200	254.03	28.22
O/o TW Dhana I & II	Minor Irr.	Solan	50	62.14	3.36
Village Dehrain	Minor Irr.	Kangra	26	29.59	3.29
Tikkeri	Minor Irr.	Chamba	11	12.77	1.42
Khad Kalyana Kun-Ka road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	4	116.10	12.90
Nallah karhoh Kalag road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	10	124.20	0.00
Thaiout Kalheni road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	7	102.20	11.36
Ralaru Siapper road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	3	124.85	0.00
Sirkad Banglehar G. road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	6	93.60	10.40
Malwana Sai road	Ru. Roads	Mandi	10	98.47	4.53
Link road to village sial	Ru. Roads	Kulu	7	108.90	1.10
Sirsa Nallha to Kaish D	Ru. Roads	Kulu	8	101.70	11.30
Ghortud Nallah Bharain road	Ru. Roads	Kulu	7	109.16	12.13
Hamara Moad Chamdera oad	Ru. Roads	Kangra	11	177.64	12.38
Khachal Kholi Dola road	Ru. Roads	Kangra	7	105.00	0.00
Ballah to Jugehar via Bad	Ru. Roads	Kangra	8	178.36	13.83
Bankhandi Mehwa Bassea Upr	Ru. Roads	Kangra	12	137.80	0.00
Bir Barot road (10/405 to	Ru. Roads	Kangra	22	165.14	17.36
Link road from Shwasd Kar	Ru. Roads	Kulu	4	109.35	3.65
Daled-Bhagheer road (0/0)	Ru. Roads	Mandi	5	124.91	13.88

1	2	3	4	5	6
Huli Kuku Nallah Bedar Bh	Ru. Roads	Simla	6	71.81	0.00
Manshrain-Bharan-Hinu road	Ru. Roads	Simla	4	50.00	0.00
Kohbag to Basha road (0/0)	Ru. Roads	Solan	12	152.59	16.95
Bridge over Quarassi Nali	Ru. Bridges	Chamba	58	94.06	9.94
Bridge over Lihi Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Chamba	28	39.35	0.00
Bridge over Kaded Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Chamba	40	67.53	2.17
Bridge over Rajindoo Nali	Ru. Bridges	Chamba	40	70.20	1.40
RCC Bridge over Laplana K	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	40	38.23	4.03
RCC T-beam bridge over J	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	20	27.03	3.00
Bridge over Daroon Khad	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	30	31.36	3.48
Bridge over Majuhi Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	150	50.00	0.00
Bridge over Awa Khad on J	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	40	58.89	6.53
Bridge over Bhagan Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	25	16.46	0.00
Bridge over Danel Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	20	17.91	0.00
Bridge over Pun Khad on B	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	25	34.22	0.00
Bridge over Rehan Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	96	54.61	6.67
Bridge over Sethu Nallah	Ru. Bridges	Kangra	25	22.94	0.00
Bridge over Aleo Nall o	Ru. Bridges	Kulu	87	337.50	37.50
Bridge over Kurpan Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Kulu	30	45.1	0.00
Bridge over Arghatti Khad	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	21	24.17	0.84
Bridge over Amodo Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	34	47.54	2.18
Bridge over Barogada Khad	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	20	11.32	0.00
Bridge over Gharalla Khad	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	40	16.05	0.00
Bridge over Monarb Nallah	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	30	20.00	0.00
Bridge over Nal Khad on B	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	25	18.58	1.95
Bridge over Petu Nallah o	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	20	20.49	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bridge over Beena Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	40	18.90	0.00
Bridge over Uhi river on	Ru. Bridges	Mandi	85	163.67	18.19
Bridge over Beg Nallah on	Ru. Bridges	Simla	20	21.29	0.00
Bridge over Davidhar khad	Ru. Bridges	Simla	18	26.68	0.00
Bridge over Bhinna Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Simla	22	25.08	0.00
Bridge over Majhoti Khad	Ru. Bridges	Simla	40	71.98	8.00
Bridge over Patal Khad on	Ru. Bridges	Simla	22	9.83	0.00
Bridge over Patal Khad	Ru. Bridges	Simla	30	26.37	0.00
Bridge over river Spiti	Ru. Bridges	Lahul & Spiti	75	144.05	16.01
Bridge over Shama Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Simla	20	13.21	1.47
Bridge Khad on Sanan Ghatt	Ru. Bridges	Simla	27	48.37	4.54
Bridge over Bhagoli Nalla	Ru. Bridges	Simla	17	33.30	0.00
Bridge over Millah Khad o	Ru. Bridges	Sirmaur	22	30.31	0.00
Bridge over Budhar Nallah	Ru. Bridges	Una	20	14.21	0.00
Bridge over Jogipanga Kha	Ru. Bridges	Una	37	11.11	0.00
				19685.37	1617.00

Hawala Money in Kashmir

657. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned—Punch ke sarahadi gaonwo mein sir chad kar bol raha hai hawala ka paisa—appearing in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated September 9, 2003;

(b) if so, whether this Hawala money is being used by terrorists to get the local people engage in illegal work and to purchase properties to acquire citizenship etc.;

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to check it and the results thereof;

(d) whether the other border areas of the country are receiving hawala money like this and whether the Government has also conducted investigations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The news item referred to, had appeared in the newspaper 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 18th September, 2003.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Tariff Set for International Trade

658. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any standard tariffs set for international trade for Non-Aligned and other developing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. There is no uniform standard tariff set for international trade for Non-Aligned and other developing countries.

(b) Does not arise.

IPO of PSB

659. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked public sector banks to approach the capital market with initial public offerings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export Target

660. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had fixed 15 billion export target during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it has been achieved during the said period;

(d) the export target fixed for the year 2003-04;

(e) the extent to which it has been achieved so far; and

(f) the facilities are being provided to the exporters to achieve the target for 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A target of US\$ 13.0 billion was fixed for export of textile products during the year 2002-03, although Export Promotion Councils were asked to target US\$ 15.0 billion. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, textile exports during 2002-2003 have amounted to US\$ 11.84 billion; meaning thereby that 91.1% of the annual export target has been achieved during 2002-2003.

(d) and (e) A target of US\$ 13.5 billion has been fixed for export of textile products during 2003-04. As per latest available Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, textile exports during the period April-July 2003 have amounted to US\$ 3.7 billion; meaning thereby that 27.4% of the annual export target has been achieved during the first four months.

(f) Government has been providing several facilities to the exporters to achieve the export target for 2003-2004. Some of the important facilities given are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to making fabric production competitive, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/

programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.
- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

661. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rules regarding import of gold from foreign countries;

(b) the agency through which gold can be imported and the authority designated for according permission for such import;

(c) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation had given permission to the Union Bank of Switzerland to import gold;

(d) if so, the quantity of gold imported and the persons involved in that deal; and

(e) the decision that had been taken by the Government in regard to aforesaid gold import deal and the factual position of said deal at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Import of gold is regulated in terms of the Exim Policy of the Government (Chapter 2 and 4).

(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India and Reserve Bank of India are the designated authorities which can accord permission to specified agencies for import of gold for supply to the exporters and domestic market in India. Presently there are 17 agencies which have been given permission for import of gold. Out of 17 agencies, 13 are the banks and remaining 4 are as follows:—

- (i) MMTC Limited
- (ii) Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation (HHEC)
- (iii) State Trading Corporation (STC)
- (iv) PEC Limited.

Depending on demand/supply situation, imports are also arranged by MMTC Limited from other London Bullion Market Association members against Letters of Credit.

(c) to (e) Out of 214.33 tonnes of gold imported by MMTC during the three years 2000-01 to 2002-03, about 68 tonnes of gold was imported from Union Bank of Switzerland.

The investigation relating to selection of the Union Bank of Switzerland for import of gold by MMTC Ltd. and the persons involved in the transaction has been entrusted to CBI.

[English]

Modernisation of Jute Mills

662. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have planned to modernize the jute mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have increased capital subsidy for modernization of jute mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has introduced the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1st April 1999. Under the TUF Scheme, the textile mills including jute mills are entitled to get 5% reimbursement on the interest actually charged by the identified financial institutions on sanctioned projects for modernization of their units. In addition, the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC), Kolkata, a statutory organization under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles is executing a scheme w.e.f. 8th July, 2002 to modernize the jute mills in the country namely 'the JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Industry'. The scheme provides for extending incentive @ 15% on any investment for procurement of machinery by any cess paying jute unit towards modernization/upgradation of the jute mill. However, the jute mills are allowed to avail only one of the benefits either under the JMDC Scheme or under the TUF Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With effect from 19th September, 2003 the subsidy under "the JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry" has been increased to 20% for establishment of new modern jute mills in new locations pertaining to jute growing areas having inadequate jute processing facilities, after payment of cess for at least 3 months.

Apparel Parks

663. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government for financial assistance to set up Apparel Parks in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government to such request; and

(d) the number of Parks sanctioned for setting up along with the details of the places where they are being set up or proposed to set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Two project proposal were received from the State

Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up an Apparel Park at Vishakhapatnam with a project cost of Rs. 27.53 crores (including cost of land) and at Kuppam with a project cost of Rs. 26.63 crores under 'Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme'. The Project Approval Committee (PAC), constituted under the guidelines of the Scheme, has accorded in-principal approval to the project proposal for setting up an Apparel Park at Vishakhapatnam. The PAC has also decided that the project proposal for setting up of Apparel Parks at Kuppam may be taken up for consideration at an appropriate stage later on after evaluating the success achieved in implementing already sanctioned Apparel Park project at Vishakhapatnam.

(d) Since the inception of scheme, eleven Project Proposals have been sanctioned for setting up Apparel Parks at Tronica City & Kanpur (U.P.), Surat (Gujarat), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalore (Karnataka), Tirupur & Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), SEZ Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Mahal (Jaipur, Rajasthan).

Externally Aided Projects

664. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of on-going externally aided projects in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total amount involved in these projects, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided by the foreign financial institutes during each of the last three years, project-wise and FFI-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The number of externally aided projects in the State sector being implemented in various States of the country and the amount involved is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Project-wise details of financial assistance provided by foreign financial institutions during each of the last three years is available in the website of Ministry of Finance at www.finmin.nic.in/caaa.

Statement

(Figures in million)

State	No. of Projects	Loan/Grant Amount												
		US Dollars	SDR (Spl. Drawing Rights)	Japanese Yen	Euro	British Pound	Indian Rupee	Norwegian Kroner	Denish Kroner	Swiss Franc	Netherlands Guilder	Swedish Kroner	Canadian Dollar	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Andhra Pradesh	28	1038.20	571.45	22449.00	73.68	197.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Assam	1	-	81.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bihar	1	0.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gujarat	19	1107.56	367.65	22806.00	117.69	-	550.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Haryana	6	3.76	9.65	-	48.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Himachal Pradesh	4	-	-	226.81	-	9.08	-	24.00	-	-	-	-	-	
Karnataka	26	596.58	278.00	44420.00	54.24	23.39	-	-	239.00	-	-	-	-	
Kerala	13	515.00	78.90	17109.00	60.21	11.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Madhya Pradesh	10	380.00	84.20	20277.00	-	-	-	-	138.58	-	-	-	-	
Maharashtra	19	581.10	81.47	302.76	128.30	16.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Manipur	2	-	-	3962.00	8.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meghalaya	1	-	-	1700.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Multistate	21	273.07	760.65	88.30	22.90	-	-	-	17.49	12.50	0.80	-	-	
Orissa	22	240.65	251.60	7760.00	44.22	138.20	-	40.00	89.89	-	-	13.50	-	
Punjab	2	0.45	-	5054.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pondicherry	1	-	-	-	6.65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rajasthan	20	432.75	243.50	16981.70	215.08	17.14	18.85	-	-	-	-	80.00	14.99	
Sikkim	1	-	-	-	3.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tamil Nadu	14	185.50	161.00	13324.00	149.20	-	-	-	195.95	-	-	60.00	-	
Uttar Pradesh	14	647.50	356.00	0.00	60.43	15.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Uttaranchal	1	-	-	-	22.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
West Bengal	23	433.47	-	126976.86	78.43	45.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

I.T. Tribunals

665. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than Rs. 90,000 crore is locked up in income tax disputes with the existing number of IT Appellate Tribunals unable to handle the cases;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up additional IT Appellate Tribunals to clear the backlog;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revive the setting up of a National Court of Direct Taxes initiated during early 1990s; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) The outstanding amount of income-tax disputes before the ITAT is Rs. 28,94,102 (in lacs) as on 01.9.2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Textiles Industry

666. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any undertaking of new textile industry in Bihar for removing industrial backwardness in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the place where it is likely to be set up and the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Central Government does not propose to set up any undertaking of new textile industry in the country including Bihar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Financial Assistance to SSI

667. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken measures to boost financing for small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its status as on date;

(c) whether there are certain bottlenecks in such financing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) With a view to ensure enhance flow of credit to SSI Sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government have *inter-alia* taken the following measures:

(1) Banks have been advised to ensure that out of their total funds lent to SSI Sector, atleast 40% should be made available to units with investment in Plant and Machinery upto Rs. 5 lakhs and 20% should be made available to units with investment in plant and machinery between Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 25 lakhs. Thus 60% of the funds earmarked for SSI Sector should go to small units in tiny sector.

(2) In the Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy 2003-04 announced by RBI Governor, Banks have been advised to increase the limit of dispensation of collateral requirement for loans from the existing level of Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs based on good track record and financial position of the SSI Units.

(3) Banks have been advised to enhance the composite loan limit from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs.

(4) Banks have been advised to open at least one Specialized SSI branch in each district. Further, banks have been permitted to categorize their general banking branches having 60% or more of their advances to SSI sector as specialized SSI branches in order to encourage them to

open more specialized SSI branches for providing better service to this sector as a whole.

- (5) Introduction of new Credit Guarantee Scheme for Small Industries by SIDBI, Collateral Free Loans upto Rs. 25 lakh is covered for guarantee under the scheme.
- (6) As per the decisions taken at the Standing Advisory Committee Meetings of RBI, the banks have been advised to fix self set target for growth in advances to SSI Sector over the pervious year's achievement and overall trends in growth of net bank credit.
- (7) As per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2003-04 IBA have already advised the banks to adopt the interest rate band of 2% above and below its prime lending rate (PLR) for secured advances. The individual banks will be adhering to the instructions issued by the IBA with the approval of their respective Boards. Banks have also been advised to examine having three slabs for rate of interest for loans upto Rs. 50,000/- between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 2,00,000/- and those above Rs. 2,00,000/-.

Banks have been advised to adhere to all the policy measures/instructions issued by RBI from time to time.

Foodgrains Storage in Plastic Bags

668. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute, Hapur asked to study the suitability of plastic bags for storing foodgrains has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the shelf life of foodgrains stored in the bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI), Hapur, based on the findings of its short term study has suggested that anti-slip PP/HDPE

bags may be used for storage of foodgrains in a phased manner.

(c) The shelf life of foodgrains stored in PP/HDPE bags would be known after the completion of long term study of PP/HDPE bags for the storage of foodgrains proposed to be conducted by the IGMRI, Hapur.

New Techniques for Marine Products

669. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether marine products are immensely contributing to India's export growth;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of new techniques adopted in the field of marine product in respective parts of the world of its infrastructural support of maintaining fish in a proper temperature level, container support for export and quick delivery system;

(c) if so, whether Indian marine product producers and exporters are fully equipped with this infrastructure;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The share of exports of marine products in the India's total export basket is around 2.7% Exports of marine products during the year 2002-03 amounted to US\$ 1424.90 million showing a growth of 13.7% as compared to the previous year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Government have been taking several steps, which includes laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of seafood at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards; prescribing the maximum permissible level of chemicals and heavy metals; monitoring by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Export Inspection

Council of India (EIC) of the processing units to ensure that required standards are followed; schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases.

Companies Delisted from Stock Exchanges

670. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the names of the companies which are delisted from various Stock Exchange during the last two years, till date;

(b) whether the investor's complaints are resolved by the delisted companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deteriorating Condition of Powerloom Sector

671. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deteriorating condition of powerloom industry in the country, particularly of Assam State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Assam Government has requested for any Central assistance for reviving and rejuvenating Powerloom industry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to rejuvenation the Powerloom industry of the country particularly of Assam State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to

(d) The decentralized powerloom sector of the country including that in Assam, which plays a pivotal role in meeting the clothing needs of the industry, suffers from various infirmities including:

- Technological obsolescence,
- The small size of units,
- Low HRD skills and poor quality consciousness, and
- Inadequate availability of good quality power supply.

2. Government has been receiving requests for Central assistance for the powerloom industry from various parts of the country including Assam. Several initiatives taken to facilitate growth in the powerloom industry, which are also available to Assam include the following:

- (i) Central Government has announced a powerloom package in the Union Budget 2003-04 for modernization of powerloom industry by enlarging the scope of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, providing Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers and assistance for Group Workshed for powerlooms to create a better working environment and obtain high productivity. The package has been made fully operational.
- (ii) Government has taken up modernisation and strengthening of powerloom service centres, which have been set up to provide technical services of training, testing, project preparation etc.
- (iii) Computer Aided Design centres have been set up to enable small powerloom units to access new designs and upgrade fabric by product development inputs.
- (iv) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced.
- (v) Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 20% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement of on the loan availed.

(vi) Import duty on shuttleless looms has been reduced excise duty exemption has been given to indigenous automatic looms. Accelerated depreciation benefits at the rate of 50% have been extended on the weaving machinery installed under TUFs.

(vii) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.

Separate EPC for Pharmaceutical Companies

672. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate Export Promotion Council for Pharmaceuticals is being formed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location of Headquarters of this EPC; and

(c) the time by which it will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Department of Commerce has accorded a provisional approval for setting up of a separate Export Promotion Council for Pharmaceuticals (PHARMEXCIL). After consultation with the industry associations in the pharma sector, it has been decided to have the headquarters of the council at Mumbai with a regional office at Hyderabad. The proposed council is expected to start functioning with effect from 1st April 2004.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

673. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserve maintained by the Reserve Bank of India at the end of each month during the last two years;

(b) the number of times the RBI purchased Dollars to maintain the rupee value stable during the above period; and

(c) the major contribution of Foreign exchange to the country during the last two years and their quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The details of foreign exchange reserves (in US\$ million) at the end of each month for the last two years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) RBI's operations in the domestic foreign exchange market are guided by the objectivity of careful monitoring and management of exchange rates without a fixed target or a pre-announced target or a band. In pursuit of maintaining orderly conditions in the forex market, the RBI makes sales and purchases of US dollar in the domestic forex market. The quantum and frequency of sale/purchase operations of the RBI depend on market conditions. On certain occasions when the market is volatile, the RBI may operate in the market on more than one occasion during the day and on certain other occasions when the market conditions are orderly, the RBI may not purchase/sell US dollar at all during the day. As per established norms, the quantum of RBI's purchase/sale in the forex market is disclosed with a time lag of one month at an aggregated level.

(c) Details of the major contributions to foreign exchange reserves of the country during the last two years is given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

India's Monthly Foreign Exchange Reserves (US\$ Million)

	SDR	Gold	FCA's	Total Reserves
1	2	3	4	5
2002-2003				
April	12	3,131	52,107	55,250
May	9	3,249	52,890	56,148

1	2	3	4	5
June	10	3,330	54,703	58,043
July	9	3,248	56,704	59,961
August	10	3,208	58,273	61,491
September	10	3,300	59,663	62,973
October	10	3,278	61,225	64,513
November	7	3,303	63,621	66,931
December	7	3,444	66,994	70,445
January	7	3,688	69,888	73,583
February	4	3,725	69,148	72,877
March	4	3,534	71,890	75,428
2003-04				
April	4	3,389	74,253	77,646
May	1	3,673	77,932	81,606
June	1	3,698	78,546	82,245
July	5	3,628	80,949	84,582
August	3	3,720	82,624	86,347
September	4	3,919	87,213	91,136
October	4	3,920	88,674	92,598
November 21	3	3,920	91,450	95,373

Statement II*Sources of Accretion to Foreign Exchange Reserves (US\$ billion)*

Item	Apr-Mar, 2002-03	Apr-Jun, 2003-04
1	2	3
1. Current Account Balance	4.14	0.4
2. Capital Account (net)	12.84	1.3
A. Foreign Investment	4.6	1.1

	1	2	3
B. Banking Capital		8.4	0.7
C. Short Term Debt		1	0.2
D. External Commercial Borrowings		-2.3	-0.7
E. Other items in Capital Account		1.1	*
3. Valuation Change		3.8	2.0
4. Total (I+II+III)		20.8	3.7

*Negligible.

Storing and Transporting of Explosive Materials

674. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any mechanism for monitoring the storing and transporting of explosive material across the country for various purposes including quarrying;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to bring suitable amendments to the Indian Explosives Act in order to check falling of explosive material in wrong hands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Storage and transportation of explosives are regulated under the Explosives Rules 1983, which are implemented by the Department of Explosives. As per Rule 32 of the Explosives Rules 1983 "No person shall transport explosives except under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence granted under these rules." As per the rules 113 of the Explosives Rules 1983 "No person shall possess or sell or use any explosive except under and in accordance with a licence granted under these rules." As per the condition of the licence, every licensee has to submit to the licensing authorities as well as renewal authorities at the end of every month a return in Form No. 36 showing receipts and issue of explosive so as to reach the above authorities by 10th day of the succeeded month.

In addition to the Chief Controller of Explosives, under Rule 179 of the Explosives Rules 1983, local district and police authorities and Chief Inspector of Mines are also empowered to enter, inspect and examine any place in which an explosive is being manufactured, used, possessed, sold, transported, exported or imported under a licence granted under these Rules. These authorities are also empowered to seize, detain and remove any explosive found therein together with connected documents thereof in respect of which they have reason to believe that any of the provisions of the Act of Rules have been contravened.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has introduced a specific licence for possession and transport of explosives in compressor mounted motor truck/tractor for use in well sinking. The licence holder has to maintain records of purchase and use of explosives in well sinking operators and the same is to be monitored by the District Magistrates. The Department of Explosives has also issued instructions for provision of two armed guards in each explosive van transporting explosives.

Export of Rice

675. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered an enquiry into the alleged irregularities involving crores of rupees in the export of rice allegedly facilitated by the F.C.I.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether enquiry report has been submitted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Government ordered an enquiry into the alleged irregularities in the export of rice and the final enquiry report is yet to be submitted.

State Finance Corporates

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

(a) whether the Government propose to revitalize the State Financial Corporations by reducing the outstanding loans by 2% and giving a rebate of 2% in rate of interest provided by the Small industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI);

(b) if so, the names of the State financial corporations to be extended the proposed assistance and the extent to which these financial corporations are likely to improve their financial position;

(c) the total amount of loans provided by the SIDBI to these financial corporations during each of the last three years; and

(d) the concrete steps have been taken by the State financial corporations to recover the loans given by them to the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) With a view to revitalize the working of the State Financial Corporations (SFCs), the Government in consultation with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has formulated a financial package for State Financial Corporations. The Package envisages that those SFCs which would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SIDBI alongwith the respective State Governments would be eligible for following reliefs/concessions:

(1) Reduction in the rate of interest on outstanding refinance/Line of Credit by 2% p.a.

(2) A Rebate of 2% in the Rate of Interest for all future refinance/Line of Credit; and

(3) A Moratorium of One year for Repayment of existing dues.

(b) SIDBI has reported that so far the SFCs of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have entered into MoU with SIDBI alongwith the respective State Governments. The SFCs of West Bengal and Rajasthan have also shown their willingness to sign the MoU.

It is expected that the above restructuring of refinance portfolio of SIDBI for SFCs would improve their viability and overall functioning.

(c) The position of loans provided by SIDBI to the above SFCs for the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the SFC	Disbursements		
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
APSFC	115.00	95.00	105.00
KFC	79.00	70.00	16.30
KSFC	193.42	148.46	141.58
RFC	72.36	50.00	50.00
WBFC	16.69	32.87	18.16

(d) SFCs have, *inter-alia*, been taking following steps to recover the loans:

(i) Need based package of reliefs and concessions to potentially viable sick SSI Units assisted by them.

(ii) SFCs have been resorting to legal recourse u/s 30 to 32G as also seizure of units u/s 29 of SFCs Act when all other efforts to recover their dues do not yield desired results; and

(iii) One Time Settlement.

[Translation]

Allocation of Foodgrains

677. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat, rice and sugar allocated under Public Distribution System during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and during the period from April, 2003 to November, 2003, State-wise, especially Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have received any requests from certain States for allocation of more sugar, rice and wheat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the quality of foodgrains allocated to the States during the said period was substandard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):
(a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have requested for allocation of more rice and wheat under TPDS.

(d) to (f) A few State Governments have complained about issue of poor quality of "lustre lost" wheat under PDS. Lustre lost wheat is at par with sound wheat, so far as nutritional value is concerned. Keeping in view the reluctance of State Governments towards lustre low wheat, its supply was stopped to State Governments from 6th August, 2002. Only good quality foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) norms are issued to the States and Union Territories for distribution under TPDS and Other Welfare Schemes.

Statement

RICE

State-wise Allocation of Rice under Targeted Public Distribution System during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (April-November, 2003)

(in Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.793	31.535	38.194	25.463
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.887	0.959	1.045	0.611
3.	Assam	7.887	8.545	12.757	8.504
4.	Bihar	8.374	7.861	19.873	13.149
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.264	4.520	11.920	7.964
6.	Delhi	1.633	1.756	3.603	2.210
7.	Goa	0.491	0.503	0.905	0.593
8.	Gujarat	5.595	4.630	13.099	8.543
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.987	2.509	3.483	2.528
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.629	2.847	4.756	3.423

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Jharkhand	0.822	2.890	5.621	4.700
13.	Karnataka	14.853	11.575	27.079	18.053
14.	Kerala	17.465	18.219	20.136	13.424
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5.775	4.111	12.402	5.177
16.	Maharashtra	7.901	10.877	27.201	17.402
17.	Manipur	0.655	0.714	0.843	0.562
18.	Meghalaya	2.248	1.621	1.141	0.761
19.	Mizoram	0.957	1.013	0.655	0.387
20.	Nagaland	1.220	1.300	0.928	0.568
21.	Orissa	9.946	10.402	27.118	16.615
22.	Punjab	0.202	0.214	0.892	0.000
23.	Rajasthan	0.331	0.169	0.833	0.523
24.	Sikkim	0.926	0.480	0.552	0.278
25.	Tamil Nadu	15.829	18.472	57.843	38.069
26.	Tripura	1.649	1.801	2.820	1.863
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8.734	9.454	41.028	24.783
28.	Uttaranchal	0.248	0.868	2.711	1.653
29.	West Bengal	8.748	10.152	17.609	10.586
30.	A & N Islands	0.318	0.325	0.345	0.230
31.	Chandigarh	0.025	0.027	0.132	0.085
32.	D & N Haveli	0.051	0.058	0.109	0.072
33.	Daman & Diu	0.019	0.021	0.096	0.063
34.	Lakshadweep	0.065	0.066	0.052	0.025
35.	Pondicherry	0.386	0.273	0.824	0.314
Total		160.912	170.763	358.605	299.181

WHEAT

State-wise Allocation of Wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (April-November, 2003)

(in Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.960	0.960	1.537	1.024
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.082	0.089	0.107	0.066
3.	Assam	1.236	1.236	4.830	1.400
4.	Bihar	12.562	13.591	29.684	19.723
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.421	1.287	5.542	3.677
6.	Delhi	5.117	5.178	9.144	5.579
7.	Goa	0.232	0.237	0.453	0.302
8.	Gujarat	9.193	10.383	24.478	15.977
9.	Haryana	1.846	2.185	14.567	8.866
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.068	1.221	2.150	1.490
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.238	1.309	2.249	1.585
12.	Jharkhand	1.234	4.334	6.228	3.322
13.	Karnataka	3.631	2.894	6.770	4.513
14.	Kerala	4.526	4.526	4.479	2.986
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8.148	9.395	30.652	21.991
16.	Maharashtra	14.651	20.415	50.378	32.232
17.	Manipur	0.205	0.205	0.178	0.118
18.	Meghalaya	0.120	0.120	0.068	0.052
19.	Mizoram	0.151	0.121	0.113	0.081
20.	Nagaland	0.230	0.250	0.328	0.278
21.	Orissa	1.023	0.000	2.700	0.278

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Punjab	1.076	1.341	17.403	11.132
23.	Rajasthan	12.519	14.126	38.799	24.306
24.	Sikkim	0.012	0.012	0.023	0.016
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.800
26.	Tripura	0.154	0.154	0.236	0.158
27.	Uttar Pradesh	17.986	20.325	81.119	48.415
28.	Uttaranchal	0.170	0.576	3.547	1.965
29.	West Bengal	13.549	12.543	44.964	30.079
30.	A & N Islands	0.098	0.102	0.111	0.074
31.	Chandigarh	0.155	0.170	0.756	0.482
32.	D & N Haveli	0.013	0.016	0.030	0.020
33.	Daman & Diu	0.007	0.009	0.021	0.011
34.	Lakshadweep	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.003
35.	Pondicherry	0.062	0.002	0.035	0.008
Total		113.680	129.318	384.682	245.133

SUGAR

State-wise Allocation of Levy Sugar under Targeted Public Distribution System during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (April-November, 2003)

(in Lakh Tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allocation			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
Direct Allottee States/UTs					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	335140	131508	131508	77784
2.	Bihar	457445	261246	261246	98615
3.	Jharkhand	16447	88478	88478	36720

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Chandigarh	2917	968	968	609
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	890	604	604	391
6.	Delhi	148991	35952	35952	17796
7.	Goa	6190	1740	1740	1035
8.	Daman and Diu	624	156	156	100
9.	Gujarat	203441	79848	79848	40006
10.	Haryana	84525	33668	33668	16804
11.	Himachal Pradesh	54060	57592	57592	38192
12.	Karnataka	209653	114332	114332	74438
13.	Kerala	128996	56436	56436	24824
14.	Madhya Pradesh	354406	160338	160338	80051
15.	Chhattisgarh	11037	58170	58170	29109
16.	Maharashtra	393668	219532	219532	92350
17.	Orissa	169637	111944	111944	26975
18.	Pondicherry	6844	3092	3092	2032
19.	Punjab	95197	21404	21404	13472
20.	Rajasthan	234144	98288	98288	41628
21.	Tamil Nadu	273283	143420	143420	93350
22.	Uttar Pradesh	776528	426464	426464	205681
23.	Uttaranchal	12848	73960	73960	48655
24.	West Bengal	347666	184636	184636	92492
FCI operated States/UTs					
25.	A&N Islands	4622	4816	4816	3196
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	9850	10196	10196	6766
27.	Assam	213864	225836	225836	148868
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	82692	85280	85280	56130

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Lakshadweep	1372	1424	1424	942
30.	Manipur	20824	21572	21572	14312
31.	Meghalaya	20118	20848	20848	13832
32.	Mizoram	7860	8148	8148	5354
33.	Nagaland	13886	14404	14404	9516
34.	Sikkim	4622	4792	4792	3178
35.	Tripura	31256	32368	32368	21478

[English]

Textile Exports

678. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 percent of the total industrial production in the country is produced in the textile sector while its share in the overall exports is 30 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is need to increase production to reduce the gap between production and export; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per the latest available data, the share of textile manufacturing was 13.3% of GDP (manufacturing) in 1999-2000. The share of textile exports *vis-a-vis* overall exports for the corresponding period was 28.6%.

(c) and (d) There is need to increase production as well as export of textile items for domestic as well as overseas markets. Some of the important steps taken by the Government to increase the production and exports in the textile sector are as follows:

- Launching of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of textile industry;

- Launching of Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;

- Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities;

- Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;

- Announcements in consecutive Budgets aiming *inter-alia* at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector to improve competitiveness and reducing costs of machinery critical to technology upgradation;

- Launching of Technology Mission on the Cotton to achieve increasing cotton productivity and upgrade its quality upto international standards;

- De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI;

- Setting up of Apparel Parks and providing infrastructure facilities therein for encouraging growth and competitiveness of clothing in global market.

Central Excise Duty Collected from Orissa

679. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of central excise collected from the State of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the performance of other Eastern States in the collection of revenues during those years;

(c) whether the number of cases of evading central excise has increased in these years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The amount of central excise* collected from the State of Orissa during last three years is as below:

(Rs. Crore)	
Year	Amount of excise duty collected from State of Orissa
2000-2001	924.36
2001-2002	842.27
2002-2003	1002.29

(b) The performance of other Eastern States in collection of excise revenue during last three years is as below:

(Rs. Crore)		
Year	Amount of excise duty collected from State of	
	West Bengal [#]	North-Eastern States [§]
2000-2001	3434.83	1498.93
2001-2002	3502.63	1219.60
2002-2003	4360.11	1492.20

* Excluding cess administered by other departments.

[#] Inclusive of revenue of State of Sikkim and U.T. of Andaman & Nicobar.

[§] Comprising the States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.

Note: Above figures are provisional and as per departmental records.

(c) There were 58, 67 and 30 cases detected by Commissionerates and DGCEI in the State of Orissa evading central excise in 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively. This shows that number of cases of evasion of central excise have not increased over the years in the State of Orissa.

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

Functioning of CEIB

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

(a) whether the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau has been set up and is functioning independently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the economic crimes investigated by the Bureau since its inception: and

(d) the action taken thereon by the Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) was set up in July, 1985 with the main objective of coordinating and strengthening the intelligence gathering activities of various agencies which are concerned with investigation into economic offences and enforcement of economic laws. The Bureau functions under the Department of Revenue.

(c) and (d) Being an intelligence organization, CEIB does not generally investigate economic crimes but collates and passes on the intelligence inputs relating to economic crimes to the agencies concerned, for investigation by the latter.

Auction Centre for Tobacco

681. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of ordinary and semi-flavourable virginia tobacco during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Raygada in Orissa stands third in virginia tobacco cultivation in the country;

(c) if so, whether auction centre of virginia tobacco at Raygada has been opened;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which said auction centre likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The production of filler and semi flavourable Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco during each of the last three years state-wise is given below;

(Quantity in million kilogram)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Orissa	Maharashtra	Karnataka
2000-01@	1.27+*1.25	*0.72	—	41.98
2001-02	88.72+*30.87	*0.46	0.11	57.68
2002-03	91.33+*35.42	*0.44	0.03	63.26

*semi flavourful tobacco. @crop holiday year

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The total FCV tobacco production in Rayagada is about 0.44 million kilogram. This is about 0.23% of the total FCV tobacco production in the country. A separate auction platform for marketing such a small quantity is not considered viable. A majority of the growers of the area too asked the Tobacco Board to allow them to market their produce in Northern Light Soils (NLS) area of Andhra Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

Distribution of Essential Commodities

682. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for distribution of essential commodities in the States;

(b) whether any discrepancy has been found in this regard in the recent past; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) to (c) The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments under which the responsibility for distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries through a vast network of Fair Price Shops all over India, lies with the State Governments. The allocation of foodgrains to all States/UTs is being made by the Central Government as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-94), updated on the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000, without exception. Some of the states have issued more number of ration cards than the estimated number of families. However, the allocation of foodgrains to all the States/UTs is made on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for each States/UT or the number of ration cards actually issued by them whichever is less. This criteria for allocation cannot be changed for any States/UT in isolation.

[*English*]

Pending Project in Maharashtra

683. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite all odds of financial crunch, Maharashtra retained in traditional leadership as foremost investment destination and as on September, 2003, the State had outstanding projects investment of Rs. 2,10.026 crore; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects so outstanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. Investments proposed in Maharashtra by way of Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEM) field and Letters of Intents (LOIs) granted between August, 1991 to September, 2003 were highest in the country at Rs. 233511 Crs. (IEMs) and Rs. 12764 Crs. (LOI) aggregating to Rs. 246275 Crs.

(b) Total number of projects proposed during this period in Maharashtra were 10102 (IEMs) and 551 (LOIs).

SBI Schemes for NRI

684. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SBI has launched two individual deposit schemes for NRIs for a limited period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the minimum amount fixed for deposit under these two schemes; and

(d) the response shown by NRIs under these two schemes since its launching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. State Bank of India has launched two schemes namely 'Pravasi Vaibhav' and 'Pravasi Samridhhi' w.e.f. 24.9.2003. Details of both the schemes are as under:

- (i) 'Pravasi Vaibhav' is essentially an NRE deposited for 1 year with an underlying forward contract to enable the Bank to pay maturity proceeds in US \$. The yield on the deposit is NRE deposit rate for 1 year minus the cost of forward contract. RBI has permitted booking of forward contract on behalf of NRIs against their deposits.
- (ii) 'Pravasi Samridhhi' deposit in US \$, Euro and GBP for tenures of 1, 2 and 3 years was offered at Bank's OBUs at Mumbai (SEEPZ), Bahrain, Singapore and Nassau.
- (iii) The interest rate offered on 'Pravasi Samridhhi' deposit scheme was slightly higher than FCNR(B) deposits.
- (iv) Loan facility was made available to NRIs against both the deposits.
- (v) Minimum amount of deposit under 'Pravasi Vaibhav' scheme is US \$ 10,000. In case of 'Pravasi Samridhhi' scheme, the minimum amount was US \$ 5000/GBP 5000/Euro 5000.

(d) Since, the launching of these schemes w.e.f. 24.9.2003, the Bank has mobilized Rs. 293.70 crore and Rs. 18.14 crore under Pravasi Samridhhi and Pravasi Vaibhav schemes respectively.

F.I.I. Operating in Stock Market

685. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign institutional investors operating in Indian stock market and their dealings in different stock exchanges; and

(b) the norms prescribed by the Government to these FIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that as on November 28, 2003, 515 Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were registered with it. FIIs mainly trade through The Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

(b) The registration and regulation of the Foreign Institutional Investors and their sub-accounts is done by SEBI under the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations 1995 which were notified in November 1995. An FII can invest in the securities in the primary and secondary markets including shares, debentures and warrants of companies, Units of schemes floated by domestic mutual funds including Unit Trust of India, dated Government securities including treasury bills, Derivatives traded on a recognised stock exchange and Commercial paper.

The exposure of FIIs in the cash market and derivatives market in India are subject to limits notified/prescribed by SEBI from time to time.

FII regulations were amended in August, 2003 to provide for furnishing of information by FII/sub-accounts about issue of all offshore derivative instruments on the underlying Indian securities.

Relief on Agricultural Loans

686. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to provide a major relief on agricultural loans upto Rs. 2 lakh for the farmers;

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

(c) the number of farmers who are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There is no proposal under consideration at this stage.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Credit Cards to Artisans

687. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to issue credit cards to Artisans on the line of Kisan Credit Card;
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The criteria being adopted for issue of the card are as under:

- The Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) Scheme will cover the entire group of small borrowers of non-farm sectors including small artisans, handloom weavers, service sector, fishermen, self-employed persons, rickshaw owners and other micro-entrepreneurs.
- The normal limit of loan to be fixed under the scheme is Rs. 25,000 but in deserving cases, banks may consider higher limits. The facility may also include a reasonable component for consumption needs.
- The SCC is valid for 5 years and renewable on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory operation of the account.
- The beneficiaries under the scheme will be issued with a laminated credit card and a pass book which will serve as an identity card as well as to facilitate recording of transactions on an ongoing basis.
- The beneficiaries under the scheme would automatically be covered under group insurance with the premium being equally shared by the bank and the beneficiary.

(c) Reserve Bank of India vide its circular dated 26.9.2003 and NABARD vide its circular dated 22.9.2003 have already issued instructions to all Commercial Banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks to implement Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme in the country.

Review of Anti-Dumping Policies

688. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have signed a bilateral agreement with China for review of anti-dumping policies on annual basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have imposed high number of anti-dumping cases against Chinese products in last few years; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which fresh agreement would reserve anti-dumping cases between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a proposal to set up a discussion mechanism between the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India and Bureau of Fair Trade for Imports & Exports of the Ministry of Commerce of PR China is under consideration of the Government. The proposal envisages holding discussions for promoting exchanges and cooperation in the area of trade remedy particularly anti-dumping and countervailing duty measures.

(c) Since 1992, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties has initiated 166 cases. Out of these 166 cases, Chinese exporters are involved in 70 cases.

(d) The proposed discussion mechanism between the DGAD and Ministry of Commerce of PR China will not affect the anti-dumping cases. The proposal is to have discussions and exchange of technical information of the parties' respective ways of carrying out investigations and applying rules concerning trade defence instruments. The Authorities may draw upon individual cases that have been concluded but will not interfere with the legally established procedural and substantive framework or operation of ongoing investigations.

External Commercial Borrowings

689. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised External Commercial Borrowings Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for changing the same;

(c) the manner in which the new policy is different from the earlier policy; and

(d) the impact of new ECB policy on the value of the Indian rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the background of developments in recent months, it has become necessary to carry out the following revisions in the existing ECB policy for a temporary period until further review:

- (i) All ECBs shall be subject to the following revised maximum spreads over six months LIBOR, for the respective currency in which the loan is being raised or the applicable benchmark(s), as the case may be:

Type of Projects	Existing (all-in-cost)	New (all-in-cost)
Normal Projects	300	150
Infrastructure	400	250
Long term	450	300

- (ii) ECBs for meeting rupee expenditure under automatic route to be hedged unless there is a natural hedge in the form of uncovered foreign exchange receivables, which will be ensured by Authorised Dealers (ADs). Under the old ECB guidelines, there was no stipulation of compulsory hedging.
- (iii) ECBs exceeding USD 50 million would be permitted for the following end uses only (a) Financing import of equipment, and (b) Foreign exchange needs of infrastructure project. Under the old ECB guidelines there was no end use

restriction for ECBs except investment in capital market.

- (iv) No financial intermediary (viz. a bank, DFI, or NBFC) will be either allowed access to ECBs or to provide guarantees. However, this will not apply to Textile and Steel restricting packages which have already been announced by the Government in consultation with RBI. Under the old ECB guidelines, there was no such restriction.

- (v) ECBs pending utilization would need to be parked overseas. Under the old ECB guidelines, ECB raised were required to be utilized/brought into the country at the earliest.

- (d) The new ECB policy has not had any significant impact on the sentiment surrounding the Indian rupee.

Norms for Establishing the Project Office

690. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently taken a decision to change norms for establishing the project office by foreign entities in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The procedures for establishment of Project Offices in India have been modified to grant general permission to foreign companies meeting the eligibility criteria.

Dispute between Tea Industry and Tea Growers

691. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between tea-farmers and the tea-industry;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have persuaded and presented any formula to solve the problem; and

- (d) if so, the details of said formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Indian tea industry is at present facing a situation where the continuous fall in prices of tea, coupled with high cost of production, has adversely affected the economy of the tea plantations and small growers of tea are also getting low prices for their green leaf. The small growers feel that they do not get a reasonable price for their green leaf, while the bought leaf factories are of the view that the quality of green leaf supplied by the small grower needs to be upgraded in order to get better prices.

(c) and (d) To provide for greater transparency in the primary marketing system for tea, Government has notified the Tea Marketing Control Order 2003 and issued directives regarding changes in auction rules. In order to provide for a reasonable return to the small growers for the green leaf supplied by them to the factories, a provision has been incorporated in the TMCO 2003 for fixing a price sharing formula between the manufacturers and the small tea growers. The price sharing formula would take into account the cost parameters and the made-tea out-turn percentage prevailing in various tea growing regions of the country.

University Status to NIFT

692. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to confer deemed University status to the National Institute of Fashion Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the NIFT would be conferred the status of deemed university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A proposal for grant of status of Institute of National Importance to NIFT which automatically confer deemed university status has been initiated by the NIFT.

(c) Time by which the exercise would be completed can not be estimated.

Modernisation of FCI Godowns

693. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned Rs. 100 crore for modernisation of FCI Godowns in the country with the computer network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the disbursement of fund of modernisation of FCI godowns, State-wise and utilisation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government has approved the 'Project Integrated Information System for Foodgrains Management in FCI' at an estimated cost of Rs. 97.66 crore to be implemented in three phases for computerization and networking of Depots, field offices and headquarters of FCI.

An amount of Rs. 12 crore has been allocated during the financial year 2003-04, out of which Rs. 5.97 crore has already been released by FCI to National Informatics Centre Service Incorporated for procurement of hardware, system software etc. Funds are not allocated State-wise for the purpose.

Corporate Nexus In Manipulating Capital Market

694. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has inadequate infrastructure for inspection and investigation of corporate nexus in manipulating the capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the DCA to safeguard the capital market from such nexus?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (d) Does not arise as capital market operations, under the provisions of the SEBI Act and Section 55A of the Companies Act, 1956, is the responsibility of SEBI.

(c) Safeguards such as (1) restrictions of purchase by company of its own or its holding company shares (Section 77), (2) Audit Committee (Section 292A) and (3) restriction on giving loan to body corporates and purchase by company of shares, etc. of other companies, (Section 370 and 372) already exist in the Companies Act, 1956. Certain additional safeguards have been proposed in the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

CBI Raids on Padmani Technology Ltd.

695. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has carried out raids at various places in connection with the fraudulent issue of shares by Padmini Technology Ltd;

(b) if so, the details of location where raids were carried out; and

(c) the details of seizure made and the persons arrested alongwith the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raids were carried out at certain places in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata.

(c) During searches some relevant documents pertaining to fraudulent allotment of preferential shares and payments thereof have been seized. No person has been arrested in this case so far.

Trade with Egypt

696. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade with Egypt stands at 771 million US dollar in 2002-03;

(b) whether our import from Egypt exceed our exports;

(c) if so, whether any efforts have been made to manage more exports of tea and wheat to Egypt;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Tea Board has increased its presence in Egypt; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per official statistics, India's trade with Egypt, excluding crude oil imports, amounted to US\$ 524.74 million in 2002-2003.

(b) Non-oil imports from Egypt amounted to US\$ 226.57 million while exports to that country amounted to US\$ 298.17 million during 2002-2003.

(c) to (f) During 2002-03, tea exports to Egypt amounted to US\$ 0.84 million as compared to US\$ 0.52 million in the previous year, registering an increase of 60.7%. Egypt has not been importing wheat from India. Efforts are now being made to explore the wheat market in that country.

Regularisation of FCI Workers

697. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether actions have been taken by the FCI for the regularisation/departmentalisation of the headload workers and ancillary workers as part of the establishment of contract labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of HLW and ancillary workers covered under DPS at present, State-wise;

(c) whether petitions/memorandum have been received from the member of Parliament or from Trade Unions in Kerala regarding the issues/problems faced by the headload workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Consequent upon the decision for abolition of Contract Labour System in some depots of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the labourers have been regularized under Direct Payment System strictly as per the requirements of the Food Corporation of India, from time to time.

(b) At present, about 24943 Handling Labourers and about 7923 Ancillary Labourers are working under Direct Payment System in the depots of the FCI throughout the country. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir. Petitions/Memoranda have been received from Hon'ble MPs/Trade Unions in Kerala for regularization of ex-contractor's workers instead of utilization of surplus DPS labourers, in the notified depots of West Hill (Calicut), Mavelikara and Challakudy in Kerala Region.

(d) Action has been taken by the Management of the Food Corporation of India as per Government's decision for implementation of the Notification of the Ministry of Labour dated 12.11.2001, that the FCI should normally utilize the existing surplus labour in the Region instead of regularising the contract labourers in the notified depots of West Hill (Calicut), Mavelikara and Challakudy in Kerala Region. This decision has been taken keeping in view the judgement dated 30.08.2001 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of SAIL etc. that the contract labourers do not have the right for automatic regularization in the establishment despite issuance of Notification by the appropriate Government for prohibition of employment of contract labour.

Statement

State-wise No. of Head Load Workers (HLW) and Ancillary Workers (AW) under Direct Payment System in the FCI

Name of State/Region	Number of Workers	
	Head Loan Workers	Ancillary Workers
1	2	3
Delhi	164	107
Jammu & Kashmir	551	68
Punjab	11336	3113
Uttar Pradesh	051	710
Uttaranchal	263	112
Andhra Pradesh	2419	721
Kerala	1924	687
Karnataka	519	182
Tamil Nadu	1191	596
Gujarat	67	50

1	2	3
Maharashtra	385	207
Madhya Pradesh	517	219
Chhatisgarh (Raipur)	594	335
Bihar	117	29
Jharkhand (Ranchi)	129	34
Orissa	400	179
West Bengal	1517	427
Assam	753	427
N.E.F.	46	0
Total	24943	7923

Technology Upgradation Fund

698. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through Commercial Banks are providing loans to various textile units in the country to upgrade their existing technology;

(b) the details of the such units who have availed the loan facilities during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of application pending for such loans during the current year state-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), which is in operation with effect from 01.04.99 till 31.03.2007, Commercial Banks and Financial institutions (FIs) are providing loans to various textile units in the country to upgrade their existing technology as well as to set up new units;

(b) No. of units who have availed the loan facilities during each of the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. crore)

During	Receipt		Sanctioned		Disbursed	
	No. of applications	Cost of Project	No. of applications	Amount	No. of applications	Amount
2000-2001	719	6296	616	2090	494	1863
2001-2002	472	1900	444	630	401	804
2002-2003	494	1835	456	839	411	931

(c) and (d) Under the TUFs applications for loans are received by Banks/FIs which apply their prudential norms before sanctioning the loan. These applications are also examined to check whether they are in conformity with the Scheme or not. Therefore, at any point of time the applications are at various levels of examination till they are finally sanctioned or rejected. Applications are cleared as expeditiously as possible. There is a Technical Advisory and Monitoring Committee (TAMC) in the Office of Textile Commissioner, Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Textile Commissioner to monitor the Scheme including expeditious disposal of applications.

World Bank's Suggestions on Tariffs

699. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested India to cut tariff and remove non-tariff barriers before it enters into free trade agreements with the ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Regional Rural Banks in Orissa

700. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) covering Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts in Orissa;

(b) the prime need of the farmers in those districts identified by these banks; and

(c) the schemes/programmes through which the farmers in those districts have been assisted by those RRB's during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank, Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank & Kalahandi Anchalik Gramya Bank cover Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa respectively.

(b) The prime need of the farmers in those districts identified by these banks are agricultural loans, consumption loans, housing loans, small business finance,

cottage and village industries, creation of additional irrigation facilities, water conservation, agro processing units, dairy activities etc.

(c) During the last three years, for the benefit of farmers, RRBs financed schemes and programmes relating to agricultural & allied activities, rural artisans & other industries, small business, cottage and village industries, irrigation facilities, inland fisheries, dairy activities, purchase of tractors Swaran Jayanti Swarojgaar Yojana and other Government sponsored programmes.

Credit Policy of RBI

701. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has announced recently the mid-term review of monetary and credit policy 2003-04;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the difference between the earlier policy and new credit policy;

(d) the impact of continued reduction of interest rates on depositors and banks;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the mid-term review of monetary and credit policy on November 3, 2003.

(b) and (c) RBI has proposed to continue with the overall stance of monetary policy announced in the annual policy statement of April 2003 for the remaining half of the current year. The salient features of policy measures are: (i) bank rate kept unchanged at 6.0 per cent, (ii) cash reserve ratio kept unchanged at 4.5 per cent, (iii) measures to improve credit delivery to agriculture and small scale sectors, (iv) simplification of procedures and complete flexibility in micro-finance structure to boost credit, (v) further move towards pure inter-bank call-notice money market, (vi) flexibility to exporters in realisation of exports proceeds and write-off of overdues, up to 10 per cent of their exports proceeds in a calendar year, (vii) Indian Banks' Association to advise banks on the benchmark Prime Leading Rate keeping in view the operational requirements.

(c) and (e) The reduction in deposit rates has helped scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) to reduce their total operating cost. As a result, the ratio of operating profit to total assets improved from 1.5 per cent in 2000-01 to

1.9 per cent in 2001-02 and further to 2.4 per cent in 2002-03. The continued reduction of deposit rates by SCBs in recent years is consistent with general downward trends of relative interest rates and inflation rate in India. Aggregate deposits of SCBs have recorded continuous increases from Rs. 9,62,618 crore as on March 23, 2001 to Rs. 11,03,360 crore as on March 22, 2002 to Rs. 12,80,853 crore as on March 21, 2003 and further to Rs. 13,91,209 crore as on October 31, 2003.

Income Tax Ombudsman

702. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to set up an Income Tax Ombudsman to resolve individual complaints of tax payers and improve the quality of tax administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by when it will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Necessary action for setting up of the Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman is being taken. It is not possible at present to indicate any exact timeframe in this regard.

Electoral Reforms

703. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have convened an all party meeting in October, 2003 to evolve a consensus on a four-point agenda involving electoral reforms, including an enhancement in the security deposit for independent candidates and Election Commission's demand for financial autonomy;

(b) if so, whether there has been a unanimous opinion on these issues;

(c) whether any concrete formula has been evolved after the meeting; and

(d) if so, the time by which electoral reforms are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The following four issues were discussed in the all-party meeting convened by the Government on 29.10.2003:

(i) the system of open ballot for the elections to the Council of States.

(ii) Amendment of the Constitution to confer upon the Election Commissioners the same protection in the matter of removal from office as is available to the Chief Election Commissioner.

(iii) Enactment of a legislation to provide that the salaries, allowances and pension payable to the Election Commissioners and the administrative expenses of the Election Commission shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

(iv) Enhancement of the security deposit for contesting Parliamentary and Assembly elections.

(b) No, Sir. There was broad consensus, however, on the issue of introducing the system of open ballot for elections to the Council of States, with regard to incorporating suitable provisions in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 to authorize the political parties (either through the concerned candidates or election agents or otherwise) to inspect ballot papers of their respective members while being put in the ballot box and also within the specified period, after the counting is over.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided in favour of introducing open ballot system in the election to the Council of States. As regards other issues, they may be discussed by the Government with political parties at an appropriate time as part of the process of reform of electoral laws. It is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and no timeframe can be suggested in this regard.

Delimitation Commission

704. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delimitation Commission has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies are likely to be completed before the next General Elections due in 2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Delimitation Commission has informed that as the final data of 2001 Census is yet to be published, it may not be possible to complete the exercise of delimitation for all the States in time for the next Lok Sabha general elections, which are normally due in the last quarter of 2004.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Chinese Goods

705. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Chinese goods are being stockpiled in the country;

(b) if so, whether Chinese goods are being imported as per the import policy and tax regime;

(c) if not, whether the Government had held any dialogue with the Chinese Government on this problem; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the dialogue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the increased import of Chinese goods into the country. Imports are allowed as per the existing import policy and after payment of the applicable customs duty. However, based on the petitions received from the domestic industry regarding dumping of goods from China, the Directorate-General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties has till dated initiated 70 anti-dumping investigations involving exporters from China. The present status of these cases is as follows:

Cases in which Final Findings have been issued by DGAD	—	58
Cases in which Preliminary Findings have been issued and provisional duty imposed	—	6
Cases under investigation for Preliminary findings	—	3
Cases initiated but closed	—	3

(c) and (d) Proposal to set up a discussion mechanism between the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India and Bureau of Fair Trade for Imports & Exports of the Ministry of Commerce of PR China is under consideration of the Government. The proposal envisages discussions and exchange of technical information of the parties' respective ways of carrying out investigations and applying rules concerning trade defence instruments. The Authorities may draw upon individual cases that have been concluded but will not interfere with the legally established procedural and substantive framework or operation of ongoing investigations.

Product Patent Regime for Drugs

706. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for accepting the Product Patent regime;

(b) the details of our gains and losses due to this change;

(c) the possible effect on drug prices when product Patent comes into force;

(d) the plans of the Government to control medical costs; and

(e) the number of product patents have been filed by the Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Indian is a signatory to the agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The WTO agreement, *inter-alia*, contains an Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) which requires member countries to align their laws on intellectual property in conformity with their obligations under the TRIPs Agreement. Patent Law is one of the elements of the TRIPs Agreement. In respect of India, this agreement, *inter-alia*, provides for a three-stage timeframe to comply with patent-related obligations. India has already complied with the obligations that came into force from January 01, 1995 and January 01, 2000. The next stage of obligations, which require the introduction of a product patent regime in the fields of inventions relating to drugs is due from January 01, 2005.

The Patents Act, 1970 provides for a comprehensive set of safeguards to deal with the issues relating to availability and pricing of medicines. The provisions were comprehensively and recently reviewed by the Joint

Committee of Parliament which examined the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and provided effective flexibilities to enable an appropriate, timely and efficient response to national and public interest requirement/ concerns, especially those relating to public health and nutrition. The amendments were notified on June 26, 2002 as the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002. The safeguards in the Indian Patent law to deal with public health concerns are; compulsory licensing, Government use, parallel imports and assumption and revocation of patent rights. These measures are intended to ensure availability of products covered by patents, including medicines, at reasonably affordable prices. Apart from the measures contained in the patents law, India also has a drug price control mechanism to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices. Further, almost all essential drugs are outside patent protection and for essential drugs under patent protection, alternatives are available in most cases.

(e) In order to meet transitional obligations effective from January 01, 1995 under the TRIPs Agreement, India has provided for receipt and storage of product patent applications in the field of medicines till the introduction of the product patent regime. These applications have been kept in a 'mailbox' and are to be taken up for examination only with effect from January 01, 2005.

UNDP Assistance in Jute Sector

707. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought the UNDP assistance for the development in the processing of jute products;

(b) if so, the details of projects under implementation with this assistance and the amount of UNDP assistance allocated and released to each State during each of the last three years and 2003-2004;

(c) whether the Government have introduced/proposed to introduce some more effective schemes for the development of jute sector;

(d) if so, the financial provision made in this regard during the said period, State-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(e) the details of achievements made by implementing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has approved a project involving financial and technical assistance under the Fibres & Handicrafts Programme (FHAP) of Country Cooperation Framework-I (CCF-I) of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1999-2000. The following table provides the sub-projects under the FHAP of CCF-I which are concerned with development of processing of jute products, alongwith the yearwise allocation and release of funds from 2000-01 to 2003-04:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Project title	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Betterment of Farmers	13.00	13.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	—	—
Strategic Marketing Plan	25.56	25.56	44.00	44.00	—	—	—	—
HRD Workers' Training	40.00	40.00	12.00	12.00	5.00	5.00	2.00	2.00
Assistance to NGOs	104.00	104.00	17.50	17.50	81.12	81.12	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Transfer of Technology for Jute Retting	—	—	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	7.60	4.00
Commercialization of Technologies	6.00	6.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme	29.56	29.56	144.56	144.56	4.04	4.04	1.84	—
Quality Assurance	49.50	49.50	19.50	19.50	25.00	25.00	33.75	—
Machinery Development	—	—	—	—	70.93	70.93	60.00	18.17
Implementation of Marketing Plan	25.56	25.56	44.00	44.00	—	—	—	—

(c) Yes, Sir. In addition to the FHAP of CCF-I from 1999-2000, the Ministry of Textiles has introduced the following schemes for development of jute sector:

- (i) Jute Service Centre Scheme (JSC)
- (ii) Jute Raw Material Bank Scheme (JRMB)
- (iii) Market Support Scheme (MSS)
- (iv) Design/Product Development Scheme (DDS)
- (v) Sales Outlet Scheme.

(vi) Financial Assistance Scheme: (a) Micro Finance Scheme, (b) Capital Subsidy Scheme.

(vii) External Market Assistance Scheme

(viii) Jute Manufactures Development Council Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Industry.

(d) Financial provisions regarding the Schemes mentioned in (c) above are given in enclosed statement-I.

(e) The physical achievements made under these Schemes are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement I
Financial Position of GOI Schemes
NCJD Schemes

Rs./Lakhs

State	Jute Service Centre Scheme				Budgetary Provision for 2003-04	Amount Utilised up to Sep'03
	Amount Utilised for last 3 years					
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03			
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Andhra Pradesh	8.18	6.97	15.92	36.00	10.22	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	38.14	43.50	38.45	36.00	23.63
Bihar	—	—	—	22.00	19.56
Delhi	19.32	12.62	16.69	15.90	13.15
Karnataka	—	—	5.57	14.40	11.07
Madhya Pradesh	25.42	2.97	15.47	15.90	3.46
Maharashtra	—	—	—	15.90	3.89
Orissa	10.37	9.25	12.41	10.90	9.87
Rajasthan	—	—	2.83	4.60	2.00
Sikkim	—	—	2.52	4.60	3.00
Tamilnadu	27.57	18.20	28.23	31.00	26.55
Tripura	20.36	12.73	13.22	16.90	8.71
Uttar Pradesh	2.09	15.70	14.93	16.90	11.30
West Bengal	42.12	22.67	26.86	34.00	7.14
Related Expenditure	0.84	6.90	2.67	—	—
	194.41	151.51	195.77	275.00	153.55

NCJD

Jute Raw Material Bank Scheme

State	Amount Utilised for last 3 years			Budgetary Provision for 2003-04	Amount Utilised up to Sep'03
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	8.13	8.11	10.16	23.05	3.86
Assam	1.22	—	0.75	3.29	0.29
Bihar	—	—	—	3.29	—
Delhi	2.05	4.12	2.21	3.29	0.84
Gujarat	—	—	—	3.29	—
Haryana	0.84	—	1.23	3.29	0.47
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	1.69	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	3.29	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1.69	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	1.98	2.46	2.75	3.29	1.05
Manipur	—	—	—	1.18	—
Orissa	—	—	—	3.29	—
Punjab	5.03	3.89	3.68	3.29	1.40
Tamilnadu	0.14	0.65	0.44	3.29	0.17
Uttar Pradesh	5.86	4.57	2.18	9.83	0.81
West Bengal	0.77	30.95	29.27	24.66	11.16
Related Expenditure	0.89	0.86	3.23	—	—
	34.91	55.61	55.90	95.00	20.05

NCJD

Rs./Lakhs

State	Market Support Scheme				Budgetary Provision for 2003-04	Amount Utilised up to Sep'03
	Amount Utilised for last 3 years					
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03			
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Assam	5.86	6.67	14.90	16.37	6.03	
Bihar	—	—	—	3.00	2.00	
Delhi	12.54	11.75	11.98	15.57	8.90	
Goa	—	—	0.50	1.65	1.12	
Gujarat	—	—	—	1.50	0.98	
Haryana	—	—	3.60	4.68	—	
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1.20	1.56	—	
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	3.00	2.14	
Maharashtra	—	2.15	11.20	11.56	5.63	
Meghalaya	—	—	2.16	2.81	—	
Punjab	—	—	2.20	2.86	—	
Rajasthan	—	—	4.18	5.43	0.90	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	3.92	5.10	2.15
West Bengal	12.88	8.33	13.95	16.41	5.19
Related Expenditure	-	-	0.72	-	-
	31.28	28.90	70.51	91.50	35.04

NCJD

State	Design Development Scheme				
	Amount Utilised for last 3 years			Budgetary Provision for 2003-04	Amount Utilised up to Sep'03
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03		
Assam	-	-	6.95	10.08	3.05
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	4.23	6.12	-
Bihar	-	-	-	-	4.00
Delhi	-	-	3.90	5.66	3.40
Maharashtra	-	-	10.81	15.67	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	-	-	-	-	-
Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	4.66	6.76	1.28
Tamil Nadu	-	-	5.11	7.41	2.68
Tripura	-	-	1.10	1.60	-
West Bengal	6.37	8.09	5.90	8.70	4.50
Related Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
	6.37	8.09	42.66	62.00	18.91

NCJD

State	Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme			
	Amount utilised for last 3 years			2003-04
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5
Assam	-	-	23.00	-
Andhra Pradesh	10	35.52	55.00	25.96

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	-	-	50.00	-
Himachal Pradesh	1.50	-	-	-
Haryana	-	-	2.50	-
Maharashtra	-	25.00	-	-
Orissa	3.60	-	-	-
Pandicherry	7.50	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	50.00	-	-
West Bengal	51.52	89.56	39.92	10
	74.12	200.08	170.42	35.96

JMDC Schemes

Rs. in lakhs

Export Market Assistance Scheme (EMA)

Amount Utilised for last 3 years

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
The Status of EMA disbursed by JMDC to the Indian exporters from different States	1937.75	1381.17	2210.24	—

JMDC

Rs. in lakhs

States	JMDC Incentive Scheme for modernisation 2003-04*
Andhra Pradesh	11.53
Uttar Pradesh	5.53
Total	17.06

*The scheme started in 2003.

Statement II**National Centre for Jute Diversification****Physical Performance of GOI Schemes during the 9th & 10th Five Year Plan**

Name of the Scheme	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (upto Sep'03)
Jute Service Centre Scheme							
Training Programmes	37	62	82	167	136	211	103
Workshops & Demonstration	42	32	40	25	2	-	4
Beneficiaries trained	4500	6098	5650	5238	3011	5275	2575
No. of Trainees employed	1885	2439	2260	2462	1313	2479	715
Jute Yarn Bank Scheme							
Yarn Sale (in MT)	843	1300	1500	1543	1336	1125	344
Laminated Fabric Sale (in '000 mtr.)	67	170	230	267	1656.8	1797.7	473.7
No. of Beneficiaries	24	18	950	998	1345	1462	2437
Design Development Scheme							
Awareness Workshop	3	10	8	26	27	34	-
New Design Development	132	150	345	259	157	311	-
Beneficiaries Supported	189	235	265	514	579	670	-
Design Commercialised	40	37	65	67	114	102	-
Market Support Scheme							
Exhibition & Buyer-Seller Meet	5	43	24	35	45	28	9
No. of Units Supported	114	415	235	360	414	285	107
Average Sale Per Programme (in Rs. Lakhs)	1.00	0.95	0.80	0.90	1.70	2.95	3.02
Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme							
No. of units assisted	19	18	6	14	7	8	-
Estimated employment	970	1165	240	200	280	920	-
NGO Assistance Scheme							
No. of units assisted	60	50	4	43	23	46	-
Estimated no. of beneficiaries	3300	300	240	1995	605	1380	-

NCJD-Physical Performance under UNDP Schemes

Project	Implementing Agency	Cumulative Achievement
Betterment of Farmers	The South India Textile Research Association	600 kg of JRC-321 seeds multiplied in 120 acres of lands 95 MT fibres cultivated by 653 farmers. 3 value-added products developed (a) Fire-resistant upholstery for kitchens, (b) table-mats/floor mats using jute seeds, (c) jute-acrylic sweaters. 1 Jute Promotion Centre at Coochbehar established, 2 Equipments installed.
Strategic Mktg. Plan	Jute manufacturers Development Council	1 Delegation abroad, 5 fairs abroad, Jute India 2002 organised, 4 Technical Workshops on Jute Geotextiles & 1 on Jute Composites/Technical Textiles.
HRD Workers' Training	Institute of Jute Technology	9 Training centres set up. 1 Training modules in 2 languages, 8 training manuals printed in 2 languages. 10884 workers, 255 Supervisors & 30 Master Trainers have been trained.
Assistance to NGOs	National Centre for Jute Diversification	25 workshops organised, 119 NGOs sanctioned (Rs. 168 lakhs), Employment generated to 4167 persons.
Transfer of Technology for Jute Retting	Gregor Mendel Biotechnological Research & Extension Foundation	Since this one is completely an R&D activity, the benefits are yet to yield. Main objective of the project was to grow better and improved quality crop through enzymatic retting to develop marketable products in the rural sector. To make farmers aware of this new protocol, workshops have been organised.
Commercialisation of Technologies	National Centre for Jute Diversification	6 workshops organised.
Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme	National Centre for Jute Diversification	7 units financed from NCJD Corpus Fund.
Quality Assurance	Indian Jute Industries' Research Association	1145 samples tested, Norms for Jute and belended yarn (short staple) formulated, 9 testing instruments developed
Machinery Development	National Centre for Jute Diversification	Development work is going on for 6 machines Indigenously as follows: (1) Breaker-cum-Finisher Card combined with transfer mechanism, (2) Breaker-cum-Finisher Card with Drawhed and Can Changer, (3) Shuttleless Loom, (4) High Speed Flyer/Ring Spinning Machine, (5) High Speed Flyer Frame, (6) Automatic Jute Bag Making Machine.

JMDC-Physical Performance under External Market Assistance Scheme

The implementation of EMA scheme produced a positive impact on export of major items of jute goods such as: Hessian, Sacking and Yarn. Some new exportable jute products like food grade cloth/bags, jute geotextiles have also shown impressive performance. Further, export of Jute Diversified Products with floor coverings and shopping bags as the major components has shown phenomenal growth during 2002-03 as compared to the previous year. The following table on export performance of jute goods from India for the last five years will substantiate the fact:

Qty: 000'MT
Value: Rs./Million

Year	Quantity	Value
1998-99	171.0	5822.60
1999-2000	147.1	5518.18
2000-2001	187.0	6912.20
2001-2002	148.2	6133.22
2002-03	226.00	9133.21

Tender Enquiry in DGS&D

708. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the norms for issue of tender enquiry prior to finalisation of rate contracts as per Chapter-8 of DGS&D Manual are being implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons as to why the Tender Enquiry is not appearing in the ITJ (Indian Trade Journal)/Monthly Bulletin/Notice Board of regional offices at least 60 days in advance;

(c) if not, the manner in which it is being ascertained that new entrants/fresh suppliers are being given a equal chance of participation, as to fulfil eligibility criteria, they have to be registered before date of opening of Tender Enquiry;

(d) whether there has been any complaints/representations for postponement of tender opening date, due to non-registration, non-receipt of information of Tender Enquiry and technical query;

(e) if so, the number of complaints/requests received in the last one year and previous two years and how many times Tender Enquiry postponed on request of the intending participants; and

(f) the measure have been taken to disseminate the Tender Enquiries to all interested units all over the country as DGS&D is the central procurement agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All Advertised Tender Enquiries are published in ITJ, as prescribed in DGS&D Manual provisions. For Advertised Tender Enquiries, the time to be allowed for submission of tenders is not less than six weeks. DGS&D tender notices are, in addition, also posted on DGS&D website <http://dgsnd.nic.in>. The tender notices are also put on notice boards in Head Quarters/Regional Offices and published in DGS&D monthly bulletins.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Requests/complaints for extensions for various reasons have been received and dealt with on merits in individual cases.

(f) Apart from information given on DGS&D website, DGS&D publishes monthly bulletins where award of rate contract, tender notices, changes in policies/procedures and other developments are notified. DGS&D also publishes annual Directory of Stores on Rate Contracts.

Import of Crude Palmolein

709. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated new guidelines for the import of crude palmolein which provide that it must have an asset value of 2 per cent and a carotenoid value of 500-2500 mg per kg. Failing which importers will have to pay an import duty as is applicable on the refined oil;

(b) if so, the varied rates of import duty on the refined and other variety of oils imported by the Government;

(c) whether the import of crude palmolein has been adversely affected as a result thereof; and

(d) The crude oil imported during the last six months and how far the Government propose to regulate further import in the light of the revised guidelines framed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue has issued a Notification No. 120/2003-Cus dated 1st August 2003, which gives a clear definition of crude palm oil/crude palmolein. It specifies a minimum 2% acid value and a total carotenoid level of 500-2500 mg/kg in the crude palm oil/crude palmolein. The applicable rate of Customs duty on Crude palm oil/crude palmolein is @ 65% *ad valorem*. If the unrefined oil does not meet the above specifications, rate of duty would be @ 70% basic which is same as the rate specified for refined oil.

(b) The rates of duty on different varieties of crude/refined palm oil/palmolein are as follows:

Description	Classification Rate of Duty (Basic+Additional+Special)	
Crude Palm Oil	15111000,	65+Nil+Nil
RBD Palm Oil	15119010	70%+Rs. 1/Kg+Nil
Other Palm Oils	15119090	70%+Nil+Nil
Crude Palmolein	15111000	65%+Nil+Nil
RBD Palmolein	15119020	70%+Rs 1/Kg+Nil
Other Pamolein	15119090	70%+Nil+Nil

(c) The volume of import is affected not only by the rate of duty but also by the position of the demand and supply, as well as the price of the commodity in the international market.

(d) The total quantity of crude palm oil and crude palmolein imported during the last six month period ending 31.10.2003 is 22 lakh metric tones (approx).

Revised Estimate for GDP

710. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised estimates have placed the growth of the Gross Domestic Product last year at a mere 4.3 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for the mediocre performance;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Task Force has been set up to make recommendations to achieve the 8 per cent growth target during the Tenth Plan Period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As per the revised estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth rate of GDP at factor cost at constant prices is 4.3 per cent in 2002-03 compared with 5.6 per cent in 2001-02. The lower growth was mainly due to a decline of 3.2 per cent in the agriculture and allied sector due to drought conditions. The growth of industry and service sectors were 6.0 per cent and 7.1 per cent, respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the information available from the Planning Commission, no task force has been set up to make recommendations to achieve the 8 per cent growth target.

FERA Violations by MNC

711. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether show cause notices under FERA were issued to multinational companies for making payment abroad of salaries and perks to their employees working in India without obtaining necessary permission of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether the MNCs given reply to show cause notices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The Directorate of Enforcement has issued notices to 18 multinational companies who were found to have contravened the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 with regard to payment of salaries/perquisites, in foreign currency, to their employees, who were resident in India.

(b) and (c) The explanations given by the companies are part of the adjudication proceedings, which are quasi-judicial in nature. Adjudication proceedings in respect of five of the MNCs have been completed by imposition of penalty.

Food Subsidy

712. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent as Food Subsidy during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the total amount spent on food subsidy for the

poor during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The total amount of food subsidy released by the Government of India year-wise during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Amount
2000-2001	12010.00
2001-2002	17494.00
2002-203	24176.45

(b) The subsidy to the poor is released under the BPL category of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and AAY scheme, details of which year-wise and category-wise are given in the enclosed statement. Subsidy is not released State-wise for the foodgrains distributed from the Central Pool for various schemes.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)			
Category	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
BPL	4446.18	5086.41	6336.21
AAY	0.00	1130.66	2640.95
APL	0.00	457.90	923.90
Food for Work	113.97	1799.03	56.35
Mid-Day-Meal	374.13	1130.51	1221.14
Defence	10.76	23.12	27.04
Open Sale	120.55	616.10	1206.23
Export	1213.00	1368.37	5742.69
Arrears	1498.66	0.00	0.00
Others	0.00	0.00	48.84
Buffer Carrying Cost	4232.75	5881.90	5973.10
Total	12010.00	17494.00	24176.45

Indo-Bangladesh Free Trade Agreement

713. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have finalised a Free Trade Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated trade between India and Bangladesh during the last three years;

(d) whether our experience of FTA with Sri Lanka has been encouraging;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the neighbouring countries with which India propose FTA; and

(g) the response of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India has not finalised any bilateral FTA with Bangladesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total trade between India and Bangladesh during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Total Bilateral Trade (in Rs. crores)
2002-2003	5991.57
2001-2002	5061.52
2000-2001	4639.46

Source: DGCI&S.

(d) and (e) India signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods with Sri Lanka in December 1998. Since then the bilateral trade between the two sides has seen positive growth in the following manner:

Year	Total Trade (Rupees Crores)	%Growth over in the previous year
1998-1999	1997.52	—
1999-2000	2355.15	17.92
2000-2001	3130.07	15.82
2001-2002	3330.19	4.55
2002-2003	4896.67	21.60

Indian investors have also shown keen interest for investing in Sri Lanka after the signing of FTA and India has become one of the leading nations for investing in Sri Lanka.

(f) and (g) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations which include Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have agreed for having South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). Another regional grouping known as BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand & Economic Cooperation) also aims for developing into a Free Trade Area.

[Translation]

Loan Burden of Union/State Government

714. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the percentage increase of total market loan of the Central Government and the State Governments and total amount during the last three years till July, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): The total market borrowing of Central and State Governments for the last three years and in the current year up-to November 28, 2003 is given in the following table:

(Amount in Rs. Crores)				
Gross Borrowings	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (up to Nov. 28, 2003)
1	2	3	4	5
Central Government	1,15,183	1,33,801	1,51,126	1,08,035
	(15.61)	(16.16)	(14.66)	

1	2	3	4	5
State Government	13,300 (7.03)	18,707 (40.65)	30,853* (64.93)	38,752**
Total	1,28,483 (13.36)	1,52,508 (18.70)	1,81,979 (19.32)	1,46,787

* Includes Rs. 10,000 crore raised towards debt swap with Government of India.

** Includes Rs. 23,000 crore raised towards debt swap with Government of India.

Note: Figures in brackets represent percentage increase over the previous year.

(Source: Reserve Bank of India)

[English]

Quality Upgradation Scheme for Tea Growers

715. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a quality upgradation and product diversification scheme for tea growers;

(b) if so, the details of such scheme; and

(c) the promotive measures likely to be adopted for strengthening the production and export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme provides for financial assistance @ 25% of the actual cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs per tea factory for acquiring tea processing/blending and packaging machineries. It also provides for meeting part of the cost of quality/organic tea certification. The scheme also provides for taking up quality awareness programmes amongst the small growers and the manufacturers in order to upgrade the quality of the tea produced in the country.

(c) Tea Board is implementing a number of developmental schemes during the 10th Five Year Plan for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country. Financial assistance is being provided for important plantation activities like replanting, replacement planting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling,

creation of irrigation facilities etc. Tea Board is also undertaking promotional campaigns and participating in important international trade fairs, besides providing financial assistance to the exporters of tea for meeting part of the cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight charges and value addition, in order to increase the exports of Indian tea. Government has also set up a special fund for the development, modernization and rehabilitation of the tea plantation sector.

Tribal Cooperative Societies

716. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Cooperative Societies have been established in various states;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise, particularly in Orissa;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to strengthen these societies; and

(d) if so, the central assistance extended during the last three years and proposed to be extended during the current financial year to activate these Tribal Cooperative Societies in Orissa and other States?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The following States have established State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations, which are registered societies in the respective States:

Sl.No.	State	Name of the Corporation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC)
2.	Gujarat	Gujarat State Forest Development Corp. Ltd.
3.	Manipur	Manipur Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes Development Corp. Ltd.
4.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Tribal Area Development Cooperative Fed. Ltd.
5.	Jharkhand	Jharkhand State Tribal Cooperative Development Corp. Ltd.

1	2	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Laghu Vanupaj, Vyapar Avam Vikas Sehkari Sangh.
7.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra State Tribal Development Cooperative Corp. Ltd.
8.	Tripura	Tripura Apex Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd.
9.	Kerala	Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Fed. Ltd.
10.	Orissa	Tribal Development Cooperative Corp. of Orissa Ltd.
11.	Meghalaya	Meghalaya State Cooperative Marketing & Consumer Fed. Ltd. (MECOFED)
12.	West Bengal	West Bengal Tribal Development Cooperative Corp. Ltd.

(c) and (d) These Corporations are provided funds under the Central Sector Scheme of Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations—mainly for procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFP). Central Government also provides grant for strengthening the share capital of these Corporations for MFP operations. State wise allocation is not done under the scheme, which is need based. The budgetary allocation under the scheme for the current financial year, i.e. 2003-04, is Rs. 18.00 crores. Funds released to these Corporations, through their respective States during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Year	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2000-2001	150.00
		2001-2002	520.00
		2002-2003	480.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Gujarat	2000-2001	150.00
		2001-2002	—
		2002-2003	—
3.	Kerala	2000-2001	—
		2001-2002	—
		2002-2003	225.00
4.	Meghalaya	2000-2001	—
		2001-2002	47.00
		2002-2003	100.00
5.	Orissa	2000-2001	192.00
		2001-2002	200.00
		2002-2003	400.00
6.	Rajasthan	2000-2001	—
		2001-2002	251.61
		2002-2003	119.37
7.	Maharashtra	2000-2001	350.00
		2001-2002	200.00
		2002-2003	—
8.	Tripura	2000-2001	—
		2001-2002	62.06
		2002-2003	122.00
9.	West Bengal	2000-2001	—
		2001-2002	—
		2002-2003	53.63

Investment in Stock Market

717. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have desired to revive the capital market and wanted the people to invest in stock market rather than depositing in banks;

(b) if so, whether National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and SEBI are following this policy for

expanding the activities in stock market by reducing the unwarranted and unnecessary expense of the investor for holding of their portfolios; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Government has stressed the need for a dynamic capital market.

(b) and (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) continuously try and minimize the cost to investors of holding their portfolio. Although tariff charges by the Depositories is a commercial issue, SEBI had advised NSDL to review the fee and the charges' structure. NSDL has revised the tariff structure with effect from May, 2002.

NSDL reduced its charges twice during 2002-2003. The settlement fee of Rs. 15 per debit instruction announced in February, 2002 was reduced to Rs. 10 with effect from May 1st, 2002. Similarly, the custody fee of Re. 0.75 per month for securities held under each International Securities Identification Number announced in February, 2002, was reduced to Re. 0.50 per month, with effect from October 1, 2002.

[*Translation*]

Position of Indian Rupee

718. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rupee has consolidated during last few weeks;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three months;

(c) the impact of this increase in the value of rupee on the import and export of the country;

(d) whether the country has gained economically by it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) While rupee has appreciated against the US Dollar in recent past, it has depreciated against other major

currencies, viz., Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen. The weekly movement of rupee against major currencies during the last three months is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) India's export in rupee term during April-September 2003 recorded a growth of 4.9 per cent *vis-a-vis* 22.2 per cent during the same period in the previous year. India's imports during this period i.e, April-September 2003 grew by 15.8 per cent in contrast to 13.1 per cent in 2002.

(d) and (e) The consolidation of the rupee has been reflected in terms of improved fundamentals of the economy.

Statement

Week-end Rates of the Indian Rupee for Major Currencies Rupees per foreign currency

Week-ended	US dollar	Pond Sterling	Euro	100 Yen
Sep-03				
5	45.93	72.82	50.30	39.32
12	45.77	72.98	51.16	30.09
19	45.94	74.22	51.69	39.83
26	45.87	76.12	52.66	40.90
Oct-03				
3	45.46	75.94	53.16	41.05
10	45.39	75.43	53.14	41.64
17	45.34	75.91	52.54	41.27
24	45.33	76.86	53.53	41.28
31	45.32	76.83	52.67	41.59
Nov-03				
7	45.29	75.51	51.70	41.11
14	45.35	76.62	53.43	41.92
21	45.89	78.04	54.59	42.10
28	45.94	78.79	54.77	42.03

*[English]***Watch-List of Intellectual Property**

719. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether USA has included India on their priority Watch-List in a special report on intellectual property;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof and consequences for India; and
- (c) the response of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Under the provisions of the US Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242) popularly known as the "Special 301", the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is required to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or deny fair and equitable market access to the United States. The USTR accordingly determines whether a country should be placed under "Priority Foreign Country" (PFC) or "Priority Watch List" (PWL) or "Watch List" (WL). As per the Annual Special 301 Report for 2003 released by the USTR, India has been retained in the Priority Watch List (PWL) along with 10 other countries, which are Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, the European Union, Indonesia, Lebanon, the Philippines, Poland, Russia and Taiwan. India has been included in the PWL since 1995.

(b) and (c) The USTR is obliged under the US Trade Act to initiate action against only such countries as are listed under "Priority Foreign Country" and that too after holding consultations with the Government of the concerned countries. As such, no immediate serious implications of the Annual Special 301 Report for the year 2003 are perceived to the Indian industry.

Collection of Taxes

720. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct tax collections showed 20 per cent increase as against 8 per cent by indirect tax collections during the current financial year so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for less collection of indirect tax;

(c) the targets fixed for both direct and indirect tax collections during the current fiscal;

(d) whether the targets are likely to be achieved; and

(e) if so, the details and if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As on 30.10.2003, the direct taxes showed an increase of 18.6% over the collection of corresponding period of last year whereas there is an increase of 9.56% in respect of indirect taxes.

(b) It is not possible to compare the growth of indirect taxes with that of direct taxes as the coverage of central excise is limited to manufacturing sector only, service tax is imposed on specific services and customs duty is realized from import of goods only. Direct taxes, on the other hand, cover all sectors which may or may not be covered by indirect taxes.

(c) The following amounts have been fixed as targets during the current fiscal:

Direct Taxes	—	Rs. 95714 crores
Indirect Taxes	—	Rs. 154861 crores

(d) and (e) Direct taxes targets are likely to be achieved. All possible steps are being taken to achieve the targets set for indirect taxes.

*[Translation]***TDS by Liquor Companies**

721. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "*Sharab Kampanian Akhir Kyon Dein TDS—Inki Aur Hai*" appearing in Hindi daily Dainik Jagran dated September 9, 2003;

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

(c) the details of the revenue received from salaried class, liquor companies and big industries separately during the last three years; and

(d) the steps take by the Government to increase the revenue being received from big liquor industries and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section 206C was amended by the Finance Act, 2003 to bring Indian made Foreign Liquor within its ambit. The levy of tax collection at source was not postponed indefinitely. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 promulgated on 8th September, 2003, made certain changes in the provisions of section 206C and now tax is to be collected at source in case of alcoholic liquor for human consumption which, *inter-alia*, includes Indian made foreign Liquor.

(c) Details of Revenue received from salaries class, liquor companies and big industries are not separately maintained sector-wise. The collection and compilation of the desired information from the field formation spread all over the country will involve substantial time and efforts, which may not be commensurate to the objective sought to be achieved.

(d) Following amendments have, *inter-alia*, been made in section 206C to increase the revenue from liquor industry:

- (i) Indian made foreign liquor has been brought within the ambit of the provisions of tax collection at source: and
- (ii) TCS will now be made from buyers at each stage of sale except the last stage where the goods are purchased for personal consumption.

Women in Silk Industry

722. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women presently engaged in the silk industry;

(b) the percentage to the total number of workers;

(c) the place where the women are engaged in the largest number;

(d) whether the condition of the women who are engaged in the silk industry are pitiable and the medical as well as other facilities for them have been discontinued;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the conditions of these women workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) About 21.85 lakhs women are estimated to be engaged in the silk industry, which constitutes approximately 39% of the total number of workers in the silk industry. The largest number of women is reportedly engaged in the State of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Assam in rearing and reeling.

(d) The working conditions of women workers in industry are governed by the State Government labour laws/rules and regulations.

(e) and (f) Women who are engaged in the silk reeling activity work on traditional and obsolete equipment. To improve their working conditions and their productivity Central Silk Board has developed and is popularizing low cost reeling technologies like multi-end reeling machines for mulberry sector, motorized-cum-pedal operated reeling-cum-twisting machines for the non-mulberry sector and hot air dryers which improve working conditions by reducing drudgery, creating a smoke free atmosphere and reducing pupae smell.

[*English*]

Export of Wheat

723. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exported wheat to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat exported to Pakistan; during each of the last three years; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) There was no export of wheat to Pakistan on Government account during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

724. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent sharp increase in cold storage charges by Air India has put negative impact on export of fruits and vegetables from Mumbai and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Fresh Vegetables and Fruits Exporters Association has strongly protested the same;

(d) if so, the details of the representation received by the Government in this regard;

(e) the viewpoint of the Government thereon;

(f) the action taken in this regard;

(g) whether APEDA has also supported the viewpoint of the Association; and

(h) if so, the present status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) After operationalisation of the modern Perishable Cargo Centre at Chatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Shahar, Mumbai, on 17th September, 2003, handling charges of Rs. 4/-per kg levied by Air India was passed on to the exporters by some of the Airlines. In protest against this, exports from Mumbai Airport were stopped by members of Fresh Vegetable and Fruits Exporters Association (VAFA) for a few days.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Fresh Vegetables and Fruits Exporters Association represented that Airlines are insisting the exporters to offload their cargo in the event of non payment of Rs. 4 per kg. towards the additional surcharge payable for using the new cargo center, inspite of the fact that Commercial Manager, Air India had assured them that there will not be additional charges other than Rs. 0.65 per kg levied as Terminal Storage and Processing Charges. In light of this, the additional charge of Rs. 4 per kg be removed.

(e) The charge of Rs. 4 per kg that is under dispute is not a charge levied on exporters but on the Airlines by Air India as handling charges. Effort is being made to bridge the communication gap between the airlines and the exporters.

(f) After protracted deliberations with the Airlines, it was decided that Air India would hold separate meeting with the Airlines with a view to bringing down the cost.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The problem appears to be at present with those exporters who send their cargo through Airlines that are not traditionally handled by Air India and efforts is being made to sort out the problem. Air India officials are in dialogue with exporters on the issue.

Inflow of Counterfeit Currency Notes

725. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflow of counterfeit currency notes into the National Capital continues;

(b) if so, the amount of such fake notes seized by the Reserve Bank of India during each of the last three years;

(c) whether all of these fake notes are of Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 denominations;

(d) whether such fake notes were received from various banks and companies;

(e) if so, the details of the banks and companies;

(f) the number of cases registered and persons arrested in this connection during each of the last three years;

(g) whether these notes are printed in India or other countries; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop such business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The counterfeit currency notes detected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), New Delhi for the last three years are follows:

(April-March)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-2003	April, 03 to Oct., 03
No. of Pieces	10064	20881	33360	10382
Value in rupees.	30,81,340	15,08,490	65,91,430	63,52,330

(c) No, Sir. The fake notes of other lower denomination have also been detected.

(d) to (f) The fake notes detected by the RBI Office include fake notes detected at their counters from currency chest remittances and bank branches falling under this jurisdiction. The number of cases registered by RBI, New Delhi with the police during the last three years is as under:

Year (April-March)	No. of cases filed with Police
2000-2001	4,811
2001-2002	13,590
2002-2003	32,195
Upto October, 2003	8,797

(g) Fake currency is injected into circulation by local counterfeiters and as well as by external agencies who smuggle fake Indian Currency Notes into India through air, land and sea routes.

(h) Corrective measures include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force/Customs authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency; setting up a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation exclusively for investigation of counterfeit currency notes; incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes, dissemination of information on security features available in Indian bank notes through print and electronic media for the benefit of the public. As per recommendations of a High Level Committee, additional security features have been recommended for incorporation in the Indian bank notes which would make counterfeiting extremely difficult.

Funds from Indian market by ADB and IFC

726. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is considering to allow multilateral bodies like Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corporation to raise funds from the Indian market through debt securities;

(b) whether the Government propose to make it obligatory on these bodies to use the funds so raised within India;

(c) whether any guidelines have been drawn up in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government of India has permitted the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) to raise funds from the Indian Market through debt securities. The funds raised by these organisations will be used in the Indian markets. However, they have also been permitted forex swaps subject to conditions.

(c) and (d) Some of the terms and conditions for the Rupee Bond issue are: minimum maturity period of 10 years, bond subject to 20% risk weightage at par with bonds issued by the All India Financial Institutions, immunity from collection and payments of tax subject to prescribed conditions, specific clearance for each issue, permission to roll over the bond within the annual ceiling prescribed, permission to swap the rupee funds to foreign

exchange with market counter parties based in India, exchange of proceeds of the bond permitted subject to prescribed conditions, waiver of separate domestic credit rating, listing on NSE/BSE.

FDI Policy

727. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to review the existing FDI policy and propose to announce a new policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the new policy is likely to be announced;

(d) whether the new policy would adequately address the problems and difficulties faced in the implementation of FDI projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Government has put in place a liberal FDI policy and

most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route, except for a small negative list. FDI policy is reviewed on an on-going basis. The reviewing authority considers various aspects of FDI including equity cap, entry route and sectoral guidelines.

NABARD Loan to Andhra Pradesh

728. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals seeking loans from the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been received by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during the last three years; and

(b) the loan provided for those projects by NABARD, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The details of the proposals received by National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and details of loan sanctioned by NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) there against during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the project-wise sanctions made by NABARD to Andhra Pradesh under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in Crore)

Purpose	2000-01 (RIDF-VI)		2001-02 (RIDF-VII)		2002-03 (RIDF-VIII)	
	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Major Irrigation	1	15.48	—	—	—	—
Medium Irrigation	2	91.36	—	—	1	21.31
Minor Irrigation	24	33.06	1827	82.14	24	51.29
Lift Irrigation	11	9.61	21	51.02	16	13.49
Rural Water Supply	8	45.11	528	195.98	7	79.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Road	123	109.43	233	184.03	292	282.59
Bridge	32	44.10	39	44.18	35	51.43
Watershed Development	1234	123.94	—	—	—	—
Soil & Moisture Conservation	185	51.98	235	69.93	2716	371.81
Joint Forest Management	689	39.00	—	—	565	14.29
Drainage	-	—	—	—	1	24.00
Total	2309	563.07	2883	627.28	3647	909.55

Future of Tea and Coffee

729. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the future of Coffee and Tea exports by the end of 2007 i.e. Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the value added items could be considered for the export market after assessing the requirement of domestic consumption and W.T.O. regime of open import of tea and coffee in India;

(c) whether the domestic requirement of tea and coffee can have enough surplus for export by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the strategy being considered by the Government to protect the interest of the Tea and Coffee growers both in terms of price and export benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The export target for coffee and tea, for the terminal year of the 10th Five Year Plan i.e. 2006-07, has been set at 3.3 lakh tonnes and 270 million kgs. respectively.

(b) After assessing the requirement of domestic consumption and W.T.O. regime of open import of tea and coffee in India, Government has been laying stress on export of coffee and tea in value added forms. In fact, instant/soluble coffee, specialty coffees and ground and roasted coffees and tea in consumer packs, tea bags, instant tea and flavoured tea are already being exported from India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Coffee and Tea Boards are implementing a number of developmental schemes under which various types of financial and technical assistance are provided to the coffee and tea sectors.

Concerned with the problems being faced by the Indian coffee/tea growers due to present low price situation, the Government of India has taken a series of steps for the benefit of coffee/tea sector which includes re-phasing/restructuring of loans taken by the tea/coffee growers from commercial banks, providing 5% interest relief to small coffee growers and 3% relief of large coffee growers on their working capital loans taken from financial institutions, undertaking campaigns to promote domestic consumption of tea and coffee, and setting up a Price Stabilization Fund for the benefit of the small growers of tea, coffee, natural rubber and tobacco. In the case of tea, Government has also set up a special fund for the development, modernization and rehabilitation of the sector. Government has in addition notified the Tea Marketing Control Order 2003 and issued directives regarding changes in auction rules to provide for a more transparent price discovery mechanism for tea.

Further, in order to boost the exports of tea and coffee as well as to maximise the export earnings, the Tea and Coffee Boards are implementing medium term export strategies prepared through private consultants. Financial incentives are being provided to the exporters of tea and coffee to encourage large exports of these commodities. To this end, the Boards are also undertaking promotional campaigns in key overseas markets besides participating in the major international trade events.

Bank Loans to SSI

(Rupees in crores)

730. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan given by public sector banks to small scale units in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the amount recovered from each units by each banks during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total amount of loans outstanding to SSI units in the books of Public Sector Banks in the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last three years ended March 2001 (latest data available with Reserve Bank of India) is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	No. of A/Cs (in lakhs)	Amount Outstanding
March, 1999	1183.25	1636.43
March, 2000	1023.06	1832.98
March, 2001	853.63	1708.79

(b) The data regarding amount recovered from SSI Units by each Bank during the above period is not captured by Reserve Bank of India.

*[Translation]***Income of RBI**

731. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total income of Reserve Bank of India has declined in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gross income of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has declined during the financial year 2002-03 (July 1 to June 30) over the previous year. The details are as under:

Particulars	2002-03	2001-02
Gross Income	23185.64	24690.34
Net Income	15561.41	16866.39
Total Expenditure	6723.41	6542.39
Net Disposable Income	8838.00	10324.00

(c) The fall in income of RBI from domestic sources was due to fall in domestic assets and lower interest rates. The fall in income from foreign sources was due to reduction in international interest rates.

*[English]***Profit/Losses Incurred by Banks**

732. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN:
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss incurred by each public sector bank during each of the last three years;

(b) whether many public sector banks have shown signs of distress;

(c) if so, the details of factors responsible for sickness of these banks; and

(d) the financial assistance provided by the Government representations of these banks during the last three years alongwith the other administrative steps taken to make them possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The net profit earned by each of the 27 public sector banks for the last three years is at enclosed statement.

(b) All Public Sector banks except Indian Bank and Dena Bank had reported profits for the last three years. The performance of Indian Bank and Dena Bank had also registered a turnaround since 2001-02 as they reported net profit.

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

(d) Indian Bank had been put under a three year Restructuring Plan (2002-2003) approved by RBI/ Government. The bank successfully achieved almost all targets under the Restructuring Plan and turned the corner in March 2002. Further, as part of the Restructuring Plan,

the bank had been recapitalised by the Government to the tune of Rs. 2070.00 crore (Rs. 1300.00 crore sanctioned in March 2002 and Rs. 770.00 crore in February 2003).

Statement

Net Profit of Public Sector Banks for the Year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

(Rupees in crores)

Bank Name	2000-2001 Net Profits	2001-2002 Net Profits	2002-2003 Net Profits
1	2	3	4
Allahabad Bank	40	80	166
Andhra Bank	121	202	403
Bank of Baroda	275	546	773
Bank of India	252	509	851
Bank of Maharashtra	45	145	222
Canara Bank	285	741	1019
Central Bank of India	46	163	306
Corporation Bank	262	308	416
Dena Bank	-266	11	114
Indian Bank	-274	33	189
Indian Overseas Bank	116	230	416
Oriental Bank of Commerce	203	321	457
Punjab National Bank	464	562	842
Punjab & Sind Bank	13	23	4
Syndicate Bank	235	251	344
Union Bank of India	155	314	553
UCO Bank	33	165	207
United Bank of India	19	119	305
Vijaya Bank	71	131	197
Total	2095	4856	7784
State Bank Group			
State Bank of India	1604	2432	3105

1	2	3	4
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	105	165	203
State Bank of Hyderabad	150	226	301
State Bank of Indore	64	125	200
State Bank of Mysore	26	66	116
State Bank of Patiala	161	233	322
State Bank of Saurashtra	14	82	93
State Bank of Travancore	97	121	171
Total	2222	3449	4340
Grand Total	4317	8305	12124

Hearings of BIFR

733. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BIFR is holding its hearings in all the metro cities;

(b) if so, the date from which BIFR has started its hearing in these cities especially in Calcutta; and

(c) the steps taken by the BIFR to hold its hearing in all the State capitals and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) BIFR has been holding its hearings in all the Metro Cities and also in some other major cities such as Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Trivandrum etc.

(b) Since 1988 the BIFR has been holding its hearings at State Capitals. The hearings at Kolkata were first held from 14th to 18th November 1988.

(c) Hearings at State Capitals and Union Territories are held depending upon the workload, the requests of concerned State Governments, administrative convenience and the hardship involved for the parties in traveling long distances.

Financial Results of LIC

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

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India have declared the financial results for the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the surplus recorded by the LIC and the bonus declared for the policy holders and the dividend released to the Government;

(c) whether the bonus declared by the LIC for its policy holders is slightly less than the one declared during the previous year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, particularly when the financial results have shown better position than the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total Surplus declared by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for the year 2002-2003 is Rs. 9,767.11 crores. Out of this Rs. 9,273.81 crores has been distributed to the policyholders as bonus and Rs. 488.10 crores is the surplus share to the Government of India. Rs. 5.20 crores has been carried forward as Surplus unappropriated.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Even though the total surplus income has increased, there has been reduction in the yield on life fund due to decline in interest rates. Therefore, the bonus rates for 2002-2003 was reduced by the LIC as it had to

be distributed to more number of policyholders than the previous year.

Directions of Supreme Court

735. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question no. 3991 replied on August 22, 2003 and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, when it is likely to be laid on the Tale of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House immediately on its receipt.

DFID Assistance

736. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the States which are getting Department for International Development (DFID) fund/loan assistance;
- (b) the amount of loan assistance received by each of those States during each of the last three years;
- (c) the purpose for which DFID loan/assistance obtained by those states; and
- (d) the extent to which the fund has been utilised by those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The States which have received assistance provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the Government of United Kingdom during the last three years are Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The assistance received and utilised by these States during each of the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the State	2000-01	2001-2002	2002-03
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76.03	503.78	169.17
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1.52	2.36	00
3.	Karnataka	00.00	00.00	6.31
4.	Kerala	11.78	20.04	00.00
5.	Orissa	2.80	15.51	263.67
6.	Rajasthan	32.52	55.17	69.38
7.	West Bengal	33.35	46.77	58.34

The abovementioned assistance was received and utilised by these States for implementing development projects mainly relating to education, health and family welfare, environment and forests, rural development, urban poverty, energy efficiency and economic reforms.

MoU between SIDBI and Oriental Bank of Commerce

737. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Small Scale Industries Development Bank of India has entered into an MoU with Oriental Bank of Commerce;

- (b) if so, the details of MoU so reached;

(c) whether the Government have estimated term loan requirement for the small scale industries during the 10th Plan period;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the arrangements made by the Government to meet the requirement for the term loan for small scale industries during the 10th Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) signed by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) on 16th September, 2003 are as under:

- (i) OBC and SIDBI shall identify viable projects financing jointly for SSI/SME, Service Sector and Infrastructure.
- (ii) The Units having project cost of Rs. 50 lakhs and above may be generally considered for joint financing. The term loan would be shared between the two lenders on a 50:50 basis & OBC would meet the full need based working capital requirements of the Units.
- (iii) SIDBI and OBC shall have *pari-passu* charge on all securities created out of the term loan and any other security obtained towards the term loan.

(c) and (d) The Working Group on Small Scale Industries (SSI) constituted by the Planning Commission has estimated the requirement of funds of the order of Rs. 63,357 crore for long term credit during the 10th Plan Period based on the assumption that there would be no change in the existing policies.

(e) In order to ensure that both long term and short term credit requirements of SSI Sector are adequately met the following policy initiatives have, *inter-alia*, been taken by the Government and Reserve Bank of India:

- (i) Enhancement of working capital loan (computed on the basis of minimum of 20% of annual projected turnover) from Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 5 crores;
- (ii) Increase in composite loan limit from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs;
- (iii) Raising of Project cost limit under National Equity Fund (NEF) Scheme from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs;
- (iv) Providing collateral free loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs to the Units having good track record;
- (v) Adoption by Public Sector Banks an interest rate band of 2% above and below their PLR for SSI Units; and the banks have been advised to fix self set target for growth in advances to SSI Sector over the previous year's achievement and overall trends in growth of net bank credit.

[Translation]

Credit Cards

738. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain private banks and credit card companies are issuing credit cards without verifying residential address and other identity proof and it is being misused in terrorist activities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any directives to private banks and credit cards companies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Challenges before Exporters

739. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exporters are facing lot of challenges and stiff competition in the world market;

(b) if so, whether the aim of achieving one percent share in the world trade by the year 2007 has become difficult;

(c) if so, the main challenges before our exporters;

(d) the details of specific incentives/assistance proposed to be provided to exporters apart from those which have already been specified in the EXIM Policy to make our exports more competitive in the world market;

(e) whether the Government have also received any suggestions from Federation of Indian Exports Organisations in this regard;

(f) if so, the details of suggestions made therein; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) One of the principle objectives of the Export & Import Policy for the period 1st April, 2002 to 31st March, 2007 is to facilitate sustained growth in export to attain a share of at least 1% of global merchandised trade. It has been estimated that India's export have to grow at the minimum rate of 12% in dollar terms every year in order to achieve this objective by the end of the Policy period. Exports had registered a growth of 20.3% during 2002-03. The growth rate in exports over this expanded base, as per provisional estimates, has been 8.44% during the period April-October, 2003 over the same period in the previous year. It is certainly a challenge to achieve a high rate of growth of exports from India on a sustained basis for which Government has been taking a number of initiatives as well as facilitation measures in the EXIM Policy. Such initiatives are complimented through various other measures such as fiscal through the budgetary process.

(e) to (g) In finalizing EXIM Policy and Procedures, Ministry of Commerce & Industry has detailed interaction with the Indian exporters through various trade bodies including FIEO. The suggestions received during such interactions or otherwise are given due consideration while formulating annual EXIM Policies within the broad framework of the five year EXIM Policy.

[English]

Increase in the Judges strength in the High Courts

740. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to raise the existing strength of judges in various High Courts in the country;

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

(c) the total administrative expenditure likely to be incurred after appointment of these judges; and

(d) its impact on clearing the backlog of pending cases in various High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The expenditure is to be met by the respective State Governments where the High Court is located. As such, no details are maintained by the Union Government about the increase in expenditure.

(d) The additional posts have been proposed to be created in High Courts with a view that the main cases pending over two years as on 31.12.2002 will be cleared within the next three years.

Statement

Sl. No.	High Court	Proposed increase of Judge strength
1.	Calcutta	13
2.	Chhattisgarh	02
3.	Delhi	03
4.	Gauhati	08
5.	Himachal Pradesh	01
6.	Kerala	11
7.	Madhya Pradesh	13
8.	Madrs	05
9.	Orissa	11
10.	Patna	12
11.	Prjab and Haryana	13
12.	Uttaranchal	02
Total		94

Clearance of Out-Station Cheques

741. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out-station cheques take a minimum of 15 days to be cleared and get credited into respective accounts thereafter banks also charge commission and postal charges for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the mandatory 15 days that banks take to get the deposited cheque cleared between two distant places like Andhra Pradesh and Delhi; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce electronic transaction system in banks to ensure that out-station cheques do not take such long periods of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as per the guidelines issued to banks with regard to time-frame for collection of local/outstation cheques between the four metros which are having MICR Cheque Clearing System, the cheques drawn on any day of the week should be credited latest on the same day in the following week (for example Monday to next Monday). Further, in respect of State capitals and other centers with more than 100 bank offices, credit to the customer's account should be given within 10 days. RBI have further reported that banks are free to charge commission and postal charges for it.

(c) RBI have reported that the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) System introduced in 1996 and the special EFT system introduced in April, 2003 have brought down the time taken for remittance on funds to one day.

National Wage Policy

742. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently requested the Union Government to formulate national wage policy to outline a uniform pay structure for Government employees in all the States in a bid to restrict mounting expenditure on salaries of employees and other establishment expenditure every year;

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

(c) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission endorsed suggestions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Eleventh Finance Commission in chapter III at para 3.57 (a) (vi) had observed that "In order to avoid the shocks to the Central and State budgets that emanate from periodic pay revisions, it is desirable to evolve a national policy for the salaries and emoluments of government employees across the country.....".

(e) The Government has noted the suggestions.

Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme

743. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have planned to implement the Industrial Infrastructure (Clusters) Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the locations for such clusters in the country'

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have also any proposal under consideration to set up industrial clusters in some more districts like Araria and Samastipur of Bihar;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to boost the domestic industry globally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a new plan scheme i.e. Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) to be implemented in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) No Sir, the locations of clusters to be taken up for development under the scheme have not been identified. The locations will be identified and approved for development by an Inter-Ministerial APEX Committee only after the scheme is notified.

(d) and (e) No Sir, the Government of India has no proposal for setting up of new industrial clusters in the districts like Araria and Samastipur of Bihar. Under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS), as approved, it is proposed to upgrade the industrial infrastructure in the existing industrial locations which have comparative advantages and growth potential so as to enhance the competitiveness of the Indian industries.

(f) The Government has taken several policy initiatives to make the domestic industry globally competitive. These steps have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and boost investment in the industrial sector. The steps taken by the Government include; improvement in industrial infrastructure base, upgradation of manufacturing technology, sectoral studies carried out by Department of IPP on cement, pulp & paper and engineering goods including electrical goods to devise strategies to ensure long-term sustainability of growth in these industries, sector-wise strategies to boost production for exports in key sector, de-reservation of 75 items from SSI list, rationalization of excise duty by bringing down to three tier slabs, reduction of customs duty, import of capital goods from 25 percent to 5 percent, encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows, improve sentiments in stock market, encouragement to maximize exports, boosting liquidity through lowering of interest rates and enforcement of Electricity Bill 2003 for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms, etc.

[*Translation*]

Gross Domestic Product

744. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of GDP growth rate of the country for the period 1991 to 2002, year-wise;

(b) whether the GDP growth rate has plummeted during the above period in comparison with the growth rate achieved during 1980s;

(c) if so, the comparative figure of GDP growth rate for the period 1981 to 1990;

(d) whether the slow down in the GDP growth rate indicates the failure of the economic reforms policy;

(e) if so, whether the Government consider comprehensive measures including review of the present economic policies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The year-wise growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant prices for the period 1990-91 to 2002-03 are as follows:

Year	GDP at factor cost (Overall) (at constant prices) (growth percent)
1990-91	5.6
1991-92	1.3
1992-93	5.1
1993-94	5.9
1994-95	7.3
1995-96	7.3
1996-97	7.8
1997-98	4.8
1998-99	6.5
1999-2000	6.1
2000-01 (P)	4.4
2001-02 (Q)	5.6
2002-03 (R)	4.3

(b) The average growth rate for the period 1992-93 to 2002-03, subsequent to introduction of economic reform measures is 5.9 per cent compared with the average growth rate of 5.8 per cent of the period 1980-81 to 1989-90.

(c) The growth rate of GDP at factor cost at constant prices for the period 1980-81 to 1989-90 are as follows:

Year	GDP at factor cost (Overall) (at constant prices) (growth percent)
1980-81	7.2
1981-82	6.0
1982-83	3.1
1983-84	7.7
1984-85	4.3
1985-86	4.5
1986-87	4.3
1987-88	3.8
1988-89	10.5
1989-90	6.7

(d) to (f) Since 1991 Government is continuing with economic reforms in trade, industry, financial sectors etc. to improve efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of Indian industries and to induce dynamism to the overall growth process, Economic reforms are a continuing process. The Union Budget for 2003-04 has proposed a number of initiatives such as promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.

Hallmarking of Gold

745. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted with a view to implementing the hallmark system for determining the purity of gold has submitted its recommendations to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the time by which the above said committee is likely to submit its recommendations to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No time frame for submission of report has been fixed. The Committee has held two meetings on 22nd September 2003 and most recently on 28th November 2003.

[English]

Bad Debts

746. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases where the Debt Recovery Tribunal have passed orders to attach Government properties after the Centre/State Governments failed to honour the outstanding loans and counter guarantee given by the Banks, financial institutions like IDBI and the IFCI during the last three years; and

(b) the present status of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Carpet Industry

747. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have any scheme to assist Indian Carpet producers in design technology and other infrastructure support required;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which in individual Carpet making unit apply for assistance from such schemes;

(d) whether the concerned agencies are not entrusted about extending assistance to Carpet makers in the Southern State; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government implements a number of scheme to assist craft persons in the country including carpet weavers. The scheme include: Design and Technology Upgradation; Training & Extension; Research and development and recently launched 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana' (AHVY) which seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self reliant enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation and aims to achieve sustainable development of the artisan cluster.

Besides and Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), has been established at Bhadohi with a view to provide Human Resource Development, Research and Development and Common Facility Centre services to the carpet industry. Under the UNDP assisted Carpet Project assistance has also been provided to various agencies to develop new design, development of tools, looms and equipment, promotion of natural dyes, strengthening of IICT, Bhadohi and participation in domestic/international fairs by Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) New Delhi.

(c) Financial assistance is provided to Central State handicraft corporations, COHANDS, Apex societies, NGOs registered under society Act, trust and other organisations registered under any other statutory Acts as per the guidelines of the scheme.

(d) and (e) Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) and Indian Institute of Carpet (IICT), Bhadohi caters to the need of Carpet Industry in the country including the Southern Region.

Expansion of Indo-Bangladesh Trade Relations

748. SHRI PRASURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-Bangladesh trade relation has been established;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to expand Indo-Bangla trade relation;

(c) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(d) the details of trade agreement, if any, signed by both the countries for the expansion of Indo-Bangla trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) It is Government's policy to develop trade and commerce with all countries including Bangladesh. With this intention, measures for cooperation in customs procedures, improvement in infrastructural facilities, promotion of joint ventures and other related issues for the smooth flow of traffic and trade are discussed and reviewed from time to time during high level bilateral consultations.

A bilateral trade agreement was signed between India and Bangladesh on 4.10.80 for a period of three years with provision for extension of three years by mutual consent subject to such modifications as agreed upon. This Agreement was valid upto December 3, 2003. Matter relating to its further extension beyond 4th December, 2003 till 3rd June, 2004 is being taken up with Government of Bangladesh. This Agreement provides for expansion of trade and economic cooperation, making mutually beneficial arrangement for the use of waterways, railways and roadways, passage of goods between two place in one country through the territory of the other, exchange of business and trade delegations and consultation to review the working of the Agreement at least once a year.

Asian Bond Fund

749. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Asian Bond Fund has been created at the initiative of the Thai Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof;

(c) the Indian contribution to this fund; and

(d) the plans drawn out for development of this continent and agency which has been assigned the responsibility for operating the fund for the mutual benefit of the member countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) There is a move in Asia to develop Asian bond markets. If official reserves of Asia could be invested in Asian assets, then it would help fund investment and development in Asia and also facilitate Asian bond market development. The proposal to create an Asian Bond Fund with participation of members of Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is yet to take place.

Development and Reforms Facility Programme

750. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Development and Reforms Facility Programme was announced in the budget for 2002-03 to initiate States to introduce reforms that would accelerate growth;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had identified 132 districts spread across the country to be funded by the Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the total amount so far released to the States; State-wise and

(e) The number of schemes in these backward areas have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the year 2002-03, District Plans in respect of 25 districts were approved. However, funds for these districts could not be released as the modalities of the scheme have been approved by the Government during 2003-04. Consequently, the first instalment of Rs. 7.50 crore (50 per cent of the annual allocation) for each of the 25 districts has been released in September, 2003. In addition to the 25 districts, 41 more districts including

16 districts affected by left wing extremism are being covered under the scheme during the current year. Remaining districts will be covered under the scheme from the next year onward.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) The funds under the scheme have been made available to the States only in the month of September, 2003.

Statement

First Instalment of Special Central Assistance released to the 25 districts covered in the Pilot Phase

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts	First instalment of SCA released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	15.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	2	15.00
3.	Gujarat	1	7.50
4.	Jharkhand	3	22.50
5.	Karnataka	1	7.50
6.	Kerala	1	7.50
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	22.50
8.	Maharashtra	2	15.00
9.	Rajasthan	2	15.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	7.50
11.	Uttar Pradesh	5	37.50
12.	West Bengal	2	15.00

[Translation]

Outstanding Loan against Bihar

751. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding amount of loan against the State of Bihar, till date;

(b) the extent of amount of the State Government of Bihar have to provide for repaying the principal and interest against loans every year;

(c) whether Bihar has to shell out a huge chunk of its revenue in repaying its loan;

(d) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Central Government to emancipate the State of Bihar from loans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Loan amounting to Rs. 10935.81 crore of Ministry of Finance is outstanding against the Government of Bihar as on 31.10.2003.

(b) The Government of Bihar have to repay an amount of Rs. 2058.51 crore during 2003-04 towards principal & interest, against outstanding loans of Ministry of Finance.

(c) Loan repayment and interest payment liability of the Government of Bihar constitutes 29% of total Revenue Receipts on an average.

(d) and (e) Government of India has formulated a Debt Swap Scheme to help States reduce their debt burden. The scheme enable State(s) to prepay expensive loans contracted from Government of India in the past, with current low coupon bearing Small Savings & Open Market Loans. Under this scheme, during 2002-03 & 2003-04 (April-October, 2003) outstanding high cost debt amounting to Rs. 2074.60 crore owed by the State Government towards Government of India was swapped with Small Saving Loans & Additional Open Market Borrowings.

[English]

IDBI Defaulters

752. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India has issued notice to a number of defaulters during the last six months;

(b) whether some defaulters have approached the IDBI for settlement of dues; and

(c) if so, the number of such defaulters;

(d) whether some settlements have been reached with the bank; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that during the last six months (viz. April 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003), IDBI has issued notices to 24 defaulting borrowers under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

(b) and (c) Out of 24 borrowers, 11 borrowers have approached IDBI with concrete proposals for settlement of dues.

(d) and (e) Three cases with aggregate dues of Rs. 53.37 crore were settled under One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme involving a crystallised amount of Rs. 32.03 crore.

Tests by the BIS

753. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tests required by the BIS to be carried out for packaged drinking water;

(b) the cost of these tests through the BIS approved laboratories for the current year; and

(c) the extent to which such tests help to ensure the purity of packaged drinking water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) There are 51 tests specified in IS: 14543: 1998 Specification for Packaged Drinking Water.

(b) The testing charges are Rs. 12,800/- for all the tests.

(c) To ensure the quality of Packaged Drinking Water various tests covering microbiological requirements, pesticide residues, organoleptic and physical parameters, general parameters concerning substances undesirable in excessive amounts, parameters concerning toxic substances and parameters concerning radio active residues have been included.

Scheme for Tribals

754. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes formulated for the development of the tribal areas are not implemented effectively in the tribal dominated areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tribals are not aware of the schemes and programmes meant for them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the tribals aware of the schemes and programmes undertaken for their development?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides due Central Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for implementation of its Central Sector and centrally Sponsored Schemes. Towards making the implementation of these schemes more effective, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs addresses the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in respect of specific schemes. Besides, the implementation aspects of the schemes are also discussed during the meetings with the concerned Secretaries of State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, the specific representations when received from any quarter are taken up with the concerned State Governments/U.T. Administrations for redressal.

Besides, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs also ensures speedy and effective implementation of the schemes by taking the following steps:

- (i) Sanction of grant to States/UTs is made on the basis of detailed examination of the proposals received.
- (ii) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon in respect of past releases, before fresh releases are made.
- (iii) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs, showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data.
- (iv) Senior officers from the Ministry visit the States/UTs to assess the progress of the implementation of the schemes.

(v) Meeting with the State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the implementation of the schemes.

(vi) In the case of the schemes implemented through the non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) funds are released after a assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance etc. Apart from the periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish annual accounts and audited reports are utilization certificates on the basis of which further releases of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Governments/UT officials and other authorities, and also by the Central Government officers.

(c) and (d) All the State Governments have been supplied with the copies of schemes, guidelines governing release of grants etc. and requested to give wide publicity to these schemes. Further, the details of the schemes of the ministry are available on the website (www.tribal.nic.in) of the ministry. The Ministry has also published a handbook of the schemes of the Ministry for circulation among the people as well as officials.

Procurement of Bajra

755. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of Bajra procured by the Government during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the minimum price fixed by the Government for the procurement of Bajra for the current financial year; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the target set for procurement of Bajra during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The State-wise quantity of Bajra procured by the Government during last three years is given below:

(Quantity in tonnes)

State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (as on 02.12.03)
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	2144
Gujarat	—	45867	—	—
Haryana	—	—	—	199121
Karnataka	4514	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	7405	10339	—	—
Maharashtra	10510	6075	4	49
Rajasthan	—	33982	—	37723
Total	22429	96263	4	239037

(b) The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price of Coarsegrains (Bajra) of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) procured during the Kharif marketing Season 2003-04 at Rs. 505/-per quintal.

(c) All the foodgrains including coarsegrains (Bajra) conforming to the prescribed specifications offered by the farmers for sale at specified Centres are purchased by the FCI/State Procuring Agencies. The farmers are free to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at support prices or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Therefore, no targets, as such are fixed for the procurement of Coarsegrains (Bajra).

Merger of RRBs with Sponsor Banks

756. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have floated a proposal to merge some Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with the sponsor banks;

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

(c) whether the Government have explored possibility for setting up independent apex authority at the national level assigned with the role of sponsored bank of the reorganized banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri M.V.S. Chalapathi Rao was constituted by Government to review and suggest amendments in RRB Act, 1976. The Committee has made comprehensive recommendations on restructuring RRBs, inter alia, suggesting changes in capital structure, ownership pattern, etc. Recommendations of the Working Group are being considered in consultation with other stakeholders viz. State Governments and sponsor Banks. These recommendations would require detailed examination in terms of long term viability of RRBs, their relevance to the rural credit delivery, capital structure required and better & effective management. Discussions are currently being held with Indian Bank's Association, (Sponsor Banks) Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development to take decisions on these critical issues and the discussions at this stage are inconclusive.

Jute Export Council

757. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Jute Export Council;

(b) if so, the main objectives behind the establishment of such Council;

(c) whether the Council will be able to promote the export of Jute and Jute Products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Ministry of Textiles is examining the proposal to set up a Jute Export Council.

(b) to (d) The main objectives behind the establishment of the proposed Jute Export Council is to maintain and improve the existing markets and development of new markets for jute manufacturers and devising export marketing strategy in consonance with the demand for such manufacturers outside India.

Non-Banking Finance Companies

758. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) operating in the country;

(b) the names of the NBFCs under operation in the state of Orissa;

(c) the areas of operation of these NBFCs in that States;

(d) the activities undertaken by these NBFCs in that State;

(e) the details of the loan assistance provided by these companies to individuals/Government Organisations and NGO's in that State under various schemes during the last three years;

(f) the amount of loan disbursed by these companies in other States; and

(g) the separate break up thereof, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have granted certificate of registration to 13909 NBFCs as on

date to carry on the business of non-banking financial institutions. Of these, only 686 companies have been allowed to accept/hold public deposits.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India has issued Certificate of Registration (COR) to 16 Orissa based NBFCs and they are operating in the state of Orissa. Their names are indicated thereunder:

'A' CATEGORY (holding public deposits)

1. Micro Finance Limited

'B' CATEGORY. (not authorised to accept deposits)

1. Mishra Financial Services Ltd.

2. Madhukan Financial Services Ltd.

3. Prime Capital Markets Ltd.

4. East Coast Tradefin Ltd.

5. Shreyansh Mercantile (P) Ltd.

6. Ceeta Synthetics & Turfs Ltd.

7. Rajpath Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.

8. The Industrial Promotion & Investment Corporation of Orissa Limited.

9. Trishna Tradefin Ltd.

10. Sahebramaka Projects Ltd.

11. Vedvyas Finance Private Ltd.

12. Shree Leasing & Finance Ltd.

13. Rohini Mercantile Pvt. Ltd.

14. Madhukan Finance Private Ltd.

15. Mangal Pradeep Financial and Investment (India) Ltd.

(c) The areas of the operations of these NBFOs are as under:

(i) Micro Finance Ltd.

Orissa Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra.

(ii) Other 'B' Category Companies

Orissa

(d) The activities undertaken by these NBFCs

(i) Micro Finance Ltd.

(a) Acceptance of Public Deposits

(b) Granting Loans to deposit holders only and

(c) Making Investment (in Govt. Securities, Term Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks)

(ii) Other 'B' Category Companies

(a) Granting Loans

(b) Making Investment and

(c) Activities of Hire Purchase & Leasing

(e) to (g) The details of the loan assistance provided by Micro Finance Ltd. to Individuals in various States during the last 3 years under the scheme of Loans

granted to Deposit holders against Term Deposits are furnished below. The Company has not provided any assistance to Government Organisation and NGOs.

(Amount in Rupees lakh)

Name of the Company	State	Year	Loan assistance provided to Individual (Rs.)
Micro Finance Ltd.	Orissa	2000-01	118.8
		2001-02	167.0
		2002-03	255.6
	Andhra Pradesh	2000-01	2.0
		2001-02	4.2
		2002-03	1.4
	Bihar	2000-01	—
		2001-02	1.7
		2002-03	2.8
	Chhattisgarh	2000-01	10.0
		2001-02	8.7
		2002-03	11.2
	Delhi	2000-01	—
		2001-02	0.6
		2002-03	4.9
	Goa	2000-01	—
		2001-02	3.3
		2002-03	5.4
	Gujarat	2000-01	21.5
		2001-02	105.1
		2002-03	98.7
	Jharkhand	2000-01	—
		2001-02	—
		2002-03	—
	Maharashtra	2000-01	18.3
		2001-02	21.5
		2002-03	17.2

The above information in respect of 'B' Category Companies is not available, as they do not furnish any return to the RBI in this regard.

Reduction of Sugar Quota

759. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to reduce the monthly sugar quota of States with effect from August, 2003;

(b) whether such a decision has created an artificial shortage and increased the prices of sugar to Rs. 250 per quintal in many parts of the country including Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government propose to bring down the prices of sugar in the open market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (f) The monthly quota of non-levy sugar is decided keeping in view the various factors like sugar production, requirement/demand, availability of alternate sweeteners like gur and khandsari, price trend of sugar in the market etc. The total quantity of non-levy sugar released month-wise from August, 2003 to December, 2003 vis-a-vis the releases made in the corresponding months of 2002 as under:

Month	Non-levy sugar quota released (quantity in lakh tonne)	
	2003	2002
August	9.50	9.75
September	10.45	9.75
October	12.65	11.50
November	10.50	10.50
December	10.00	10.00
Total	53.10	51.50

The prices of sugar were in the range of Rs. 1200-1400 per quintal during the month of November, 2003 as against Rs. 1160-1340 per quintal during the corresponding month of 2002. In addition to the factors

mentioned above, monthly quota of non-levy sugar is decided keeping in view its availability to the consumers at a reasonable price.

Revival Plan for IDBI

760. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI has got an ambitious revival plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the plan includes merger of IDBI with any bank;

(d) if so, which banks are likely to be merged;

(e) whether the proposal has been cleared; and

(f) if not, by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) Industrial Development Bank of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002 is being introduced in the current Session of the Lok Sabha. The Bill contains provisions to give effect to the proposal to corporatize the IDBI and to allow the emerging corporate entity to carry on banking business.

Export of Edible Oil

761. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of edible oil has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom, year-wise:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Edible oil is not a significant item of export. Statistics relating to Export of Edible Oils are not compiled.

Bank Branches Abroad

762. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries do not give their permission for the opening of branches of Indian Banks in their countries;

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

(c) whether such countries have opened their banks in India; and

(d) if so, the circumstances under which the Government have permitted these banks in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that Iranian laws do not allow foreign banks (including Indian) to open branches in Iran, except in Free Trade Zones.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Trade with Armenia

763. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of trade between India and Armenia that have taken place during the last three years;

(b) whether India and Armenia have recently signed any agreement to strengthen their economic ties;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The volume of bilateral trade between India and Armenia during the last three years is as under:

(In Rs. Crores)

Year	Export	Import	Total
2000-2001	6.40	2.40	8.80
2001-2002	6.27	2.16	8.43
2002-2003	12.05	0.78	12.83

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(b) and (c) For strengthening their economic ties, India and Armenia have recently signed the following agreements:

(i) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement signed in May 2003.

(ii) Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income signed in October 2003.

(d) These Agreements will come into force on completion of formalities as envisaged in respective Agreements.

[*English*]

Loans through Private Banks

764. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed the private banks to provide loan under poverty alleviation programmes of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the private banks thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has directed private sector banks to extend 40% of net bank credit to priority sector and 10% to weaker sections which includes beneficiaries under all poverty alleviation programmes. Private sector banks also extend loans under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). The private sector banks have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1461 crores to 2.26 lakhs applicants as on March 2003 (latest available).

Part-Time Employees of LIC

765. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the staff strength of Life Insurance Corporation of India as on March 31, 2003, category-wise;

(b) whether the LIC has also employed some part-time staff;

(c) if so, since when and their strength as on date;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to regularise their services; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Staff Strength of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as on 31.3.2003 category-wise is as under:

Class I Employees	17564
Class II Employees	19457
Class III Employees	73295
Class IV Employees	6822
Total	117138

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) LIC has informed that after the award of N.T.B.-I of 1985 dated 17.4.1986, part-time staff strength as on 31.3.2003 is 2197. These part-time staff are in regular service.

RRBs in M.P.

766. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Regional Rural Banks in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a shortage of staff in most of these RRBs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies and to deploy adequate number of staff in those RRBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The names of Regional Rural Banks functioning in Madhya Pradesh are as under:

1. Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshangabad
2. Rewa-Sidhi Gramin Bank
3. Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank
4. Sharda Gramin Bank
5. Jhabua-Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
6. Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank

7. Damoh-Panna Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
8. Dewas-Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank
9. Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank
10. Mandla-Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank
11. Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank
12. Rajgarh-Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank
13. Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank
14. Ratlam-Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank
15. Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank
16. Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank
17. Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank
18. Gwalior-Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank
19. Vidisha-Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank

(b) and (c) As per manpower norms introduced with effect from July 2001, there is an overall surplus of 253 staff in RRBs of Madhya Pradesh, though only five RRBs are having a deficit of 78 staff.

(d) The Government has introduced a scheme of inter RRB redeployment of staff in order to manage the surplus/deficit staff position in RRBs.

[Translation]

Profit of GIC Companies

767. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the "Net Profit" of the National Insurance Company, New India Assurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company Limited during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for decline in the net profit; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) There was decline in the Net Profits of three companies during the year 2001-02 as compared to the

previous year. However, all the four companies have registered increase in the net profits during the year 2002-03. The Net Profits earned by the four public sector general insurance companies during the last three years are as under:

(In Crores of Rupees)

Name of the Company	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
National	86.77	(-) 94.34	135.65
New India	173.54	142.00	255.81
Oriental	74.18	(-) 235.48	107.36
United India	8.15	153.39	170.99

(c) The main reasons for losses or/decline in net profits in 2001-02 were substantial reduction in fire tariff, losses in motor third party portfolio and catastrophic losses like earthquake in Gujarat, floods in various parts of the country, etc.

(d) The public sector general insurance companies have taken various steps to curtail losses which, inter alia, include better underwriting practices, claims control measures, settlement of motor third party claims through alternative forums like Lok Adalats and Conciliation Committees, control on expenses of management, etc.

[English]

External Commercial Borrowings

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

(a) whether some of the Indian companies have submitted their proposals to the Government to raise funds through external commercial borrowings;

(b) if so, the names of the companies thereof and the amount to be raised by each company through the external commercial borrowings;

(c) whether the Government have considered the proposals of these companies; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) As per the ECB guidelines, the proposals exceeding USD 100 Million are considered by the Government. ECB proposals are examined in terms of the ECB guidelines. Details of ECB proposals submitted to the Government during current financial year are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Amount of the Loan (Million)	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Dynamic Logistics	US\$ 101	Rejected
2.	M/s Gauri Baidyanath Trust Ltd.	US\$ 175	-do-
3.	M/s Reliance Industries Ltd.	US\$ 250	-do-
4.	M/s Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd.	US\$ 200	Approved
5.	M/s Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd.	US\$ 300	-do-
6.	M/s Indo Canadian Papers Ltd.	US\$ 142	Rejected
7.	M/s Petrocon India Ltd.	US\$ 160	-do-
8.	M/s National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	US\$ 200	Under examination
9.	M/s Export Import Bank of India	US\$ 300	-do-

1	2	3	4
10.	M/s National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	US\$ 300	Rejected
11.	M/s Industrial Development Bank of India	US\$ 500	Under examination
12.	M/s Bharti Cellular	US\$ 416	-do-
13.	M/s Essar Steel Ltd.	US\$ 500	-do-
14.	M/s Reliance Industries Ltd.	US\$ 750	Approval dated 01.03.2002 renewed
15.	M/s Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited.	US\$ equivalent Rs. 24.24 crores	Approval dated 06.09.2002 renewed
16.	Punjab National Bank	US\$ 215	Under examination
17.	M/s Dewan Rubber Industries	US\$ 100	Rejected
18.	M/s KSEB	US% 100	-do-
19.	M/s VSRS Chemicals	US\$ 50,000	-do-

[Translation]

Foodgrains Stock

769. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the foodgrains stock in the country as on date;
- (b) whether a decline has been registered in the foodgrains stock during 2003-04;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, category-wise and year-wise during the last three years including its impact on prices;
- (d) whether a certain quantity is unfit for human consumption;
- (e) if so the value thereof including the expenditure on its maintenance on yearly basis;

(f) the latest measures adopted to prevent damage to foodgrains; and

(g) the steps taken/to be taken for better utilisation of surplus foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):
(a) The stock of rice and wheat as on 1.11.2003 was 220.72 lakh tonnes (56.59 lakh tonnes rice and 164.13 lakh tonnes wheat)

(b) and (c) The stock of rice and wheat for the last 3 years (as on 1st April) is as under:

(In lakh tonnes)		
Year	Rice	Wheat
2001-02	231.91	215.04
2002-03	249.12	260.39
2003-04	171.57	156.45

The decline in Central Pool stock will not have any impact on prices as the procurement of foodgrain in Central Pool is a continuous process and availability of adequate quantity is ensured.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As on 1st November, 2003 there was a stock of 93,294 M.Ts of damaged foodgrains

with the FCI. The value thereof is Rs. 37,31,54,298 (Provisional). The expenditure on its maintenance is Rs. 1258 per tonne per year on an average (Approx.)

(f) The steps taken by FCI to preserve the stocks in storage and prevent the damage in foodgrains are enclosed at statement-I.

(g) The steps taken by the Food Corporation of India to utilize foodgrains over and above the buffer norms are enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Steps Taken by FCI to Preserve the Stocks in Storage and Prevent the Damage in Foodgrains.

- (i) Construction of its own godowns & on scientific lines for storage of foodgrains.
- (ii) Provision for adequate dunnage and plinth for storage of foodgrains in open in Cover And Plinth (CPA) storage with covering of specifically fabricated low density black polythene water proof sheets with proper lashing by nylon ropes/nets.
- (iii) Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns by qualified and trained staff.
- (iv) Undertaking of prophylactic and curative treatments of the stocks regularly.
- (v) Undertaking the pest control measures regularly.
- (vi) Implementation of the procedure of "First in, First out" (FIFO) to the extent possible so as to avoid longer retention of stocks.
- (vii) Movement of foodgrains from one place to another by safe means, i.e., covered wagons, etc.
- (viii) Undertaking pre-monsoon fumigation.
- (ix) Improvement in dunnage material.

Statement II

The Steps Taken to Utilize Foodgrains over and above the Buffer Norms

- (i) Under Targeted Public Distribution System, the scale of issue was increased from 25 Kg to 35 Kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

(ii) Open Market Sale of wheat and rice, without quantitative restrictions, at prices to be determined by the existing High Level Committee of FCI, is being resorted to.

(iii) Foodgrains under various Welfare Schemes like Mid Day Meal, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Annapurna, Welfare Institutions/SC/ST & OBC Hostel etc. are being allocated at Below Poverty Line (BPL) Prices.

(iv) Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, wheat and rice are being allocated @ Rs. 2/- & Rs 3/- per Kg respectively.

(v) To fix the scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 Kg per head per month and made an additional allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation to States/UTs at BPL Central Issue Prices (CIPs).

(vi) To continue the exports of rice, wheat and wheat products without quantitative restrictions, subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs. (100 lakh MTs of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time up to 31.3.2004;

(vii) To enter into counter trade and/or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on case to case basis up to 31.3.2004.

[English]

New System of Cheque Clearance

770. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has introduced a new system of cheque clearance called "Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)" to facilitate immediate bank settlements;

(b) if so, the details of the RTGS system of RBI; and

(c) by what date this system is likely to be introduced in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Under Payment System reforms, RBI is introducing the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system for inter-

bank fund transfer to minimise settlement risk and eliminate systemic risks. The RTGS system will be an electronic and message based credit transfer system, facilitating immediate banks settlements. The settlement will take place on gross basis, transaction by transaction only. Settlement will be final and irrevocable. Cheques will not be used under this system.

(c) The RTGS system will be implemented in phases during the period January-July 2004.

Relaxation of FDI Holding Caps

771. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether FDI holding caps have been relaxed in certain sectors;

(b) if so, the details of such sectors where foreign firms can set up wholly owned subsidiary;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the FDI rules in order to allow the foreign firms to set up new ventures without having to seek an NOC from its local partner;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons to amend the FDI rules;

(e) the time by which the overseas companies would be allowed to set up new ventures without seeking NOC from their local partner; and

(f) the steps to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of Indian companies raising genuine concern by not giving NOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) FDI policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis. For this various aspects of FDI including equity cap, entry route and sectoral guidelines are considered. Presently, no proposal relating to change in guidelines pertaining to 'approval' of foreign/technical collaborations under the automatic route with previous ventures/tie-up in India is pending.

[Translation]

Credit Infrastructure Fund

772. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to create a Credit Infrastructure Fund for textiles units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be created;

(c) the target set in regard to the total quantum of textile exports and imports sought to be made during the year 2003-2004; and

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to instal machines with a view to increase production of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Target for textile imports has not been fixed. However, a target of US\$ 13.5 billion has been fixed for export of textile products during 2003-04.

(d) Government is not contemplating to install machines on its own but is encouraging private entrepreneurs to modernize and expand under Technology Upgradation Fund scheme, Apparel Park Scheme etc.

[English]

Restructuring of Plantation Operation

773. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board has any proposal to restructure its plantation operation;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction;

(c) whether any emphasis is being given to increase the production of green leaf;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other programmes included in the restructuring of the plantation operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Tea Board does not have any plantation of its own and therefore the question of restructuring its

plantation operations does not arise. However, Tea Board is implementing a number of developmental Schemes during the 10th Five Year Plan, under which emphasis is being given on improving productivity and quality of tea produced from the existing area rather than expansion of area. This is with a view to maintain a balance between the present demand and supply for tea. Emphasis is also being given on extending necessary R&D support to the tea industry besides improving the marketability of Indian tea and promoting exports.

Non Payment of Deposits by Companies

774. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4046 on March 23, 2001 regarding non payment of deposit by companies and state:

(a) the present position in regard to refunding of the amount invested by general public in the remaining six defaulting companies, company-wise;

(b) the particulars of the special officers appointed by the Reserve Bank of India on each of these default companies at present; and

(c) the other concrete measures taken or proposed to be taken for ensuring early refund of due amount of general public as per Company Law Board's order given in 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Handmade Carpets

775. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a time bound action plan to achieve a quantum growth in the export of handmade carpets with specific focus on increasing employment opportunities;

(b) if so, salient features of the same; and

(c) the time by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) prepare an Annual Action Plan to achieve a quantum growth in the export of handmade carpets with specific focus on increasing employment opportunities. The Government provide financial assistance to the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) to take various measures to export promotion activities in order to boost export of handmade carpets. The measures include: organization of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation workshops of design development; export marketing and packaging etc; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad and organisation of Carpet Expo's (Autumn and Spring) Annually in New Delhi.

Cess on Sugar

776. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cess on sugar collected in last 2 years;

(b) whether the Government have increased the cess on sugar from Rs. 14 to Rs. 20 per quintal;

(c) the estimated amount likely to go to the Sugar Development Fund during the current year as a result of this increase;

(d) whether the Government have made some changes in the items of expenditure from this fund;

(e) if so the details thereof;

(f) the amount allocated by the Government from this fund for sugarcane development during the year 2003-2004;

(g) whether misutilisation of these funds has come to the notice of the Government; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a)

The amounts of cess on sugar collected during the last two years are as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)
2001-02	324.94
2002-03	336.80
Total	661.74

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The application of the Fund is made as laid down in the Sugar Development Fund Act 1982 and the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Act 2002. There have been no further changes in the application of the Fund after the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Act 2002.

(f) An amount of Rs. 20 crores has been provided for this purpose in the Budget Estimates 2003-04.

(g) and (h) Mis-utilisation of these Funds has not been brought to the notice of the Government.

Handmade Carpets

777. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a World Forum of Handmade Carpets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of this forum and the number of countries proposed to be involved therein;

(d) how many countries would be involved; and

(e) the manner in which it will be helpful to our Carpet Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Export of Steel

778. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum and value of steel exported by India during 2002-03 and 2003-04 till date;

(b) the countries to which steel is being exported at present;

(c) the companies which are exporting steel to China;

(d) whether some companies have reduced their steel exports during 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(e) if so, upto what extent and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The exports of Primary & Semi-finished Iron and Steel, and Iron & Steel bar/rod etc., during the period 2002-03 and April-July 2003 are as follows:

Item	2002-03*		Quantity in '000 ton April-July 2003*	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Primary & Semi-finished Iron and Steel	4420	7597	1509	2976
Iron & Steel bar/rod etc.	294	1107	96	381
Total	4714	8704	1605	3357

*(Provisional)

Source: DGCI&S

(b) The major countries to which steel is being exported at present are China, USA, UAE, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Italy, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Ethiopia, Iran, Vietnam, Nigeria, Malaysia, Belgium, Myanmar, Korea Republic, Philippines, Singapore and Greece.

(c) Major exporters of steel to China include Steel Authority of India Ltd., Uttam Galva Steel Ltd., ESSAR Steel, Jindal Vijaynagar Steel Ltd., Tata Steel and Mukand Ltd.

(d) and (e) None of the exporters have reported any reduction in their steel exports to China.

Fiscal Deficit of Centre and States

779. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention was drawn to the statements made by Chairman of 12th Finance Commission while addressing the seminar organised by

the National Institute of public finances and policy and also by Mr. Nicholas Stern, the Chief Economist of the World Bank made in Dubai on September 20, 003, expressing concern about the rising fiscal deficit of the Central and State Governments in India and stressing the need for firm steps to bring it down;

(b) if so, the total fiscal deficit of the Central and State Governments during 2001-02, 2002-03 and that estimated for 2003-04; and

(c) the steps since taken and being taken to bring it down substantially;

(d) whether most of the States were asked to resort to Outside Market Borrowings (OMB); and

(e) if so, to what extent in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes Sir, the Government is aware of the statement made by the Chairman of 12th Finance Commission while addressing the seminar organised by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

(b) The fiscal deficit of the Central and the State Governments are as follows:

Year	Fiscal Deficit (Rupees in Crore)		Ratio to GDP (per cent)	
	Centre	States	Centre	States
2001-02 (RE)	131721	103732	5.74	4.52
2002-03 (BE)	135524	98965	5.53	4.04
2003-04 (BE)	153637	N.A*	5.06	N.A*

*Not Available

(c) The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 has been enacted. It enjoins upon the Central Government to set limits on Government borrowings, debt and deficits. In particular it seeks to eliminate revenue deficit for the Central Government by 31st March, 2008. A number of State Governments have also initiated steps towards setting out a roadmap for greater fiscal rectitude. Further, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments towards fiscal consolidation, Government of India has also created a "States' Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05)". This facility provides incentives to States to undertake fiscal reforms aimed at reducing revenue deficit by 5% every year under a Medium-Term

Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP). The Government of India also works with State Governments to limit their borrowing programme as part of MTEFRP to bring the debt to sustainable level. The Government of India also initiated a debt swap programme to reduce interest cost to State Government besides streamlining the process for giving State Guarantee for non-viable projects. Government of India has also assisted some State Governments to avail multilateral institutional funding for undertaking fiscal and structural reforms.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Financial Crisis in States

780. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's internal debt dynamics have deteriorated with State Government finances in a crisis;

(b) if so, the main reasons for financial crisis in the States;

(c) whether there is a wide gap between the State Government pursuing reforms with aggressive pace and those who are not pursuing reforms;

(d) if so, to what extent States have been urged to step up growth;

(e) whether any directive has been urged to step up growth;

(f) if so, the other steps the Government propose to take to help States to overcome the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) With increasing fiscal deficit aggregate debt of States has increased. The debt-GDP ratio of States is estimated to increase to 26.7% by end of March 2003 from a level of 23.7% at the end of March 2001.

(b) Inadequacy of revenue receipts, growing expenditure, especially on salaries, pensions, interest and power sector are the main reasons for financial crisis faced by States.

(c) The revenue deficit/surplus as a percentage of Revenue Receipts during 2002-03 shows wide variation among the States pursuing reforms and those not pursuing reforms.

(d) The Government of India has created the States Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05), to incentives States towards fiscal consolidation and debt sustainability, for enabling growth. The Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) of States thereunder, outlines various measures for revenue augmentation and expenditure compression. It aims at limiting the annual borrowings by States within prudential limits. So far 23 States have drawn up their MTFRP.

(e) The guidelines for Fiscal Reforms facility were issued in February 2001.

(f) The Government of India has entered into dialogue with State Governments to streamline the borrowing programme of States in tune with the fiscal reforms scenario. The Government of India has also streamlined and strengthened the procedure for providing guarantees to borrowings, through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) under Article 293 (3) of the Constitution. The States would also be given assistance under State Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05), for other reforms initiatives which include Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for Public Sector Units (PSUs), downsizing of PSUs and debt restructuring, to enable the States to overcome the financial crisis.

National Tax Tribunal

781. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a proposal to set up a National Tax Tribunal to reduce burden of the number of pending cases in High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of the functions of this tribunal;

(c) to what extent this tribunal is likely to reduce the burden of High Court; and

(d) the main areas identified for this tax tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir. The National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 has been promulgated by the President on 16th October, 2003 to set up a National Tax Tribunal.

(b) to (d) The salient features of the National Tax Tribunal are as under:

(i) Appeals against the order passed by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal and the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal shall lie before the National Tax Tribunal, where a substantial question of law is involved.

- (ii) An appeal against the order of the National Tax Tribunal shall lie before the Supreme Court.
- (iii) In case of difference of opinion between two Members of the Bench, the matter will be heard by the Chairperson, or by a third Member nominated by the Chairperson, and will be decided by majority.
- (iv) In case of difference of opinion between two Benches, a special Bench of five Members will be constituted.
- (v) All appeals and references under the Direct Taxes and Indirect Taxes pending before the High Courts shall be transferred to the National Tax Tribunal.
- (vi) To begin with, there will be 15 Benches for Direct Tax matters and 10 Benches for Indirect Tax matters covering the entire country. Each bench will have two Members comprising a Judicial Member and a Technical Member.

ISI Marking for Bottled Water

782. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the time since ISI marking has been made compulsory for bottled water;

(b) the details of the manufacturers who have received licence for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints against its misuse;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Packaged Natural Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water were brought under Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) through Gazette Notification No. GSR 759 (E) and (GSR 760 (E) with effect from 29th March, 2001 issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) BIS has so far granted 997 licences for Packaged Drinking Water and 8 licences for Packaged Natural Mineral Water.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of complaints registered for misuse of BIS Standard Mark for Packaged Drinking Water for the last three years and action taken thereon is as under:

	2001-2002	2002-03	2003-2004 (upto 31st October, 2003)
Total Complaints Registered	7	7	18
No. of search & seizure conducted	6	2	18
Outcome—			
(i) Prosecution launched	2	2	—
(ii) Under Investigation/Examination	—	3	18
(iii) Cases closed	5	2	—

Export of Wheat to Pakistan

783. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani trade delegation recently visited India and had shown interest to purchase two

lakh tonnes of wheat from India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the request of the Pakistani delegation;

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(d) whether any further negotiations have been held with the Government of Pakistan for export of Indian wheat to that country on regular basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, had organised the Third Meeting of India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry on July 7 & 8, 2003, at New Delhi wherein a 100-member Pakistani business delegation participated in the meeting. However, no request on Pakistan's import of wheat from India came up for discussion during this meeting.

State Finance Corporation

784. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gupta Committee in its report dated the January 20, 2001 made recommendations for operational, financial and organizational restructuring of State Financial Corporations;

(b) if so, whether the report was circulated to all State Governments to take immediate action on the report; and

(c) if so, the present status of the implementation of the Gupta Committee report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report was sent to various State Financial Corporations (SFCs) for taking immediate action on recommendations that do not involve any financial support, such as operational and organizational restructuring.

(c) Recently, keeping in view the importance of the SFCs, especially, for the SSI Sector, in various states the Government in consultation with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has formulated a financial package for revitalization of the SFCs. The

Package envisages that those SFCs which enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SIDBI along with the respective State Governments would be eligible for following reliefs/concessions:

- (1) Reduction in the rate of interest on outstanding refinance/Line of Credit by 2% p.a.
- (2) A Rebate of 2% in the Rate of Interest for all future refinance/Line of Credit; and
- (3) A Moratorium of One Year for Repayment of existing dues.

Credit to SHG

785. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Punjab National Banks set up in various States;

(b) The State-wise number of Self Help Groups (SHG) who have taken loan from PNB; and

(c) the steps taken by PNB to help the SHG in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that as on 31.10.2003, it has 3992 branches, in various States.

(b) The State-wise number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who have taken loan from PNB is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The steps taken by the PNB to help the SHG in various States are as under:

- (a) Rate of interest on loans given to SHGs has been reduced.
- (b) A PNB scheme, namely, SHG Puraskar Yojana has been formulated and implemented to motivate and encourage best performing branch under SHG financing.
- (c) Regular training is being imparted to Incumbents in-charge of its branches.
- (d) Field functionaries have been advised to identify 4 to 5 branches for concentration on SHG financing.

- (e) Pamphlets mentioning details of schemes under SHG have been printed and circulated to all its offices.
- (f) The Bank has assigned the job to Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd in the States of Punjab and Bihar to suggest various strategies to be adopted by the bank.
- (g) Kisan Goshties are being organized, field visits to the branches are being conducted and field functionaries are advised to take help of Village Panchayats and NGOs for formation and linkage of more and more SHGs with bank.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of SHGs. who took loan
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	601
2.	Assam	323
3.	Bihar	1248
4.	Chhattisgarh	164
5.	Delhi	4
6.	Gujarat	61
7.	Haryana	847
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2537
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	29
10.	Jharkhand	35
11.	Karnataka	45
12.	Kerala	221
13.	Madhya Pradesh	450
14.	Maharashtra	80
15.	Meghalaya	4
16.	Orissa	542
17.	Punjab	350
18.	Rajasthan	724
19.	Tamilnadu	714
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3099

1	2	3
21.	Uttaranchal	500
22.	West Bengal	1227
Total		13,805

Tax Holiday to Industries

786. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have extended tax holiday to industries in some special category States;

(b) if so, the details of those Special Category States; and

(c) the details of the tax holiday granted to those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The special category states are the North-eastern States, the State of Sikkim and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(c) In accordance with the new industrial policies announced for the North-eastern States, the State of Sikkim and States of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, the Income-tax Act has provided for a ten year tax deduction to new industries as well as existing undertakings on their substantial expansion, set up in certain notified areas, or engaged in specific thrust sector activities in these States.

New Asset Reconstruction Companies

787. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three more asset reconstruction companies are likely to be set up in addition to the present Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification for having so many asset reconstruction companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that so far they have received fifteen applications for securitisation and reconstruction companies for registration. These applications are being scrutinised with the help of an External Advisory Committee constituted by RBI for the purpose. The Committee consists of distinguished persons in the field of banking, law and accountancy.

RBI have granted registration to Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (Arcil), having its Registered Office in Mumbai and Assets Care Enterprise Ltd., having its Registered Office in New Delhi.

Foreign Direct Investment

788. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FDI cases approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board sector-wise during the last six months;

(b) the total amount involved therein;

(c) the number of cases pending with FIPB for approval;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing the cases; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A total no. of 408 FDI proposals involving an amount of Rs. 3024.67 crore have been approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during the period from April-September, 2003. Sector-wise break-up of these approvals are available in the monthly SIA Newsletter published by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion which is circulated to all major establishments.

(c) to (e) Consideration of FDI proposals is an ongoing process. FDI proposals once supported by all requisite documents are cleared in a time bound manner.

Setting up of FIPB

789. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States who have set up their own Foreign Investment Promotion Boards to attract foreign direct investment;

(b) whether the Government provide assistance to the State to set up Foreign Investment Promotion Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Foreign Investment Promotion Board at the level of Union Government approves proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), that does not fall within the automatic route of the RBI. State Government s do not have powers to approve FDI. However, promotion of foreign investment in a State as a preferred destination is the responsibility of State Governments, many of whom have set up different promotional agencies for this purpose.

Funds for Development Projects

790. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in each State during last three years;

(c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects was utilised fully; and

(d) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details of funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in each State during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. The projects for which funds were released are under implementation as seen from periodic progress reports received.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Scheme	Details of funds released (in crores)				Funds utilised
			2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	Total	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(i) Growth Centre Scheme	Nil	Nil	1.10	1.10	1.10
		(ii) Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE)	Nil	Nil	12.00	12.00*	—
2.	Chhattisgarh	(i) Growth Centre Scheme	Nil	Nil	1.00	1.00	1.00
		(ii) Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE)	Nil	2.00	4.00	6.00*	—
3.	Jharkhand	(i) Growth Centre Scheme	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
		(ii) Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE)	Nil	2.00	4.00	6.00*	—
4.	Orissa	(i) Growth Centre Scheme	Nil	4.50	2.40	6.90	6.90
		(ii) Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIB)**	1.80	Nil	Nil	1.80	.9621
		(iii) Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE)	Nil	Nil	4.50	4.50*	—

*Utilisation awaited

**Merged with ASIDE with effect from March 2002.

*[Translation]***IT Company of SBI**

791. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India propose to set up an information technology company;

(b) if so, the objective of setting up such a company;

(c) the funds likely to be spent by the State Bank of India on floating this company;

(d) whether this proposed company is likely to set up as an undertaking; and

(e) if so, the details of the other companies that will be a part of this company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. SBI is planning a Joint Venture (JV) with a reputed Information Technology company.

(b) Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are facing increasing competition from the foreign and private sector banks due to technological advantages. In order to meet this competition, it is necessary that efforts are mounted to bring the level of technology in PSBs at par with their competitors.

The challenge for SBI is still bigger because of its large network of branches, some in remotest corners of

the country. Networking of these branches and maintenance of equipment will require substantial effort. Any in-house effort for this will not only be very complex but also time-consuming. SBI lacks internal capability to achieve all this. The JV company is being seen as the vehicle which will give a push to the current as well as future technology initiatives of the Bank. In due course, the company will also take up business activities independent of SBI, catering to the banking and financial services requirements of the industry within India, as well as in near and far geographies.

(c) The formation of JV is in a very early stage. The equity contribution will have to be decided in consultation with the prospective partner, depending on the financial structuring of the company and the quantum of equity participation that the partner may agree for.

(d) No Sir, The proposed company will be a Joint Venture partnership.

(e) SBI is identifying a suitable partner for Joint Venture alliance.

[English]

Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988

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

(a) whether there have been a large number of cases of benami transactions and the Government propose to frame strict rules under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the areas in which the benami transactions are taking place and the action taken against the people indulging in such transactions;

(c) if so, whether the revised rules under the Act have been finalized by the Government, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Although a number of benami transactions are known to be taking place, no cases have been registered under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 in the absence of the necessary rules prescribing the administrative procedures under the Act.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Ministry of law has pointed out serious legal infirmities in the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 because of which the Rules for implementation of the Act have not been framed.

LIC Business

793. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC's market share of new business premium has dropped from 92.15% during 2002-2003 to 89.05% for the first half of the fiscal year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the reasons for significant drop of 3% of LIC's market share of new premium;

(c) the long term impact of this fall in new insurance premia of LIC; and

(d) the steps LIC propose to take to contain this erosion of its market share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the reduction in overall market share in new premium is partially attributed to the negative growth in single premium plans. Further, falling interest rate regime warranted withdrawal of some existing plans and redesigning of products from time to time which also affected the market sentiments. Moreover, some of the new private insurance companies have started business in this year and more companies in this sector has resulted in increase in the market share of private companies.

(c) LIC expects that market would get stabilised and there may not be any long term impact in the new insurance premium of LIC with the new strategies adopted by it.

(d) LIC has informed that they are strengthening their marketing wing by stepped up training activities for sales force and innovative new products being designed for insuring public. They are also making efforts to tap the business potential in every segment by aggressive marketing initiatives alongwith undertaking regular publicity activities to project their products and services.

Agreement with ASEAN for Free Trade

794. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed a Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), paving the way for a Free Trade Area within a 10-Year time-frame;

(b) if so, whether China has also signed agreement for three years with ASEAN countries;

(c) if so, the extent to which India's pact is different than the Chinese pact; and

(d) the extent to which India would be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. India has signed the Framework Agreement with ASEAN on 8th October, 2003 in Bali, Indonesia wherein it has been agreed to enter into negotiations in order to establish an ASEAN-India Regional Trade & Investment Area (RTIA) which envisages to encompass a Free Trade Area (FTA), beginning with goods, subsequently extended to trade in services & investments. The Framework Agreement prescribes for forming a Free Trade Area in Goods between India and ASEAN by the year 2016.

(b) China has signed a Free Trade Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with ASEAN in November 2002 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia which also prescribes for Free Trade Area in Goods within a 10 year time frame.

(c) The main differences between the two pacts can be summarised in the following manner:

(i) While the FTA in goods between India & ASEAN will be achieved in the year 2016; with China the same will be achieved in 2015.

(ii) For FTA in Services and Investment the negotiations between India & ASEAN will commence in 2005 and conclude by 2007 and

the identification, liberalisation etc. of the sectors of services to be finalised for implementation subsequently. However in the Framework Agreement between ASEAN & China though the time for commencement of negotiations in Services & Investments has been prescribed (year 2003) there is no prescribed time frame to conclude these negotiations.

(iii) The identified Areas of Economic Cooperation between India & ASEAN include trade facilitation measures; sectors of cooperation; and trade & investment promotion measures and are more illustrative than the one with China.

(iv) The Framework Agreement with India provides for exchange of tariff concessions on products listed under the Early Harvest Programme (EHP). The exchange of tariff concessions on these products will start from 1st November, 2004 and the products have been categorized in the following manner:

(a) Common List of 105 item (at 6 digit HS level) on which exchange of tariff concessions would take place. The tariffs will be eliminated in three years between India & ASEAN 6 (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand). India will remove tariffs on these items within three years for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, while they will do so for India in six years.

(b) List of 111 items (at 6 digit HS level) on which India will extend unilateral tariff concessions to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar & Vietnam. The tariffs on these items will be eliminated in three years.

The items covered under the above two categories cover a wide range of products namely inorganic & organic chemicals; wood & wood products; paper & paperboards; machinery & equipments; raw hides & skins, footwear etc.

In case of China the Early Harvest Programme covers only the agricultural products (Live animals, Meat & edible meat offal, Fish, Dairy produce, Other animals products, Live trees, Edible vegetables and Edible fruits & nuts). It also prescribes for having an Exclusion List of items from the above agricultural products on which concessions are not available.

(v) Under the EHP with India, certain areas of cooperation have been identified so that the

cooperation in these areas are carried out on a fast track basis. There is no such provision in the Framework Agreement between ASEAN and China.

- (vi) The Framework Agreement between India and ASEAN prescribes that any ASEAN Member may defer its participation in the implementation of the Agreement provided a notification is given to the other Parties within 12 months from the date of signing of the Agreement. The concerned Party shall participate in the implementation of this Agreement at a later date on the same terms and conditions, including any further commitments that may have been undertaken by the other parties by the time of such participation. There is no such provision in the Framework Agreement between ASEAN and China.
- (d) The proposed establishment of an RTIA is driven by several factors of benefits including the following:
- (i) A combined ASEAN-India market has a population of 1.5 billion, a total Gross Domestic product (GDP) amounting to about USD 900 billion, and total trade amounting USD 700 billion. The large market size creates huge opportunities for reaping economies of scale and scope, from both supply and demand perspective.
- (ii) An analysis of trade structure of ASEAN and India indicates strong trade complementarity which in turn implies scope for trade expansion. The skewed export structure of both ASEAN and India in their bilateral trade, even when their aggregate export structures are well diversified, points to substantial scope of trade expansion through diversification.
- (iii) The competition that would result from the elimination of the barriers to trade and investment would induce domestic producers to move towards greater international competitiveness.
- (iv) With the formation of RTIA India is expected to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from ASEAN and at the same time it will provide opportunity for many large Indian corporations who are now focusing on securing market access through FDI rather than exports.

- (v) Priority areas of cooperation have been identified which inter-alia, include tourism, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, education and human resources development, science & technology, media & entertainment etc. wherein the sectoral development between India & ASEAN would take place through technical collaborations.

Loss Making Jute & Textiles Units

795. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have identified the unremunerative Jute and textiles units in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for incurring losses;
- (d) whether steps are being taken to help these units; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No study has been conducted to identify the unremunerative Jute and textiles units in the country. However, 30 jute mills and 324 Textiles mills have been referred to BIFR due to their sickness. A statement indicating State-wise Jute & Textiles Mills referred to BIFR is enclosed.

(c) The main reasons for the incurring losses by these Jute & Textiles mills have been instability in production of raw material, low efficiency, higher labour and power costs, obsolete machinery and technology.

(d) and (e) The Government seeks to foster a policy regime, which facilitates growth and development of Textiles & Jute Industry in India. It has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, inter-alia, include, guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board of Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, etc. The Reserve Bank of India has been issuing from time to time elaborate guidelines covering all areas of Industrial Rehabilitation viz. detection of industrial sickness at incipient stage, identification of sick/weak units, carrying out viability study of the units, then extending relief and concessions to only viable units, coordination

among Banks and Financial Institutions and Banks themselves, norms for promoter's contribution, extend period for repayment/rescheduling of loans, conversions and waiver of penal rate/compound interest, etc.

With effect from 15.9.2003, Government of India in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs has announced a package for restructuring of high cost debt of textiles mills/units in the organized sector. The package would be applicable to potentially viable textiles units/mills with a minimum debt exposure of Rs. 2 crore. This package does not apply to sick units.

Statement

State-wise list of cases of jute mills registered with Board of Industrial Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)

Sl.No.	State	Number of Jute Mills.
1.	West Bengal	26
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1
3.	Uttar Pradesh	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Orissa	1
Total		30

State-wise list of cases of Textile mills registered with Board of Industrial Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)

Sl. No.	State	Number of Textile Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Chandigarh	2
5.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	6
6.	Delhi	33
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	99
9.	Haryana	25
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1

1	2	3
11.	Karnataka	40
12.	Kerala	10
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26
14.	Maharashtra	142
15.	Orissa	6
16.	Pondicherry	1
Total:		324

Review of Rape Law

796. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the October 18, 2003 captioned "the definition of rape is part of the problem";

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review the rape laws covered under Section 375 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove inadequacies in the law and also to widen the definition of rape in order to include all forms of sexual abuse in the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Law Commission in its 172nd Report on "Review of Rape Laws" has recommended changes for widening scope of the offence in section 375 and to make it gender neutral. Various other changes have been recommended in sections 376 and 376A to 376D and insertion of new section 376E dealing with unlawful sexual contact, deletion of section 377 IPC and enhancement of punishment in section 509 of IPC.

State Governments have been requested for their views on the recommendations of the Law Commission of India as the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh schedule to the Constitution of India."

Directors of Companies

797. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many large public limited companies have directors on their boards who are over 85 years old;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure that no director of a public limited company is beyond 75 years of age;

(d) if so, the status of this proposal; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that only mentally and physically alert persons are appointed as board of directors of companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the Company Law no such information is maintained.

(c) to (e) The Companies (Amendment), Bill, 2003 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 7.5.2003, has a provision that no person shall be eligible to hold office as a managing director, whole-time director or other director or manager of a company, upon attaining the age of seventy-five years.

Expansion of Indo-Thailand Trade

798. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of Indo-Thailand trade;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed by both the countries in that regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the proposals under the consideration of the Government for the expansion of trade between India and Thailand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In order to strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations, India and Thailand have signed a Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area on 9th October, 2003.

(c) and (d) The key elements of the Framework Agreement cover FTA in Goods, Services and Investment, and Areas of Economic Cooperation. The Framework Agreement also provides for an Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) under which common items have been agreed for elimination of tariffs on a fast track basis. Various components of the Framework Agreement are as follows:

- (i) FTA in Goods.
- (ii) FTA in Services & Investments.
- (iii) Areas of Economic Cooperation
- (iv) Early Harvest Scheme (EHS).

Investments by OCBs

799. SHRI JYOTRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had lately imposed a ban on investments by Overseas Commercial Banks (OCBs) in the equity markets, FDI, mutual funds schemes, units of UTI, real-estate, company fixed deposits and debentures;

(b) if so, the main objectives for imposing such a ban; and

(c) the extent up to which it is purported to prevent or restrict NRI investments and mobilization of NRI funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to derecognise the Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) is a follow-up of the review of investment activities of OCBs in India carried out by the RBI on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security Market Scam.

(c) The measure would not restrict or prevent NRI investments as Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) continue to

enjoy all the facilities available to any other foreign investor, including automatic route for foreign direct investment.

Measures to attract FDI

800. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce policy measures to attract foreign direct investment in research and development;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government has put in place a liberal FDI policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route, except for a small negative list. FDI policy is reviewed on an on-going basis. The reviewing authority considers various aspects of FDI including equity cap, entry route and sectoral guidelines.

Swarojgar Credit Cards

801. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all the banks to introduce Swarojgar Credit Cards for self-employed persons such as fishermen and rickshaw owners;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the target fixed for issuing such Credit Cards during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which this scheme is different from Kisan Credit Card Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features under Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) scheme are as under:

- The scheme provides credit i.e. working capital/ or block capital or both to small artisans, handloom, weavers, service sector, fishermen, self-employed persons, rickshaw owners and other micro-entrepreneurs in a flexible, hassle free and cost-effective manner.
- The facility may also include a reasonable component for consumption needs.
- The SCC is valid for 5 years and renewable on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory operation of the account.
- The normal limit of loan to be fixed under the scheme is Rs. 25,000/- but in deserving cases banks may consider higher limits.
- Beneficiaries under the scheme would automatically be covered under group insurance scheme and the premium has to be shared between the bank and beneficiaries.

(c) The State-wise details of target fixed under the scheme during 2003-04 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The SCC scheme differs from Kisan Credit Card in the following manner:

- The KCC provides credit to the farmers only whereas the SCC scheme covers the entire group of small borrowers of non-farm sector and provide credit to small artisans, handloom weavers, service sector, fishermen, self employed persons, rickshaw owners, other micro entrepreneurs from banks.
- The SCC provides a component for consumption needs whereas the KCC does not provide the same.
- The SCC scheme is valid for 5 years whereas the KCC is valid for 3 years.
- The maximum loan amount under SCC is Rs. 25,000 but in deserving cases banks may consider higher limits whereas the loan amount under KCC depends upon land holding/cropping pattern etc.

Statement

State-wise Targets of SCC Cards to be Issued during the year 2003-04

S.No.	Name of the State	Target
1.	Tripura	1,000
2.	Gujarat	10,000
3.	Mizoram	1,000
4.	Karnataka	25,000
5.	Madhya Pradesh	10,000
6.	Orissa	20,000
7.	Punjab	10,000
8.	Haryana	10,000
9.	Tamilnadu	35,500
10.	Uttanchal	2,000
11.	Nagaland	1,000
12.	Sikkim	1,000
13.	Assam	3,000
14.	Andhra Pradesh	50,000
15.	Manipur	1,000
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,000
17.	Rajasthan	10,000
18.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,000
19.	West Bengal	10,000
20.	Uttar Pradesh	20,000
21.	Bihar	10,000
22.	Maharashtra	30,000
23.	Goa	500
24.	Chhattisgarh	2,000
25.	Jharkhand	2,000
26.	Meghalaya	1,000
27.	Himachal Pradesh	2,000
28.	Kerala	15,000
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	300
Total		2,86,300

Technology Upgradation Fund

802. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) that offers soft loans for modernisation of textile units by three years till March 31, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the concessions offered to the textile sector under the above fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Main concessions available to the textile sector under the above scheme are as follows:

- The Scheme provides for a reimbursement of interest @ 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the Scheme.
- With effect from 1st January, 2002 an option has also been provided to the Small Scale Textile and Jute Industries to avail of either 12% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) or the existing 5% interest reimbursement under the TUFS.
- For powerloom sector, with effect from 06.11.03, upfront 20% capital subsidy for powerloom and weaving preparatory machinery have been allowed by further expanding the credit network to include all cooperative banks and other genuine Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFC) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India.

Trade Agreements with China and USA

803. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the trade agreements signed by the Government with China, USA during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by India as a result of these agreements during the above period;

(c) whether signing of some more agreements with these countries is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During Prime Minister's visit to China during June 22-27, 2003, the following Agreements relating to Trade were signed:

- (i) A Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade
- (ii) A Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China.
- (iii) A Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation including inter-alia the following elements pertaining to trade.
 - The importance of the Ministerial meeting of the Joint Economic Group (JEG)
 - Setting up of a compact Joint Study Group (JSG) composed of officials and economists to examine the potential of complementarities between the two countries in expanding trade and economic cooperation.

Indian Government has not signed any three agreement with USA during the last three years.

It is not possible to quantify the amount of foreign exchange earned by India as a result of signing of the agreements.

(c) and (d) Presently no specific Agreements are under consideration. However, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to increase India's trade with China and USA by various measures such as signing of agreements, meetings of the Joint Economic Group, Working Group on Trade, organizing buyer-seller meets and participation in trade fairs.

Funds to Orissa

804. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance sought from the Union Government by the State Governments particularly by State Government of Orissa for its various ongoing schemes; and

(b) the amount actually allocated by the Union Government to the State during the last two year i.e. 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The State Governments do seek financial assistance from the Union Government from time to time. Government of Orissa requested for grant of ways and means advance and release of share in Central taxes, normal central assistance and small savings in advance ten times during the year.

(b) Government of India had allocated Central assistance of Rs. 39482.00 crore and Rs. 45361.08 crore during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively for financing of State Annual Plans.

Sixth Pay Commission

805. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government constitutes the Pay Commission for the Central Government employees after every ten years;

(b) if so, whether the Constitution of the Sixth Pay Commission has become due;

(c) if so, whether representations have been made by the employees' representatives for the Constitution of the Sixth Pay Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to merge a part of the Dearness Allowance with the basic pay;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to constitute the Sixth Pay Commission for Central Government employees at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A demand for constitution of 6th Pay Commission was raised by the Staff Side in JCM.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The same has not been done taking in account the financial and other implications.

(g) No such steps have been initiated.

Reconstruction Package Committee

806. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a 10-member implementation committee for the smooth implementation of the recently announced debt reconstruction package for the textiles industry;

(b) if so, the terms of reference made to this committee;

(c) to what extent the committee would monitor the progress of the debt reconstruction package implementation and also study the issues that may be brought before it periodically; and

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) In order to ensure smooth implementation of the package for textile reconstruction and to encourage eligible industries to approach banks/financial institutions an Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles) with the following members has been constituted:

- (i) Joint Secretary, Department of Banking;
- (ii) Textile Commissioner;
- (iii) Secretary General, the Indian Cotton Mills Federation (ICMF);
- (iv) An industry representative from ICMF;
- (v) A representative from South India Mills Federation (SIMA);
- (vi) A representative from Indian Spinners Association;

(vii) Chairman, ICICI or his nominee;

(viii) Chairman, State Bank of India or his nominee;

(ix) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles—Member-Convenor.

The above Committee is not expected to submit any recommendation. It will monitor the progress of the package and examine various issues on regular basis.

Poor Quality of Bulbs

807. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent study conducted by the Consumer Education and Research Society (CERS) revealing that majority of the 60 watt electric bulbs of various brands manufactured in the country do not conform to the BIS Standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the evaluation standards and extent of compliance with BIS norms in last three years;

(c) whether there is any Governmental machinery for testing the quality of various brands of bulbs produced by the manufacturers in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the survey conducted by Consumer Education and Research Society (CERS), 11 brands of electric bulbs were found conforming to the corresponding Indian Standard on GLS Lamps, IS: 418: 1978. 5 brands were not found conforming to the aforesaid Indian Standard. 4 brands were found failing in average life and one brand was found failing in initial lumen and wattage. So far BIS has issued 176 licences to the manufacturers to use ISI Mark. During the period since January 1999, out of 53 samples tested by BIS 20 have failed. Action is taken against manufacturers not complying with the specifications, as laid down in the relevant Indian Standard, as per the provisions of BIS Act and Rules/Regulations framed thereunder.

(c) to (e) GLS Lamp is under Mandatory Certification of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been regularly monitoring performance of manufacturers permitted to use BIS Standard Mark for manufacturing bulbs by way of factory visits and testing of samples drawn from factory as well as from the market.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

808. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange reserves have varied from week to week since August 30, 2003, indicating the foreign currency assets, Gold Reserves, and SDRs contents thereof;

(b) the total foreign debts as on August 30 and November 30, 2003, and the per capita debt in the country;

(c) whether the Forest Reserves increase was attributable to disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The details of India's foreign exchange reserves (in US \$ million) since week-ending August 29, 2003 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) India compiles its external debt data on a quarterly basis i.e. at end-march, end-June, end-September, and end-December. India's external debt as on end-march 2003 and end-June 2003 stood at US\$ 104.55 billion and US\$ 109.58 billion, respectively. The per capita external debt of India at end-December 2002 stood at US\$ 101.2

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

India's Weekly Foreign Exchange Reserves (in US\$ Million)

Week Ending	SDRs	Gold	FCA	Total
August 29, 2003	3	3,628	82,624	86,255
Sept. 5, 2003	3	3,720	83,642	87,365
Sept. 12, 2003	4	3,720	84,132	87,856
Sept. 19, 2003	4	3,720	84,832	88,556
Sept. 26, 2003	4	3,720	85,603	89,327
Oct. 3, 2003	4	3,919	83,815	87,738
Oct. 10, 2003	4	3,919	86,430	90,353
Oct. 17, 2003	4	3,919	87,392	91,315
Oct. 24, 2003	4	3,919	87,969	91,892
Nov. 7, 2003	4	3,920	89,287	93,211
Nov. 14, 2003	3	3,920	89,740	93,663
Nov. 21, 2003	3	3,920	91,450	95,373

Job Opportunity to OBC

809. SHRI P.D ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Communities (OBC) in the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution;

(b) whether in most instances the OBC staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particulars in Group A and B;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC and to uphold social justice to the persons belonging to the OBC in respect of job opportunities;

(d) whether the Government have asked for any detailed reports from the various departments, autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of Ministry of (CAF&D) Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) Sir, the information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of House.

Schemes for Handloom Sector

810. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI ALAKESH DAS:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each schemes implemented for the development of handloom sector/handloom weavers;

(b) the number of proposals received from various States under each scheme and the funds allocated and released thereunder during 2002-2003 and 2003-04 till date, State-wise

(c) the amount utilized by each State Government on such schemes during the said period;

(d) the number of weavers benefited and number of handloom units modernized under these schemes till date, State-wise;

(e) the details of views submitted by the State Governments for improvement in those schemes and the reaction of the Union Government thereto: and

(f) the impact of these schemes in respect to overcoming the competition from the powerloom sector and meeting the international competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government of India has been implementing the following Schemes and Programmes for promotion and development of handloom sector/handloom weavers in the country:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY).
2. Handloom Export Scheme.
3. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
4. Design Development and Training Programme.
5. Marketing Promotion Programme.
6. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
7. Weavers Welfare Schemes including Health Package, Thrift Fund, Group Insurance and New Insurance Scheme.
8. Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production), Act, 1985.
9. Scheme for reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yam.

(b) No Statewise funds are allocated under the Schemes. Details of funds released to various State Governments on receipt of viable proposals under each Scheme during 2002-03 & 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The funds are released only after the utilization certificates for funds released are received from the State Governments.

(d) The Scheme known as modernization of handlooms has since been merge with Deen Dayal

Hathkarga Protsahan Yojana. The details of weavers benefited and number of handlooms modernized till date under Deen Dayal Hathkarga Protsahan Yojana in both guises are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) Review meetings and discussions are held from time to time with State Governments to discuss the guidelines and the implementation of the scheme. This is a continuing monitoring exercise. The states generally ask for changes in guidelines to bring in greater flexibility

to serve individual benefits on emerging needs. Whenever necessary, the guidelines are reviewed revised to accommodate felt requirements within the existing objectives.

(f) The impact of these schemes in respect of overcoming the competition from the powerloom sector and meeting the international competition can be gauged from the fact that exports have increased from Rs. 1840.05 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 2633.27 crore in 2002-2003.

Statement I

Details of releases made during 2002-2003 & 2003-04 various States under different Handloom Schemes (upto 3/12/2003)

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	DDHPY		Marketing Promotion Programme		Workshed-cum Housing Scheme		Weavers' Welfare Scheme							
								Health package Scheme		Thrift Fund Scheme		Group Insurance		New Insurance	
		2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1238.85	0.00	61.88	8.37	0.00	92.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19.33	0.00	19.59	3.38	28.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	837.87	436.71	112.55	52.00	117.95	0.00	63.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	42.92	7.58	29.19	3.75	0.00	0.00	11.42	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	150.00	100.00	13.7	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	15.66	19.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.02	0.00	0.59	2.21	1.32	3.48
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	11.52	12.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	137.64	45.58	9.05	5	22.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	31.89	0.00	53.42	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	8.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	156.61	9.19	24.45	12.14	250.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	7.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	1067.31	154.73	4.00	3.20	34.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15.	Madhya Pradesh	62.20	6.66	41.87	20.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.48	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.77	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	2.82	0.00	68.31	4.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	481.32	0.00	0.00	4.00	127.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	3.98	1.00	15.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.46	20.50	14.92	11.00	36.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	117.81	20.50	14.00	25.00	24.45	155.21	0.89	73.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00
21.	Orissa	22.34	0.00	18.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.12
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	9.77	0.00	59.08	51.52	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.96	0.00
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	2.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	2376.71	1223.52	0.00	25.11	227.800	0.00	106.22	0.00	210.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Tripura	7.72	0.00	19.07	7.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	589.04	236.87	103.74	44.58	109.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Uttaranchal	27.25	0.00	31.67	6.00	20.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	West Bengal	347.88	10.20	11.86	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	2.87	0.00	0.00
	Total	7729.56	2251.54	760.08	350.02	1050.00	281.52	237.08	74.58	275.03	0.00	10.45	5.56	7.44	10.73

Details of releases made during 2002-03 & 2003-04 to various States under different Handloom Schemes (upto 3.12.2003)

1	2	Handloom Export Scheme		Implementation of the HL (Reservation of Articles for)	
		3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	17.94	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	18.66	39.25
9.	Haryana	0.00	9.85	6.05	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	32.33	20.45	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	20.25	4.50	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	6.88	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mehgalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	5.90	18384.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Punjab	14.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	8.72	0.00
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	61.75	0.00
27.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	69.40	40.25	0.00	0.00
29.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	West Bengal	31.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
		186.26	18459.05	120.00	39.25

Statement II

The details of the number of weavers benefited and the number of handlooms modernized under the scheme till date are as under

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of weavers benefited	No. of looms modernised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9735	9735
2.	Chhattisgarh	1864	1917
3.	Delhi	-	-
4.	Himachal Pradesh	2500	2450
5.	J&K	600	600
6.	Karnataka	406	-
7.	Kerala	4275	4100
8.	Madhya Pradesh	755	755
9.	Orissa	-	-
10.	Rajasthan	150	150
11.	Tamil Nadu	24830	24830
12.	Uttar Pradesh	30776	30776
13.	Uttaranchal	1335	1305
14.	West Bengal	5435	5435
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	2900	2900
16.	Assam	39400	39220
17.	Manipur	11540	11540
18.	Meghalaya	100	100
19.	Mizoram	-	-
20.	Nagaland	11450	11450
21.	Tripura	1015	1015
Total		1,49,066	1,48,278

Silk Production

811. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of the country (India) in global silk production;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve silk production of various kinds to top among the silk producing countries in the World;

(c) the various proposals mooted in that regard; and

(d) the steps taken to implement these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) India ranks second in world raw silk production.

(b) to (d) The main programmes and plans being taken by Government to improve and expand silk production include:

- (1) Research and Technological efforts of Central Silk Board for improving the qualitative and quantitative cocoon/raw silk production by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry varieties of food pant and silkworm, adoption of integrated eco-friendly approach for pest and disease management, upgradation of reeling and processing technologies in silk;
- (2) Seed Support & Technical Assistance by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reeferers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed supply of commercial seed support and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds.
- (3) Central assistance to states through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon & silk testing systems, in all four varieties of silk.
- (4) Popularisation and transfer of technologies developed to the field through the States' extension machinery, training to the beneficiaries, organizing various awareness programmes, etc.;
- (5) Under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) of the Ministry of Rural Development financial assistance is being provided to various States for implementation of sericulture projects

of all varieties of silk with the technical assistance of CSB;

- (6) Establishing vertical linkages between the raw silk producers and the industry; and
- (7) Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.

Import of Chinese Silk Fabrics

812. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the silk producing States have recently urged the Union Government to curb the imports of cheap Chinese silk fabrics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been sizable increase in the imports of Chinese fabrics after the imposition of anti-dumping duty; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken to check such imports of cheap Chinese silk fabrics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Import of silk fabrics from China has increased from 766 M T in 2001-02 to 3290 MT (P) in 2002-03 with corresponding value of Rs. 84.29 crores and Rs. 191.52 crores respectively.

(c) There has been an increase in import of Chinese silk fabrics after the removal of quantitative restrictions on 1.4.2001. It is too early to access firm figures of imports since levy of final anti-dumping duty on raw silk imports in July, 2003, to be able to analyse them.

(d) A petition has since been filed by Karnataka Weavers Associations before the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied duties, the designated authority, requesting for initiation of anti-dumping investigations on imports of silk fabrics from China PR. Through Research and Technological efforts of Central Silk Board breakthrough has been achieved for production of international standard of silk to enhance the availability of superior quality silk indigenously.

Certification of Silk Fabrics

813. SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that today some of the Synthetic fibers resemble natural silk to such an extent that a normal consumer would find it difficult to judge the quality;

(b) if so, whether there is a demand to introduce silk quality certificate;

(c) whether the Government are considering to introduce such certificate on the line of hall marking for gold; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A plan scheme "Quality Certification Systems" for silk has been approved for implementation during X Plan period. The scheme provides for setting up accreditation systems for certification of quality of silkworm seed, cocoon, raw silk and silk goods. The scheme also envisages introduction of a "Silk Mark Label" for silk products.

Job Opportunities for OBC

814. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided adequate job opportunities for the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the OBC staff strength is far less than what it should be corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representations for the OBC and to uphold social justice to the persons belonging to the OBC in respect of job opportunities;

(e) whether the Government have asked for any detailed reports from the various Departments, Autonomous Officers, subsidiary and attached offices under the Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a), (b), (e) and (f) Yes, Sir, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is having an undertaking, i.e. National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) and an apex level cooperative society, i.e. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), under its administrative control. On the basis of information gathered from all these bodies, the position is as given below:

S.No.	Orgn.	Group	Total No. of Employees	OBC
1.	Ministry	A	18	Nil
		B	26	1
		C	26	3
		D	15	1
		Total	85	5
2.	NSTFDC	A	18	1
		B	6	1
		C	10	2
		D	11	Nil
		Total	45	4
3.	TRIFED	A	52	1
		B	03	Nil
		C	188	12
		D	38	4
		Total	281	17

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Department of Personnel & Training, who are the nodal Department in regard to reservation matters, have clarified that since reservation for OBCs was introduced only in 1993, the representation in services is not yet complete. However, in order to ensure that vacancies reserved for OBCs are filled by OBCs only, there is a ban on dereservation of vacancies for them. They are also given various concessions like relaxation of three years in upper age limit etc.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): On behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002:

- (1) The Competition Commission of India (Oath of Office and of Secrecy for Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 757 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2003.
- (2) The Competition Commission of India (Salary, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 784 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8085/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951:
 - (i) The Conduct of Assembly Elections (Sikkim) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1192 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2003.
 - (ii) The Conduct of Elections (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1232 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2003.
 - (iii) The Conduct of Elections (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1283 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2003.

- (iv) The Conduct of Elections (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1294 (E) Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2003.
 - (v) S.O. 1047 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 903 (E) dated the 5th August, 2003.
- (2) A copy of the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 934(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 956 (E) dated the 21st August, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8086/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shrimati Jaskaur Meena, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Charter for Children, 2003 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8087/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): I beg to lay on the Table—(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:

- (i) S.O. 933 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 879 (E) dated the 31st July, 2003.
- (ii) The Income-tax (15th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 972 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) The Income-tax (16th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 973 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iv) The Electronic Filing of returns of Tax Deducted at Source Scheme, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 974 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) The Income-tax (17th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1008 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) The Income-tax (18th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1026 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) The Income-tax (19th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1046 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (viii) The Income-tax (20th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1109 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Income-tax (21st Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1110 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) The Income-tax (22nd Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1145 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xi) The Income-tax (23rd Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1162 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xii) The Income-tax (24th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1163 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (xiii) The Income-tax (25th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1210 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) S.O. 1269 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the industrial areas and industrial estates in the State of Himachal Pradesh for the purpose of deduction under section 80-IC of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8088/03]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 7 of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:

- (i) G.S.R. 647 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin C, originating in, or exported from the United States of America and Canada at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (ii) G.S.R. 659 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on non-brass metal flashlights, originating in, or exported from, China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (iii) G.S.R. 660 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 26/2003-Cus., dated the 13th February, 2003.
- (iv) G.S.R. 661 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on induction hardened forged steel rolls, originating in, or exported from, Russia, Ukraine and Korea, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (v) G.S.R. 662 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking

to rescind Notification No. 1/2003-Cus., dated the 1st January, 2003.

- (vi) G.S.R. 680 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 1/2002-Cus., dated the 2nd January, 2002.
- (vii) G.S.R. 684 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on Sun and/or Dust Control Polyester films, originating in, or exported from, Taiwan and United Arab Emirates and imported into India.
- (viii) G.S.R. 703 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 106/2003-Cus., dated the 10th July 2003.
- (ix) G.S.R. 753 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Import of Copper clad laminates imported from the People's Republic of China, Honkong, Taiwan, South Korea and Philippines, on the basis of the preliminary findings of the designated authority.
- (x) G.S.R. 781 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on specified Acyclic alcohols originating in, or exported from Brazil, Malaysia, Romania, Singapore and South Africa at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xi) G.S.R. 789 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 77/2000-Cus., dated the 26th May, 2000.
- (xii) G.S.R. 790 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin E Acetate and Vitamin E feed

grade, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (xiii) G.S.R. 791 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Paracresol, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 793 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on steel and fibre glass tapes and their parts, originating in, or exported from, China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xv) G.S.R. 794 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 65/2003-Cus., dated the 4th April, 2003.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 805 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Methylene Chloride, originating in or exported from, Republic of Korea, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 826 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 23/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 827 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Methylene Chloride, originating in, or exported from, European Union, South Africa and Singapore, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xix) G.S.R. 834 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum

seeking to amend notification No. 8/99-Cus., dated the 22nd January, 1999.

- (xx) G.S.R. 840 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Vitamin C, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 712 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on plastic ophthalmic lenses, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 759 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydroxide, originating in, or exported from Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 861 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 112/2003-Cus., dated the 18th July, 2003.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 872 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 139/2003-Cus., dated the 5th September, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8089/03]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:

- (i) S.O. 969 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.

- (ii) S.O. 970 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.
 - (iii) S.O. 993 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iv) S.O. 1102 (E) published in gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.
 - (v) S.O. 1103 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.
 - (vi) S.O. 1209 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 36/2001-Cus., (NT) dated the 3rd August, 2001.
 - (vii) S.O. 1238 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.
 - (ix) S.O. 1241 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 36/2001-Cus., (NT) dated the 3rd August, 2001.
 - (x) G.S.R. 695 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 704 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 146/94 Cus., dated the 13th July, 1994.
 - (xii) G.S.R. 711 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xiii) G.S.R. 806 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 26/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.
 - (xiv) G.S.R. 824 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xv) G.S.R. 825 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xvi) G.S.R. 841 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xvii) G.S.R. 860 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus.; dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xviii) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 866 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8090/03]
- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) The CENVAT Credit (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 719 (E) in Gazette of India dated 9th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 863 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 638 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 639 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein.
 - (v) G.S.R. 640 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt twisted filament yarn (including crepe yarn), when manufactured by an independent twister, from so much of duty of excise, which is in excess of duties of excise and additional duties of excise paid on filament yarns, purchased or procured from outside, from which such twisted filament yarns have been manufactured.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 652 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two notifications mentioned therein.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 679 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide partial exemption from duties of central excise to units in North East, manufacturing tobacco products, subject to certain conditions.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 706 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 7/2003-CE, dated the 1st March, 2003.
 - (ix) G.S.R. 717 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt excisable goods manufactured by specified industries located in the Industrial Growth Centre, Industrial Infrastructure Development Centre or export promotion industrial park or industrial estate or industrial area or Commercial Estate, or Scheme Area in the State of Sikkim, subject to certain conditions.
 - (x) G.S.R. 718 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 56/2003-CE, dated the 25th June, 2003.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 823 (E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xii) G.S.R. 842 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 7/2003-CE, dated the 1st March, 2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8091/03]
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:
- (i) G.S.R. 676 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable service provided to a customer in relation to commissioning or installation by a commissioning and installation agency, other than a commercial concern, from the service tax liviable thereon.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 677 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable service provided to a customer in relation to commissioning or installation by a commissioning and

installation agency, from so much of service tax leviable thereon, subject to certain conditions.

- (iii) G.S.R. 678 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable service provided to a customer by any person in relation to maintenance or repair of computers, computers systems or computer peripherals.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8092/03]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1263 (E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2003 containing Presidential Order directing insertions of new paragraph 10A in the Terms of Reference of the 12th Finance Commission in Notification No. 1161(E) dated the 1st November 2002 under provision to article 280 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8093/03]

- (7) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003 together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8094/03]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:

- (i) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the One Hundred Rupees (containing Silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5% and Zinc 5%) and Two Rupees (containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%) coined on "150 years of Railways in India" Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 653 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2003.
- (ii) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the One Hundred Rupees (containing Silver

50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5% and Zinc 5%), Ten Rupees (containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%) and One Rupee Ferritic Stainless Steel (containing Iron 82% and Chromium 18%) coined in honour of "Veer Durgadas" Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 654 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2003.

- (iii) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of Rupee Five (containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%) coined in the memory of "Dadabhai Naoroji" Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 709 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8095/03]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfers of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:

- (i) The Syndicate Bank General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. 01/2003/2914 in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2003.
- (ii) The Union Bank of India General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. SMR/01 in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2003.
- (iii) The Andhra Bank General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. 666/25/P. 119/550 in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2003.
- (iv) The Central Bank of India General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. CO/LEGAL/GS/2003-04/383A in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8096/03]

- (10) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1275 (E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 2003 specifying the "Asian Development Bank" as "Financial institution"

for the purposes of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued under section 2 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8097/03]

- (11) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1282 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India 10th November, 2003 specifying certain housing finance companies registered under sub-section (5) of section 29A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 to be treated as Financial Institutions for the purpose of the sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of section 1 and 2 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued under the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8098/03]

- (12) A copy of the Mid-Year Review for the year 2003-2004 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.-8099/03]

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Action Taken Statement

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways (2002) regarding action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their 9th Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants-2001-02 of the Ministry of Railways.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

One Hundred and Third to One Hundred and Sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions)

of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:

- (1) One Hundred and Third Report on the Salaries and Allowances of the Judicial Officers of the Union Territories Bill, 2003;
- (2) One Hundred and Fourth Report on the Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003;
- (3) One Hundred and Fifth Report on the Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Bill 2003; and
- (4) One Hundred and Sixth Report on the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the State of Delhi Bill, 2003.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Evidence

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Committee on the Salaries and Allowances of the Judicial Officers of the Union Territories Bill, 2003.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, on behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I would like to inform the House that following items of Government business will be taken up during the week commencing from Monday 8 December, 2003:

1. Consideration of any item of Government business left out from the today's list of business.

2. Discussion on the statutory resolutions seeking disapproval of the following ordinance and consideration and passage of the Bills replacing these ordinances:

- (i) The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.
- (ii) The Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.
- (iii) The Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.
- (iv) The National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003; and
- (v) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.

3. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 and consideration and passage of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

4. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 and consideration and passage of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by the Rajya Sabha;

5. Consideration and passage of the Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003, as passed by the Rajya Sabha;

6. Consideration and passing of the Constitution (Ninety-Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003; and

7. Consideration and passage of the following Bills, as passed by the Rajya Sabha:

- (i) The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1998;
- (ii) The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003; and
- (iii) The British Statutes (Repeal) Bill, 2003.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) There is a recent Government Order requiring immigrants to pay return airfare causing much inconvenience to the job seekers proceeding to the Gulf countries.
- (ii) Attestation of educational certificates by various Ministries of the Government of India at the time of immigration of candidates seeking job opportunities in foreign countries and also the process of attesting the qualifying documents by the UAE Embassy at New Delhi causing innumerable difficulties to poor unemployed people.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Need to increase the number of unreserved general coaches for public in the long distance trains being operated in the country.
- (ii) Need to issue orders to start production of military equipments to make the full use of infrastructure available in the Ajmer unit of H.M.T.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) In view of the judgement of Division Bench on strike of State Government Employees of Tamil Nadu, the Government should ratify I.L.O. Convention Nos. 87, 98 and 151 to give 'Right to strike' to Government Employees.
- (ii) In view of the Supreme Court's order on disinvestment process of HPCL and BPCL without approval of Parliament and strike notice given by all Trade Unions of oil sector for strike on 16.12.2003, the Government should stop disinvestment process of HPCL, BPCL and IOC.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

The innocent nine youths from Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu are facing the trial in Malaysian Court under Dangerous Drugs Act, 1952 for the sentence of hanging and the need for Government of India's intervention for repatriation of innocent youths by engaging lawyers and diplomatic discussions.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) To ensure strict implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- (ii) To increase the allocation of funds for proper development of the Indian Systems of medicine.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram); Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Crime against women.
- (ii) To pass the Women's Reservation Bill in this Winter Session.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the week's agenda:

1. A large stretch of land is continuously getting eroded by the river Ganga in Khairpur Diyara under the Navgachhiya sub division in my Parliamentary Constituency Khagaria (Bihar). If arrangements are not made to check the soil erosion, then the entire sub division will submerge in the river Ganga. Erosion should be get assessed by a Central team and arrangements should be made for construction of a spur to check erosion permanently.
2. The condition of the National Highway No. 31 passing through Bihar is very bad. This National Highway is the main route from Bihar to Assam, West Bengal and a number of North-Eastern States. Arrangements should be made to repair this National Highway immediately so that there may not be traffic jams on the said National Highway.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I request that the following items may kindly be included in the List of Business for next week:

- (i) Constitutional Amendment Bill for reserving 33 per cent of seats for women in Parliament and all State legislatures.
- (ii) Completing the construction of Rail Over Bridge at Meloot in Tellicherry Assembly segment of my constituency Badagara, at the earliest.

12.10 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE Committee on Public Accounts

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.11 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTY SIXTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I beg to move the following motion:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th December, 2003."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th December, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

12.12 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Expenditure-tax Act, 1987.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Expenditure-tax Act, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: I introduce** the Bill.

12.12¹/₂ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE—Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 2 of 2003).

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dt. 5.12.03

**Introduced with the recommendation of President.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Was any notice given, Sir?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura); The Minister of Finance is here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I do not object to the Finance Minister's statement. But was the procedure followed?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the procedure was followed. An oral notice was given!

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I am very grateful to my senior friend. He is quite right to point out and enquire whether the procedure was followed. I am very glad. I followed it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But your enquiry was correct.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.13 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN BILL, 2003*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am not opposed to it in principle. But the question is that this is also a State subject.

The child welfare is a matter concerning the entire nation. The States are also involved in it. It will not be

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 5.12.03.

proper for the Central Government to initiate a legislation without taking into consideration the objectives of the States also. This will be good for election purpose. I do agree. But for legal purpose, it will not be good for child welfare because it is again an invasion or encroachment on the powers of the States.

Article 39 of the constitution is very specific that the State shall endeavour to bring in legislation with regard to the welfare of the children. Chapter III deals with the functions and powers of the Commission. I am reading section 13, sub-clause (1) (d):

"The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:

(d) inspect or cause to be inspected any juvenile custodial home, or any other place of residence or institution meant for children, under the control of the Central Government or any State Government or any other authority....."

So, the State Governments are also conducting or running these institutions. Now the Bill gives powers for inspection of those institutions that are being governed by the State Governments. That means, the Central Government is interfering in the administrative affairs when the Child Welfare Centre is being run by the Government.

So, without demarcation of powers, it will not be proper. It will not be sound to bring in the legislation concerning the Centre only. I can understand if he has taken a step for bringing in a constitutional amendment for formation of a Central Commission for children. That is all right and good. But there is no provision for a State Commission. This provision is only for Central Commission. I would like to know why.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: On that basis, for not having brought in a measure to bring in the State Commission also into picture, I oppose it because it is beyond the legislative competence.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, we passed a glorious constitutional amendment for compulsory education of minors and children. Till today, appropriate funds have not reached the respective States. I would also like the hon. Minister to respond, when he responds to Shri Radhakrishnan, whether the Chairmanship of this Commission would be offered to RSS or would he really select somebody who stands in the merit.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I think the hon. Member has not gone through the Bill. They know who was going to be appointed as the Chairperson.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not very serious.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I thank Dr. Joshi that he considered that these three States should be there and the future of Parliament should be all right. ... (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: I thought that he was in the House and not in the football play ground. I thought that he was serious. But I am sorry that he was not serious.

Now Sir, this is a commitment of this Government and it is an international commitment to have a National Commission for Children. This has been the demand from the States, from the Standing Committee, especially the hon. Member, Shrimati Margaret Alva, who is here, who has been all the time placing before this House, and also when she was in the other House, the need to have a National Commission for Children.

This Commission, as it is a National Commission, has powers but it is not going to interfere in the daily administration. It is only when a certain complaint comes or when a certain law is being violated—because there are a large number of Central laws, which are there for the protection of children—that they take care. ... (Interruptions) So, there is no reason for having any apprehension that there will be an interference in the day-to-day administration. But it is necessary to take care of our children. It is an international commitment by the previous Governments and it is a ratification of an international Charter. Our Constitution has a large list of welfare measures which the State has to take about our children. There are a large number of constitutional measures, a large number of legal measures, which have been enacted by this very hon. House.

Therefore, in order to have an overview that all those laws and constitutional provisions are being properly implemented that this Bill has been placed before this august House and I appeal to the House not only to accept it but to pass it very quickly so that the welfare of children can be taken up with seriousness.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that there is a well-established practice that the Speaker does not decide whether or not a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House. The House also does not take a decision on specific question of merits of a Bill. I shall, therefore, put the motion by the Minister to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for Children and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Vijay Singh, you wanted to submit something.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a matter, which concerns my constituency. Day before yesterday, two people were cut at an unmanned railway crossing called Gobindnagar, right next to the Moradabad Railway Station.

Since 1998, 22 people have lost their lives on that very railway crossing which is unmanned. I have been trying to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to either man it or to provide for an over-bridge on that busy crossing. North-Eastern trains were struck for four hours day before yesterday as well as the Northern trains which pass through that area. So, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly man that because it is an open way to lose my constituents dismembered in this manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, there is no 'Zero Hour' before us.

12.20 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Notices of Motions for Adjournment

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members as you are aware, yesterday some hon. Members had raised matters relating to alleged involvement of a former Union Minister in a bribery case and reported misuse of PSUs by some Ministers of the Government through notices of Adjournment Motion. I had also heard some of the hon. Members and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on the subject.

As regards the matter relating to the alleged involvement of a former Union Minister in a bribery case, I may inform the hon. Members that during the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 3rd December, 2003, several hon. Members had desired that the Prime Minister should make a statement in the House on the matter. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had stated that the House can discuss this matter on the statement of the Prime Minister which he may make after his return from abroad.

I have, therefore, separated this matter from the other matter relating to the alleged misuse of PSUs by some Ministers of the Government.

As regards the issue of alleged misuse of PSUs by some Ministers of the Government, I may mention that I have gone through the rules.

According to Kaul and Shakdher (page 503), there is no objection *per se* to the notice of an Adjournment Motion being given simply because it happens to be based on a newspaper report, but the Speaker before accepting the Motion must be in possession of further facts. Press reports unless admitted by the Government, cannot be accepted as authoritative for the purpose of an Adjournment Motion. Since the notices received were based on press reports, I had called for a factual note from the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

The note has since been received. The Government have conveyed that "the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) had called on the hon. Prime Minister on 16th October, 2003. During the meeting, the CVC gave a briefing in respect of various initiatives of the Commission

during the past one year and also dwelt upon the need to remove the misplaced fear of vigilance in the minds of senior public sector executives which often leads to hesitation on their part in reaching decisions. Further, the CVC delineated various measures which could be taken towards promoting economy and accountability in the functioning of the public sector undertakings. At no point, did the CVC mention any name or make any allegation in respect of any Central Minister. There are no complaints of demanding money from the PSU Chiefs by the Ministers'."

Though the subject is important to merit discussion in the House, I do not consider it appropriate to adjourn the entire business for this purpose.

In view of the aforesaid, I am inclined to disallow the notices of Adjournment Motion.

 ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no 'Zero Hour' today. We want to start the discussion under rule 193 forthwith.

12.23 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Recent Incidents of Violence in Assam and Some other parts of the country due to Recruitment Policy of the Railways

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up the discussion which is listed in today's business to be initiated by Shri Basudeb Acharia. Before we start the discussion, I have to make a few observations.

Hon. Members, recent incidents of violence in Assam and some other parts of the country due to recruitment policy of the Railways is a sensitive issue and it needs to be discussed with objectivity and in a broader perspective. When such matters are discussed on the floor of the House in an objective manner, a definite message goes to the nation which is an expression of the cumulative wisdom of the people's representatives.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Members to discuss the matter in a positive and constructive manner, rising above the considerations of regions and parties,

so that at the end of the discussion a message goes from this House that not only this House but the entire nation is one in condemning the senseless and mindless violence.

This statement is made with responsibility by me today because I feel that the discussion should be done in the most decent manner in the House. In the Leader's meeting it was also suggested that since the integrity of the nation is much more important than any other consideration, we may also, at the end of the discussion, adopt a Resolution which will send a message to the entire nation that on such issues, we are one.

Therefore, I would urge upon all the hon. Members, who are going to speak today, that the entire discussion should be with great decorum and we must send a right message to the country so that further violence is not created in any part of the country. I hope the Members will co-operate and will definitely act as the representatives not only of their constituencies but also of the nation. Thank you. Now, we can start the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have a submission to make.

I will follow your direction in letter and spirit. The recent sequel of events are a fall out of the recent incidents of violence in Assam and some other parts of the country due to recruitment Policy of the Railways—the topic for discussion under Rule 193. A series of violent incidents started in Assam after a competitive examination for recruitment in railways. But Biharis and Hindi speaking people are being discriminated against in other parts of the country. In Delhi it is said that people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are littering and spoiling the city. Recently students were beaten up in Andhra Pradesh. I had raised the matter relating to treatment meted out to the people from Bihar. These two are separate things. My first question has been ignored. That issue should be discussed separately. The issue relating to humiliation of the people nationwide and burning of people alive is being totally turned a blind eye. I have also given a notice under rule 193. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I understand your view point and therefore, this discussion will be modified to the extent possible and you will be permitted to speak on this subject.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have given a notice specifically under Rule 193. I had raised this issue day before yesterday. However, the subject matter has been modified.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, that resolution will be further modified slightly so that this subject will also be included in that.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This matter is being diverted.

MR. SPEAKER: No such question arises. The matter relating to Assam was more important.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed all the hon. Members to speak. You cannot get up every now and then. I am according priority to your speech.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether discussion on this topic will be completed today itself?

MR. SPEAKER: If it is completed today itself then O.K. Otherwise it will be taken up some other day.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that while participating in the discussion here, our aim would be to find ways to get rid of the provincial chauvinism which has been going on for several years and the manner in which we can protect the unity and integrity of the country. Our country has a federal structure. We want to strengthen it. We condemn the incidents which took place in Assam and prior to that in Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Such incidents took place in Assam too.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I mentioned Assam first. Prabhunath, am I right? ...(Interruptions) .

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: And other parts of the country.

[Translation]

It was also said.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I first said Assam and thereafter Bihar ...(Interruptions). Alright, I stand corrected.

We all should adopt a resolution that we will not let such incidents to occur in future anywhere.

[English]

Sir, what has happened in Assam is unabated anti-Bihari frenzy; and escalation of violence has rocked Assam. There has been a worsening of the law and order situation in Assam. As a result of that more than 60 Biharis and Hindi-speaking people were killed.

Thousands of people belonging to the Bihari population and other Hindi-speaking people from my district are staying in Assam for more than sixty to seventy years. My district was once upon a time a part of Bihar, prior to 1956. From the Chota Nagpur area, tribals were taken to Assam to work in tea plantations. They are still in Assam though they are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes in Assam. They were brought to Assam by the Britishers to work in tea plantations. So, Biharis and Hindi-speaking people are staying in Assam for years together. They have become a part and parcel of the Assamese people. They do not think that they are separate from the Assamese. These people belong to the poor sections of the society like rickshaw-pullers, vendors and small traders. These people were attacked. About ten thousand of them are now staying in 26 relief camps. The worst affected district were Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

The largest number of Biharis are in Tinsukia district in Upper Assam and Nalbari and Bongaigaon in Lower Assam. About sixty people were killed and thousand houses were gutted and burnt down. Such a heinous crime was committed by a certain group that was not supported by the people of Assam. The ULFA, which was in a dormant state, took advantage of the situation and gave a call that within 24 hours all the Biharis should leave Assam. Then, AASU and the Assam Jatiyatavadi Yuva Chhatra Union also started campaigning against Biharis.

Why did this happen? Was it sporadic and spontaneous? What is the genesis of this incident? There was an advertisement by the Railways that the Railways would recruit 20,000 gangmen and khalasis and other safety staff and this recruitment to Group 'D' category would be done through RRBs. For 20,000 posts, 70 lakh candidates applied. For 2,750 posts in the NF Railway, seven lakh people applied. Out of this, 40 per cent belonged to Assam and 60 per cent were from outside Assam because the NF Railway is spread over Assam, West Bengal and also Bihar. There is one division, the Katihar Division in Bihar under the NF Railway. So,

candidates from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tripura applied. On 9th of November when the boys from Bihar and Tripura went to Guwahati at Malegaon, the headquarters of NF Railways, they were prevented from appearing in the interview. The Tripura Government has suggested that the recruitment centre should be at Agartala also. They identified a place also. All was finalised but that was not agreed upon by the Ministry of Railways. The boys from Tripura were also asked to come to Guwahati for appearing in the interview. The boys from Tripura were also prevented to appear in the interview. They were numbering about ten thousand. These boys could not appear in the interview. This news spread in Bihar. On the next two days, that is, 11th and 12th November, the trains coming from Assam were stopped at various stations in Bihar. At Katihar, at Jamalpur and at a number of other stations, passengers, particularly from Assam and even from some North-East States also were taken out of the compartment and they were beaten up.

Sir, it might be an exaggerated report that a girl from Arunachal Pradesh or Nagaland was gang-raped. For a number of days—two or three days—such things happened. What were the Railway officials doing, or were they sleeping at that time? The Railways had about 80,000 of Railway Protection Force personnel. What were they doing? Why were they not deployed to protect the innocent passengers? They were railway passengers. It was the responsibility of the Railways to protect the passengers. When the Ministry of Railways came to know that such thing is happening, then why the poor and innocent passengers were not given protection by the Railway Protection Force? These passengers were unprotected. They were assaulted and beaten up.

Then, on 17th November, a *bandh* was called by the All Assam Students Union (AASU), Assam Jatiyatavadi Yuva Chhatra Union and also by the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA). They called a *bandh* and started attacking Biharis. They were innocent people and they started leaving Assam. They had nowhere to go because they had left their villages long back, say 50 years or 60 years ago. Where will they stay? They were beaten up, assaulted and killed. This provincial chauvinism was created. Actually, in Bihar there is no such problem of provincialism. Bihari people are everywhere. There are more than 60 lakh Biharis who are staying in Assam. There are Biharis in Bengal and in Kolkata itself. Lakhs of Biharis are working in West Bengal. There is no bad feeling between the Biharis and the Bengalis. The Bengalis are staying in Bihar. There is no provincialism

in Bihar. I can quote from the first Chief Minister of Bihar. When the Damodar Valley Corporation was created, an apprehension was expressed by some members of the Assembly and some people. Even in December 1947 when the Damodar Valley Corporation was built, an interesting debate took place in the Bihar Assembly. The members harped on the inescapable fact that a lot of land in Bihar would be submerged as a result of this project while the benefits of flood protection and irrigation would go to Bengal. The then Chief Minister Shri S.K. Sinha said and I quote:

"It was only a few months back that we, on August 15, 1947, made ourselves free and swore allegiance to India, to one India. None could realise that they would soon be forgotten that, if millions were benefited in Bengal by flood protection works which did submerge a few villages in Bihar, those millions protected were as much Indians as those in Bihar who lost some land."

Such was the statement made by the first Chief Minister of Bihar in the Assembly.

But why is this happening today? The problem is that the unemployment is growing in spite of the solemn assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister that one crore jobs to the unemployed youths each year would be given. Today, the number of registered unemployed youth in Assam is more than 17 lakh and in Bihar it is 20 lakh. The industries are being closed. What remained with Bihar after bifurcation was nothing. All the industries—coal, mica, iron ore, copper, everything—are with Jharkhand. Most of the industries which are there are closed. The Barauni Fertilizer unit is closed today. Two wagon manufacturing units are almost closed. The hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar knows it. One of them is in his constituency, Mokama and the other one is in Muzaffarpur. They are almost closed. Not a single wagon is now being manufactured today. For the last six months the workers have not received their salary. I know that the workers of the Bharat Wagon unit of Muzaffarpur have not received their salary for the last six months. They are starving.

All these industries are closed and unemployment is growing. The same is the situation in Assam. What is the ratio of Group C and Group D posts both in Bihar as well as the North-East? I asked this question long back in 1987 as to why the ratio of Group C and Group D posts in the North-East was only 26 per cent, and the answer was that there is no infrastructure and as a result of that the industries are not coming up in

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

the North-East, Because of the wrong policies of this Government, certain areas in some States of our country will continue to remain backward and industrialisation will not be there and the unemployment will grow. As a result of this, there is a demand that employment should be given to the sons of the soil. AASU is demanding it. The Assam Jatiyatavadi Yuva Chhatra Union is demanding it. Almost all the political parties—except Left and secular parties—are saying this. I can say with conviction that except Left Parties, all the parties are supporting that 100 per cent posts should be reserved for the local youths.

As a result of that, this provincialism, this chauvinism is growing in our country. We will have to think deeper about it.

Sir, in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena Supremo, Shri Bal Thackeray has said that they will throw the Biharis out and that in Maharashtra, only locals should get jobs, Shiv Sena has started this. Their politics has thrived on this provincialism, this chauvinism. They raised the slogan in the sixties that Malayalis should be driven out of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bal Saheb Thackeray never said that. He just said about giving priority to the locals. He never said like that. ...*(Interruptions)*. This should be expunged from the records. He is given a wrong information. ...*(Interruptions)*. He said that a Bengali is one who lives in Bengal, a Bihari is that who lives in Bihar and the Marathi is that who lives in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*. He only said that local people should be given priority. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will check up the records and see if there is something which needs to be expunged.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the sixties, they gave the slogan that Malayalis should be driven out of Maharashtra. Today, the slogan is given that Biharis should be driven out of Maharashtra and no *bhaiyas* or Biharis should be allowed there. I want to know whether we are living in a country, whether we have a Constitution. Sir, as per the Constitution, any citizen of our country can reside anywhere except in Jammu and Kashmir because there is article 370. Today, the Fundamental Right of the citizens is being taken away in Maharashtra.

Biharis cannot go to Maharashtra. They cannot search for a job in Maharashtra. They cannot go to Assam. Assamese cannot go to Bihar. If this continues to happen, I want to know whether we will have a united India. We will have to think deeper about this.

Sir, why is this happening? Ministry of Railways suddenly thought that they have to recruit about 20,000 safety staff. As I am connected with the Railways since seventies, I know that in the past, for the posts in Group 'D', the recruitment used to be done by DRM and through local employment exchanges. Why was the system changed? The system, which was there, was working well. There was no complaint about the system, though there was complaint of large-scale corruption. I want to know whether the Minister of Railways could stop corruption by changing the system. I doubt. Corruption will be there. If a Minister can take money before a camera for giving lease of mines, there will be corruption. How can you stop corruption in this system? He knows about it.

I made a complaint about recruitment of 1,100 boys in my Nadra Division. Inquiry was also done. I complained particularly about two officers, but no action was taken against those two officers who minted lakhs of rupees. How can he stop corruption?

We all want a foolproof system. How can that system be there? Our suggestion is that we should restore the earlier system and the names of candidates should be sponsored by the local employment exchange. Then, there would not be any problem of the kind that Biharis will have to come to Mumbai or Guwahati for interview, or the boys of Assam will have to come to Patna and the boys of Patna or Bihar will not allow them to appear in the interview.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will give a reply about the Railway Recruitment Policy. I would like to know whether some Members will be present in the House that time or just the same as it is at the moment? I mean proper time should be allowed for that. What I mean to say that there should be fair attendance in the House when I give a reply about the Railway Recruitment Board and proper time should be allowed for that. Further, Shri Basu Deb Acharia raised an issue during the discussion and I want to submit every fact before the House. Therefore, there should be sufficient attendance of the MPs in the House to listen to what I say.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will be there.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You will be the only person but that is not going to serve. Personally I have already told you. If the Members will be there, only then I will give a reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am not going to leave the House. I will leave only after listening to you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Therefore, I want to say that fix a proper time particularly to discuss on the recruitment issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I will do say one thing that there will be quorum in the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, its not the question of quorum. If nobody raises the question of quorum, there will be no problem. I am insisting on the attendance of the MPs since it's a sensitive issue. What I want to say that when I make a statement in the House about recruitment policy, there should be enough Members in the House. There should not be a situation like "wood in wilderness" to my reply. If the presence of Members would be good, then more Members would be able to know about our recruitment policy. What I have seen, if the presence of Members in the lower House in thin, then the presence of Member in the Upper House is almost the same.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There will be Members in the Lower House and the Upper House as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you speaking on behalf of the Members of the Upper House?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): But how far the above saying is correct?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the sentiments that you have expressed in your initial remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, how much time will you take?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will finish within 10-15 minutes.

Sir, we should not take advantage of the situation. We have seen in the newspapers statements made by Dr. C.P. Thakur, the Minister in-charge of the Development

of North-Eastern Region. He is not present here at the moment.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He should have been present here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, he should have been present here. It is because a discussion on Assam and Bihar is going on in the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has also made some statements there on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir he belongs to Bihar and he is in-charge of the North-Eastern regions. During his visit, another Minister of State, Shri Chinmayanand Swami, accompanied him. They visited Assam on 22 and 23 November. The incidents took place there on 17 November. Why did they visit the places where the incidents took place, after such a long interval? Perhaps, they found time to visit the places only on 22 November to take stock of the situation in the State. I think, they were busy at some other place for electioneering purposes etc.

These Central Ministers always see foreign hand in these kinds of incidents. In this case also they made a statement that there is the hand of Bangladeshis and Pakistan's ISI. I do not know whether it was a joint statement made by both the Ministers or a statement made by Dr. C.P. Thakur alone. For the killings of Biharis in the State also, the hands of Pakistan's ISI and Bangladeshis was stated.

How could Shri Chinmayanand Swami, the Minister of State for Home Affairs know that there was the hand of ISI and Bangladeshis in this incident? From where did he know that they were responsible for all those killings of Biharis? Even the BJP leadership there, namely the State President of Assam, made a similar statement. He has been orchestrating similar slogans and explaining the incident of killings in Assam as an ISI's game plan.

The RSS *Sarsangchalak* Shri Sudharshan also made certain observations about this incident on 24 November. He stated that what is going on in Assam is a part of the Islamization strategy. What does Islamization have to do with this incident that happened in Assam? the Railway Minister should enlighten us on this issue.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Did Pakistan advise Shiv Sena when the Maharashtra Railway Recruitment Board's office was ransacked by Shiv Sainiks?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Maharashtra Railway Recruitment Board's office was ransacked, and even the Chairman of the RRB was manhandled.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: The Shiv Sainiks heckled the Chairman of the RRB.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have not seen any condemnation of that incident from the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: For your information I want to tell you that only the students and the workers were beaten up. Nobody was injured neither any policeman nor the Chairman was injured. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Did you perform on the advice of Pakistan. It involved ISI's hand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Students were beaten up, Chairman was not manhandled, office was not ransacked and nothing had happened. But all these things have been reported in newspapers.

[English]

Sir, what has the Central Minister belonging to Assam, Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty, stated in this regard? Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty went to the extent of questioning the recruitment of some Biharis in Assam Police and openly incited the AASU leaders to attack the NF Headquarters at Malegaon. This is as per the media reports, and I have seen it in the newspapers. She has not contradicted it; even the Railway Minister has not condemned this. She has incited the people to attack the NF Railway Headquarters at Malegaon. and she has questioned the recruitment of Biharis in Assam Police. Are there no Biharis in Bengal Police? There are a large number of Biharis in Bengal Police. In my District, there are a large number of Biharis in Bengal Police. Why was such an irresponsible statement made not by a Member but by a Minister?

I will not mention about one Member of this House or his constituency in Bihar where the train was stopped. It appeared in the newspapers that he took the leadership, organised the mob and incited the people to attack the Assames. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): It is not true, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. It is false, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Your name has appeared in newspaper. I did not name you nor did I name Katihar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: I understand what you are saying ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I did not name you nor did I mention of Katihar. But it could be in Jamalpur. You belong to Katihar. I did not name Katihar, then why are you rising at your seat. There is something black in that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Achariaji, we are two MPs. On that side is Pappu Yadavs and I am on this side. Both of us tried to calm down the situation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I did not mention anybody's name, neither Pappu Yadav's nor his, whereas the names of those who were inciting the mob, have been published in newspaper. I also did not take his name. ...*(Interruptions)*. I am repeating what you have said.

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: No, BJP. Member incited the people anywhere.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We all should behave in a responsible manner. We should not behave in such a way that such provincial chauvinism can grow in our country. That is our apprehension.

Another important aspect is, we expressed this apprehension, although you wanted a discussion on the reorganisation of Zones, that discussion could not take place. When I spoke, I said that the Indian Railways is a symbol of the unity and integrity of our country and, at that time, I warned that this unity and integrity of our country was going to be ruined because of reorganisation of Zones and Divisions. What is the rationale behind the creation of new Zones? Are they operationally and economically justified? The creation of new Zones cannot be justified either operationally or economically.

13.00 hrs.

Because of creation of new zones, and in view of the ethnic aspirations and chauvinism, demands have started coming as to why there should not be one Zonal Headquarters in each State where there is no Zonal Headquarters.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): The headquarters of the two zones are in Kolkata.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about the Eastern Railway, Raghunathji. We know what Nithish Kumarji has done of the South Eastern Railway.

MR. SPEAKER: Achariaji, you address the Chair.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: There has been no reorganisation of the N.F. Railway. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are not talking about the N.F. Railway. We are talking about all India.

[English]

I know about the NF Railways. I know how investment is being made in NF Railways. Not a single inch of railway track has been electrified there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you have to conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in addition to the suggestion of restoring the earlier system, I want to make another suggestion.

Railways require skilled and trained manpower. This was one of the recommendations of Khanna Committee also. This problem would not have arisen if the boys who received training in the railway workshops at Jamalpur, Bongaigaon, Tinsukia and other places had been absorbed, as was being done in the past. If that had been done, the local boys would have got some employment opportunities. You would talk about the Apprentice Act. In spite of the Apprentice Act, up to the year 2001 these boys were recruited. Suddenly it was stopped. So, there is no bar on recruiting these boys. This could solve the problem partially.

Irrespective of party or State allegiances, we all have to think of people of the country and see how this menace

of provincial chauvinism can be ended. We have to see how we can strengthen the federal structure of our country. Some of the States are facing problems because of the policy of this Government of unequal, unbalanced investment and development. We must ensure balanced development of all the States. We must ensure development of the backward States particularly where more investment and more jobs can be created so that the problem which we are facing now can be resolved.

MR. SPEAKER: The next Member to speak is Shri Kirit Azad. Before he starts speaking, I want to take the sense of the House on whether we should skip today's lunch hour and utilise the time available for the debate. If the House agrees, the discussion will continue during the lunch hour also.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We agree, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The debate continues.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incident which took place in Assam is of a very grave nature. The submission made by Basudeb Achariaji right now made me feel as if it were a speech on the reorganization of Railway or railway budget.

Sir, in regard to the deliberations going on this serious issue I would first of all like to submit that the people whom he tired to refer to during his speech and was either indicating towards a Member or not, it becomes imperative that such comments coming from a Member belonging to any political party or a Union Minister or a Minister of State casting aspersions on a particular regional affiliation should be condemned. Be it in regard to Assam or Bihar I would condemn such a remark because we are all Indians. It is not correct to make such comments.

13.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, we all know that people particularly Hindi Speaking North-Indians most of whom are from Bihar travel across various parts of the country in search of employment. As the hon. Member himself submitted right now that some 60-70 years back many people from Bihar were rehabilitated in Assam to work there in tea plantations. The Hindi speaking people particularly people from Bihar travel to any part of the country to earn a livelihood.

[Shri Kirti Jha Azad]

Sir, not politicizing the matter, I can say it with conviction that most of the people from Bihar migrate to different parts of the country because there are employment opportunities in their State. Approximately, 2-3 centuries ago people from Bihar left for Surinam, Mauritius and settled there. The extent of hard labour they put there and the success that they achieved, they rose to the position of Prime Minister and enjoy important portfolios even now. The people of Bihar have earned fame not only in the country but abroad as well, but if such kinds of incidents start occurring in our country then it is not right. Incidents like killing, murder or rape are all condemnable.

Hon'ble Speaker, comes from Maharashtra. He must have seen many Biharis there. Right now he had a discussion on this very topic, the work may be of a domestic servant, a rickshaw puller, a scooter driver, taxi driver most of the Biharis are engaged in these kinds of work in Maharashtra. Not only in Maharashtra but in Delhi also their population is in lakhs. Many people from Bihar are engaged as labourers in Punjab. When we have bumper harvest in the fields, it is due to the contribution of Biharis, but this kind of violence is not right. There should be emotional integration amongst us but I feel that it is breaking under regionalism, which I am afraid is spreading in the entire country and breaking the country. That is why such incidents wherever these occur should not only be checked but immediate action should be taken to check them and all the groups in particular, should make concerted efforts in this direction. I am not talking about a particular person but addressing my concerns to all that we shall have to give it a serious thought to check these incidents.

Sir, it is not that only people from Bihar have settle down and migrated to various parts of the country. People from Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, South India viz. Tamil Nadu etc. have settled down in Delhi, but if they are identified and killed, murdered, beaten up would it be proper? I feel proud to be a Bihari but we will have to think seriously to check such violence in future.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Basudeb Achariaji discussed Railway Organisation and budget, I may also level allegations against the Congress Government in Assam that it may have been responsible for the violence, but it will be unbecoming on my part. I do not want to give it a political colour. It would not be proper if political parties of other states are targeted and blamed. I am averse to this idea. It would be better if we are able to take decision after serious pondering, leaving all other

issues behind. Most of the migrants to several parts of the country are from Bihar and they earn a living through hard labour. Or concern should be on how to provide them security and protection.

Sir, I would only like to submit that these incidents which occurred in Assam followed by Bihar should not have happened. We should disperse only after taking a decision in regard to checking such killings, rapes genocide.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, first of all I would like to submit that we should rise above regionalism while deliberating in this issue. I seriously condemn the incident in Assam and express my sympathy to the people who have lost their property and lives of their dear ones.

[English]

Sir, I would like to say that the major incident took place in my constituency. Before coming to the point, I must say that the social assimilation in Assam is unique in the whole of India. Assamese are more Indians than anybody else is. They have seen the Chinese and Pakistani aggressions and have fought like true Indians for the integrity and sovereignty of our nation. So, one should not think in the line that they are chauvinists.

I can say with pride that my forefathers had migrated to Assam 160 years ago. They were the first bonded-labour of Britishers who were taken to Assam and they are almost one-fourth of the Assam's population today. There are five Cabinet Ministers and hon. Speaker of Assam is also of the same origin. So, it is not good to say anything against them. For centuries people have been coming to Assam from different places. Shri Handique's forefathers had come to Assam 700 years ago. After that *Brahmins and Kalitas* had migrated to Assam from Kanoj, the heart of UP, 200 or 300 years back. Assamese society is a composite society and it takes care of everybody.

This was not the violence against eight crores of Biharies or two and a half crores of Assamese. We must see who were these people and how these things had happened. We have to go into the root of the cause. If we brush aside all these basic things, definitely we will be encouraging those people who are creating problems for the national integrity and social assimilation in the most sensitive part of our country.

There were some scuffles when a number of boys and other people from Bihar went for interview. As a repercussion of that, there were some incidents, on the 11th of November. A number of train passengers who were either coming out or getting into Assam were harassed and molested in Bihar. Cases of rape have also been reported. These things have given a handle. I must confess and say that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the train incident involves beating which has been unanimously condemned but no incident of rape has occurred. Therefore, no wrong message should be conveyed from the House that rapes have been committed.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: I am not erring, everybody has witnessed the statement in the national and electronic media. The ladies who were molested have been their statement. I would like to state that Biharis are not involved in these incidents.

[*English*]

Anti-social, criminal elements had done all this but they blamed the Biharis for that. Biharis do not have that sort of a character. We have to distinguish these anti-social and criminal elements from general population. Definitely for two-three days, a lot of things happened to the passengers in the Railways. With all humility, I must say that the Railway Protection Force has failed to perform its duty and it could not protect the innocent passengers. There were students not only from Assam but from whole of the North-East. So, these things have to be seriously taken up. The flare up of these things in the electronic and print media created commotion all over Assam. As a backlash of that, some anti-social and criminal people took arms in their hands. Some people lost their lives and many houses were burnt. These incidents started on 16th of November and the State Government called the Army on 19th. Before that, they had called the para-military forces to control the situation.

Sir, these incidents happened mostly in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts. You know the very sensitive nature of these districts. They are connected with the international boundary. On the other side, there is Myanmar. The activities of the insurgents in that area are very much active. Many of the people have lost their lives. The Army and the Administration have given a statement that

the brick kiln workers were killed by the extremist elements. They just came and sprayed bullets. In one incident, they killed eight people. These types of incidents had happened.

13.17 hrs.

[*MR. SPEAKER in the Chair*]

The State Government had taken very strong steps. More than 800 people were rounded up and were put in jai. The Army and the para-military forces were sent to the affected areas. That area is adjoined by the international border. According to the statement of the Central Government the requirement of the para-military forces is around 180 companies. The hon. Chief Minister had written more than 14 letters to the Central Government requesting that these are the things which are required to control the situation. They also said that the para-military force is very much required there. lately after the incident, the Central Government had sent the force. They did not send the para-military forces as required and as assessed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in time.

Sir, some incidents are very heartening. On the first day when the camp was opened, there were more than 12,000 people there. Now there are less than 4000 people there. From the very first day to the last day, I was there. The people are coming from the villages and requesting those people who are in the camp to come back for harvesting their paddy. The Assamese people are coming and are taking back the people. They have constructed the houses community-wise and they are putting them inside. They have said that they will protect them and they are helping in harvesting their paddy. It is really a positive side of the incident. The criminal elements, who had organised it have killed the innocent people. In lower Assam, NDFB have killed some people. ULFA had also killed few truck drivers. These incidents have taken place at that time. So, it should not be said that there is a dispute between Biharis and Assamese. I think we should not think in those lines because that will disturb the process of social assimilation. After the Yandabu Treaty, the Britishers took our people to other countries for work. At that time, Bihar was not there. From the Central Province, some people were taken to Assam. Some people were taken to Mauritius and some people were taken to Surinam and Fiji to work in their plantations and other places and they have become part and parcel of that society. Now there are student organisations and political parties. I do not agree with

[Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar]

the point said by Shri Basudeb Acharia that Assamese are parochial. Yes. There is a demand of the local people. Earlier the Fourth Grade people, the *khalasis* and gangmen, used to be recruited under the General Manager and the Divisional Manager. The local people used to give their sincere service to them because they lived by the side of the railway line. They work and go to their village. I do not know whether it has changed due to the faulty policy of the Government.

Yesterday, we met the hon. Railway Minister. I do agree with his view that prior to 1998, there was a lot of recruitment. This type of an incident had never happened in earlier days. Why has this happened this time? They say that there is a Supreme Court judgement that has tightened the hands of the hon. Railway Minister. And due to that, he had to advertise for the people to be recruited from all over. The *khalasis* and gangmen have to come and work. There are more than 16 lakhs of educated unemployed youth who are registered in Assam alone, but in total there are more than 20 lakhs of educated unemployed persons. The ratio of education in the other North-Eastern States is very high. So, there is unemployment problem prevalent there. Educated unemployed youth have registered themselves. I can say that no student organisation or other organisations have started any movement against the Biharis. For God's sake, we should not discuss this issue on those lines.

Since 200 years, there are a lot of people who have been earning their daily bread by working there. There is not a single village in Upper Assam where families of Bihar origin are not found. So, it is not that all the people of Bihar origin are driven out of Assam. There are sporadic incidents where many people are affected. The Government is taking all possible efforts in this regard. They have already declared a rehabilitation package also. I met the hon. Minister when he visited Tinsukia and Dibrugarh. I was also present in the Press conference addressed by Swami Chinmayananda. They have requested for good understanding among all communities, cutting across party lines, the first priority should be to bring peace in Assam.

Now the situation is quite normal. We have held municipal elections and Town Committee elections. In another two or three days, the most affected towns also would go for elections. Some problem had arisen. So, one has to condemn those who are doing such things on the passengers of Bihar. Those who are doing this are all anti-social, criminal people. They have to be brought to book and have to be dealt with according to

the law of the land. Our Government is taking steps. We should not definitely discuss it on other lines. Everywhere, including Maharashtra, there is demand that preference should be given to the people of that particular State in regard to the Third and Fourth Grade jobs.

It is an all-India phenomenon. Even in West Bengal and other States this is happening. It is happening not just in Assam. It is not that only Assamese boys or Assamese students are doing this. So, my request to the Government would be that if this law is preventing it from fulfilling the aspirations of the people, it has to take corrective steps so that more and more people of that particular State will get chance in Group III and Group IV categories. The Government has to take a positive step. This judgement of hon. Supreme Court of 1998 has created this problem. I think the Government has to rectify that. This is my request. In every town the students and youth from all the communities have organised peace marches. Even in villages they have organised peace marches. The village voluntary force has come out to protect the people of Bihari origin. So, a divisive message should not go from this House. This House should appreciate these things also. At the same time, we strongly condemn all the killings and the anti-social activities of the anti-social elements. This is my humble request to the Railway Minister.

The hon. Prime Minister had declared that one crore jobs would be created every year. But the people of North-Eastern region have not got any job. It is because no public sector unit is coming up in the North-Eastern region. Despite the new economic policy, no industrial unit is coming up. The unemployment problem is growing. No job is being created. Till the hon. Prime Minister implements his promise of creating one crore jobs, he has to give priority to the North-Eastern region.

No part of the country is surrounded by international boundary like the North-Eastern region. Ninety-five per cent of the North-Eastern region is surrounded by other countries. No part of India is like that. So, one has to take this into consideration. If I have to go to my constituency, I have to fly over a foreign country. No other Member has to fly over a foreign country to go to his constituency. So, this geographical isolation, economic difficulty, unemployment problem and the half-century old insurgency problem have to be taken into consideration and special attention has to be given towards the youth of North-Eastern region.

Railway is the garland of national integration. If one puts the garland, one likes to see some flowers from

one's own garden also. If you see the employment ratio in the North-Eastern region, the representation of the North-Eastern people is very low. I think the Central Government has to take some special steps in this regard. Railways is the source of national integration. Therefore, all the communities, including the smaller ones, would like to have their representation in the employment of railways. I must confess that for reasons unknown the representation of the youth of the North-Eastern region is very few and far in the railway service.

So, my request to the hon. Railway Minister would be that he should look into this problem. I am again going to my constituency. I have to live there. I belong to the same old community. I have already said that a Speaker and five Cabinet Ministers are of that origin. They had migrated 160 or 170 years before. Their forefathers had migrated. They have become the part and parcel of Assamese society. They speak Assamese; they think Assamese; and they dream Assamese. There is no difference.

I have to point out one thing here. The hon. Home Minister is present here. Some organisations have been banned. The statement of the banned organisations are very prominently published in the newspapers. They appear in the front page of the newspapers. They appear in the electronic media. They give very provocative and instigating statements. I think the Central Government has to take vote of that. When these organisations are banned, how come the statements of their Commanders-in-Chief, their Chairmen and Deputy Commanders-in-Chief appear in the front page of the newspaper? It is widely published in the electronic media. The Government of India must think of it because these people are taking shelter in other countries and they are creating problems. I think it is the prime responsibility of the Central Government and it must give more importance and pay more attention to the North-Eastern Region. yes, Kashmir is our priority. But the North-Eastern Region has got no less priority in all these matters.

Therefore, I once again request all the hon. Members of this House to take these things into account that way. One should not generalise some acts of violence by the anti-social elements and criminals as a community against the other community.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Next I call Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav. He has made a special request since he

has to go to his place for doing some urgent work. You can speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is known for its unparalleled etiquette and culture. India is known in the world for its unique democracy, languages and nature. Today's discussion is not related to Railway Recruitment Board only. We should go into the depth as to why such a question arose. Why the feeling of regionalism is growing day by day. After some time, we shall be moving on the lines of languages and culture. What are the reasons for emergence of terrorism and extremism in the country? The political parties in the country should think on these basic things to find out the basic cause. On one hand, there are palatial houses in India and on the other, there are people who can not afford even huts. There is utter imbalance in our society. We talk about basic needs like food, clothes and health. What is the percentage of people who have access to these basic needs even after 56 years of independence? There are cases of starvation deaths even after 56 years of independence. All sorts of lawlessness are there in this very India even after 56 years of independence—sometimes in Orissa, sometimes in Bihar and sometimes in Andhra Pradesh. Why are these incidents on the rise? Our Government should think on this line. We cannot find solution to any problem unless we think over these issues. Today's discussion is regarding Hindi speaking states or Bihar. What are the reasons for Bihar's shifting from its number two position at the time of independence to number 32 position after 56 years of our independence? We were the world leader, we used to impart knowledge to others, while today, we are seeking knowledge from others. Every year, 67% students migrate from Bihar to elsewhere in order to pursue their studies unlike earlier when people used to come to Bihar for studies. Today, Bihar is not getting royalty. If students of Bihar would study in Bihar then Bihar would get royalty. One to two lakh labourers migrate from Bihar every year. Best of the agricultural land lies in Bihar. Hundreds of rivers are there in Bihar. There are only three rivers in Haryana but it has emerged as one of the best states in India. If in Bihar where there are hundreds of rivers and still farmers are in a pitiable condition and forced to migrate then we too are responsible to some extent for this situation. We are short of will power. The people in politics are short of will power. More than five thousand factories have been closed there. I agree that we are left with no resources after division of Bihar. The resources

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav]

which opened employment opportunities are now in the other State. does it mean that our Constitution does not allow us to go to Manipur, Assam, Maharashtra or elsewhere. in my opinion, people of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other Hindi speaking people are forced to face embarrassing situations in the country because of the acts of one particular person. This is a case like that thousands of people are taken to task for misdeeds of somebody else. This is not a question of Assam, two years back, the same question was raised in Maharashtra also that only local students should be given admission and the local people should be given jobs. Everybody wants to remain in his own home state and to contribute in its development. Had we developed such infrastructure in Bihar and strengthened the system then people from Maharashtra would go to Bihar for jobs as well as to pursue studies. At present, two to three thousand students from Assam are studying in various engineering and medical colleges in Bihar, specially in my parliamentary constituency Purnea and in Katihar. But no person of Bihar questioned them since independence.

Such incident took place in Maharashtra two years back and nine months back in Andhra Pradesh. Once in Haryana also Biharis were subjected to insults. Jharkhand came into being due to this imbalance only. When it was a part of Bihar, the tribals did not get respect and the State Government failed in providing them opportunities to progress. We could not bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, we could not put our social system in order. It is baffling that limbs of three Bihari women were severed in Jharkhand when they went there to join their duties as teachers. At that time, the Bihar Government did not take up the issue with the Central Government, one cannot understand, why? Had the Government been alert when the incident took place in Maharashtra the situation would have been averted. But the Bihar Government did not do anything. Even if Minister of Railways had done something or the Central Government had intervened then the incident could have been averted. But nobody paid attention to this incident.

It is very tragic in this country that we express our concern about starvation after somebody dies. Any issue is discussed in this House only after the situation becomes out of control. When the problem arose in Andhra Pradesh, why was it not taken up with them? The State Government should make arrangements for the security or protection of the students of Bihar whenever they happen to go out of the states. When the people of Assam come to Katihar, they come with full protection. We too can do so far the people of Bihar. This is not

merely a question of jobs. In Andhra Pradesh 11 children were stripped and branded. I have their photographs. This was not an issue of jobs. When the issue was highlighted, it was stated that they would not allow the Biharis to study there. This is the state, though I do not wish to name, which is ruled by nobody less than Mr. Chandrababu. It is a state where human beings live, and not a state which is often abused. When these children returned to Patna, they recounted their stories. They said that they would not go to Andhra Pradesh even if they were deprived of Navoday Vidyalyaya education. This was not an issue of recruitment. In Haryana, there was not an issue of recruitment. In Jharkhand and Assam, there was repercussion for years. When Jharkhand became a separate State, the tribals felt that they had got their own state so their children should get the jobs. This unrest is a result of unemployment. I want to refer to the incident which has taken place, hon. Nitish Kumar ji is present here. It takes four hours for me to reach Katihar. No Assamese was attacked there. When I reached there, I saw the police and the people of Katihar engaged in some sort of tiff. ...*(Interruptions)* Jamalpur is an altogether different place. On first day no outsider was attacked in Katihar. In Katihar, it was only the police force deployed there from outside which attacked. It was they who opened the fire. This was a police versus public altercation. Outsiders were not attacked. We did not sleep in the night and saved those who had bullet injuries. Till then, the State Government had not taken any action. Such incidents are taking place for the last five years. In Bengal, 17 poor Bihari labourers were burnt alive. All those who lost lives in the incident at Siligudi, belonged to Chhapra. But no Government felt concerned about the incident in which 17 Bihari labourers alongwith their families were burnt alive. Agitation of ULFA against Hindi speaking people is not new. For long, they have been demanding that the Hindi speaking people be pushed out. Recently, it has been said in Manipur that they would not give jobs to the Hindi speaking people. I am sorry for the incident that took place in Jamalpur and apologise on behalf of the people of Bihar. But I want to ask as to why no leader in the whole country regretted for the incidents, which took place elsewhere. Could they not condemn it when a woman was shown on Zee T.V. saying that they were forced to spit and lick it and were kicked out. Why was it not condemned when the people were burnt alive in Jharkhand?

An incident took place with two daughters of Krityanand Mishra in Assam, why it was not condemned at that time? I can not explain what happened in Jamalpur, but surely I would point out that at that time

also I had insisted on conducting DNA test but nobody was ready for that. I can firmly say that the incident took place at station outside the village and I do not want to point out as to whom does that village belong. And I do not want to tell giving the names and paper* with regard to the officers as to whose men they were. I agree that the luggage was looted but this was not a incident of rape. This is an issue of investigation as to who were the people from whose house the looted luggage was recovered. There was no report about Pappu Yadav in any newspaper. It was written in the paper about Pappu Yadav that after his arrival he took all of them to a hospital in Patna. After two days the Mukhiya of Bihar who is also called 'Raja' kept talking of the involvement of Shivsena and the BJP in this incident. But after two days it was only the name of Pappu Yadav which was talked about in connection with the accident. I challenge and demand judicial and CBI enquiry into the incident. It must be investigated as to why such an incident occurred and who was responsible for this.

Why the people of Bihar go out in search of job? When all the resources are available in Bihar, why then the opportunities of job are not created there? On the contrary the opportunities of job are being closed, all the factories of Dalmiya Nagar are being closed down. All the factories in Gaya and Bhagalpur and Saharsa and closed including the cinnamon mills, and paper mills. All factories are closed in Siwan as well. This incident can be attributed to this messy situation only.

Sir, the hon. Home Minister is sitting in the House. I would like to submit that 90 percent jobs in Meghalaya are meant for tribals while the non-tribal population constitutes 20 per cent of the total population there. Why is it so that no arrangement has been made for even one percent of non-tribal population there? Is the Government not responsible for this imbalance situation, particularly in the background of the fact that there is 20 percent non tribal population living over there? Moreover these 20 percent people do not have the right to purchase land there. There is an agitation for providing such a right in Kashmir. We fight for providing the right of purchasing land there. Similar is the situation in Meghalaya and Manipur. In these States 55 percent of the 60 percent tribals do enjoy the right of contesting election and the rest 5 percent non-tribal population do also have that right. The hon. Home Minister is sitting in the House, so

*As the Speaker did not Subsequently accord the necessary permission the paper was not treated as laid on the Table.

through you I would like to know from them as to why a similar provision has not been made in respect of those States? When there is a safeguard for non-tribals, tribals and dalits in the entire country, then why a similar constitutional provision has not been made for those places. Where the non-tribal population is present in large number? If such kind of situation prevails then the present kind of incidents would not occur. The situation is that the people cannot enter into these areas without permit and the imbalance is continuing. All the jobs are reserved for tribal people and there is no provision for the rest 20 percent non-tribal population. But we have never had any debate on this subject. Those who want to work do not get permission. The Government should consider this issue.

There is one issue relating to the Recruitment Board. I would like to say something to the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard. In this situation, the hon. Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar should merge the Katihar zone with Hajipur. He will have to take this kind of thing into account particularly when such a situation is arising in the country. I would like to request that he should provide an examination centre for them. Earlier, this provision was not there. Appointments for the grade of Group-D and fourth-class employees were made at G.M. level. But why the examination for the same has been centralized? And now when it is centralized why applications are invited from various states and districts? Why is it so? This should be conducted from Delhi itself. When there will be two systems, mismanagement is bound to surface. I would say that if there can be no order in Bihar, you should at least ensure that the candidates of Bihar who go out in other States for appearing at examinations are provided safety and security. There should be a centralized examination centre so that the examines of Bihar can appear at the examination at one place. Jobs are not created due to mismanagement. On the one hand we talk of high-tech while on the other we are not evolving job-oriented system. This will have to be set right and agro-industries need to be set up. Simultaneously, big industries should also be set up and there should be a reform of small scale and cottage industry sectors. Shri C.P. Thakur should convince the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You conclude now.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I am concluding. We should discuss the real issue so that insurgency and regionalisation do not take place. I want the Chair to issue some instructions in this regard.

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav]

The hon. Minister is present in the House. Whatever has happened whether it is in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or Jharkhand or in Delhi following hikes in taxes it should be condemned. It is not fare that Biharis are insulted outside. You should contact every State on this matter so that such a situation is not reported. There is no job in Bihar we need to generate jobs in Bihar. I shall not talk out of place. If you want to protect Bihar and the youths of Bihar then development will have to be assured there. The impression outside is that the people of Bihar do menial work only. What should I say about the Raja of Bihar. If they are removed from Assam who will do the menial work there? Biharis are doing menial work in Assam. Is it not their insult? I condemn this in the strongest word and I feel sorry for the after affect that took place in Bihar. The leaders of the country should have condemned the happenings in Bihar when it was taking place there. The Government of Bihar is responsible for that which is not creating job opportunities and could not provide security there. I would especially like to request Nitishji for setting up an examination centre and merge the Katihar zone into Hajipur zone. And security should be provided to Bihari students when they go in train for appearing at examination in other States.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very-very thankful to you. You allowed me to participate in the discussion. You should ensure that such incidents are not repeated. We will fight for our rights. When Mahatma Gandhi was insulted in South Africa the dignity of Indian youths was kindled. If some incident takes place in Pakistan then persons involved are absolved here in India by dubing them as brothers. The dignity of India was kindled on the incident that took place with Swami Vivekanand. If some one rapes a girl in a locality, should he be absolved. We should speak out if there is an attack on the integrity of the country and if some one's rights are encroached which are given to them by constitutional provision. We should come forward for the protection of the people. The centre should act now so as to avoid recurrence of such incident otherwise the centre will also be held responsible for this. I would like to say that the Centre is also responsible for this incident whatever happened with the people of Bihar was not good. You failed to provide them protection. In Bihar one person was killed but a number of Biharis were killed outside Bihar. We should try to avoid this situation. I do not want to say anything to Raghuvansh Babu. He is sitting here and he is like my elder brother.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): No public representative would like that Biharis should be

killed like this. ...*(Interruptions)* Nobody can dare to say anything against us. ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I do not want to use such language. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He considers you the elder brother.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: He is like my guardian.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I do not accept that.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: I would request Raghuvansh Babu to talk to Laloo ji in this regard and he should chalk out some plan to protect Bihar by holding talks with Centre.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker Sir, Achariaji initiated this debate. While making speech, he said that Shiv Sena Chief Bala Saheb Thakre reported to have said that Biharis should be thrown out. He never gave such statement. Newspapers may report anything. This is not the new slogan given by Bala Saheb Thakre. In fact we have been insisting from the last so many years that priorities in jobs should be given to the local people be they belong to Assam, Bihar, Bengal, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Malyali or Marathi. This is the demand of Shiv Sena.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the need to raise this demand here?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to apprise this House through you that during the Congress Party regime Shri Bala Saheb Thakre raised this demand that 80% of the jobs should be given to the local people and the then Chief Minister, Shri Vasant Rao Naik accepting demand agreed to raise it upto 90%. Despite that it was not being given priority at Central level. Shri Bala Saheb Thakre himself led the *march* advocating for placement of Marathis in RBI, Bank of India, Indian Airlines, Air India, Dena Bank and RCF. It is because of this the locals are now getting 80-88% of job share which otherwise they were not even getting 30-35 percent. Nobody was beaten anywhere. Shiv Sena did not misbehave with any North Indian, Bengali or the people of any sect. I would like to tell you here itself that not even Muslims migrated from Maharashtra on the issue.

Mr. Speaker Sir, just now Shri Achariaji has stated that the boys of Vidyarthi Sena went on rampage. But I would like to submit that when a delegation of Bhartiya Vidyarthi Sena went to meet the Chairman of Railway Recruitment Board, Shri Anil Mittal they were accompanied by the party workers. Under such circumstances, some people were willing to go inside but later on it I came to know that police started beating them harshly. Even they abused them. Morcha people said that local people should be accorded priority in jobs. The blood which was shed there, was of local people. Thereafter, Shri Raj Thakre of Shiv Sena left for police station leaving behind the injured workers who were later on admitted in the Government hospital. How this allegation is being levelled against Shiv Sena. How much they will bear, if they were beaten on the issue of livelihood by calling them Marathi? This is the sort of reaction. Why it happened? I myself went to meet Shri Anil Mittal. There was no wound, only bandage was there. But the police did not even registered a single complaint. Our workers were thrashed severely. Not even a single policeman got injured.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to read out an interview given by Shiv Sena leader Shri Raj Thakre in the House which relates to our demand.

[*English*]

"Who, according to you, qualifies to be Marathi?"

Those who can speak Marathi and have been living in Maharashtra for two generations is a Marathi."

The definition covers every linguistic and religious community including the North Indian Christians, Parsis, Muslims, Sikhs and everyone.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Shiv Sena leader Shri Uddhav Thakre said the people who have migrated to this place before the year 1995 should be accorded priority over others. Railway Recruitment Board itself has laid down such policy. It has been written on page number 1994 of this policy. Railway manual says:

[*English*]

"Notification of vacancies to the Employment Exchange should conform to provisions of Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959 and rules made thereunder.

14.00 hrs.

"Such notice should be issued to employment exchanges within the recruitment unit."

[*Translation*]

I will speak on it. But before that I would like to quote from the report presented by National Commission on labour, which had 21 members on it like Comrade Dange and JRD Tata.

[*English*]

Its report recommended that where qualified local persons are available, they should be given a major share of employment. In this context para 7.39 titled 'Sons of Soil' is relevant. They have recommended. President of India issued an order under the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification.

[*English*]

Similarly, through an order made by the hon. President of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 2/8/60-01 dated 27th April, 1960—I could be wrong and it could be 1960 or 1964—in para 7 (b) directed that recruitment methods be revised on regional basis. The Ministry of Railways has not revised such methods as yet.

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell you that the act enacted in 1959. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Hereafter all of us will say sons of India because sons of soil gives wrong impression.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: What would be our fate. For what purpose the states have been formed on linguistic basis. Accordingly to column 19, of this Act, one can move freely anywhere. As per the article 95 of the Constitution if an individual is denied of his/here right to freedom, it amounts to breach of the said right. I want to quote what the Notification Act, 1959 says:

[*English*]

"In pursuance of the provisions contained in the said Act, it is mandatory for the establishment under the coverage of the Act to notify vacancies in Grade 'C'

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

and Grade 'D' to the local employment exchange office. Further, in terms of the directive covered under O.M. No. 14/11/64 dated 21st March, 1961 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it is binding on Government established statutory organisations to fill the vacancies from among the candidates sponsored by the employment exchanges."

[Translation]

Till now the vacancies of Gangman and 'Khalasi' used to be covered under Grade 'D'. It is clear from the act of 1959, copy of which I am holding. I am having the act enacted by the Government of Maharashtra in Marathi which directs the public and private industries and officers to furnish the details regarding the strength of their staff and the vacancies to the employment exchange. Employment Exchange Notification Act, which was enacted in 1959 and implemented in 1960 states that all offices and establishments under Central and state governments and all offices under district council, metropolitan and municipal council shall be governed by this Act. It would be mandatory for the nationalised banks, divisional offices, semi-government and private departments having strength of over 25, to furnish information to the employment exchange. This is binding upon them. Where is that law? does the law changed over night which was in practice for several years. I would like to say that a case was lodged in the court. The notification signed by the hon. President was issued and Shri Guljari Lal Nanda, who was the Labour Minister at that time, brought this proposal. The act has been enacted in pursuance of that proposal. Quoting from notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, in a case namely Government of India *verses* Hari Gopal, 1977, it was ruled that columns 14 and 16 of it were not binding. It was stated by Mr. Justice. We must look into the reasons for the situation which has arisen now. I believe that a verdict was given in the year 1996.

MR. SPEAKER: Hohanji, your time is over.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I am concluding in two-three minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: I give you two-three minutes, please conclude within this time.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I will complete in two-three minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete within two-three minutes.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I will take only five minutes to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Then I will not even allow two-three minutes, only one minute.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I would like to tell you that I am ignorant of the new legislation brought by them. Yet, I would like to congratulate you for the assumption you made so religiously. However, it has been enforced in the wake of Assam and Bihar incidents. Why do not you send your requisition to the local employment exchange? Even in past when recruitments were made in Mumbai, Railways sent call letters in absence of employment exchanges. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you belong to Mumbai, so you may be knowing. At another place where Employment Exchanges were shifted, Railways sent a requisition for applications. At that time also, I raised this issue that local people should be given priority. At that time instead of Shri Nitish Kumarji, Kumari Mamata Banerjee was in office. Thereafter, I met Nitishji and reiterated my point that local people should be given priority. The concept of wider scope suggested by you is not practical and similar provision brought about in another court by Shri Vishveshwar Rao and the DOPT notification incorporates that the recruitment process shall be notified on the Notice Board. Whatever you are saying is not practical.

[English]

This, in turn, shows that the enforcement of "Wider Scope" concept is not practical, ineffective and deprives the right of those who are in dire need of employment and therefore registered their name in local employment exchange. It is noticed that advertisements are being issued freely without keeping in view the financial and administrative constraints on one hand and on the other hand mandatory requirement of approach to local employment exchange is avoided. Better view appears to be.

[Translation]

This very concept of wider scope led to the killings in Assam.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What are you reading?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: It is a Government of India document.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Of which date?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: This I will be able to tell you tomorrow; right now I do not have the information. I will give you all the papers that I have.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: When the discussion is going on, everyone in the House must know.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: If you want I can lay it in the House.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I would only like to know the text which you are reading.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I can lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it only when I allow, otherwise you cannot.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Yes, Sir, only with your permission I shall lay it in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Laloo Prasadji vented his ire on Shiv Sena when discussion on Bihar was going on. When it came to Assam, where as many as 58 people died as a result of this tension Laloo Prasadji did not say a word because Congress which is giving its support to RJD in Bihar, is in power in Assam. He was vociferous about the rights in Mumbai and the police also made a statement. I would like to reply to the question which you may be having in your mind. The role of media was also discussed that media wrongly presented it, as the police had it.

I would like to make an appeal that you should develop Bihar. I am talking about the 'C' and 'D' Grade posts. There is UPSC which conducts examinations for 'A' and 'B' grades but if you would approach the local employment exchange for 'C' and 'D' grade examinations then only you can redress the grievance of the local people and national integrity can be maintained. As hon. Member apprehended there would be agitations throughout the country. The bureaucracy does not want it to happen. I have seen it on railway platforms how people stream in from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh for 2000 vacancies. Bureaucrats want that there should be turmoil and one is aware of what takes place in trains. The police drags them out.

I would like to know whether he gave any information through any local employment exchanges, any local newspapers or any local media that examination for recruitment to 'C' and 'D' grade was being conducted so

that the locals could get employment? The local media did inform about the 2000 successful candidates and also the manner in which those people slept on the railway platforms. It has all been done by the bureaucrats. They have been there for so many years putting obstacles in the way of locals lest they be getting any priority.

Sir, you can check such incidents only when you accord priority to the locals in giving them employment thereby promoting a feeling of national integration. I conclude with these words expressing my gratitude for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the incidents which have taken place in various States including Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra and some other parts of the country due to the recruitment policy of the Railways.

14.12 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present discussion has a practical aspect. We should try to ensure that whatever has occurred in various States of the country should not be repeated. A message should go from the Lok Sabha that there is no bloodletting in the name of regionalism and that this country has to remain united. All the political parties and their representatives in the Parliament should convey this message which could help in normalising the situation and is diffusing the prevailing tension.

Sir, this is direct fallout of the basic problem of unemployment. The problem of unemployment is the root cause of the present tension resulting into these incidents, I have on several occasions expressed my concern in this House that if this serious issue is not addressed then tension is bound to surface in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when you were here you had referred to the names of Shri C.P. Thakur and Swami Chinmayanandji. I would like to request to them that instead of accusing others we should ask ourselves as to why tension is brewing in this country. Unless we find a practical solution to the problem and unless we create jobs for the people. We have no moral right to accuse others.

I think that local people feel that they should get larger share in appointments wherever the recruitment centres are located. But it is not like that. Candidates from outside are also recruited there. This gives the

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

feeling that outsiders are usurping the job opportunities of the local people. This gives birth to tension. Shri Mohan Rawale has finished his speech. I would like to remind him what Shri Bala Saheb Thakre has said in this regard which has been published in the 'Day After' magazine and I quote:

[English]

"We will throw the Biharis out. In Maharashtra only locals should get a job. No *Bhaiyyas* or Biharis should be allowed.—Shiv Sena Chief Bal Tackeray."

[Translation]

Sir, his statement cannot be justified at any cost. The use of such language should be discouraged which is responsible for creating tension. This is how tension is created. So far as the matter relating to the Recruitment Boards is concerned, I have seen the Press Conference of Nitish Kumarji and I think the rules are being amended. It is proposed to link the Railway Recruitment Boards with Rail Divisions and the process of recruitment for Group D and C employees would be held in the concerned Divisions. But the issue does not concern the Railway Recruitment Board alone. The tension at several places can be attributed to the problem of unemployment. The famous agriculture scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has said that whatever is happening in Assam and Bihar is nothing but the result of tension due to a large number of the poor and landless persons who are unemployed. That is the root cause of the problem which has surfaced in Assam. The Prime Minister has said that he would provide employment to one crore people every year and thereby the problem of unemployment would be solved. If we are really serious about solving the problem of unemployment then the Government should take concrete measures and the people should have a feel of it.

The situation of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is different. There the problem of poverty and unemployment is worse than other States. Gujarat is a small State and its population is only five crore. The population of Uttar Pradesh is about 14 crore. The income in Gujarat is better as compared to other States. The condition of Bihar is even worse. I have already described the condition of this State. Nitish Kumarji is aware that 70 thousand jobs have been cleared by the Union Government for the Railway Safety and this is particularly meant for filling the Group B Grade vacancies. Against 20 thousand vacancies the Department received 75 lakh applications and out of those 55 lakh applications were

found to be valid. The pity is that there are no jobs and yet there is a fight for them.

In Mumbai, Maharashtra Centre, 250 ticket collectors had to be appointed and for that 5.67 lakh applications were received and 40 per cent applicants were made from Bihar. The situation is that there are no jobs and people are fighting for it. I would further like to submit that the situation of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is different from other States. If we take into account the jhuggi dwellers of Delhi, 44 per cent of them are from Bihar and 30 per cent are from Uttar Pradesh.

I would not like to mention as to who is responsible for the deteriorating situation in Bihar. According to a recent survey in respect of Bihar, it has been revealed that 54 per cent industries of the State have gone sick and 26 per cent are on the verge of becoming sick. I would not say much; I would only say that the situation is very bad. We have to think as to where we have gone wrong; we have to also think how to improve the situation and how a better policy can be evolved. However, the basic issue is concerning the problem of unemployment. We have to resolve this problem and think that if educated youth are denied jobs, an empty mind is a devil's workshop. I expect that Nitishji would take care to amend the recruitment methods in the Railways. We strongly demand that problem of unemployment must be taken seriously by the Government.

The entire country is one. Our countrymen are sons of India and tensions in the name of caste, religion and regionalism is surely not justified.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it appears that the House has not taken the incident of Bihar and Assam very seriously. I am saying so for the reason that the House is discussing a very important matter and it is a very sensitive issue. Today the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister should be present here. Almost all the seats on the side of the Congress are vacant. All the Members should have remained present here keeping in view the seriousness of this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): The Prime Minister has gone abroad. The person who has to reply is sitting here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Raghuvanshji, you please call your friends ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down please. Why are you intervening frequently.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: None of the Members from the Congress is present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have come.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: They are lamenting their defeat ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Katariaji, you please sit down. Let Prabhunath Singh speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I start, through you, I would like to request you as well as the media persons. With your order, this issue was taken up for discussion in the House on 3rd instant and the way the media has covered that news item from that it appeared to me that on the one hand people were beaten in Assam, on the other hand we were beaten by the media people. I am saying so only because whatever news item were given by the media, it was being stated therein that the opposition had wanted to raise the issue related to Judev and CVC. So some Members from the ruling party deliberately raised the incident of Assam and Bihar so as to hush up this matter. We understand that it was not at all proper for the media to give such type of news in the country. Only the people in the Government could dare to do such fraud. In which fraud we are involved. We have dared to express our sentiments and place the issue of unity and integrity of the country before the nation. As such through you, I would like to request the media people that they should not view such sensitive incidents from the business point of view nor they should give such a message to the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this discussion has changed its design and colour. When you were not in the Chair, you had started this discussion and you had stated about the development of the railways, corruption prevailing therein and the corrective measures to be taken. This is not the issue. The issue that was raised on 3rd instant was that Biharis are being killed and massacred in Assam, they are being burnt alive and their property is being damaged. Railways should not be linked with it because it is not for the first time that such incident has happened there. Hindi speaking persons and Biharis have been killed there prior to it also. They were killed and massacred. Their

property has been looted and efforts were made to made them run away. This is not the first incident. They have been humiliated not only in Assam but in other parts of the country also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Union Government towards it and tell the people of the country. It is true that the examination conducted by the Railway Department has become the cause for the current incident but that examination is not the only cause behind it, rather it is a well thought out politics and it is due to this politics that such things are happening there. The Minister of Defence of the country Shri George Fernandes has gone to Assam but it is not so that the incident have stopped. The path he was passing by, seven houses have been set on fire there even today. In regard to this incident the Chief Minister of Assam has stated that he is not getting appropriate assistance from the Centre. The authorities in the Central Government say that it is the duty of the State Government to set the law and order right. The way the Union and the State Government are giving their statements, the people are being killed there and their security has not been ensured. I would like to know as to how the incidents has happened and who are the people who have been killed? They are the people who have been living in Assam for more then hundred years. Some capitalists also went to Assam who set up their kiln there. Those who had no capital, they also went there and worked as brick making labourer on the kiln. They also worked as labourer in the tea estates. There are some families among them who have forgotten as to where they were living in Bihar. They call themselves as Assames. The people of Assam have also accepted them as the resident of Assam but when such painful incidents occur there, we are pained.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote some headings of several newspapers. "Assam Mein Bihariyon Par Hamla, Rajya Chhome ki Chetawani" What kind of message is this? "Bihariyon Par Hamle, Advani Beech Bachav Mein Aye". "Assam Mein Vyapari Ki Hatya, Karon Ke Sheeshe Tore, Jhonpre Phoonke Gaye, Marpeet Mein Parshad Sahit 25 Ghaya". "Hindi Bhashiyon Par Phir Hamle, Agjani". "Jorhat Mein Police Firing". "Assam Mein Char Truck Chalakon Samet Panch Aur Bihariyon ki Hatya". "TV par Match Dekhte Huai ULFA Ne Banaya Nishana Darjanon Ghayal, Dukan Makan Bhi Phoonke, Priksha Sathagit". "Assam Se Bihariyon Ka Palayn, Aub tak 34 Mare Gaye". "Assam Mein 17 Bihari Mazdooron ki Hatya". "Assam Mein Halaat bekabu, 25 Bihari Aur Mare Gaye, Sena Nein Sambhala Morcha". "Assam Mein

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Nahin Thami Hinsa, 16 Aur Mare Gay". "Atal Gambhir, Lalu Nein Gogoi Se Baat Ki". "Hinsa Rokne ki Atal Ki Hidayat, Report Talab". "Assam Mein 2 logon ko jinda phoonka gaya".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what message the heading of the newspaper, I am quoting give. The incident has not happened in a day. Almost one month has passed since this incident took place. After one month of the incident, the Biharis are not safe even today. Talks are being held with the people of Assam on telephone. Their houses are under attack and incidents of arson are happening even today. People are being burnt alive by pouring oil on them and we are linking this issue with the railway recruitment. The people of Bihar are hard working people. Now people are saying that there are no potentialities of employment in Bihar and as such people are going to Assam. People have gone to Assam for hundreds of years. The people of Bihar have not only gone to this area of the country but they have gone to other countries of the world and done innovative works there by the dint of their hard work. You can see it in many other parts of the country. There are large number of people of Bihar in Bengal. There are large number of people of Bihar in Uttar Pradesh. You can see large number of Hindi Speaking people in Gujarat, in Delhi and Maharashtra. But the way the sense of regionalism is being created and national unity is being attacked, it can be nothing but a conspiracy.

I would like to submit to you that whatever has happened in Bihar after the examination was conducted in Assam, that has been criticised by all the people of Bihar. None has appreciated that incident. But when incident started happening in Assam, then nobody came forward to criticise that. Now all the people are restless. Laluji is the leader or Raghuvanshij. He went to Assam and called a press conference there wherein he criticised the Union Government but what is the role of the State Government, he has not clarified that? Raghuvansh Babu, this connivance will not be allowed. This connivance is going on. I believe that whatever I am speaking will be supported by you. Today, I want your support ...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: For God sake, you should speak the truth ...*(Interruptions)*.

14.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the incidents happening around, I do

not want that I should speak such words which may adversely affect the unity of the country. But whenever there is some action, reaction is bound to occur and the reaction does not stop. My friend Shri Ghatowarji was speaking that we travel by air.

But the people from weaker sections and middle class going to Assam, will have to return via Bihar. If such actions and reactions will continue to take place, it is neither in the interest of Assam nor Bihar.

I would like to submit that I hold Shiv Sena Chief Shri Bal Thakre in high esteem, but the statement given by him hurt the people like us a lot. It hurt us because a type of debate is going on among the common people of Bihar that they will not insult the people in Bihar on the lines they are being victimised here and there. Bihar has the potential of a market. Bihar has a population of eight crore. Not a single private company and big industrialist is such, who does not have it's private office in Maharashtra. The money collected as tax there is deposited in the coffer of the Government of Maharashtra and the business is done in Bihar. Bihar is a victim of starvation but if it takes such decision, Maharashtra will also be on the verge of starvation. So, the regionalism should not be encouraged to keep the country united, one should observe restraint and veteran leaders should stick to austerity in selecting words while making statements so as to avoid its post reflections at other places.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if one delves over the reasons, increasing population and decline in employment opportunities in the country can be attributed to such incidents and this not a new thing in Bihar. But what I feel is that today the people of Assam understand that employment opportunities have been generated in Delhi and Gujarat while the people of Orissa think that employment opportunities are available in Assam and Bengal. The people of Bihar know already that employment opportunities are not available in their state whereas there is a possibility of finding the same at other places so, Bihar has no such problem. Although the Government of India have also opened Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bihar and other States yet the present examination system and schooling is promoting private schools, while the employment opportunities are not available in Bihar a psyche to have access to better educational opportunities and part to competition to get through is working among the people of Bihar. The results of all exams including IAS and IPS, Engineering and Medical entrance exams being conducted countrywide are proving the worth of

students from Bihar, who score good percentage over others.

There is a case of Nagpur. The State High Court stayed the implementation of panel there. The office bearers of the Ministry of Railways and Minister of Railways have been made parties to it. It has been alleged that Minister of Railways belongs to Bihar and he is favouring people of Bihar in reinstating them. I would like to know as to whether the candidates from Bihar who are passing the IAS and IPS exams are being selected because of Shri Nitish Kumarji? This is not sensible to level such allegations and made wrong statements in any sense however arousing sense of regionalism in Bihar. When these boys work hard and compete, they are bound to get through. I would like to submit that employment opportunities have declined and population has increased. I would like to refer to the statement made by our hon. Prime Minister. He assured to provide employment to one crore people annually. What has happened to his assurance? Is that gathering dust in the file? Planning Commission have shown in papers that it has provided one crore employment opportunities. That cannot be termed as employment. The Government claimed to have provided large amount in N.H. and generated employment in proportion to that. Otherwise also, the agricultural labourers are toiling on fields. Employment opportunities will have to be generated in this country and the Central Government have a role to play therein. The Central Government are not playing their role which is giving rise to regionalism and posing an hazard to the unity and integrity of the country. So, I would like to request the Central Government through you that we have to generate employment opportunities and get rid of unemployment to keep under check the regional sentiments.

So long as the discussion resumption of recruitment to D-Grade in Railways is concerned, I do not want to speak on these points. Shri Ramjilal Suman has left and Shri Basudeb Achariaji is present here. I want to congratulate the Minister of Railways because just till yesterday we had a chance to listen to the State of prosperity in Railways where one gets his/her appointment letter in lieu of a bribe to the tune of rupees 50,000. We heard that ASM has been reinstated. The appointment letter was on sale in some hotels at a rate of rupees one and a half or two lakhs. But now, Shri Nitish Kumarji has by bringing a change in the system, proved that one who has the merit would be eligible for appointment in Railways. But the written exam, physical and oral exams made mandatory for grade-D post is not feasible as this is not an exam equivalent to IAS or IPS. But the basis for the merit has been determined and the bribery and

corruption which used to rule the roost have been brought under check. But it seems to me that you are also yielding to the pressure of regionalism. I would like to say in clear terms that you are my friends and as well the Railway Minister of this country. I have just read from the newspaper that the exams which are going to be conducted in Ahmedabad will be taken in Gujarati and Marathi. Tomorrow the people of Bihar will demand to conduct exams in Maithili and Bhojpuri. What is happening in this country? The official language of this country is Hindi and if examinations are to be conducted it should be in Hindi throughout the country and if it is not feasible re-induct it at regional level. Develop it by setting up an office at national level. What is the logic behind keeping the language of the respective State as medium of the exams conducted there? Railway is the prime sector of the country which links the four directions. People having varied linguistic identity have to suffer on this account, therefore, I feel it would not be proper to conduct exams in parts on regional basis. If you have any problem therein, exams can be conducted on the lines on which exams used to be conducted previously for DRM and GM.

In view of the nature of incidents occurring in Bihar I would like to request you to somehow try to include Katihar in Hajipur zone. Similarly a part of my Parliamentary Constituency comes under Banaras division. In this way, if the sense of regionalism is being created, the people from Bihar will have to face difficulties. It is said in a State like Delhi that Biharis come here with begging bowls. Recently the students have been beaten in Andhra. Which railway exam can be attributed to it. This has become a practice to insult the people of Bihar and they are being thrashed everywhere. I do not want to make a lengthy speech but I would like to give a couple of suggestions. Those incidents were occurring in Assam and newspapers reported that the police was a mute spectator to that. This clearly signals the hand of the State Government at some points. Swamiji is on the visit to Assam and now he is State Minister of Home Affairs but I am not sure as to whether he would be able to speak or not on this matter because the Government is bound by what is there on papers. All the same, he is a saint and he will speak in the idiom of a saint and in the process the right point would come out at right time. I would therefore, like to request you that the Government should get the incident investigated by CBI. Everything would be clear. It seems to me that the CBI inquiry would disclose the names of the leaders involved in this incident and a clear picture would emerge before the country.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Secondly, I would like to say that the matter should be investigated by the CBI and arrangements should be made to award punishment to the guilty within six months by setting up a special Court and thirdly, the kith and kin of the deceased be provided compensation amount of at least five lakh rupees. We are confident that Swamiji will accord top priority to the matter and hopefully assure to provide compensation of five lakh rupees.

With these words, I would like to say that the Central Government has been endowed with Constitutional Power. Swamiji, these constitutional powers are not ornamental these are meant to be exercised at an appropriate time. Need of the hour is to exercise those constitutional powers in view of the incidents taking place in Assam. We want that the Union Government should exercise its constitutional right and the President's rule should be imposed in the State besides CBI inquiry of the incident and the culprits should be arrested. I want to say that not only in Bihar and Assam but anywhere in rest of the country such incidents should not take place again. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): You should put the records straight. Assam Government had asked for the CBI inquiry a month ago. You can ask for clarification from the Government of India. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today this House is having a discussion on the violent incidents took place in Assam and other parts of the country. The Biharis who are settled in Assam for more than fifty years have been killed. These also include the people from Uttar Pradesh. The people from Uttar Pradesh are considered to be Biharis in several States. The people from twenty three districts i.e. Ajamgarh, Balia, Deoria, Mau, Gorakhpur etc. of eastern Uttar Pradesh are settled in Delhi and Assam since long. A number of such people have been killed and as a result thereof number of such people have already migrated to other places. It is also the responsibility of the Union Government to ask the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to make arrangements for rehabilitation of the people who have migrated from the State under compulsion. Besides safety of such people who have not migrated from the State should be ensured. The loss of property and goods suffered by these people should be compensated by providing grant to them.

Such incidents are taking place frequently in the country. The hon. Members here have underlined that such incidents are basically related with unemployment. Colour of regionalism is given to such incidents but the fact is that due to uncertainty of employment the educated unemployed youths of that particular region think so. We have witnessed numerous instances of such things earlier in reservation in jobs. When report of Mandal Commission was implemented the youths belonging to upper castes resorted to self immolation at several places in the country in protest. They were afraid that they are being deprived of employment venues. The Government should take note of it. In the part four of the constitution under the directive principle it is enshrined that it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide means of livelihood to the people. The Government of the day has reiterated this at the time of taking over rein of the country. The Prime Minister had said that my Government will provide employment to one crore people every year. Instead of fulfilling this assurance given to the country the employment avenues themselves have been done away with. Employees have been retrenched under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and factories have been retrenched under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and factories have been closed and institutions have been sold out. All this is being done under the pressure of WTO and the World Bank. Employment opportunities are being curtailed drastically the youths of the country are being deprived of employment. Today youths are frustrated. Twenty lakh applications are received for twenty thousand vacancies.

When any youth passes out from college he feels himself a qualified person. But at the time of recruitment, nineteen lakh eighty thousand youths out of twenty lakh do not get jobs declared unqualified, they develop inferiority complex and feel dejected. Keeping in view the directive principles of our constitution it is the responsibility of the State that laws should be made to benefit the citizens of the country. Laws should not be enacted on the direction of the WTO. We should see as to how we can provide employment to our youths. But today indiscriminate privatisation is taking place and the list of reserved castes is increasing day by day. More castes have been included in the lists of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and backward classes. The Government should shun this dual policy.

The Government should take a policy decision to check the violent incidents taking place in the country in the name of linguistic regionalism. While drafting the constitution Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had told to his people

that I am providing for political rights for you but there will be social and economic inequality in every sphere of life and you will have to fight for that and the guidelines of such struggle are enshrined in the directive principles of the constitution. I would like that the Government should formulate a concrete policy to remove unemployment and poverty. We cannot solve this problem by providing handful number of jobs in the field of computers and cannot put the country on the path of progress. Day in and day out we read the news in the newspapers that starvation deaths are taking place in the country. The issue relating to Bihar is related to poverty and lack of land reforms in the State. In Bihar most of the people do not have houses to live in or land to construct houses. The people from Bihar come to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to earn their livelihood. These people travel on the roof of the trains and even die by falling from there. We will have to look into this problem too. Today we are having a discussion on death of 10-20 people. We should also take notice of such incidents. The State Government should implement the land reforms and steps should be taken to improve the plight of the agriculture labourers so that they may not go to other States to work as agriculture labourers and stay in their respective villages and earn their livelihood from agriculture.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (Nagaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about the incidents which took place in Assam and Bihar alongwith the reasons for the same and who are responsible for these incidents. Everyone knows that the ULFA attacked the Hindi speaking people several times in Assam earlier also and several Hindi speaking people were gunned down. I visited Assam on behalf of my party as a Member of a Parliamentary Committee. Where does the ULFA exist? its activists are operating from Bangladesh. That time perhaps it did not lead to any reaction due to the understanding of the Bihari people. Since the Bihari's knew that the people of Assam were not involved in these killings rather the extremists were responsible for these killings.

As far the recent incidents, these took place to the recruitment to various posts in the railways such as Assistant Station Master, guard, driver and junior engineers of the people of Bihar. The Assamese people had also applied for these posts, but when the results were declared only the Biharis were given the offer of appointments and the Assamese were not appointed to these posts. Perhaps one-two posts were filled from among the Assamese. Therefore, the All-Assam Student Union was of the view that these posts should be filled

from among the Assamese when the posts are for Assam, the local people should be given preference for these jobs. When this did not happen, they gradually started showing resentment. The question does not relate to only 'C' and 'D' categories of posts but relates to the other posts also and keeping these things in view, people tried to prevent them from appearing in the examination under the leadership of the All-Assam Students' Union. They also created problems in the way of holding of interviews. This very thing was reported in the 'Dainik Jagaran' a daily of Bihar that the people of Assam had beaten up the Biharis. However, this is not correct. They only prevented Biharis from appearing in the examination. In reality a force which is operating there was on the look-out as to how to derive mileage out of this situation and also conspiring as to how to give it a communal colour. When this incident was reported in newspapers, some people of Bihar were coming to Assam on the 10th, who reached Bihar on 11th. But their train was detained two-three kilometers before Jamalpur and the train was detained for three-four hours. Thousands of people gathered at Jamalpur but nobody came to their rescue for four hours. When the train reached Jamalpur, people from administration, police and Magistrate etc. were present there. This clearly indicates that when the people arrive after the incident takes place, naturally they should be ready to render assistance but nobody came there to their rescue. I am aware of several such incidents which I would like to apprise the House. I would like to remind the House that the Congress Party is a constituent of the Lalooji's Government in Bihar. The Congress Party did so for deriving political benefit. What I want to say is that the Government should conduct an inquiry into this incident. The situation was so bad that the police department did not give any protection from the 11th to 14th November, 2003 i.e. upto three days. When the retaliatory attacks started in Assam on the 14th, these were controlled. When the situation started worsening in Assam, the Congress Party which is in power there, took no steps for the safety of the Biharis. The All Assam Students' Union gave a call for Bandh on 17th November. Then, we realised that this bandh may incite violence. My colleagues Bijoya Chakravarty, Indramani Bohra and I myself proceeded to the AASU's Office and persuaded them that though their demands are genuine but they should raise them in a democratic way and should not resort to violence. We made them understand all this, but despite that the incident took place. People like us were realising that this would lead to any incident, but did the Government there not realise that it could lead to violence. It rather supported the Bandh. Atrocities were committed openly on Biharis. On the 17th during the

[Shri Rajen Gohain]

Bandh, the jhopri of a Bihari was burnt down in front of the K.P. Deo Complex barely 230 metres away from the Chief Minister's residence. No protection was given to them and gradually these incidents of violence started spreading. When the bandh call was given for the 17th November, the Government did not deploy any para-military forces and police for patrolling and to prevent any untoward incidents. All this clearly indicates that one was free to attack the Biharis and they thought let the Biharis be attacked so that they would run away from there. Thus such incidents started taking place all over Assam. The AASU gave call for a bandh on the 17th November and ULFA got published a statement in the newspapers that Biharis would be called Biharis and now they would show them that how dangerous the consequences would be for the Biharis. Such incidents occurred earlier also but more important now is that this time the ULFA also associated itself with it. The ULFA said on the 17th November that they would not spare Biharis. On the same day 11 Biharis were gunned down in Dhubri and 12 in upper Assam. Such incidents started taking place all over Assam. The fallout of the incident which took place in Bihar was seen in the 'Gadi Gaon' a village in front of the Guwahati University. The people living in the nearby areas were attacked. This indicates that the Government remained a mute spectator. The steps the Government should have taken were not taken. This was the reasons that such incidents took place on large scale.

Acharyaji was saying that if any incident takes place, why the blame is shifted on to the ISI? You know what is the situation in Assam? What is the entity of Assamese community in Assam? They are losing their identity in Assam. the Bangladeshis are living all over Assam. If you look at the history of the last thirty years, then you will find that a movement started in Assam in 1972 on the issue of language. They said that the Assamese would be the language in Assam but someone raised another issue and an agitation was started too. And in that movement the Muslims who had migrated from Bangladesh said that they would treat Assamese as their mother tongue. That time the Assamese people and Bangladeshi people got together and supported the cause of Asamese language.

15.00 hrs.

That time the Assamese joined the Bangladeshi muslims, because they supported the Assamese and the Bengali Hindus were attacked and killed. Thereafter, an agitation started in 1979—'Videshi hatao Assam se'. That

time Congress was in power in Assam. Once again the movement gained momentum in 1983 during the reign of Congress. There was a lot of disturbance during the movement. Bengali Muslims attacked the Hindus. There are several villages in Assam where the Hindus are in minority and the Muslims are in majority there. On that very basis some reactionary forces created terror in the villages inhabited by the Hidus. This is the reason why the Hidus are dreadful about returning to their villages and fleeing away from there. That time also, the Congress party was in power. When the Babri Masjid was demolished on 6th December, 1992, communal riots broke out in Assam. Muslims perpetrated enormous atrocities on the Hindus. In Dabka village under Nagaon parliamentary constituency, the majority Muslims burnt alive the minority Hindus. The incharge of the area, where I live, sent a group of hooligans asking them to go and said that they would follow them. They damaged the nearby houses and ransacked them and also killed the young boys. That time the Congress Government was there and when this incident took place in 2003, the Congress Government is once again there. I want to inform the House that the Assamese group was not involved in those incidents. The Assamese people never did so that if a Bihari contested an election there, they did not vote for him. They have rather voted for them. The Bihari's have good relations with Assamese. The ULFA has targeted Bihari's, but there is no reaction against it. This time the reaction followed the Railway Recruitment. They have a major role behind that. The posts which were rendered vacant due to the exodus of the Bihari labourers were filled up by the Bangladeshi Muslims. The roots of this movement can be traced to the year 1972 and their purpose is to intimidate the Assamese people and make them vacate posts and recruit them in their place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 126 Assembly segments in Assam. In 40 segments, there is presence of the Bangladeshi community which was not there earlier and their numbers are increasing gradually and the Assamese people cannot do anything in this regard. It appears so and during the Congress Government regime these people have started making forced interventions. I visualize that in a few days Assam will no longer remain Assam, it will become the second Kashmir. This is not an ordinary incident, such things have been happening for years. There is a big conspiracy behind all this. There is a plan to remove the people of Bihar from there and benefit a particular community and the Congress has always helped and will continue to help in this. The law and order situation is not good today in Assam. The

municipal elections were held there on the 1st of this month. I was there in my constituency, the police were also there, but the poll was being rigged. I asked the police to drive away the poll riggers. The police force was there in good number. About 100-150 Congressmen assaulted me but the police did not try to remove them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House. In the Assembly Election, the BJP was defeated very badly. They have lost the election and now they are saying that the election was rigged. This shows their frustration. ...*(Interruptions)* If he has any complaint, there are appropriate forums where he can lodge a complaint, but he should not mislead the House in this manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajen Gohain, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: I am going to tell you about the law and order situation in Assam. I was attacked, the police was there but nobody presented them now doing so.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, they have lost the election. The BJP was completely wiped out in the Assembly Election, but now they are saying that the election was rigged. ...*(Interruptions)* This shows their frustration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Till now the discussion was on a sound footing and it was going on in a harmonious way. Now, you are unnecessarily talking about issues which are not connected with the subject under discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: You just keep on seeing as to how many such incidents take place in Assam during this regime of the Congress Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a statement was published in the newspapers a few days ago. ...*(Interruptions)* much more is still to happen in Assam.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Gohain, you stick to the subject, why are you doing so?

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Assam is going to witness many incidents. Just before a few days Karbi Anglong in Assam had witnessed a number of communal incidents during Congress regime and such incidents would continue to happen there, Muslims, there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, Muslim population was there in Assam right from the beginning. Once in the past, the President of India was also from Assam who belonged to the Muslim community. ...*(Interruptions)* What he is saying is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, today Biharis have been attacked, tomorrow Bengalis would face the same fate. Till such time the Congress rules Assam, peace would never prevail there and Assam would become another Kashmir or it would turn to be Bangladesh. Nobody could live safely in Assam during Congress rule, I therefore demand that President's rule should be imposed in Assam. ...*(Interruptions)* You just look back into history or you can see the records.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Ghatowarji, I would like to know one thing from you that if he is wrong then why was the office of Samta Party in Assam attacked? If there was no political conspiracy then why has the office of Samta Party been attacked?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: I can say with authority that the Congress Party has not attacked.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Samata Party's office was attacked and there has been a well planned political conspiracy.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: No, no, there was no political conspiracy. Elections were held there and people of the State have voted against BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are spoiling the discussion. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Who has attacked in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion was going on so harmoniously. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI (Mangaldoi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak something regarding the situation which has arisen in Assam during the month of November. I would like to draw your kind attention that on 9th November, the Railway Recruitment Board organised an examination of 2,720 Group 'D' posts in Guwahati. The admit cards of four candidates were snatched away by some other candidates at Guwahati Railway Station. That was the first clash between these candidates and those who went to appear in the examination held on 9th November in Guwahati. I do not know what they have narrated in Bihar. But on 11th and 12th November, the Assamese passengers, who were coming from Delhi and other places to Assam and going from Assam to other places, were looted, ransacked, molested, brutally and mercilessly killed by some hooligans and miscreants at some stations near Katihar and also at Jamalpur Railway Station. It was widely publicised on TV and in the newspapers that the Assamese passengers were assaulted and looted. The women passengers were molested. That was widely published in the newspapers and also telecast in the TV news. A sense of resentment developed among the Assamese people in Assam. But the examination held on 9th November passed off peacefully. It was not disturbed. Nobody was disturbed in the interview. Nobody was disturbed in the examination. On the next Sunday, that is, on 16th November, one more examination was also held in Guwahati. That also passed peacefully. Nobody was disturbed. Nobody was harassed. Nobody was banned from appearing in the interview.

On 17th November, the All-Assam Students Union called a 24-hour *bandh*. It started from 5 a.m. for 24 hours. During that night, some miscreants attacked the Assamese-speaking Bihari people. Where were they attacked? It is significant that they were attacked in Darrang district, Bongaigon district and Tinsukia district. These three districts are located in the border areas. Darrang district is located in the area adjacent to Bhutan. Tinsukia district and Bongaigon district are also situated in the border areas.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House that in 2000, 105 Bihari people were killed by ULFAS. From that moment onwards, they have been attacking and propagating against the Hindi-speaking people. Now also in Assam, the screening of Hindi films is disturbed

by ULFAS. From that night when the Assam *bandh* was called, the Bihari people were attacked in some places of Assam. The Government has taken the action immediately. The security was tightened. All the Bihari people collected together. CRPF and Army personnel were sent to every place. In my constituency, one house was burnt. With the help of local people, the District Administration constructed this house in front of me within 12 hours. I was there. Sir, ULFA and NDFB took the advantage of this exploiting the sentiments of the people. Nobody can deny it. But it is not a group clash between Assamese and Biharis, it is not a group clash between Assamese and Muslims. It is all false. He does not know the history of Assam.

Late Kamakhya Prakash Tripathi was a principal of Government college there. He was a Bihari. He secured highest marks in Assamese in Calcutta University in 1920. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I never said that there is no harmony between the Assamese and the Bihari people. I have always been saying that there is a great harmony between them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Late Kamakhya Prakash Tripathi was a Member of Parliament and he was a Minister for 20 years in Assam Government. I was taught by a Bihari speaking teacher in my high school. Fakharruddin Ali Ahmad was also a Hindi speaking man. He was the President of India and he was also earlier elected as an MP from Assam. Shri Matang Singh was elected from Assam. He is also Hindi speaking person.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the hon. Member is presenting my view in a wrong manner. I never said so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Let him speak please. Won't you let anybody to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Gohen, please do not disturb now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Rabangshi's submission.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, Shri Gohen has spoken about Bangladesh. Bangladesh was created on 24th March 1971. Why is he speaking about Bangladesh? ...(Interruptions) I will speak about him and his colleagues. What his colleagues spoke in the office of AASU, I will speak about that.

Sir, this was nothing but a clash between the candidates. Why were the Assamese passengers assaulted and looted? What was their crime? What was their fault? Who provoked the people and created the situation? Who provoked them to attack these people? I do not like to name anybody, but I request all the hon. Members of this august House not to provoke anybody, not to provoke any society against anybody, either Biharis or Assamese. Sir, there are 20 lakh Biharis in Assam now. We have made matrimonial alliance with the Bihari people. We have appointed Bihari teachers in my high school and college.

He has spoken about Dibrugarh District. The DC and SP of Dibrugarh are Bihari persons. SP, Tinsukia. ...(Interruptions) Are not the DC and SP of Dibrugarh Bihari people, I would like to know from Shri Gohen? He does not know it. He has lost all Municipal seats in Assam. He is speaking out of frustration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if this is so, the hon. member should say that all this belongs to us. There is no need to quarrel over this. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, what steps are being taken by the Assam Government?

The Chief Minister of Assam wrote 14 letters to the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister of India for getting security forces. He has discussed this on telephone with the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy-Prime Minister. Immediately, all security forces, including CRPF and other forces, were deployed in all over the district. Even the labourers engaged in the brick industry were also secured.

The Chief Minister of Assam has taken all possible security measures. In total, 885 persons were arrested and 713 cases were registered within a week. With 72 hours, the situation was controlled. ...(Interruptions). Who provoked the situation in Assam? Was it by me or by the Chief Minister of Assam or by the topmost leader of BJP who went to the office of AASU? I do not like to name the BJP leader who spoke to AASU students in Assamese. He told them in Assamese. It means: "Go immediately and ransom the office of the Railway." ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, they are not allowing him to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rajen Gohain, please take your seat. Please do not interrupt him now.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, it was published in the daily Assamese paper 'Khaba' in the front page on 16th November, 2003. And on 19th November, the same leader spoke. What did she speak? She said in Assamese and the Hindi translation is like this.

[Translation]

Bihari people are still there in Assam, why are they staying there. This has not been said by me and the Chief Minister, this was said by a topmost leader of the BJP, he is from Assam.

[English]

who provoked the situation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajbangshi, please conclude now.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, I will speak a little more.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister, who was my original comrade, that in Rangapara line, from Rongia to Rangapara, in between Udalguri and Routa stations, the road is open for 24 hours. No gate man and no gang man was there. Nobody was there. On 1st December, seven persons were injured in an accident involving a goods train. Three persons of them were admitted in ICU of Guwahati Medical College and four of them were hospitalised in Mangaldoi civil hospital. No gate man and no gang man were there. If we appoint Bihari people in Assam as a gang man, as a *khalasi* and if we appoint Assamese people in Chennai as a *khalasi*, as a gate man or in the fourth grade post, will the unemployed students of that State allow it?

[Shri Madhab Rajbangshi]

Sir, more than 18 lakh unemployed youth have registered their name for employment in Assam. Not a single person has been appointed in Assam because of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Central Government by the last Government headed by Shri P.K. Mohanta. Not a single person has been appointed. Now, the figure of unemployment is more than 18 lakh. We do not get a *khalasi* post in the Railway Department and we do not get a gang man post in the Railway Department but nobody is there for doing the duty in the railway gate crossings.

Actually this has happened due to the disputed recruitment policy of the Railway Department. It was informed in this House in 1971 by the then Railway Minister, Shri Safi Qureshi that up to the basic pay of Rs. 500, the local youth would be employed by the local Employment Exchanges. You have changed your recruitment policy. Now it is open for all. It is open for Madrasis. It is open for Assamese; Biharis, U.P. wallahs and Punjabis. But now in Assam, not a single Assamese boy is appointed in any railway post.

Sir, I would like to request you that we should not speak against Bangladeshis here. There are 70 lakh Muslims in the total population of Assam. It is told by both the BJP and AGP that there are 70 lakh foreigners in Assam. That means all the Muslims are foreigners in Assam, including Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad. He is also a foreigner in Assam. It should not be done.

Shri Abdul Malik is a good writer. He was a Member of Rajya Sabha. He is a Sahitya Akademi award winner. They should not speak like that. We want peace in Assam. We have no allegation against anybody at all. Every community and every caste would like to live peacefully in Assam.

I would like to request him through you that the recruitment policy of the Railway Department should be changed immediately. The local youth should be employed everywhere whether in Assam or in Bihar or in Rajasthan or in any other place. That should be the policy of the Railway Recruitment Board.

Lastly, my senior colleague has already stated in his speech that no speech of the extremists, secessionists and culprits should be printed in the front pages of any newspaper. It should be banned by the Central Government. They are doing this through TV and other sources. The statements of banned organisations are publicly and widely published by the newspapers and shown on TV and others. It should be banned immediately by the Central Government.

With these words, I would like to conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this august House is having discussion on this serious and sensitive issue. particularly the hon. Members who participated in this discussion did so cutting across the party lines and regionalism with dignity and decorum as the Chair too has taken note of.

This issue is so serious that we discussed it at length in order to know the sequence of events and the reasons on the basis of which the violence erupted. We condemn the hatred and regionalism being spread in the name of railway recruitment policy. The Union Government and the State Governments—all take oath of national unity and integrity. What action was taken by the concerned State Government to put a check on this problem when it just started, be it the Assam Government or any other State Government, the incidents initially took place in Jamalpur and Katihar which spread the vicious feeling of regionalism upto Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. There is also a question of language in it. The problem erupted when some Hindi speaking unemployed youths of Bihar were going to Assam to take examination for the group 'D' railway posts at Guwahati centre. Then the violent cadres of ULFA stopped the examinees in the way to Guwahati. They misbehaved with them and did not let them appear in the examination. In reaction thereto, some violent miscreants attempted to disrupt the communal harmony at Jamalpur station in Bihar two days after this incident. The incident of looting and terrorizing the Assamese students at Jamalpur station is certainly deplorable. I am short of words to condemn this incident. Therefore, I wish to say that the incident that took place in Assam, the way the feeling of regionalism was spread in Assam by ULFA or any other banned organization, in which huts of more than 700 Hindi speaking labourers were set ablaze, more than 500 shops were looted and approximately 60 Hindi speaking labourers were brutally killed as Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar was saying just now—all this is highly condemnable. These innocent people were brutally killed. We demand that stringent action should be taken in this regard.

At the same time, it is also pointed out that the State Government had demanded para military forces from the Central Government. Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Shri Swami is present here. He has personally seen into the incident. He might have gathered facts during his tour to Assam. I want to say

that the State Government cannot pass the buck by merely saying that the State Government of Assam was not provided the requisite para military forces. It is better if the Central Government also perform their duty. I want to point out that the lands of poor Bihari labourers in Bardih living below poverty line were usurped and their houses were set on fire among whom some were even landless. In addition to this, more than 60 people were killed and a number of people were injured. The labourers are living in an atmosphere of fear there. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar ji has correctly said just now that earlier such atmosphere was not there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the venom of this incident induced similar incidents in Maharashtra also. The candidates going to take examination were stopped and beaten at stations in Maharashtra. Hon. Members belonging to Shiv Sena may deny today, but in a very balanced way, I want to say that the language which the Shiv Sena supremeo Shri Bala Saheb Thakre used regarding flushing out of Biharis, may be termed as provocative. There should be no doubt that the oath of unity and integrity of the nation is administered in the States as well as at the Centre. The Election Commission had, therefore, deleted the name of Shri Bala Sheb Thakre from the electoral rolls. He may deny it, but it seems that Shri Bala Saheb Thakre has some well defined character. Will he indulge in spreading the feeling of regionalism? You may demand from Nitish Kumarji, that priority should be given to local people in railway recruitment, we have no objection to it. But it is not fair to instigate the feeling of regionalism. It is not fair to beat the students at railway stations. ULFA terrorists incite regionalism. They demand the Biharis to quit Assam while their languages are similar. This is very dangerous. It is tolerable if an individual plays such mischief but it is not fair when a head of an organization says so. It should not be tolerated if any state government or the Central Government, which is formed constitutionally, shows laxity, negligence or apathy towards it. An individual can commit mistake. I want to say that the way in which the people or the youths are provoked on the basis of language to strike on the unity and integrity of the nation, it smells that there is hand of some separatist organizations in it. We have discussed the problem at length. But what is its solution? The solution is that it is the duty of the Central as well as the State Government to control the incidents of violence. The State Government concerned and the Central Government both are responsible for providing security to the life and property of the people and for keeping the unity and integrity of the nation intact, they cannot evade their responsibility by alleging one

another to be responsible. Some of our friends diverted this debate to another direction that is Bangladesh. Sometimes we should have enough courage to accept the truth. The Central government and the State Government concerned should accept their respective omissions, then only the debate can fetch some result. We can reach some result by self contemplation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, you conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am concluding. The Central Government cannot remain a mute spectator of the incident which has taken place on the lines of regionalism, separatism and insanity. There are some measures for controlling this towards which our colleague Shri Prabhunath ji has pointed that the Biharis or other labourers who have been forced to leave Tinsukiya and Dibrugarh districts, should be rehabilitated. There should be such constructive thinking and in my opinion, this is the responsibility of the state. They have talked about a compensation of rupees five lakh to the families of those who have been killed. But I say that an amount of rupees five lakh is nothing. The economic state of Assam, Maharashtra and Delhi has changed due to those who have been killed. These states are illumined only because these labourers toiled there. They are engaged in every work of cleanliness, labour and partisanship, that state is illumined because of their skill. That state has come in limelight because of hard work and efficiency of the labourers. When this hard working labourer dies, will the Government assess his value in the form of compensation of Rs. 5 lakh? At least Rs. 10 lakh should be provided to the dependents of those who have made this state economically strong through their hard work and laid their life. Shri Prabhunath ji has rightly said that such offenders should immediately be tried for treason so that recurrence of such offences can be prevented. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Central and State Government to get them punished within three months. So they should be identified and punished. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to re-view the process of recruitment. Is it necessary to conduct such an exam for the recruitment to the post of Grade-D Gangmen, Khalasi etc. If there is any such tradition he has every authority to change it by an executive order ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Private Members' Business—Bills to be introduced. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, will you conclude please?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Railways is the symbol of national unity, it has been the country's life line in the annals of Indian history. I feel that Grade-D examination which were conducted at DRM level should continue to be held at the same level if there was a possibility to continue the same procedure so that recurrence of such incidents could be avoided. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Private Member's Business—Bills to be introduced.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The country should not be divided on communal lines since we have pledged to maintain its unity and integrity. We are one; we are Indians; ours is a strong country and any communal force, any fundamentalist force or any other force spreading regionalism or an extremist force should not get a chance to weaken the country. Stringent action should be taken against any such move.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Private Members' Business. We have already encroached upon ten minutes of the Private Members' Business. So, we may have to sit after 6 o'clock.

Now, Bills to be introduced. Shri H.G. Ramula—Not present.

Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan—Not present.

Shri Vijay Sankeshwar—Not present.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, will there be a reply from the hon. Minister today? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The debate will continue next week.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir what about my chance? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, you will get a chance next week.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.40 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

Government Servants (Declaration of Assets and Investigation) Bill* 2003

[English]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and investigation of assets held by Government servants employed in certain departments and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and investigation of assets held by Government servants employed in certain departments and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000

Contd.

(Amendment of Article 39)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up item no. 25—further consideration and passing of the Bill. Shri Ramdas Athawale was on his legs. He is not here now. He has already moved the Bill. It does not matter. I call upon Shri Anadi Sahu to speak.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dt. 5.12.03.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Me, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are Anadi Sahu—is it not?

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I think so, Sir!

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought Shri Ramdas Athawale would come and make further presentation on his Bill itself. Anyway, although he is not present here, I must congratulate him for highlighting certain points which have been bothering this country for the last almost 50 or 53 years. Even though we had enacted the Constitution and have indicated the Directive Principles of State Policy with a view to ensure that the State should endeavour for certain goals and achievements for the people of India, it is a sad reminder by this Bill itself that we have not yet been able to achieve what we had aspired for.

The Bill indicates that Article 39 of the Constitution of India be restructured with a view to give an impetus to generating employment and provide necessary facilities for self-employment. That is the main thrust of the Bill that Shri Athawale has brought in. When we think of generating employment and self-employment itself, I would like to dilate upon the constitutional provisions themselves. There are four basic points in Article 39 of the Constitution of India. The first one is right to adequate means of livelihood. That is most important in the constitution which was framed by our Constitution-makers. The second is that there is no concentration of wealth with a particular group of people and that there should be equal pay for equal work and that children are not subjected to exploitation and that health and education and other necessary requirements should be taken care of.

These are the four basic matters which have been indicated in article 39. Though there are five or six sub-clauses, these are the basic essence and Shri Athawale has summed up all these things by indicating that equal opportunity should be provided to people and that there should be generation of employment.

May I indicate that human development is broad-based on three critical dimensions. The three critical dimensions for development of human beings depend on longevity, education, ability to enjoy a decent standard of living. I am not going into education and longevity. I am going into the ability to enjoy a decent standard of living. When we are thinking of a decent standard of living we must think of the per capita income that has to be generated for the people of this country for a better living and not a mere subsistence.

It is a fact that, at present, we have something like 26 per cent people who are below poverty line. In my State of Orissa we have nearly 47.10 per cent people who are below the poverty line. When we think of decent living standards, we must think of the people who are below poverty line and how to ameliorate their conditions to ensure that they have a decent living.

We have good foodgrains production and we are giving subsidy to the people—who grow grains—and all those things. Does it really reach the people? Does it give enough food to the people who are below poverty line? I am saying this because the purchasing power of those people is not adequate. We have to evaluate a nation on how the people are treated who are below poverty line, and we have to evaluate a nation by finding out as to whether we have created conditions to see that they get adequate purchasing power.

Sir, there are five monitorable groups so far as ameliorating the conditions of the people are concerned. The Government of India in its wisdom has started thinking on these aspects. They thought it proper—in the paper that was prepared before the 10th Five-Year Plan was projected—that there should be reduction of poverty ratio to 15 per cent by 2007. For reduction of this poverty ratio, the decadal growth of population should be 16.2 per cent by 2011. There should also be potable drinking water and gainful employment. Those are most important.

As regards gainful employment, it has been indicated in this Constitutional provision, which has come before us as a Private Member's Bill itself. How can we get into this gainful employment for the people? The Government of India had constituted a task force that is called the Montek Ahluwalia Committee Task Force. The Montek Ahluwalia Committee Task Force had gone into the aspects of employment opportunities for the people. It has indicated its objectives. With your kind permission I would like to mention the Montek Ahluwalia Committee's objectives that have been indicated in Chapter 11. I would just take a few minutes only because it is very important to mention it here.

The five broad areas of policy which together would constitute an appropriate strategy for employment generation are: firstly, accelerating the rate of growth of GDP—I am not going into the details. Secondly, pursuing appropriate sectoral policies in individual sectors, which are particularly important for employment generation. Thirdly, implementing focussed special programme for creating additional employment to enhance income generation from existing activities aimed at helping

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

vulnerable groups that may not be sufficiently benefited by the more general growth promoting policies. Fourthly, pursuing suitable policies for education and skilled development. Fifthly, ensuring that the policy and legal environment governing the labour market encourages labour absorption, especially in the organised sector.

So far as the fourth point—as mentioned above—is concerned, you will kindly appreciate that educated unemployment has grown considerably. Every year eight per cent unemployed people are increasing because of the educated unemployed, whereas in the rural-agricultural sector it is only 0.2 per cent every year. In the category of semi educated people, it is something like 4.4 per cent of unemployed people. How can we get over these difficulties? The Government of India had gone into the details of these aspects and had come forward with macro-economic factors itself.

Sir, it has to be ensured that the GDP growth has to be something like eight to nine per cent in order to see that employment generation is good. We expect that the GDP growth would be seven per cent in the Tenth Plan period, but it has to grow considerably to give more employment to the people, particularly to the educated people, particularly to the urban-based people. In the rural-based people, in the unorganised sector itself, hardly two per cent people are employed. Every year, it will increase by two per cent. Now, the thing is that the workforce is increasing by two per cent every year whereas the employment potential is only 0.98 per cent every year. This is a very critical feature which has to be taken into account, when we think of providing employment to people. The workforce is increasing by two per cent whereas the employment potential is only 0.98 per cent every year. How do we go about it in increasing employment opportunities for the people, both in the urban and in the rural sectors? That is the most important thing. That requires lots of thinking and work to be done.

Now, how do we go about it? That also has to be taken into account and has been taken into account by the Task Force. I think, it is for the general information of the hon. Members here, the solutions to these problems have been thought of by the Task Force. The Task Force has indicated that the GDP growth has to go up to nine per cent and there should be a higher rate of investment. Investment has not come up to that extent as we have been thinking. Now, we are thinking of foreign direct investment also. Let investment come either from inside or from outside. Whatever may be the fact, the investment has to go up.

Then, the third is the improvement in efficiency. We do not have a lot of efficiency in our labour force, whether educated or skilled or unskilled. Therefore, the efficiency has to go up. Whenever we are thinking of employing people, there must be improvement in infrastructure. Infrastructure development has not gone up as we have been thinking of within the last 10 to 20 years.

Next is an efficient banking system. The Government of India, within the last two years, had given a liberal system for the banking sector. The Cash Reserve Ratio has been reduced; bank interest rates have been reduced; housing loan rates have been simplified and many other aspects have been taken into account to see that an efficient banking system is put in vogue. The most important thing, so far as the banking system is concerned, is credit for the informal sector, particularly the cooperative sector. The informal sector requires a lot of help so that non-banking systems, institutions, could get proper assistance to help the people, both in the urban areas and in the rural areas.

There is a necessity for public investment in agriculture because that is most important. About 60 per cent of our people, in India, depend mostly on agriculture and they have nothing more to do. Therefore, a proper investment in agriculture would help the people in gainful employment in the agriculture sector. When we are thinking of the agriculture sector, land reforms have to be taken into account. We are dismally poor in land reforms. We have gone down in this regard. I must appreciate the work done by West Bengal where the agricultural labour are getting Rs. 161 a day on an average, whereas in my State, it is only Rs. 42.50. They have systematically started working on the land reforms and have done a good job. We must appreciate that also.

It may not be possible to get employment in the public sector, in Government offices. It is necessary that there should be self-employment. Small-scale sector should be encouraged. Whatever necessary impetus have to be given should be given and is being given by the Government of India in very many ways.

Sir, you are aware that the services sector, like the IT, tourism, hotel industry and many others, has gone up like anything. They have to be encouraged not only by the State governments and the Centre, but also by private individuals and entrepreneurs, and foreign direct investment has to be encouraged, so far as the services sector is concerned. We are happy that Andhra Pradesh

and Karnataka have shown the way to the rest of country in the services sector, mostly in information technology sector. This IT sector has gone up. It should go up. India is on the top so far as IT sector is concerned. Why should we not allow people to invest more in the IT sector so that in other aspects of the services sector also we grow rapidly and compete with the best in the world? Most of these things are important when we think of the requirements for our country. That is what I think Shri Athawale had in mind while bringing forward this Bill.

Before I conclude, I would like to indicate some implications. The most important one is to create an employment policy for this country. Even though unemployment is on the rise, if you can have an employment policy, as indicated in the Ahluwalia Committee report, and if the Central and State Governments take it up, it would be possible to generate more employment opportunities for the people of this country. Instead of 0.98 per cent, we can go up to 1.75 per cent in the coming ten years. We cannot go up to two per cent, i.e. the workforce that is getting added every year, but we can go up to 1.75 per cent to 1.78 per cent.

Why I say all this is, at a time when we are considering the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill mooted by a Private Member, it is necessary that all of us should come together to ensure that people get employment in their own way. Let us take for example schemes like Sampurna Gramina Rozgar Yojana and Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana. So many such schemes are there now. The only thing is that people should come together and form self-help groups which have been created by the Government of India where many people come together. All should come together to ensure that generation of employment is not only the duty of the Government concerned, not only the duty of the private sector, but also the duty of NGOs, all political parties, and all other people who are involved in social work.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that the Bill itself would not help us. It is a question of intention, the objective that is behind this Bill. We must take the objective, the principle that has been indicated by Shri Athawale. That is more important than passing the Bill itself. It has nothing to do with the Constitutional amendment. It is all rigmarole, a cumbersome process that has to be gone through.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

What is important is that we must be aware of the difficulties that we are facing and we must try to ensure that we get good opportunities for our young people, educated or semi-educated, skilled or unskilled.

[*Translation*]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramdas Athawaleji has introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill, 2000 in the House and I am expressing my agreement with the spirit of the Bill would like to submit that there are sufficient provisions in this regard in the Constitution itself under Article 39 and a various other laws which have also been framed and there is an ongoing effort to enforce these laws. Through this amendment he intends to add the following clause to clause (1) of Article 39:-

"(2) that the State shall endeavour to provide necessary facilities for generating employment and for self-employment with a view to achieve the objectives mentioned in sub-clause (b) and (c) of clause (1)".

In this regard I would like to submit that the States and the Central Government have made sufficient provisions and only effective implementation of such provisions is necessary.

16.00 hrs.

Article 39 already takes care of the concern expressed by him that is providing for adequate means of livelihood to all the citizens of either sex. The ownership and control of physical resources of the community shall be distributed in such a manner as to achieve the collective interest of the people in the best possible manner. The country's economy should be managed in such a manner so that wealth and resources of production do not get concentrated in a handful of people to the detriment of the commonman. There should be equal pay for equal work without discrimination of sex. The health and physical potential of men and women workers and the children at tender age should not be exploited. Article 39 of the Constitution should provide for such various facilities. It is seen that the constitution is not being abided by in letter and spirit. As a result the gap between the rich and the poor is ever widening.

I would not like to repeat these several points mentioned by Anadi Saheb but would like to submit that today around 33-36 per cent people are running from

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

pillar to post in search of employment and are unable to manage even daily wages of even Rs. 20-25. On the one hand, there is a category of people who are earning net profit of Rs. 100-200-400-500 crore daily. Going through the balance sheet of several industries in newspapers after March one finds that they are earning huge profits and dividing it with 365 days one would realise that they are earning Rs. one and half thousand crore daily. On the other hand there is another category of people whose condition is extremely pitiable. This ratio is required to be brought down. The steps which are required to be taken to bring it down, should be taken vigorously and action must be taken to translate all that into action. It has been opined therein that everyone should get employment. At present 26 percent people are living below poverty line in the country. These are norms to find out the people living below poverty line. The people, having income amounting to twelve thousand rupees a year, are defined as people living below poverty line. If we make a comparative study of the minimum wages, we would find that things do not happen like this. This definition is not practical. This is the situation in our country. I can say that this situation has arisen because the procedure prescribed to implement all that has not been implemented properly despite the fact that such provisions exist in the constitution. Much is required to be done to rectify this situation. If these words find a place in the constitution, then it is not going to solve the problem.

The provisions incorporated in our constitution after attaining independence were not implemented properly. In view of this a Constitution Review Commission was constituted. This Commission has submitted its report to the Government. As far as I know, the Commission considered all the point quite seriously and submitted its suggestions. Report of the Constitution Review Commission should be discussed at the earliest so that suitable provisions are made in the Constitution as per those suggestions.

No purpose is going to be served with the suggestions made or the amendment sought by Bhai Athawale ji. As regards daily wages, that's fixed. There should be equal wages for equal work and there should be no gender discrimination in providing the wages. An Act to this effect has been enacted but it is not being implemented. Not only that even men experience difficulty to get the daily wages they want. A lot of works are carried through contract system. It is this Government which carry such works and the works are done through the Department. A task force is set up which prescribes

the rates as to how much work is to be done in a day and how much amount is to be paid for the same. If less work is done, less amount is paid. They are given the target of work so that they may get good remuneration and they may earn good amount after their day long labour. But the Government agencies are not even paying 1/4 of the rate fixed. Such labourers do not find themselves in a position to pull on their family. This is happening throughout the country. Somewhere there is terrorism, somewhere there is resentment which is turning into agitation. It also affects the law and order situation. In view of this the strength of Administrative staff is further increased to bring that situation into order. Then arrangements of police are made. This results in increase in expenditure of the Government. Therefore, Government should think over it seriously with a view to bring it into order. If we implement the provisions contained under article 39 of the Constitution, then certainly we can achieve some success, otherwise, whatever you write in the Constitution or under the Act, that has no value. All the efforts of the Government will go in vain if they do not have will power. Nothing could be achieved if it is merely written in the Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is here. I appreciate his style of work. He has done much for the daily wage workers working in the agriculture sector and he had protected the interests of the workers who carry weight on their head and back. Hon. Minister is going to bring a bill in this connection. This sentiment has been expressed in Article 39 of the Constitution and if provisions are made in the Labour Act or in the Company Act, keeping in view of the sentiments expressed by the hon. member, then it will be good. There are a number of laws on account of which people can obtain license to run industry. If they are in a position to run an industry, they can acquire land and obtain bank loan to run the industry and they need not run here and there. Today we see that people do not get job even after they obtain doctor degree or engineering degree or any other good degree. They have to get themselves registered with a number of institutions to get employment and they have to run here and there in search of job. Incidentally if anyone happens to go abroad, he gets one lakh, two lakh, four lakh or five lakh salary there. But here he has to run pillar to post to get a job worth two thousand rupees a month. Does that situation can not be available here? Our country is rich in mineral wealth. There is no scarcity of any kind. If we get and utilize raw material, if some means of employment generation are available and these means are made available at various places as per their requirement, if such arrangements are made, then it is O.K. otherwise we see that son of an I.A.S. or

IPS officer will become an IAS or IPS officer, industrialist's son will become an industrialist but an agricultural worker will become an agricultural worker. We have seen that families of farmers are increasing throughout the country. If a farmer has 50 or 100 acre farm, his land will be sub-dividend amongst his wards and thus the holding of each child will become smaller. Due to this reason, there will be decline in the income of farmers which they need to pull on their families. It is difficult to maintain peace if the gap between the rich and the poor, which is increasing, is not checked. Therefore, the gap between the rich and the poor must be bridged and the Government should find out some ways and means for this. If this is not done then all other works are immaterial.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government headed by Atalji had announced last year that it would create one crore jobs annually. The Government made some efforts in this regard and data have been presented. In India more than 26 percent people are living below the poverty line and they do not get even 100 days work in a year. Normally, everyone should get work for all the 365 days in a year. At least they should get work for 300 days in a year baring weekly holidays. It is not enough if you provide work for hundred days instead of 300 days. 100 days means three months and a week. If someone gets the work for three months and a week and has to survive on that income for the whole of the year, then it is not possible for him to support his family. He cannot raise the standard of his life either. In such a condition if rest of the world continue to view India as poor country, it will not be exaggeration. It will not be suffice for any one to feed his entire family for the whole year in the wages of hundred days. Therefore, we should devise a system which provide jobs to all eligible persons for whole of the year. Those who can run the industries should be allowed to do so. A survey should be conducted to find out who can do what and that what is the exact number of educated persons in the country. We should also try to know the area of their interest and on that basis we should make some scheme in favour of them. I think there is no need of bringing about any constitutional amendment Bill. There are so many provisions in the constitution and there are rules to implement them. If our policy and intentions are good then everything is possible. So I would like to request that Government should take effective steps in this direction. Athawaleji, is not present here, but I would like to address to him and would say that there is no need to bring any constitutional amendment Bill in this regard. What he wants is already provided in the Constitution. So he should withdraw his

Constitutional amendment Bill. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): I am seeking your permission to speak because the bill which is tried to be passed by this House, or may not be passed and withdrawn, is of very great importance.

Sir, the Private Members move their Bills not only to see that the Bills are passed but also to highlight the issues. This Bill is certainly highlighting a very-very important issue. Unfortunately, when important issues come up for discussion in this House, the attendance is very-very poor. Attendance in the House is very good when spicy and prickly issues are taken up for discussion. But this gives, to some Members, an opportunity to express their views and I would like to take this opportunity to express their views and I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on this important issue.

I do not think that the Bill as it is moved in the House can be accepted and incorporated in the Constitution. The Member, who has moved this Bill, will ultimately withdraw this Bill. Even if it is put to the vote of the House, it will not be passed but the intentions with which the Member has moved this Bill are really very important. What are his intentions? The first intention is that article 39 (b) and (c) should be implemented.

He is trying to give a positive direction to that intention. Article 39(c) says that the operation of the economic system does not result in concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. This is negatively worded but this Bill is trying to give a positive tilt. The Bill is trying to say that the State shall, with a view to achieving the objectives as enshrined in Clauses (b) and (c) of Clause (1) endeavour to generate employment and provide necessary facilities for self-employment. The emphasis is of positive nature and is on generating employment and on creating necessary facilities for employed. Again, the employment has to be provided by someone to the unemployed. If it is not possible, then opportunities have to be created to see that the citizens who are not employed, help themselves by entering into the area of private productive activity. These are the two intentions.

These days we are talking about labour laws. Fortunately for us, the Labour Minister is here to reply to the debate on this Bill. Times have changed. If it is

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necessary, we should change the labour laws also and we should see that some provisions are included in the labour laws which really create good atmosphere in the society to increase the production. But while doing this, it has also to be seen that the rights which are given to the workers are not withdrawn in the name of labour laws. If that is done, then one of the elements which is required for increasing the production in the country will be missing. By making the working force and the workers dissatisfied and uninspired, you cannot increase the production in the country. So the labour reform has to take place in such a fashion that the workers feel like working for increasing the production. If that is not done then intention of having the labour laws will be defeated. So, the approach which should be adopted to bring about labour reforms is to see that the just facilities which are given to the workers are not withdraw in the name of labour laws. If they are withdrawn, the intention of increasing the production will not be achieved. Men are more important than machines are. Machine can work only with the help of man. If the man who works behind the machine is dissatisfied, nothing can happen. This has to be the approach.

This Bill looks innocuous. The second most important thing which is highlighted through this Bill is the problem of unemployment in our country. Now if we have some violent activities taking place in some parts of our country, that is also because of the problem of unemployment which is faced by the young people who have the capacity to work and who do not get the opportunity to work. I do not mean to say that only this has contributed towards terrorist activities in India. But I do mean to say that this has certainly, to some extent, contributed to the violent activities that are taking place in some part of our country. It may be Kashmir, it may be Andhra Pradesh, and it may be North-Eastern States. The problem of unemployment is very severe there and if we are not able to solve this problem, it would be difficult to bring those youngsters on a road of peace and on a road of understanding and then ask them to give up their anger and their terrorist activities or violent activities.

So, the problem of unemployment has to be tackled. The Government had promised that one crore jobs will be given to the unemployed in our country. But I am very sorry to say that some members of the Government are also not aware of the fact that this Government, through its manifesto, had made this promise to the country. They are going with the impression that one crore jobs have to be given to the unemployed in the country in five years time and not in one year time. This

is a glaring mistake. They are unaware of this fact. I am not naming any Ministers who have made this statement intentionally because my intention is not to say that they are ignorant or that they have not paid attention. My intention is to show that all of us, and mostly the Ministers, are not aware of the immensity of the problem of unemployment being faced in our country and they go with the impression that one crore jobs would be produced in five years and not every year. Now, this has to change. We shall have to see that jobs are created. You create jobs in Government service or create jobs in private activities or through self-employment projects. We do not mind. But the jobs have to be created. And if jobs are not created and if the educated unemployed ones and able bodied ones who are willing to work, exert and contribute towards development, are not given this opportunity and become angry, we should have to blame ourselves and we cannot blame them. This has to be understood.

One of the things which is missing in our Constitution, and very glaringly missing in our Constitution is right to work. The Directive Principle says that something would be done to see that employment will be provided and something like right to work will be given to the citizens of the country. At the time when the Constitution was framed, right to work was not included in the Chapter of Fundamental Rights because at that time, it was held and thought that right to work is not implementable and that is why, instead of including right to work in the Chapter of Fundamental Rights, it was included in the Chapter of Directive Principles of State Policy. Now, having enjoyed Independence and having brought about economic development in agriculture, industry and other fields, has not the time come when it would become possible for the Government of India to provide right to employment to the unemployed in our country?

If a person is asking for employment, what is he asking for? Let us understand this. If what he is asking for is not provided by us, are we responsible for it or not? A person who is asking for employment is saying, "I am an able-bodied man and I have the mental capacity to work. I do not want to exploit anybody. I do not want to commit theft. I want to work and I want to earn my subsistence." The society and the Government say, "Well, you may be wanting that but we are not in a position to help you." Then what should he do? Either he should commit suicide or commit theft to exist. Now can this be accepted by us in our society? I think we are giving help to the people to increase production which we should do. I am not objecting to that. We shall have to do that.

But is it not the responsibility of the Government and the society as a whole to see that those who want to work are provided with work and if they are not provided with work, who has to be blamed? We all who are sitting here have to be blamed. We were sitting there at that time. You could have blamed us at that time. You are sitting there at this time. So, you can also be blamed at this time. But blame has to be shared by those who are responsible to see that employment is provided to those who need it.

Now coming to right to work, what is right to work? People are very much afraid of the fact that right to work may not be implementable. You will have many intelligent people, scholars and professors getting up and saying that this is a utopia and it cannot be implemented and so, let us not have it in the Constitution of India. In regard to right to education also the same thing was being said. But I am happy that the Government has made the right to education a fundamental right, at least at the primary level to the children in our society. I am happy about that. In regard to education also the same thing was said that right to education cannot be given. The cost of providing right to education is enormous, so it cannot be given. The same thing is being said about right to work also. I have been saying that this right to work is implementable. You can provide right to work.

What is after all right to work? Let us understand it in clear terms. If we do not understand it in clear terms, we may entertain some apprehensions. But if we understand this phrase 'right to work' in clear sense, there will not be any apprehension. The right to work does not mean the right to have a work which a person asking for employment deserves to have. Supposing a person has done his PhD and suppose he comes to the Government and says that I have done PhD, so make me a professor. Then, it may not be possible for the Government to make him a professor. Then, it may not be possible for the Government to make him a professor. But if he comes to the Government and says, 'I want to live, I am a PhD, I am willing to do any job and give me a job'. Can you not give him a job which can fetch him food which he needs to exist? Can you not give him a job which may not give him Rs. 30,000/- per month but Rs. 300/- per month? Can you not do that? Right to work means a right which will help an individual not to commit suicide, not to commit theft, but to get a job which he will be doing for sustaining himself.

Now, if this interpretation on the right to work is put, please let me know from you, is this kind of right to

work implementable or not? Fortunately, we have Employment Guarantee Schemes. The States have Employment Guarantee Schemes. The Employment Guarantee Scheme was first started in the State of Maharashtra. I had the good fortune of being a Member of the Committee which drafted the Employment Guarantee Scheme as a Member of the Legislature of the State of Maharashtra. When that was being done, criticism was levelled that it is not implementable, let us not do it, and that it would be waste of money and energy, that is why let us not do it. But right to guarantee to work is existing in Maharashtra up to this time. It is because of this that the law and order situation in Maharashtra is comparatively—I am saying comparatively in a very responsible manner—better than the law and order situation in many other States where this kind of right is not available.

Fortunately for us, at the national level also the concept of this kind has been accepted and in the schemes that the Central Government has, this concept of giving employment to the people is there. But the Central Government has to extend a little more what it has done. If the Government does it, the credit for doing so will go to this Government. If this Government does not do it, someone else will do it. Certainly, someone else will do it and the credit will go to it. It is not just the question of taking or giving credit. This is the question of doing equity and justice to the people. Let us do equity and justice to the people who really deserve the help from the Government and the society as a whole.

People have been saying that this is a communist kind of concept or a socialist kind of concept. Why should we worry whether it is a communist kind of concept or a socialist kind of concept when we are doing justice to everybody? You take, for instance, America. There the Constitution does not provide for right to work and they give dole. We cannot be oblivious of the fact that in America though the right to work is not given, dole is given to every unemployed person. The dole is something which is different from right to work. Here, you are giving it as a return for something which he is doing for the society. But dole is not like that. Any unemployed person will have the right to get the dole from the Government or from the society. That is being done in Europe also. We are not saying that we should give dole to a person who is not working. Give the dole to a person who is sick, who is unable to work. But do not give the dole to a person who is not sick, who is able to work and yet not ready to work. We are telling you to give him employment. Why should we not do it? What is wrong in doing it?

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I think it is correct that in some socialist countries also it exists. If we study the Constitution of the communist countries and socialist countries where the right to work is given, we will be surprised to know one thing. A very interesting fact would come to our notice by studying those Constitutions. It can be adopted by us also. This is done by the so-called communist countries. Nobody claims to be a communist country today. The so-called socialist countries, non-socialist countries and capitalist countries also are like that. Wherever right to work has been given, you will be surprised to know that duty to work has been provided. There is no Constitution in the world in which right to work is given and duty to work is not mentioned. Suppose, you also do the same thing here. You provide right to work and duty to work also. Look at the result which will become available to you. You would be providing employment to the people, and, at the same time, having imposed the right to work on the people, you will be generating a lot of wealth in the country which will be helpful in all areas of our activity like agriculture, industry, trade, economic development, education and any area. So, right and duty should go together. There cannot be a right without a duty. They are two sides of the same coin. That is why, if you provide in your Constitution the right and duty to work, then it would become more implementable. The only apprehension the Government is having is whether it is implementable or not. This apprehension is not at all justified. If you have right and duty given to a citizen, you can say like this: "You may be a Ph.D. You have come to us asking for a job. We are not in a position to give a job of a Profession or a man who is heading an institution but we can give you a job of a clerk which will help you to earn Rs. 1000 per month. If you do not work, you do not have a right to job; you cannot ask for the right to work also." So, right and duty can go together. Then, this right becomes more implementable. Why should we not imagine such a situation and devise a method, a project, an ideology, a system and a mechanism which can really help us to deal with the regular problem? Why should we not do it?

You will be surprised to know that in the Japanese Constitution, it provides right and duty. Japan professes to be a capitalist country. It is a country which has accepted the principle of *laissez faire*. The Japanese Constitution provides one thing. What it provides is very surprising to know. In some other Constitutions, right is given in one chapter and duty is mentioned in another chapter. In some Constitutions, the right and duty are mentioned in different Articles. But in the Japanese

Constitution, in one Article, what is provided is this. It provides the right and duty together. The citizen shall have a right and duty to work. In one sentence it says that the citizen shall have the right and duty to work. Is it not possible for us to provide that? If we are not inventing a new thing, why are we attaching importance to the old Constitution and sticking to it? Why are we not applying our mind and creating a situation in the country which can really help us to tackle the problem which is uppermost in the minds of younger generation of the country. Why should we not do it?

Shri Ramdas Athawale has not said all these things in his Bill. But I am thinking that his intention is to see that employment is provided to the citizens. If employment has to be provided in this fashion, it can be provided. Self-employment has to be provided. He is suggesting certain things. But I am suggesting these things. If you do it, it would be possible for us to generate employment. We are spending nearly Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 crore on providing employment to the citizens in the country through the Exchequer of the Government of India and the State Governments also. If you spend Rs. 10,000 crore more, you will be in a position to do it, you will be in a position to give right to employment to all the people.

This amount of money would not be required by you to be spent in maintaining law and order in the country. This amount of money will be used in a proper manner. What is required is determination, what is required is vision, what is required is willingness to adopt something new and then it can be done. That is why I am saying that you can do it.

Now, what are you doing to create self-employment? I am very apprehensive of one fact. The Government of India has decided to generate, transmit and distribute power through private sector. The Congress Party did not oppose this Bill. The Congress Party supported it and that Bill was passed. I wish and pray that what you intend to do by passing this law should be achieved. But power is not being generated with the help of investment coming from private sector. In Rajasthan, they decided to generate power through private sector investment. They waited for 15 years, but no private company came forward and invested money for generating power. Ultimately, the Government had to generate power through public sector and Rajasthan is one of the States which is not suffering from dearth of power supply whereas others are suffering.

What is going to happen? I will let you know as to what is going to happen. This is my view. You may reject it if you think that my view is wrong. But what is going to happen is this. The private sector is not going

to invest money in generation of power for at least 10 to 15 years to come. Why? It is because they have to invest a lot of money for generating power.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): If you give them the right of distribution along with generation, they will come forward.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: By law we have given them the right to generate, transmit and distribute. They are willing to transmit, but they are not willing to generate and distribute. For generation of power, you require a lot of money. If you want to generate one MW of electricity, you require Rs. 5 crore. If you want to generate 1,000 MW of electricity, Rs. 5,000 crore would be required and you have to wait at least for 15 years to get the returns for which they are not ready. So, the private sector people are not going to invest in generation of power. If they are not going to invest and if the Government is also not going to invest, where is the power going to come from? That is exactly why the Government itself has reduced the target fixed for generation of electricity in the Ninth Five Year Plan from 48,000 MW to 28,000 MW. Then, from 28,000 MW, you reduced it to 22,000 MW of electricity and you could not produce even 22,000 MW of electricity and ultimately you could produce only 18,000 MW of electricity during the Ninth Plan. Why did this happen? It is not that you had any bad intention or it is not that you wanted to be criticised, but it is because your policy was wrong. You expected private sector to invest for generation of power. The private sector is not willing to invest and that is why, you are not able to generate power. If you are not generating power, how is it that you are going to create an atmosphere which will help industrial development? You shall have to take this into account. I am not asking for a response from the Minister on this point, but this point has to be considered by him as a matter of policy.

The second policy decision that you have taken is to turn IDBI into a bank and this Bill is with us. We are not going to oppose it. We are going to help you to pass it. We are not criticising you simply because we are sitting here, but we have some real apprehensions. You are asking private sector to invest in power generation. If the private sector is not investing, you invest in it. Without investing money for power generation, you will not be able to have industrial development in the country. If you do not invest money for generation by having a proper policy, you will be held responsible. We are not criticising the individuals on projects and the misdeeds. We are criticising your policies. If you do not invest for generating power, we will criticise you.

Now, what is happening to IDBI? Senior people, who are sitting here, know why IDBI was created. IDBI was created to provide finance and funds to the private industry to develop. ICICI was a financial institution. IFCI was a financial institution. These financial institutions were expected to give funds to the industrialists in the private sector to develop their industry. They were going to be the long-term funds. The funds were given for 15 or 20 years at the rates of interest acceptable to them. Now you have turned ICICI into a bank. ICICI is doing well as a bank by giving money for constructing a house or other such small things and also for purchasing cars. But it is not giving funds for development of the industry. If ICICI is not giving the funds and if you are going to do the same thing to the IDBI, which is the only one financial institution existing with you, then what is going to happen? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: All the banks are there today to help.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No; they do not do so. You have been in the Ministry of Planning. I am sorry to hear from you. These banks give small amounts of money for five or 10 years. They do not give Rs. 1,000 crore.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: The distinction between long-term financing and short-term financing has been abolished.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: 'Abolished' means what? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should speak in your time. I am giving you a chance.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No, no; it is a right time. Please let him say. I would like to reply to him. He has been a very responsible officer of the Government of India. I will respect his views.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: A dispensation was created in 1969.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: 'Created' means what?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: After the 'Nationalisation'.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Even long-term finance is not required for development of an industry.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: You require it very much.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Who is going to give it?
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: The IDBI and the ICICI were to give it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am sorry, this hon. Member is speaking as a member of a party. He is not speaking as a citizen of India. I would expect him to speak as a citizen of India and not as a member of a party. I am not criticising him as an individual. I am criticising the policy. If IDBI becomes a bank, it will not be in a position to give long-term finance to the industry and the industry will suffer. You would not be there to reply to this question. You will say that we intended this, and if this did not happen, what can we do? The time would have been lost. It is here that the Government is most responsible. You should understand the implications of the policies you are formulating yourself. As you turned IDBI into a bank in order to earn profit, they will give you money to buy. At what cost? Rs. 35 lakh, Rs. 40 lakh or Rs. 2 crore to buy a flat or a house. But they would not give you Rs. 2,000 crore or Rs. 4,000 crore for development of the industry. If you do not have financial institutions for development of industry, this money will be given to that industry which will be in Mumbai, Kolkata or Bangalore. It will not be in the North-Eastern States. It will not be in Kashmir. It will not be for the developing areas. Those areas will suffer from lack of funds. The bank would not give it. This has to be done by the financial institutions. That is why these institutions were created. The banks were there. We could have created more banks. We did not create more banks, by the nature of the duty they perform, would be giving small amounts of money to the persons who can return that money in a small period of time. The financial institutions were created for giving huge amounts of money for the development of industry for a long-term period. Now you are taking a decision. I expressed my views to the Minister of Finance, who was quite understanding. He did tell me that they would do something to see that the long-term finance was available. he is recognising but you are not recognising it. You are more loyal than the king is. This is not correct. I do not expect it from you. I am sounding a little critical. I am sorry to say it. But please do not support that policy for which you will be sorry in future. The Ministers will not say anything. We do not expect them to say anything here. But we do expect them to understand, and if they believe in what we are saying, to raise this issue in the

Council of Ministers. It will be in their interest. It will be in the interest of their own Party, in their own Government and certainly it will be in the interest of the country as a whole. If they do not believe, then throw it in the dustbin, we do not mind. But do not unnecessarily, without understanding, support any proposal which is given here and which is going to create problems for us.

What I am saying is that power will not be available, if you have IDBI bank, funds will not be available. If power is not there, if the funds are not there, how is the industry going to develop? How is agriculture going to develop? How is it you are going to develop technology for which long gestation period and money is required and which is not going to come from the bank.

Now, his intention is to provide self-employment. How are you going to create it? It is not simply by saying yes or no to it. You are going to generate self-employment in the country. You will be able to generate self-employment in the country by adopting a policy which will really help you.

That is why I am saying that on the one hand, you have right and duty to work on the second hand you create the necessary infrastructure. If you are constructing Golden Quadrilateral, we are not quarrelling with you, if you are linking the rivers, we welcome it. But if you are stopping the source from which the long-term finance for the development of the industry could be available, we would certainly criticise it. But please do not take it as a personal criticism, do not take it that it is your duty to support anything that is happening. We, sitting here, are responsible not only to the Party but to the country also. So, understand the implications of it and then say whatever you feel. Whatever sincere opinion you have, we will respect it. If we feel that it is not a sincere opinion but expressed for party reasons, then well we reserve our right not to do this.

Sir, third thing is education. Now, what is education? How education has become costly? On the one hand, you have decided to give right to education at a lower level, primary level. At secondary level, this right is not available; and at tertiary level, it is certainly not available. The education at tertiary level, because of our policy that it should be in private sector, has become expensive. If a child has to give 50 lakhs of rupees to get an admission to the engineering college or medical college, where is the man going to get the money from? We are telling him indirectly to own this money. If you cannot earn this money honestly, earn it by hook or crook. Take whatever

money legally or illegally, amass this wealth, give it to the college and educate your children. Is it going to be helpful?

I do agree with you, I am not against the private institutions. Let there be more private institutions, I do not mind. Let them start, let them charge a little more, I do not mind. Whatever money is required for running the institution, I do not mind. But it should not be a mint where money is minted, money is looted and then utilised. Is this happening in this country or not?

It is not the Union Government alone, but the State Governments are also responsible. Is it happening or not? If this is happening, do we, sitting here, have a duty towards this thing or not? If we have any duty, should we not make a policy which can really reduce the expenses required to educate a child in our country or not? If we are not doing it, how is it going to see that the wealth is not concentrated in a few? It will concentrate. The rich man will pay, the rich man will earn, and the rich man will have more wealth than the poor man, the common man. There will not be any equality. Now, it is not going to happen.

Now, he has expressed his intention, very correct intention. He is not going to ask that you accept this Bill and you pass this Bill. But he certainly wants to underline the disparity, the inequality that exists in our country and he is going to say that here if we do not take the corrective action we would be responsible. History will pass a judgement against us, who are sitting here—whether we are sitting on this side or on that side. They will pass a judgement against this forum, having not expressed our views and they will pass a judgement against them having taken the wrong decisions in this respect.

This has to be done. Here coming and blaming each other and saying that he did this thing and he did that thing will not help. Let us very sincerely examine the policies which we are making and understand the implications of the policies.

We are not opposed to privatisation. Let us understand this. Eighty per cent of the productive activity in India is in private hands and this was done by the Congress Party sitting here in spite of the fact that some people criticise us. But if this privatisation is used for exploitation and if it is going to create problems, should we not make the policies in such a fashion that exploitation is stopped, employment is provided, industry is developed, education is given, and technology is

developed? If we are not doing these things, then what is it that we are doing? We would be enjoying the perks and facilities given as members of the Government and as members of Parliament, and nothing more than that. Now, this kind of a thing has to be stopped.

I thought that here there is nobody asking for time to speak and I would have the time to speak. At least it would be in the record that there was at least one Member who said these and I have said these things. Please take it in the correct spirit in which I have spoken and accept whatever is acceptable. Do not say 'yes' or 'no'. We do not want that from any Minister or anybody at the spur of the moment but do keep this in your mind while making the policies.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, generally I support the Bill moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale but there are certain limitations.

While agreeing with the facts stated by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, there is another aspect which we will have to give credence to. What is the position in India now? We have introduced reform policy. It is still in operation. Globalisation, privatisation and liberalisation are the order of the day. What is the net result? Now, even the Prime Minister has pointed out that the reforms did not reach the poor man. Even though the Government introduced all these reforms, the net result is that the poor man is becoming much more poorer and the rich man is becoming much more richer. That is the position. The benefits do not reach the common man. That has been even accepted by them also.

Now, the position is that due to privatisation, some industries, which were flourishing in the past, were also sold out. The workers do not get any security of service. They have been thrown out. Even the labour laws have not been implemented. There were public sector industries which were running in profit. In those industries also, thousands and thousands of workers were thrown out. We cannot imagine 'right to work' now. What will be the fate of those workers who were thrown out every year from these public undertakings?

We hear a mass suicide in every part of the country. The farmers are committing suicide and the workers are committing suicide. I think, my friend will agree that if you go to Mumbai, almost all the textile mills have been closed down. There was a time when people from neighbouring States and even from States which are very far were working there. They were in those big cities.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

But they are desolate and forlorn. There is nobody to weep. This is the situation in the country.

Now, when the Constitution was framed, there were two kinds of fundamental rights provided in it. One is justiciable fundamental rights and the other one is non-justiciable fundamental rights.

Freedom of speech and freedom of association were included in the justiciable fundamental rights which could be enforced or implemented. But the rights, which are given or enumerated in article 39, are also fundamental in nature. We cannot deny that fact, but they are not enforceable. What is the result? Now we have reached a situation where we are facing a very serious crisis. We have even come to a stage that we are even far away from the international situation.

Recently there is a Supreme Court ruling that the workers do not have the right of collective bargaining. It is a fundamental right. Any attempt to strike work will be illegal, immoral and at the same time it cannot be justified. That is the stand taken by the Supreme Court. It has made this as a reference in a recent judgement. The Government did not move. They did not make any honest attempt to remedy the situation. The workers are all in arms.

It may be noted that even this House has passed a Resolution or even a statute, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1948, in which we have given a provision that they have a right to strike even work for which they will have to give 24 hours notice. After giving 24 hours notice, they can strike work. But unfortunately, the highest judicial forum in the land thought that it is immoral and illegal. It has ignored the fact that there is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act that the workers are given the right of collective bargaining. The Supreme Court did not agree with that.

Now, what is the net result? The Government of India has a duty, an obligation. In the International Labour Organisation, the Government of India is a party. They are one of the co-sponsors of this international Convention wherein it has been specifically provided that the right to work is a fundamental right and the right to strike work is also a fundamental right. India will have to be a signatory to that Convention. The Supreme Court judgement is against that international position or Convention. India will have to abide by the international convention and regulations.

In the World Trade Organisation, India is a member. We will have to abide by the decision of the World Trade Organisation. Can the Supreme Court say that it is against the interest of India and so we need not give credence to that? So also, in the case of the labour force, they have done this that they do not have any right to strike work. It is definitely a slur or a black mark in the international labour movement also.

The hon. Labour Minister is present here. He should remedy the situation. He will have to move for a review of the judgement. It is not a judgement. It is only a reference. That reference can be rectified. I think the Supreme Court is also thinking of getting it corrected, but I do not know whether it is true or not. But the Government should make an immediate move to get the reference rectified so that the working-class in India will get their simple right. You need not give them further jobs. You cannot leave it. At least you give them the security of job which they were enjoying. There is no security in the State. Even the recruitment rules are not observed. Even the benefits, which were given to the workers, are denied in one way or the other. Even bonus is denied. Even Leave encashment benefits are denied throughout India. But there is no remedy. At this time we are discussing this Bill which is moved by Shri Ramdas Athawale for giving better facilities, but I do not agree with the remedies suggested by him.

17.00 hrs.

He has rightly said:

"... the operation of the country's economic policies over the years has resulted in concentration of wealth in the so-called "industrial houses", big or small, and in groups of families and their kith and kin. The rich are becoming richer and the vast majority of people are deprived of access to the means of production of wealth and their living standards remain comparatively low."

For that purpose the remedy suggested is:

"It is, therefore, desirable that the Government should undertake constructive employment generation schemes and provide necessary facilities for self-employment. The Government should give industrial licence, export and import licences, telephone booths for operating telephone services, petrol stations, L.P.G. agencies ..."

These are the remedies suggested but these are not at all the remedies. As suggested by Shri Shivraj V.

Patil, the crux of the problem is change in policy. We would have to have a rethinking of the entire process of economic reforms. We have come to such a situation. The country is facing a crisis. To avert that crisis, the only remedy is to have a rethinking in all these spheres.

In the case of higher education, Rs. 15 lakh or even Rs. 25 lakh is the normal fee required from a student seeking admission to a medical college. That is the present position in the States. The matter has gone before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has also taken a decision. A Committee has been appointed to fix up how many lakhs of rupees would have to be given at the time of admission. A Committee headed by a Retired Judge would have to be appointed in each and every State and these Committees would decide what amount would have to be paid. It would not be less than a lakh of rupees; in fact, it would be upwards of that. How can a poor man's child get admission in an engineering college, a medical college or any other professional college?

We are not opposed to privatisation. Private agencies have done many things but this has become a business now. Education has become more or less a business. It is no longer a service and the management is adopting a policy of making the utmost profits. With that idea in mind, people are doing many things. Many underhand dealings are taking place in a State like Kerala.

If you go to the UAE Embassy, you would see lakhs and lakhs of people coming there for getting an attestation. We cannot give them any job. They seek employment there and get employed. Every day, there is a ruckus before the Embassy because people come in large numbers. They are mostly Malayalees from the South, intending to go to the Gulf countries. All of them are educated unemployed youths. The State cannot provide any employment because there is no employment opportunity; nor can the Central Government provide employment. They seek employment in Gulf countries. They go to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah for getting employment.

The authorities in UAE have imposed a new restriction that all these people who are seeking employment should come to New Delhi to get their certificates attested. There would be about a thousand people coming to the Embassy every day. The Embassy would work only from 0900 hours to 1200 hours. So, at the most only 250 people can get their certificates attested. The rest of them would remain here for a longer

period. When we are discussing this Bill, this is the state of affairs in our country.

If the Government cannot give them employment, they have no other way but to commit theft, robbery or other heinous offences or commit suicide. There is no other way out for them. This is the position in our country. If any hon. Member of this House went to an Embassy of a Gulf country he would see hundreds of educated unemployed youths flocking that Embassy.

In the meanwhile, the Central Government also has another difficulty in giving employment to these people. Each and every Ministry could attest their certificates or you could do one thing. You line them up and shoot them one-by-one. That is the only remedy. Now these people are put to so many difficulties.

Now, another difficulty has been imposed in addition to these difficulties. What is that? The people who seek employment in Gulf countries should in advance deposit their return fare also. Will any Government with a human feeling do this? But our Ministry of External Affairs was adamant that all these people should deposit their return fare also. We are not discussing how to make the job opportunity a fundamental right. The right to work is a fundamental right. But we cannot give it and you need not do that. You, at least, allow these people to go and live in any part of the world. These unemployed people, youths in my State and from neighbouring States are prepared to go anywhere, to any part of the world, provided you give them a safe passage. You are putting restrictions. Now, these people are going there, working there and earning a lot of foreign exchange. But this Government is not taking that fact into consideration. I am speaking all these things with a heavy heart because this is the position prevailing now. All of them are in my constituency, not only from Kerala.

So, I find it very difficult to speak on this Resolution when I am faced with this type of situation. The Government of India should come forward and they must do something. Now, in India also, you are selling away one by one all the public sector undertakings. A number of public sector undertakings are sold away at throw-away prices. People are being thrown out of employment. They are thrown on the streets. If they seek employment elsewhere, you would not give them employment. Then, what is the remedy? There must be a way out. Now, this is the deplorable situation prevailing in the country.

I think, the hon. Minister of Labour must be aware of the position. The Government of Kerala as well as

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

several other Governments has approached you to make it somewhat easier. You please do something to prevent these people from committing mass suicides. It is because you would not give them any job and you would not allow them to work elsewhere. Then, what should they do?

Sir, inside the country, all the labour laws are now thrown away, thrown to winds. No employer is prepared to effectively implement labour laws which have been passed by this House long before. As a result, there is a lot of agitation also. No provision is being implemented and even statutory benefits are being denied to them. Actually, there is no remedy for all these matters. Even the State Government employees are denied many of their allowances. Their pensionary benefits are denied. So, this is the situation which is prevailing than we are discussing this Bill. I do not agree with the suggestion but the intention of the Bill is good.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank hon. Member Shri Ramdas Athawale for bringing this Bill for consideration of this House. The intention is good, no doubt, and it gives us an opportunity to deliberate on certain matters which are being debated not only in this House but also outside. This Bill deals with the economic policy, the labour policy, the financial situation of the country and also the overall idea that was the dream which was seen by our forefathers during the freedom struggle. During the last six decades, say from 1947 till date—this is the sixth decade that we are an independent country—political slogan has become the clamour of the day. In these last 56 or 57 years it has been repeatedly said in different political platforms that the country's economic policy is so modulated that it results in concentration of finance in some industrial houses. This has been said by various political groups and parties. To a great extent in the policies that have been framed within the last 12 years, say from 1991, this has been mounting and it is increasing day by day.

It was in 1938 that the idea of planned growth of this country was mooted by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and after India gained Independence, we have witnessed nine Five-Year Plans and crores and crores of rupees have been invested in various spheres—be it industry, be it agriculture, be it housing or be it development of infrastructure. But the overall development has not happened taking the whole country into view. Certain

States have developed, have advanced; others have lagged behind. The easier way of explaining it is by saying that the underdeveloped states did not do much to come to a forward position. But there are number of policies which actually bog these States down. I would give one suggestion, very well knowing the consequences of this.

Delhi is a different States. It is not a part of Haryana or Punjab or Himachal Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh or Rajasthan. It is a separate State of its own. You take out Kolkata from West Bengal; you remove Mumbai from Maharashtra or remove Chennai from Tamil Nadu, then, I think, those urban areas, metropolis will develop much better and so also the neighbouring States. But these four metropolis have developed not because of Bengal, not because of Uttar Pradesh or Punjab or not because of Maharashtra; nor Chennai has developed because of Tamil Nadu. There are two more metropolises—Hyderabad and Bangalore—that have come up much later. These cities have developed for various other reasons which have contributed immensely for development and progress of these metropolitan cities and their income will contribute to the growth of the nation, so also they nearby States. But by tying them up with certain States, the planning, the provisions that are being made automatically make those States richer. Take the industrial climate today. During the first decade, let me say, it was quite dismal. A lot of investment, continuously for three Plans, was made for infrastructure growth which contributed in the growth of the national exchequer.

But I would like to draw the attention of this House today to a turning point. When the whole world was taking a definite line in the early 1970s, India took a different line, and took up a socialist turn. During that period China under the leadership of Mao Tsetung and Chou En-lai had taken to the free market economy in a limited way. Today they are far ahead of us in the economic growth.

It is necessary that this House deliberates on this issue, as 12 years have passed, since 1991—this is 2003, the last month of this year—when we took to free market economy course. What have we achieved by this free market economy? What are the shortfalls, and where we have failed? Why have we not translated all the policies that were supposed to bring more development for our country? Consciously, a decision was taken in the 1990s that investments should be made. Of course, clamour is there that we should bring in more foreign investment, but why would anyone invest in a country like ours? The only reason could be to make profit. An investor invests money to make profit and that profit is also tagged in

with a stipulation that it should be made at a quicker pace. A decision was taken—I do not think it has been corrected till now—that we should take a middle path on this issue. Out foreign investment will be in the core sector. A learned Member from the opposition Shri Patil has referred to one instance, namely the investments in power sector.

Orissa had become a laboratory in the early 1990s as to how investment will be made and what policies should be made. Ultimately, the sufferers are the Oriyas or the people who reside in Orissa. A lot of things have been evolved, and subsequently it has enlightened the other States as to what type of investment should be there and what law should be made in this sphere, etc.

I would like to impress upon this House that we have a population of ground 102 crore. Today around 25 per cent of it are from the age group who are below 30 years. It is said that within the next 15 years that age group will be 40 per cent of our population.

We have discussed about employment and we should be discussing about gainful employment and not exploitation, as Shri Anadi Sahu, our hon. Member of this House has mentioned.

What do we understand by the term gainful employment? It means that a person who is employed should be employed for productive use and should not be exploited for his situation, for the place where he lives in or more importantly the place in which he is employed. Adequate support should be provided for self-employment.

I think, two years back Shri Gurcharan Das, an eminent columnist has come out with a book called 'The Great Divide' and in that book he has projected two issue. One issue is that he has drawn a line-taking the Indian map into consideration—from Delhi to Nagpur, to Hyderabad and to Chennai. He has categorically stated that the Western side will reach a certain stage in 2015 that will be quite equal to the developed world or quite equal to the status of developed nations. In order to reach that stage, the Eastern part will take another 25 years, namely that stage of 2015. It will be towards 2040 for the Eastern part to reach that stage, which this Western part of the country will be in 2015.

What does this demonstrate? This demonstrates that the whole country is not developing in a cohesive manner. There is a great divide, there is disparity and inequality

within the States. There is a flight of finance from one side to the other. No doubt, some years back, a decade-and-a-half back, the then Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had said: "Calcutta is a dead city." A lot of clamour was made after that. There is no gainsaying in repeating that. However, I would just like to mention that the Eastern side of this country, not only the Eastern Coast or the North-East, is lagging behind because there is lack of investment for development and infrastructure, there is lack of investment in industry and that is the main reason why the Eastern part of the country is unable to develop along-with the Western part of this country.

I had tried to understand, when we talk of unemployment, the impact it has in the United States of America, the most developed nation. I may mention here that in the United States, around 44 million people are not covered on their health policy. They do not get the health security card; so also is the case in employment. Many in that country are convinced that free market economy has not helped them in a great way. Opportunities are less; competition is the basis for selection, and on which free market economy thrives.

India being a populated country, the interests of all sections are to be looked into. The society is changing. The Indian society that was there in the 1950s in much changed in this Twenty-first Century. The time is also changing. To provide adequate means of livelihood, this Government has taken adequate steps within the last five years. More investment is being made in the rural areas. At no point of time, more than sixty per cent of the budgetary provision was made for the development of the rural areas. I need not mention the respective schemes, be it *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, *PMGY*, *SJRY* or whatever it is. A number of programmes are there to give employment to the rural youth.

I come to the other three aspects. One is, what is 'resources' today? What is 'wealth today? The 'wealth' today is knowledge. It is the technology, which is wealth. If iron-ore or coal, which were being termed in the Nineteenth Century as wealth, were the real wealth, then the African Continent would have been the richest Continent of this world. But today, that is not so. Today, the wealth is knowledge. A person who has that knowledge is wealthier and he commands the order. That is the main reason for development. After the demise of the Soviet Union, a new world order is also being formulated. That world order is all about who controls the knowledge: For instance, the use of computers and technology, be it in Defence or Astronomy. That knowledge actually is the guiding factor to control power.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

I would briefly deal with three other aspects. One is, labour, and another is education. In labour, child labour, to which the Bill briefly refers to in the last two paragraphs in (e) and (f), has become a point for discussion in international forums. Budgetary provisions are there no doubt. However, to eradicate child labour, adequate measures have to be taken. In international spheres the issue of child labour has become a point which is to be trashed out. The clamour in international forums over child labour is not because of concern for children but it is actually meant to remove our products from the market so that they can avoid competition. This is another kind of exploitation of the situation by international bodies and developed nations.

Today the Human Resource Development Ministry has come with *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. A lot of money is being spent for the development of primary education. Consciously this country has taken a decision that higher education should be left to the private enterprise. That also limits our thinking. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the point that we have to prioritise our investment. The finances are not adequate enough that you can stretch them to all possible corners. Our first priority should be primary education. Our Government has very rightly given more emphasis to development of primary education.

In the end, I would like to conclude by saying that the economic policy of our country to a great extent led to certain level of development of our country no doubt, but it has not brought overall development in the country, That is why, though I support the intention behind the Bill, I cannot support the Bill to be passed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, owing to an urgent work I am to go out of station. None of the hon'ble Members in the panel of Chairman is present in the House right now. Therefore, I seek the leave of this august House to allow the hon'ble Member Shri Anadi Sahu to occupy the chair.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has granted its leave.

With the leave of the House I invite Shri Anadi Sahu to occupy the chair.

17.28 hrs.

[SHRI ANADI SAHU *in the Chair*]

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shri Ramdas Athawaleji in which he has proposed to amend the Article 39 of the directive principles under part IV of the Constitution. In his motion he has particularly emphasized on making efforts to create employment opportunities and provide necessary facilities for self employment.

Sir, I would like to submit that Article 39-A provides for equal opportunities of employment to male and female citizens of the country. This Article also envisages that the state shall formulate such policy as to provide facilities for this purpose. In this way this objective is inherent in this proposal. Creation of employment opportunities and providing facilities for self employment are covered under this proposal. But in my opinion the sub clauses 'B' and 'C' of Article 39 quoted by him are not compatible to the objective of the subject matter. Sir, Article 39-A meets the objectives and in sub clauses 'B' and 'C' of directive principles it is envisaged that ownership of materialistic resources are not concentrated. So these clauses are complementary to each other. The materialistic resources should be controlled and owned by the state in such a way that they could serve the common interests in the best possible manner and the money and other resources should not be concentrated disadvantageously. That is why he has said that as a result of implementation of new economic policies in country money and resources have concentrated with a handful of small and big industrial houses of the country. It is true that rift between the poor and rich is widening. It is a fact that the rich people are becoming more rich. I have got an opportunity to speak on this topic. If material resources and money is taken as hundred rupees then ninety nine rupees are concentrated with one individual of this country and he is rich and rest of the ninety nine person have one rupee with themselves. Therefore, common people of the country are facing hardship, they are finding it difficult to earn their livelihood. They are facing starvation and malnutrition. Poor and unemployed persons are compelled to commit suicide. Therefore by implementing the economic policies this Government has acted just opposite to the spirit of the directive principles in which it has been envisaged that there should not be concentration of wealth in few hands. As a result of this rich people are becoming more rich.

Sir, a political atmosphere was created all over the country by giving the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' 20-22 years back. The Government defined the poverty line but the Government has not yet defined the line of prosperity. There is a limit of material resources and the distribution thereof has to be done. For removing poverty we will have to give material resources to the poor in doing so we will have to take these resources out of the hands of the rich. The concept of Garibi Hatao was negative instead its positive concept Amiri Hatao should be there. We will have utilize the wealth amassed by the rich people by indulging in malpractices to provide employment to the unemployed and to eradicate poverty. We can understand this by small examples like Rs. 50,000 crore are required for the 'Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana' but in the Telgi case in Maharashtra only one person has siphoned of Rs. 85,000 crore. This clearly indicates that a parallel economy of black money is being run in our country. The basic concept of our Constitution is that there should not be concentration of wealth as was envisaged by our founding fathers also. The Government needs to work in this direction. But due to privatization and globalisation the Government is pressurized to formulate its policies as per the directions of the world Bank, W.T.O. and multinational companies. The Government is unable to formulate its policies as per the Constitution of the country. Therefore, I would like that, the hon'ble Labour Minister is also sitting here, the Government should formulate its policies as per the thinking of our founding fathers who were of the view that the common man should get the means of livelihood and the means of production and wealth should not concentrate in the hands of the rich and we need to work according to their thinking and in that direction.

I would like to thank Mr. Athawale who raised this issue which relates to one's livelihood, I would once again request the hon'ble Minister that he should bring in a suitable legislation for preventing concentration of wealth for the good of common man.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 56 years of Independence, one still hears the slogan 'Roti, Kapda Aur Makan, Mang Raha Hai Hindustan'. I respect the spirit of the constitution amendment bill moved by Athawale ji and this has also been enshrined in the Directive Principles that it will be the duty of the state that it ensures sufficient means of livelihood to all the men and women and all the citizens equally.

Besides, Sub-clauses 'B' and 'C' towards which he has drawn the attention, the problem which relates to

material resources, their distribution should be in such a manner that their ownership and control should serve the common interest at the best and the economic system should function in a manner that the means of monies and production should not be concentrated prejudicial to the common man. I recall one Hindi couplet.

Maya Se Maya Mile, Kar Kar Lamba Hath,

Tulsi Hai Garib Ki, Puche Ne Koi Bat.

After attaining Independence, we made efforts to remove economic disparity sometime by way of the Five Year Plans, sometime by large schemes, sometime by establishing big industries, sometime by following the concept of socialist society and sometime in the name of Garibi Hatao slogan and now we are making the same efforts in the name of liberalisation and globalisation, but I think we did not achieve the expected results. I would like to quote an incident from the Ramcharit Manas in this context. And that goes like this, when Hanumanji was going to Sri Lanka in search of Sitaji, the Sursha appeared on his way just to test him. It's a mythological story. Tulsidas ji writes:

Jas Jas Sursa Badan Badhawa, Taso Duni Kapi
Roop Dikhawa.

As Sursa expanded here mouth, Hanumanji also kept on enlarging his size and when she expanded here mouth equal to 32 Yojan, Hanumanji came out of her mouth reducing his size in diminutive form. Anyway, that was a story. What I want to say is that the disease aggravated with each dose of medicine and the unemployment problem kept on rising. Burgeoning population of the country is the biggest problem and nobody has paid attention towards this problem. If we want to remove economic disparity, then we will have to make all out efforts to control the rising population besides implementing schemes and all the political parties will have to come out of their mindset giving the national interest utmost importance and only then we will be able to achieve our economic targets and we will also be able to remove social disparity along with economic disparity. Otherwise all our efforts would prove infructuous.

We always talk that right to employment should be included in our constitution, but that has not been done so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wait for a minute. The time allotted for this bill was of two hours. Now the two hours time is over. Now you are speaking, the hon. Minister will also

[Mr. Chairman]

speak and so will Athawale ji. Therefore, if the House agrees, the time for this bill may be extended upto 6 O'clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, the time is extended. You please continue.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The Government which has taken over the charge under the leadership of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given a slogan:

'Har Haaath Ko Kaam, Har Khet Ko Paani' (Work for every hand, water for every field) I think that our schemes which have been formulated presently are for the all-round development of all the villages, but if the Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana or the Sampooran Gram Vikas Yojana or be it the question of giving employment under P.M.R.Y. or Pradhan Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana. But I would like that more emphasis should be given on providing employment to every hand and water for every field in order to remove unemployment in the country.

I want to submit one more thing. When we had traditional cottage and small industries and other Gramodyog industries, the villagers were self dependent and they used to earn their livelihood through these industries and the village population used not to migrate towards cities. But since when small and cottage industries have been closed down and the agro-industries have also been facing closure, the unemployment problem has increased in villages. And due to this very reason a large population of villages have been migrating towards cities in search of jobs and they are forced to live in jhuggi-jhopris in cities. As one poet has rightly said that on the one hand sky-scrapers are coming up in the cities for the rich, the poor are living in jhuggi-jhopris, on the other. "Shwanaun Ko Miita Doodh, Bhuke Balak Kulbulate Hain, Maa Ki Chati Se Chipak Sisak-Sisak Rah Jate hein" Is it not paradoxical that on the one hand, those who are engaged in the construction of houses are leading a hellish life and those who live in those houses are the rich people.

I would like to submit through you that the spirit as expressed in this Bill, though it may not lead to constitutional amendment but what our constitution envisages, it becomes imperative on the part of our Government to implement the same. Some such arrangements need to be but in place which can eliminate terrorism and regionalism and we need to provide means

of employment locally to check the Assam like problem and simultaneously we need to effectively check increasing population. I, therefore, express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in debate.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, a number of hon. Members have expressed their views on a big problem which the country is facing and they have expressed their concern that even after a period of 56 years of independence, unemployment is prevailing in the country specially among the poor and in backward areas and villages. It was also discussed that how the money is continuing to go into certain hands and the poor are becoming poorer and the rich the richer. It was also discussed here.

Since our Government has come into power, it has expressed concern on two or three things. First of all it expressed its concern on creating more jobs. At the same time, it was concerned on bringing about reforms in existing labour laws. Providing social security to the crores of persons engaged in unorganized sector has also been an issue of concern. All these issues were very important. For this, a Commission was appointed and a committee was appointed to explore as to how the jobs be generated. After this, another committee was appointed which gave its report. Subsequently, the hon. Prime Minister announced that they would create one crore jobs every year. Creation means that either we would provide these jobs or provide opportunities for employment including self employment. This sort of attempt has been made in the amendment. We will endeavour to provide them jobs by any means or, as Shri Patil ji and some other members also have just said that the financial institutions should help them by providing soft loans or subsidy. Hon. Prime Minister has expressed his concern on all these things. The Ministry formed a task force after receiving the reports of the commission and the committee. The task force works out the possibility of generating jobs and sees as to which works should be given go-ahead. The task force also sees that in big projects like roads etc. which works are necessary to be done by machines and which can be done manually instead of machines in order to provide jobs to more people. The Ministry has, in this big way, started working on this line. The hon. Members have expressed their concern that the persons working in unorganized sectors have no social security. In many States, even today, the minimum wages at national floor level Rs. 55/- but they are paid Rs. 20/- or 25/- only. No doubt, this is a sorry state of affairs.

Now a system is on the anvil, a Bill will be introduced in Parliament through which a provision would be made for 90% labourers of the country who have no social security and are working in unorganized sector or are self employed, to provide them social security, medical facility, insurance cover, family pension after death and pension after the age of 60 years. There has been no such endeavour in 56 years nor any social security was provided to those working in unorganized sectors. This Government is very much concerned and working in this direction. As you are aware that a number of schemes viz. Swarn Jayanti Gram Yojana, Gram Samridhi Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme are going on for poverty alleviation as also for providing jobs to the people. They are being imparted training by the Government. Small courses are being conducted by Jan Shikshan Sansthan in a number of districts in the country. We have started working in 100 to 250 districts to abolish child labour. The Government has taken initiative in the direction the hon. Members have expressed their concern. I assure Shri Athawale ji and other hon. Members that the Government is already working in the direction of providing employment and self-employment under various schemes on which they have expressed their concern. The Government, and the department are concerned about it. I want to submit before the hon. Members that the Government is seriously thinking and working and has worked a lot also on this issue. Therefore, we shall consider the suggestions of hon. Members to enhance the effectiveness of our ongoing works.

In view of all these things, I would like to request the hon. Member to withdraw his Bill. I appreciate the spirit of the Bill, so I have elaborated on the subject.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): I would like to ask one question from the hon. Minister. There is some complaint that there is a total ban on recruitment in the Central Government services. Is it true or not?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: There is no blanket ban on recruitment. Radhakrishnanji had raised an issue. When we signed on the WTO agreement then it was said that wherever commodities are cheaper, free movement should be allowed to send the same to other countries. It was said that this will strengthen the economy of developing countries. I raised this issue when I happened to go to the I.L.O. in July and they appreciated it. I pointed out that they talked about goods but for

whom the goods were meant—for human beings. Suppose, crores of people are unemployed in a poor or developing country. They want job and they can work for lesser money. In another country, there is shortage of workmen and they charge higher wages. If the cheaper goods are allowed free movement across the globe then why the cheaper labour should not be allowed free movement across the globe. This issue needs to be raised. We have raised the issue at international level that it should be allowed in order to bridge the gap between developing and developed countries. We have raised this issue at every level.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister on some points.

India is an agricultural country. Nearly 85 per cent of our people belong to the farming community. Will the Government formulate the agro-based small-scale industries and also the food processing industries with cold storage and other infrastructural facilities in such a way that the migration of the local people can be curtailed?

Secondly, economic empowerment of women has proved to be the right solution for the people of Tamil Nadu. Will the Government follow the footsteps and adopt the policies and guidelines of Tamil Nadu Government?

Thirdly, we have to learn a lesson from China. Nearly 17 per cent of the small scale industries of China is labour-oriented. Will the Government take note of these points, and without any sort of an ego exchange views as well as learn from our own States?

[Translation]

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: The hon. Member is absolutely right to say that there is a great need to emphasise on cottage industries in the country. Mahatma Gandhi ji had said that if we wanted to provide employment to the people and enhance their purchasing capacity, we would have to do such works in every village. The hon. Members will be pleased to learn that the Government has been providing subsidy and other facilities including training to the agro-based industries and other small scale industries under various programmes in different areas, to women and such facilities are being provided in urban areas also. The booklets have also been published by the Government and have been circulated to hon. Members of Parliament. It would be beneficial if the people are made aware of these schemes.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a provision under Article 39 of the Constitution according to which the State has to regulate its policy in such a manner that common people are benefitted. The Union Budget, the Budget of States and our production must benefit the poor. The poor should become rich and the rich should become less rich. Mostly the big people avail the loan facilities from Banks. Our constitution provides for economic equality. The Constitution framed by Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, which we adopted on 26th January 1950 does include in it the provision of social and economic equality but this has not been properly implemented. The present Bill has been brought about with a view to check the poor from becoming poorer and the rich from becoming richer. This is against the basic tenets of our Constitution. Since we all are Indian citizens so every one of us should be benefitted equally, irrespective of the region. The Government should adopt this kind of policy. The production of the country over the last 53 years has not been properly channelised. That is why the poor is becoming poorer. As per the data, at least 26 percent of the total population of the country is living below the poverty line. The number of unemployed persons in the country is 20 crore.

Sahib Singh Verma is well aware of the problems of the labour. He wants that justice should be meted out to them. But he is not able to pursue right policies. The population of our country is 120 crore out of which 20 crore people, which constitutes 20 percent of the total population, are unemployed. 57 percent people are employed in agricultural sector. The small scale industries are not working well. Till 1974 the number of employees in small scale industries was 3.9 million which rose to 17.89 million by March 2000. But as per the present situation, small scale industries are being closed. In spite of privatisation and globalisation, we are lagging behind. In Ludhiana 60 to 70 percent small scale industries have been closed down. There is similar situation in Mumbai and Delhi. If this problem has to be resolved then I would like to suggest that maximum benefits should be provided to the small scale industries. When we went to China with Manohar Joshi ji, we saw in Beijing and Shanghai how the small scale industries are being promoted and strengthened. In our country power tariff is on higher side. Similarly, the water tariff and the cost of land is on the higher side. Moreover, there is corruption,

so, there is a need to think over this situation seriously. If we want to bring economic equality in the country then we will have to check the accumulation of black money, which is hovering around eight crore. There is a need to raise production and income of the country. Then we will be able to mobilise funds to ensure the development of the country.

The Pradhan Mantri Rajgar Yojna has been launched but we all are aware as to how many persons have been benefitted from that scheme. When ten lakh persons apply, only 50,000 persons get the loan. When the recruitment process was started in the Railways, 74 lakh applications were received. People are hankering after jobs in Assam, Mumbai and Delhi. The Railways should have called the candidates for interview in every state. For 16,000 vacancies, the department of Railways received 74 lakh applications. How everyone can get job, can be well imagined. So it is the Constitutional obligation for the Government to provide jobs to every youth. But the Government is failing on this front. When there are elections we go to the people. It is all right that the BJP has succeeded in three states recently. The Prime Minister had assured to provide one crore jobs every year. Their Government is in power, I would like to know as to how many people got employment in five years. Despite that they have emerged victorious in the recent elections. I do not want to bring in politics into it.

The issue of poverty alleviation and employment generation should be considered in a wider perspective. It was claimed that five crore people would be given employment, but not much success has been achieved in the efforts made in regard to providing employment.

18.00 hrs.

Reliance Group is estimated to own property to the tune of Rs. 70,000 crore. Similarly, Mafatlal, Tata, Birla and Bajaj have amassed huge properties. If we wish to do justice to the provisions of Article 39 then Egalitarian distribution of their properties should be undertaken. These capitalists feel that they are providing employment to the people by hiring labour. I wish to submit that ban should be imposed on their huge properties which they have amassed. It should also be determined as to how much property i.e. land, house and shops etc. a family should

own. Ban should be imposed on amassing huge wealth and such a legislation should be framed which would facilitate us in achieving our target in the next 25 years. There is a need to work in that direction. If we wish to uplift the poor, the downtrodden then there is a need to empower them financially. But today the rich is becoming richer and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. If we talk of equality then we shall have to correct this imbalance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Athawaleji, please conclude now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will conclude but let the poor be uplifted first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government also wants to do so. Please, conclude now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Certain people in power will also have to make some sacrifices. The higher-ups also need to be protected. A practical policy should be formulated so that the poor get bank loans on lower rate of interest and only the poor are allotted petrol pumps. But in reality, those who are already owning three-four petrol pumps are allotted more petrol pumps and not the poor. We are not allotted petrol pumps. When I was unemployed I too had applied for a petrol pump but I was not allotted one. If you want to help the poor, efforts should be made in this direction. I agree that our hon. Minister is very active but despite that he was not named for Delhi's Chief Ministership rather hon. Madan Lal Khuranaji's name was proposed. I merely wish to submit that there is a need to repeal the Labour Act-16. There is a practice of hiring casual labour in agencies like Municipality and other Government departments. There is a need to regularize these casual employees after three years in the Employment Exchange and do not get jobs should get unemployment allowance of Rs. Three thousand. Many a people would be benefited with this allowance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Athawaleji, kindly pay heed to time constraints.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, hon. Minister of Labour has given reply while the Minister of Finance

should have replied because the issue pertains to economic equality. The Government have neither, funds nor employment opportunities. When they have neither, wherefrom will they give help, that is why Hon. Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singhji should give reply. You have requested that Bill be withdrawn since it is a Private Member Bill. I would plead against it but ultimately it is withdrawn. This practice is going on. The Bill should be introduced by the Government. If you give such an assurance then I will withdraw the Bill. The Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee should take the measures keeping in mind economic equality. The landless should get land so that poverty is alleviated from the country and economic equality is established. I can only hope that the Government will provide for 18 per cent and 10 per cent budgetary provisions for the people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories respectively. Next time when I move the Bill reply would come from hon. Finance Minister. With this hope, I withdraw this Bill.

[English]

Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I withdraw the Bill.

[English]

18.08 hrs.

HIGH COURT OF KERALA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) BILL, 2002

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up item no. 26. Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I am extremely thankful to this august House for giving me an opportunity to move this Private Member's Bill for instituting a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram. This is a historic moment for the people of Kerala, especially for those who are residents of the southern districts, because they have been demanding for the establishment of a

permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram, for a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, you can stop here and you can continue your speech next time.

The House now stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 8th December, 2003 at 11.00 a.m.

18.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 8, 2003/Agrahayana 17, 1925 (Saka).

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