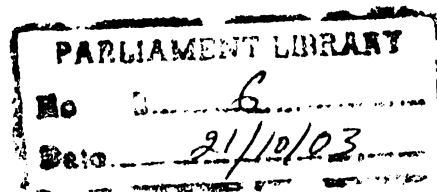


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 21, 2003/Phalgun 2, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at the Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has made a very dangerous statement in Himachal Pradesh that the temple would be constructed at the same site. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, innocent people are being fired upon in Bhojshala in Madhya Pradesh. ...(Interruptions) Many people have been killed there. Children have also been killed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down. I have to start the Question Hour. When I am on my legs, all of you may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members have given notices of Questions. I have to start the Question Hour. Please sit down. Question No.61.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government is acting brutally. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Jaiswalji, please ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow you to speak during the 'Zero Hour'. Raise the matter during the 'Zero Hour'. This is Question Hour. Please sit down. It is not good.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of 'Adjournment Motion' ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have given notice of Adjournment Motion. I will give you permission to speak in the 'Zero Hour'.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): I have also given notice of Adjournment Motion, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Basu Deb Achariaji, I know this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Acharia ji, You have also given notice along with him. Ramdasji, now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Jaiswal ji, please ask the question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you permission to speak after the Question Hour. Acharia ji, right now I would not give permission to anyone. I have notices of 'Adjournment Motion' given by you as well as Shri Athawale. Both of you would be allowed to speak during the Zero Hour. Achariaji has also given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice with regard to the 'Bhojshala' case. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise your issue, if any, after the 'Question Hour'. You can't raise it now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is more than enough.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please resume your seat. If you persist then I won't allow you even later on. I have not admitted notices of Adjournment Motion.

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): I have also given notice of Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given you permission for raising Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

I will give you permission during the Zero Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New Textile Policy

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

(a) whether the Government have framed a new Textile Policy in view of the agreement signed at WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the above new policy takes care of the interests of the Indian Textile Industry and other related textile industries?

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

Statement

(a) The National Textile Policy-2000 was enunciated, taking note, inter-alia, of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment, particularly the initiation of the process of gradual phasing out of quantitative restrictions on imports and the lowering of tariff levels for integration with the world textiles and clothing market by end 2004.

(b) and (c) The Policy aims at developing a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of producing cloth of good quality at acceptable prices, contributing increasingly to the provision of sustainable employment and economic growth, and competing with confidence for an increasing share of the global market. Its major objectives include-

- To equip the industry to withstand pressures of import penetration and maintain a dominant presence in the domestic market;
- To liberalise controls and regulations so that the different segments of the textile industry are enabled to perform in a greater competitive environment;
- To enable the industry to build world class state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities in conformity with environmental standards, and for this purpose to

encourage both Foreign Direct Investment as well as research and development in the sector;

- To sustain and strengthen the traditional knowledge, skills and capabilities of our weavers and craftspeople;
- To expand productive employment by enabling the growth of the industry, with particular effort directed to enhancing the benefits to the north east region.

The targets asked for endeavour inter-alia to –

- Achieve the target of textile and apparel exports from the present level of US \$50 billion by 2010 of which the share of garments will be US \$ 25 billion;
- Implement vigorously, in a time bound manner, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) covering all manufacturing segments of the industry;
- Achieve increase in cotton productivity by at least 50% and upgrade its quality to international standards, through effective implementation of the Technology Mission on Cotton;
- Encourage the private sector to set up world class, environment friendly, integrated textile complexes and textile processing units in different parts of the country;
- De-reserve the garment industry from the Small Scale Industry Sector.

Within this framework, sector specific policy guidelines covering all major commodities, and sectors and segments of the organized and decentralized textile industry were laid down.

It is considering that the Policy provides a conducive environment to the entire textile industry to realize to full potential, achieve global excellence and fulfil its obligations to different sectors of the society.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is totally misleading. I am not satisfied with the reply. ... (Interruptions) Sir, India had been prime exporter of textiles to the European Union for the last many years, but today it has fallen to number four position. After the expiry of textile exports quota. ... (Interruptions) Sir, please atleast control the Treasury Benches. The atmosphere is conducive in the House, but these people are again making noise.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Paranjpeji please do not

raise anything right now. Question Hour has just started. Kindly cooperate.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India was number one exporter of textiles to the European Union, but now it has slipped down to number four position. After the discontinuation of textile quota export regime, the Government have not formulated any effective policy for making the Indian Textiles Industry more competitive in the international market. Though the hon. Minister has made a mention of constitution of T.U.F.S., yet as per my information till 31.12.2002 only 25% of the total capital was disbursed. Presently a case of anti-dumping against the Indian Textiles is also being made out in the International market despite the fact that we have the cheapest available manpower. Our farmers are producing more cotton and jute than other countries of the world, but still we are lagging behind in this area. Sir, the first point of my question is that what steps the Government are going to take to increase the exports of Cotton textiles and to increase textile production in Government and private sectors and also to give incentives to the cotton growers.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the assertion of the hon. Member about the detail given in the main question being misleading is not at all correct and so far as the export of textiles from India is concerned, it is increasing. I would like to inform the hon. Member that export was 9555 million dollars in 1997-98 and increased to 11,995 million dollars in 2001. Today, we have fixed the target of 15,000 million dollars and we would definitely achieve it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: I request the hon. Minister to please enunciate the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The hon. Member has asked a question with regard to the export of cotton textiles. I would like to inform him that cotton textile is also included in the export of textiles and its export is also growing. Main question was pertaining to what have the Government done for increasing production of cotton. In this connection I would like to inform that 'Cotton Technology Mission' has been started to give remunerative price to the cotton growers. As there is much contamination in cotton, therefore, in foreign countries it fetches lesser price and the Government has started Cotton Technology Mission to improve the quality of yarn. It is being implemented properly for the last two years. This is the reason that cotton growers right now are getting good prices.

As far as proper use of T.U.F.S. is concerned, 1782 applications have been sanctioned since its initiation. The project cost is Rs.12,384 crore out of it a loan of Rs.6101

crore has been sanctioned. Further Rs.4203 crore has already been disbursed.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: What was the total target fixed by the hon. Minister?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: We have fixed a total target of Rs.25,000 crore.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Only Rs.4,000 crore have been disbursed till date.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: We had fixed a target of Rs.25,000 crore, but at the time of approval the Government stated that even if more than Rs.25,000 crore is needed, the sum will be sanctioned.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Only Rs 4,000 crore have been disbursed out of Rs.25,000 crore. Therefore, more amount will be sanctioned or not?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Why don't you keep the project cost of Rs.12,000 crore in mind? Still we will make efforts that the Textile Industry may get maximum benefits under the T.U.F.S.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister. He has talked of increase in exports, and in this whether they have exported textile or ready-made garments. The hon. Minister should have given separate details of both these items so that one could know the extent of growth of the Textile Industry. However, you have clubbed both of them.

My second submission is that 124 cotton industries were taken over in different phases and handed over to N.T.C. and three cotton industries were handed over to BIC. Out of these industries, all the three units of BIC and five units of NTC are in Kanpur. In the year 1995 Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mill and Arthurton Cotton Mill were nationalised. The Ordinance approved by the Parliament categorically mentions that huge funds would need to be allocated for maintaining employment of workers in these mills and to ensure maximum utilization of facilities available for manufacture, production and distribution of textile and yarn of different qualities. As per my information, neither production process has been started in these mills, nor even a single penny has been allocated for these mills. Labourers and workers have been disbursed pay without any work. When production process did not start again after nationalization, then the question of incurring losses and subsequently sale of all movable - immovable property does not arise. What I mean to say is that the so called investment they have made is only on payment of salary. Workers were given pay for seven years and this is what they call investment.

Production process was not even started. I would like to know whether these mills were nationalised for selling their movable-immovable property. If not, whether in the present scenario, when most of the workers are already given M.V.R.S., the Government would start a unit each of N.T.C. and B.I.C. as per the previous Textile Ministers and the hon. Prime Minister's assurance at the 'Phoolbaag Maidan' in Kanpur during an election speech that if his Government would come to power at the centre, all mills of Kanpur would emit smoke and start functioning. All these assurances had been recorded by the journalists in Kanpur. Today, the situation is that all the five mills of N.T.C. and all the three mills of B.I.C. are closed. The hon. Minister has given an assurance quite a number of times to us as also to trade union leaders that the Government would start one unit each of BIC and NTC. But till date. ...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, questions and their replies should be short. It is only then most of the Members would get the chance to ask questions Jaiswal ji, how many questions do you want to ask.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon. Minister may kindly give reply to my question as to whether a unit each of NTC and BIC would be revived so as to accommodate rest of the workers.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions and their replies, both should not be lengthy.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Today Kanpur has become a 'dying city'. Situation is very bad there. ... (Interruptions) Today, with great difficulty I have got a chance to speak.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the N.T.C. mills in Kanpur are lying closed and the revised plan approved by the B.I.F.R. indicates that the N.T.C. mills of Kanpur are all unviable. Only two mills in Mau and Naini in Uttar Pradesh are viable and these are going to be revived soon after modernization. So far as B.I.C. is concerned. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, I am not getting reply of my question. I had asked as to what investment has been made in this regard. No process of production had been started. Only salary had been given to the workers for seven years. Neither raw material was supplied nor the machines were rectified. Then how the mills are suffering losses?

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when these mills were nationalised, they all were in such a condition that it was necessary to modernize them for revival. But funds required for modernization were not available and so some

mills were modernized while others were not modernized whose machines were totally out of order.

As far as the BIC mills are concerned, it is correct that out of the three mills of BIC - Elgin-I and II and Kanpur Textile Mill, Elgin-I as mentioned by the hon. Member that the hon. Prime Minister had promised that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon. Prime Minister had promised about 8 mills but he is mentioning only one mill. All the eight mills should be made functional. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Jaiswalji, you cannot go on like this. You will have to listen to the reply of the hon. Minister.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government has a proposal to make one mill—Elgin-I functional. The proposal was also submitted to the High Court. We have sought permission from the High Court for the revival of one mill as it had appointed a liquidator for all the three mills. The permission of High Court is essential. For that purpose we have submitted before High Court a Rs.120 crore proposal of the revival of Elgin-I mill. After getting approval from there, the proposal would be sent to BIFR.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: You did not reply about the NTC. Whether a unit of NTC will also be made operational?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: No, Sir, there is no possibility of that.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has told us that a Cotton Technology Mission has been constituted. How much progress has been made by the Cotton Technology Mission and also the number of market yards and ginning factories in Gujarat getting benefit from that? The demand for assistance to the cooperative ginning factory in Babara tehsil of Amreli district has been pending with the Union Government for a long time. By when the assistance will be provided?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a view to improve the quality of cotton produced in our country and also to provide cotton growers better prices for their produce, Government have constituted a Cotton Technology Mission. The Mission is jointly operated by the Ministry of Agriculture and my department. Mini-Missions 3 and 4 which have been entrusted to us, seek to provide better prices through better marketing. For this it is necessary that market yards are up to the mark and ginning and processing work properly. So far, we have approved 102 market yards involving total project cost of Rs.180 crore, wherein the share of the Government is Rs.89 crore. The project cost of the ginning and processing factories approved by the Government was Rs.271 crore and

the share of the Union Government in it is Rs.47 crore. So far as Gujarat is concerned, 27 market yards have been approved and our share in it is Rs.22 crore. We have maintained 107 ginning and pressing factories involving project cost of Rs.115 crore and we have given Rs.21.94 crore out of that. As for the pending proposals, we approve all those which are within norms set by us. We want that cotton growers should get good prices and we also look to improve its quality.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question to the Government is whether they will allow the quota system to continue. This system, now, has been the biggest loser in the textile industry.

My pointed and focussed question to the hon. Minister is whether the Government is contemplating revival of powerloom, handloom, and the agro-based looms that generated large scale employment in the rural areas in this country. They were of great benefit to the people who are below the poverty line.

Is the Government contemplating revival of these looms?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very pointed and focused question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as quota system is concerned, that is there in the agreement. In the agreement, ATC quantitative or quota restrictions are going to be dismantled by the end of December, 2004.

In the post-MFA regime, the Government is taking so many steps to make our textile industry competitive. I am confident, that when 2004 quota system is dismantled, we will be able to compete with our competitors in the world market.

So far as the handloom and other sectors are concerned, under the Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Scheme, a corpus of Rs.600 crore is provided and it is doing very well. I have also requested the State Governments to take benefit of this very comprehensive and important Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has replied that

[English]

'Implement vigorously, in a time bound manner, the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme covering all manufacturing segments of the industry.'

[Translation]

You have answered about all mills, but I would like to know as to how much amount was approved for the NTC mills in Mumbai and the total amount provided so far? I would also like to know about the measures you are going to take for the modernisation of NTC mills in Mumbai. Mr. Speaker, Sir, your constituency has 7 NTC mills and my constituency has 18 mills. Recently, a wall of Finley mill collapsed. The condition of Jupiter mill is such that workers are at risk. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether those, who are opting for VRS are getting the promised sum or not? Whether the temporary workers, who have been working for 25-30 years, will be made permanent? Whether the new policy would include this provision?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: As far as the modernisation of NTC mills of Mumbai is concerned, we are going towards modernisation as per the revival plan approved by the BIFR. We have also started dialogue with the Government of Maharashtra so that the mills could be modernised as soon as possible by utilising their land. We have had discussions twice with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in this regard. He has assured us of his full cooperation. We are offering VRS to the workers of unviable mills first. So far we have offered VRS to 20-22 thousand workers throughout the country.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: But they are yet to get their money. Hon'ble Finance Minister is also present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: That is what I am saying. Government has introduced special bonds for that purpose and from that we have disbursed Rs 600 crore for MVRS. As for the issue raised by the hon. Member, we would allocate available funds on the basis of applications received from unviable mills as and when it is available. We also propose to issue more bonds.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I had asked about temporary workers. They have been working as such for the last 25-30 years. Hon. Minister may reply if he so wishes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No.62, Shri Bheru Lal Meena not present. We go to Q.No.63.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of sugarcane farmers is very important. Therefore, the question may be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Once a question is admitted, it becomes the property of House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You know that the Member who had asked this question is not present. What can I do?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: It is a very important question. It should be taken up. I have raised the issue in a written form. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do if the hon. Member is not present?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It is an important question and it should be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do anything as the hon. Member is not present.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. Once when Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav was in the Chair, we had raised a similar demand. And the Chair had given the ruling that since it is the property of this House; any hon. Member, if he so desires can ask question and then the question was asked. It is an important question. Therefore, I request you to allow us to ask this question.

MR. SPEAKER: As per rule, this question can be asked, with the leave of the hon. Minister only when all other questions have been answered.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, hon. Minister is ready to answer supplementary questions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given in writing to ask supplementary questions. The question is very important. Therefore, we should be allowed to ask supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am ready to allow discussion on the issue. But as per rules, I can take up this question only after all the questions are over, I can take up this question only after the list of questions before me is completed.

You will have to wait until the end of Question Hour. When all the questions are over and some time of Question Hour still remains only then I would allow you to ask supplementaries.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is very important. The condition of sugarcane farmers in the country is pitiable. It should not matter if the Member asking this question is not present. This is the property of this House and we should be permitted to ask supplementaries on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This issue was raised in the House yesterday also and I had said that I would permit a discussion on the issue.

Second thing is that the Member asking this question is not present. Therefore, the question cannot be taken up now, but after the question list is exhausted and if the hon. Minister is ready, then he can answer. But first the list of questions will have to be exhausted. If the list of questions is completed in the Question Hour, then you can ask questions. I cannot go any further than that. You know this. I can allow hon. Minister only in accordance with rules and not in between. Please sit down.

Q.No.63. Shri Bir Singh Mahto.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let us get on with the business of the House now. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given written notice. I should get an opportunity to ask supplementary on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Do I have to show you the rules. Please sit down.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is within your right ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can allow whatever is in my limit.

[English]

Please take your seat.

Let us go to the next question.

Question No.63.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat and Rice

*63. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of wheat and rice exported against the target fixed during each of the last two years alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Several measures such as the following have

been initiated to promote the export of foodgrains from the Central Pool:

(i) There are no procedural restrictions like registration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority in case of export of wheat, wheat products and non-basmati rice.

(ii) A Standing Committee on Export meets regularly to review the steps required to be taken on matters relating to export of foodgrains.

(iii) In order to bring about a stable price regime, the offer price of export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool is fixed for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks. The prices are announced 45 days in advance, before the commencement of the concerned quarter.

(iv) WTO compatible post-delivery expenses and other related expenses are being allowed to the exporters.

No specific targets for exports were determined during the last two years viz. 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Quantum and value of Wheat and Rice exported during 2000-01 and 2001-02

(quantity '000 tonnes)

(Value: Rs. Crores)

Commodity	April 2000-March 2001 (P)		April 2001-March 2002 (P)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Rice	1531.29	2932.20	2198.19	3163.44
Wheat	813.49	415.09	2649.38	1330.21

* Source: Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Kolkata.

The foreign exchange earned by the country in US dollar terms will depend upon the rates contracted by the exporters. The actual remittances received in the country would be higher than the value paid by the exporters to the FCI for purchasing the Stocks.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: India has now emerged as the second largest exporter of rice and sixth largest exporter of wheat in the world. It is stated in the reply that no specific target for exports was determined during the last two years i.e. 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Therefore, the international trade is dominated by Thailand, USA and Vietnam.

I would like to know from the Government, (a) why the

Government did not determine the target of the export of rice and wheat; and (b) whether the withdrawal of quantitative restriction has a cascading effect on our export endeavour.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has desired to know the further action we propose to take with regard to export of rice and wheat along with the target we have set.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that till the year 1998-99, our country used to import rice and wheat whereas now we are second ranked in rice export and sixth in wheat export while in production we are ranked second. Up to the decade of 60s we had to import red wheat under

PL-480 and it used to be consumed. We all know that. Now I am pleased to say that in the last two years, we have exported 71.92 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat. He has expressed his desire to know as to what we are doing to meet the challenge of competition posed by other countries and to increase our export. We have constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary. There is no need of getting approval from APEDA for non-basmati rice. We have also offered people in advance for a period of three months. Even then they have been given 45 days notice. If the take off of wheat and rice is low, one month grace period, is given. We have not set any target for export of rice and wheat because keeping in view the number of the poor in the country and the difficult conditions before the country we ought to have a stock of 243 lakh metric tonnes of rice and wheat and we had 580 lakh metric tones stock last year as on 1.1.2002. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Answer should be short and so should be the questions.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, my second question is whether Government provides subsidy on the export of wheat and rice and if so, what monitoring mechanism Government have to prevent its misuse? What are the number of cases of prevention of misuse of subsidy reported to the Government in the last three years? Whether any trader, who applies for export, is subjected to discrimination? Whether Government have received any information regarding corruption in allotment of export quota of wheat and rice and if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government provides subsidy and on account of not having stock during the period of April-September 2002, we have saved Rs.346.67 crore. So far as the second question of the hon. Member is concerned, if any complaint regarding corruption in allotment is received, Government have monitoring arrangement under which information is sought and action is taken.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that the OECD countries provide subsidy of 1 billion dollar per day for their export and agriculture which in rupee terms, is Rs.4800 crore per day. Every year they provide subsidy to the tune of 350 billion dollar while only 50 billion dollar is given to other countries as development assistance. In such a condition, their prices are low on account of huge subsidies given. My question is will the export of our country not suffer because of their prices on account of subsidy. What measures Government are taking to tackle the situation?

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as

providing subsidy is concerned, it is done in accordance with the provision and parameters laid down in World Trade Organisation and our export targets are also set in accordance with it. Our efforts to increase export from our buffer stock is also done under the parameters laid down in WTO. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in its reply, Government have claimed to export 71 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. They provide wheat to the people below poverty line at the rate of Rs.4.50 per kg. while it is exported at Rs.4.30 per kg. It means that they charge 20 paise more from the poor people of their own country than they do from foreigners. I would like to know about the justification behind providing foodgrains to the foreigners at cheaper rate than that of the people living below poverty line? How much subsidy is involved in it? The Government have claimed that it has exported 71 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. I would like to know quantity-wise details of countries to whom it has been exported. They sell grains at Rs. 4.30 a kilo to the exporters which in turn they sell that in domestic market. It is because economic price is fixed at Rs. 8.50 a kilo whereas export price is Rs. 4.30 a kilo. Will the Government apprise the House that the grains released for export are in fact being sold in domestic market and not being sent abroad? Will the Government tell the names of countries to whom it has been exported? It is a big scam in the name of export of foodgrains.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I would like to tell that 6.52 crore families living below poverty line, which constitute 36 percent of our total population, are provided ration. Under Antyodaya Yojna, wheat is sold at Rs. 2 a kilo and rice at Rs. 3 a kilo. As far as ration card holders are concerned-they are provided grains at same rate. But, grains are provided even free of cost in the prevailing condition of drought in the country. As far as export of grains, as he has told that it is exported at lesser price, is concerned, I would like to say that the Ministry of Commerce and my Ministry exports grains to other countries on the basis of surplus grains depending on our storage capacity. If we take the expenditure involved in storage and its upkeep into account, we get more amount in exporting it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: As per information available with me, grains are sold at the rate of Rs. 4.50 a kilo to people belonging to BPL category and at Rs. 4.10 or 4.20 to foreigners as export. Hon. Minister may clarify it. If grains have been exported in fact, then he should tell the names, quantity-wise, to whom it has been exported, I challenge, exporter purchase it for export but sell it in domestic market. Thus the Government are providing subsidy to exporters to extend benefit to them and not for exports. This is a big scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister is replying, so everybody should sit down as he wants that second supplementary be asked so that he can reply.

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Hon. Member will be happy to know that during 2001-2002 export price for raw rice was fixed at Rs. 6260 per metric tonne, i.e. Rs. 6.26 a kilo and in case of Sela rice for the year 2001-2002 and prior to it, it was fixed at Rs. 6615 per metric tonne and for stock of wheat in the year 2001-2002 and 2000-01 it was fixed at Rs. 4810 per metric tonne which works out to Rs. 4.81 per metric tonne which works out to be Rs. 4.81 per Kg. which is higher than the price of grain issued to ration card holders. For the stock of 2002-2003 it has been fixed at about Rs. 4950, i.e. Rs. 4.95 a kilo. We have fixed price higher than the price meant for ration card holders. As per the criteria of WTO and for maintaining level playing field, we are compelled to fix this price otherwise we would have fixed further higher price. In case higher prices are quoted by WTO - we would also increase our export price.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister a very crucial situation facing Kerala. Wheat is the only product being depended on by the flour mill owners in Kerala and this is being brought from Punjab. Now, an order has been passed by the Chief Freight Transport Manager of North-Western Railway which has restricted loading of the foodgrains to destinations in Kerala State on FCI account. He has also passed another order exempting other areas, but he did not exempt Trichur of Kerala with the result that a number of flour mills in Kerala are now throwing people out of employment.

We cannot go anywhere except Punjab and other areas to have these foodgrains, that is, wheat through FCI account. And the rakes are not being given and stocks have not been given. Even this *atta* or *maida* which is being exported to the Gulf area from Kerala has also been stopped. On the one hand, export has been reduced and on the other hand, people are thrown out of employment. How will the people, and specially the mill owners and employees in Kerala, function without being released sufficient quantity of wheat to Kerala? This is the question I would like to ask.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, original question is not at all related to it. In this regard, I had received a letter from Shri E. Ahamed Saheb. FCI and Department of Food are not at all involved in it. It is

because of shortage of racks. We have been holding talks with the Ministry of Railways regarding shortage of racks. We are surely looking into the matter raised by Shri E. Ahamed. It has not only happened here only but all over the country. My Ministry is taking steps to sort out this problem at the earliest. We are constantly in touch with the Ministry of Railways. Racks cannot be manufactured in just two months. We are trying to get them.

We are making every possible effort to provide grains, be it from flour mills to drought affected people or people belonging to BPL category. We will not allow shortage of grains to take place.

[English]

Functioning of Foreign Company

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*64. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign companies are taking advantage of the present liberalization policy to get back to 100 p.c. or near 100 p.c. foreign controlled companies and get themselves de-listed from the stock exchanges;

(b) if so, whether this move will have harmful effects on the Indian stock market, both from the point of view of the drastic reduction of the floating stock and the lack of opportunities for Indian shareholders to own good dividend paying scrips; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed by the Government in this regard?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. No such generalisation can be made.

(b) and (c) The main concern here is not so about de-listing *per se* but the measure of investor protection in case of de-listing. Accordingly, based on the recommendations of a Committee set up by it, SEBI has issued the SEBI (Delisting of Securities) Guidelines, 2003 on 17th February, 03. These Guidelines provide that companies can voluntarily delist from

stock exchanges only after offering an exit route to remaining shareholders through a reverse book building process. This mechanism would leave the option of pricing to the investors and would be totally transparent to the market. Further, the promoter shall offer a floor price on the basis of average of previous 26-weeks' high and low prices to investors.

These guidelines seek to protect the interests of the small investors in the wake of any company delisting from the exchanges.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, I am disappointed with the Minister's reply. I do not think that any attempt has been made to get at the truth by obtaining figures from the stock exchanges. If that had been done, I am sure that it would have come to his notice that a very large number of foreign companies are going back to one hundred per cent foreign-held status and getting themselves de-listed from the stock exchanges. He has also distorted the main issue. Well, I suppose, he is more used to the military language. He has attempted a feint by saying that investors' protection has been taken care of, but the question was not that. The thrust of my question was that an opportunity for Indian shareholders to hold shares in a number of profitable companies is being denied. Earlier, it was the thrust of the Government's policy, at least for two decades, to compel the profitable foreign companies, good dividend paying foreign companies, to associate Indian shareholders with those companies. That was done during the seventies and the eighties.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I would like to know whether he is aware of the fact that, that policy has been abandoned. If so, whether it was brought before the notice of the Parliament. I am asking this because earlier the policy was approved by the Parliament.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, the averments made by the hon. Member are in fact at variance with the question that he has asked. He has suggested that I am guilty of evading the answer. No, Sir. There is no such intention. The hon. Member asked a whether very large number of companies have been de-listing. I have suggested in reply that no, Sir. No such generalisation can be made. I can even now tell you the number of companies that are de-listed. But that is not the intention.

Between 1997-1998 and 2002-2003 we have a total of 62 companies that have been actually de-listed. Out of these 62 companies, 41 are Indian companies and 21 are categorised as multi-national companies. Now, out of 62 companies, 21 companies, i.e. approximately 30 per cent - I

do not think by any stretch of imagination - can be termed as a very large number. Therefore, coming from a former Revenue Secretary and an eminent economist, I am surprised. The economists are very careful about what they say and in the choice of their words. Therefore, I dare not correct what he said. But, I share the facts of the situation.

The second part of what he said about the provisions of Indian share-holders, Indian investors wanting to invest in such multi-national corporations who seek to come into India, a provision for enabling Indian investors to have 26 per cent share is, has that provision been abandoned. No, it has not been abandoned. Has it been fully abided with? No, it has not been fully abided with.

We in the Ministry of Finance are constantly urging the companies to abide by that provision. There have been pleas made thereafter that since this original provision came, the condition attendant upon Foreign Direct Investment having been liberalised, why do you now still insist on a 26 per cent Indian investment requirement upon us? I wish to make it quite clear that the conditions that existed at the time of seeking to bring investment into India or foreign investment in India, will remain. They will not be changed and cannot be altered or retroactive. Such corporations which had, therefore, come into India, invested in India had an obligation to provide 26 per cent investment opportunity to Indian investors and they shall have to abide by that provision.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Is the hon. Minister also aware that a number of these multi-national companies are taking advantage of the bonanza granted to them by Shri Chidambaram when he was the Finance Minister, in reducing custom duties much ahead of the WTO requirement, and much less sometimes than what the WTO stipulated, to close down their manufacturing operations in India and get the Indian markets supplied by products manufactured by their factories in Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and all that. And if so, are we not going back, to some extent, to the old colonial times when India was just a kind of market place for products from other countries and supplying raw-materials? What kind of safeguards are being taken? Please furnish the statement.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I would not share with the hon. Member's opinion that he has expressed about my predecessor in office. I do not think that it would be a good policy to pursue for me by commenting on all the Finance Ministers that had preceded me in the office. Then it would be a very difficult undertaking for me to discharge my responsibilities properly.

The second part as to whether India is becoming some kind of a depository for goods manufactured elsewhere, again, coming as it does from a very eminent economist, you are running such an outstanding institution, it is really a disappointing question. In fact, this very year, the manufacturing sector in the country, particularly the industrial sector, has shown a growth of almost seven per cent. That would not be possible, if India were a deposit ground. There is no question of going back to any kind of colonialism, political or dollar-imperialism.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is wrongly teaching his students!

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to reply given by hon. Minister, one thing is clear that in absence of any guidelines, foreign companies wanted to get rid of controls of SEBI so that they can reap maximum benefits. That is why, I have asked, whether the Government propose to issue guidelines or not? Hon. Minister stated that these have been issued on 17 February that is just four days ago. Before that media was regularly reporting and the people are expressing apprehensions lest these companies may take over domestic industries. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how many foreign companies have complied with these guidelines and whether the Government is monitoring functioning of these MNCs? Hon. Minister has replied that we can segregate them but no doubt people are apprehensive about them, least they deceive our financial institutions. Several times it has happened here so this time there is need to ensure it. What steps the Government have taken as the guidelines have been issued only recently and we are not aware of all that. These companies should refrain themselves indulging in such activities that may affect stock market adversely. Hon. Minister may please clarify the position in this regard.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to tell hon. Member that his statement that this problem has cropped up in absence of guidelines, is far from facts. Guidelines existed, but it is true that the guidelines are not being followed truly. He may see guidelines regarding de-listing were implemented in April, 1998. ...*(Interruptions)* These have been issued on 17 February only. ...*(Interruptions)* As I am also a new entrant and SEBI had issued detailed guidelines in this regard only on 17 February. The second aspect of his question was regarding the companies which have not followed guidelines, especially provision relating to 26 percent. If he wants, I can read out the names, though there is no need of it as it would take time of the House. But no one should have doubts. There are as many as 21 listed companies which have not followed

the guidelines fully. Though 21 companies are not acceptable to me, but one should feel many more companies may not have followed guidelines. Of course, 21 companies have surely not followed. I have just reiterated that the rules have been amended after their entry in our country then changed rules which not apply to them. They will have to follow same rules which existed at the time of their entry in India. Investment opportunity of 26 percent, which was to be given to Indians, will have to be provided.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 65, Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi - Not present

Question No. 66, Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi - Not present

Question No. 67, Shri Aditya Nath Yogi - Not present

Shri Chinmayanand Swami - Not present

Question No. 68, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

Patent of Indian Items

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*68. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ancient heritage of India like the Vedas, Ayurveda, Gayatri Mantra, Neem, Basmati Rice and curry etc have been patented in foreign countries;

(b) whether likewise there is a competition among the foreign countries to get our heritage items like herbs and other traditional items patented;

(c) if so, the steps taken so far by the Government to check the patentisation of ancient heritage, of our country by the foreigners; and

(d) the precautions taken in the matter?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Intellectual property rights, including patents, are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective Patent Laws and have territorial effect only, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. Be that as it may, Vedas, Ayurveda, Gayatri Mantra, etc. are *prima-facie* not patentable under patent laws. Patents are only granted to a process or a product which meets the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. The reported patenting of the ancient heritage of India like the Vedas, Ayurveda, Gayatri Mantra, etc. is factually not correct and needs to be distinguished from the usage of such words for trade promotion for which trade marks registration is sought/obtained under appropriate laws by commercial and other organisations.

As and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned. Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was successfully challenged and was also cancelled by the Patent Office of the country concerned. Similarly, a patent on the fungicidal property of neem, granted in Europe, was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Ricelines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended. A patent is normally challenged by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardised.

(c) and (d) In order to protect traditional knowledge from being patented, provisions have been incorporated in the Indian Patent law through the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002, to include anticipation of invention by available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation of patent. An invention which, in effect, is traditional knowledge or which is an aggregation or duplication of known properties of traditionally known component or components has also been made non-patentable.

In order to protect bio-resources, provisions have been incorporated in the said law for mandatory disclosure of source and geographical origin of the biological material used in the invention while applying for patents in India. Provisions have also been incorporated to include non-disclosure or wrongful disclosure of the same as grounds for opposition and for revocation of the patent, if granted.

Apart from these, Government is also developing a digital database of traditional knowledge in the field of medicinal plants in order to prevent patents being granted incorrectly on such knowledge.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of our country come to know from time to time that Vedas, Gayatri Mantra and even 'Gomutra' have been patented. In addition to these all, mouse-trap, curry, neem, turmeric has also been patented.

MR. SPEAKER: As the time is less, so please ask the question straight-away otherwise there would be no time to reply.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We have been listening from various sources that the foreigners have patented Ayurvedic herbs which we inherited from our forefathers who produced them after carrying out research from time immemorial. I would like to know what safeguards the Government have taken or propose to take under the provision of Intellectual Property Rights to prevent things of our inheritance from getting patented overseas so that these can be preserved safely? Along with it, I would also like to know the names of the countries who have got our articles patented under their names and also the action proposed to be taken by the Government to de-patent them?

MR. SPEAKER: I think you do not need an answer.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by Raghuvansh Babu has a minor lacunae as question has not bothered to care how it would be analysed. As far as patent of things of our cultural inheritance such as Vedas is concerned, he must listen it properly that these things cannot be patented. Whatever he hears in this regard, that originally relates to trade registration or trade labels. I would like to make it clear before the House that things of public learning, which are substance of public governance regarding whom information has been gathered through ancestral means or generally, cannot be patented. He has mentioned that Ayurveda, Gomutra, Neem and Basamati has been patented. I would like to make it clear that those cannot be patented. There can have only trade registration establishment that too in a country where they are got registered. Traditionally, even registration of these things is not required. As far as his question regarding steps taken by the Government is concerned, I would like to tell the hon. Member that it is not clear whether he is asking about patent or trade mark. I want to make it clear that these cannot be patented. Three conditions are essential for patenting anything. These are,

first it should have novelty, i.e. it should be new; secondly, it should have been invented; thirdly, it should have industrial applicability. Since, these things do not fulfil the criteria so these cannot be patented. If he wants more details, I can tell him. As far as efforts of the Government are concerned, I would like to tell that the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The reply can be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I can explain, and I want to explain, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a very long reply, yes, it can be laid.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: There is hardly any time. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to explain.

[Translation]

Regarding steps taken by the Government, I would like to apprise the House that the Government of India has set up a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library wherein 35 thousand formulations are available. 14 Ayurvedic texts available in five languages. In addition to Hindi, these are in French, English, Spanish and Japanese. We are providing data base of these things to the whole world. ...*(Interruptions)* If he wants to know patenting of the Government of Bihar I would give different reply.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Purchase of Sugarcane

*62. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills have shown no interest in purchasing sugarcane from the farmers at the last year's price i.e. Rs.95-100 per quintal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for issuing the order by the Union Government for the release of sugar once in three months instead of lifting the control on sugar in the last year's budget and releasing the sugar every month;

(d) whether the sugar mill owners have sought the approval of the Government to sell levy sugar at cheaper rates in the open market as there are no buyers of levy sugar despite the rate of Rs. 1213/- per quintal;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to solve the crisis being faced by the sugarcane growers and sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. In the last sugar season (2001-02), the SMP of sugarcane was fixed at Rs.62.05 per quintal linked to 8.5% recovery level. For the current sugar season, the Central Government has fixed the SMP of sugarcane at Rs.69.50 per quintal linked to 8.5% recovery in the context of which the sugar mills are to purchase sugarcane in the ongoing season.

The release of free sale sugar was made, on quarterly basis, for the quarter January-March, 2002. Following a representation of the Apex Organization of the Sugar Industry, the monthly release system was restored thereafter.

(d) and (e) No such request has so far been received from the sugar mill owners.

(f) The following steps have recently been initiated in the interest of the sugarcane growers and the sugar industry:-

(i) Buffer Stock of 20 lakhs tonnes of sugar:

A Buffer Stock of 20 lakhs tonnes of sugar has been created involving an outgo of Rs.412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund; Rs.374 crores would be released by Banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, an amount of Rs.786 crores would become available for the payment of cane dues to the farmers.

(ii) Increase in the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane by Rs.5.00 per quintal for 2002-2003 sugar season:

The Central Government had earlier fixed the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of the sugarcane at Rs.64.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5% subject to a premium of Rs.0.76 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in the recovery above that level for the 2002-03 season. In order to extend relief to the sugarcane growers, the SMP of sugarcane was increased by Rs.5 per quintal, that is to Rs.69.50 per quintal

linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 percent subject to a premium of Rs.0.82 for every 0.1 % percentage point above that level for the 2002-2003 season. The factory-wise SMP has since been notified vide Notification dated 09.01.2003.

(iii) Reimbursement of Internal Transport and Freight Charges:

It has been decided to reimburse internal transport and freight charges to sugar factories. Reimbursement of internal transport charges, incurred on export shipments of sugar, has already been allowed. Similarly, neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage at the rate of Rs.350 per tonne on account of export shipments of sugar would now be reimbursable.

[English]

Debt Swap Scheme

*65. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

- (a) the salient features of the debt swap scheme;
- (b) the names of the States which have agreed to the proposed debt swap scheme of the Government;
- (c) the details of suggestions given by the various States for making improvement in the scheme; and
- (d) the action taken by the Union Government on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Debt Swap Scheme aims at utilizing the current low-interest rate regime, to enable States to prepay expensive loans contracted from Government of India in the past, with current low coupon bearing small savings and Open Market Loans. In the current year, 20% of Net Small Savings Loans payable to States from September will be used to prepay past debt. This will be supplemented by Rs. 10,000 crores of Open Market Borrowings for the same purpose. In 2003-04, 30% of net small savings, complemented by Additional Market Borrowings will be used for the swap. In fiscal year 2004-05, the swap will be effected through 40% of net small savings and Additional Open Market Borrowings.

(b) All States have agreed to the proposed Debt Swap Scheme of the Government. While Maharashtra and West Bengal have decided to Participate in the Debt Swap Scheme from 2003-04, all the other States have agreed to participate in the Scheme from September in the current fiscal year.

(c) and (d) In view of liquidity considerations, some States suggested that 20% of Net Small Savings Loans may not be adjusted during the current year for retiring high cost debt. The Union Government, as a result, formulated the revised Debt Swap Scheme 2002-03 in which 20% of Net Small Savings Loans payable to States from September, 2002 would be used for swapping high cost debt to Government of India.

Prices of Edible Oil

*66. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

- (a) whether the quantity of edible oil imports were the highest during 2002;
- (b) if so, the details of these imports made during each of the last six months and quantity proposed to be imported during 2003;
- (c) whether the prices of edible oil recently have shown alarming rise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the prices of edible oil and black marketing of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The quantity of edible oils imported during recent years is as under:-

(Quantity in lakh MTs)

Year (April-March)	Import of Edible Oils*
1999-2000	41.96
2000-2001	41.77
2001-2002 (Provisional)	42.14
2002-2003 (April-October, 02)	24.83

*Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics.

(b) Import of edible oils is on Open General Licence (OGL). The quantity of edible oils imported during April-October, 2002 was 24.83 lakh MTs, as compared to 27.99 lakh MTs during the corresponding period of 2001. There is no proposal, at present, to import edible oils on Government account.

(c) and (d) As per the available information, the prices of edible oils in the country during the last few months are mentioned below:-

(Prices in Rs. per quintal)

	Price as on 15.2.2003	Price as on 15.11.2002	% variation over three months	Price as on 15.08.2002	% variation over six months
Mustard Oil	4000	4250	-5.88	3780	+5.82
Groundnut Oil	5450	4730	+15.22	5150	+5.83
Soyabean Oil	4060	4210	-3.56	3720	+9.14
Seasame Oil	4800	4500	+6.67	4210	+14.01
Sunflower Oil	4700	4900	-4.08	5050	-6.93
Cottonseed Oil	4100	4150	-1.20	3850	+6.49
Coconut Oil	5850	5475	+6.85	4750	+23.16
Vanaspati (15 ltr. pack)	670	675	-0.74	640	+4.69

Source: Economic Times/Business Line

(e) The steps taken in this regard include:-

- (i) Import of edible oils has been allowed on OGL,
- (ii) The import duty structure of edible oils is reviewed from time to time and the prices and availability regularly monitored,
- (iii) In order to curb under-invoicing, the Tariff Value is fixed from time to time for Palm Oil and its products and soyabean oil,
- (iv) An aggregate Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of the total imports for crude sunflower or safflower oil and refined rape, colza or mustard oil is permitted at a concessional rate of duty, for actual users.

[Translation]

Exchange Based Trading of Government Security

* 67. YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to allow exchange based trading of Government Securities (G-sec);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for allowing exchange based trading for the securities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from 16th January, 2003, screen based trading of Government securities has been operationalised on three exchanges, viz. National Stock Exchange (NSE), The Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) and the Over the Counter Exchange of India (OTCEI).

(b) To begin with, all outstanding and newly issued central government securities would be traded on the automated, anonymous, order driven system of NSE, BSE and the OTCEI. Treasury bills, state government and other securities, eligible as government securities, would be included, in phases, by the RBI, in consultation with the SEBI.

In view of the familiarity of the market and its participants with the systems, processes and procedures it has been decided to adopt the equity trading model for trading of

Government securities on the exchanges. The government securities would be traded on the permitted exchanges in the same manner as prescribed for equity trading.

(c) With a view to encouraging wider participation of all retail and other investors in government securities, trading in government securities through a nation wide, anonymous, order driven, screen based trading system of the stock exchanges has been launched. This would allow investors to enjoy an alternative to the existing saving instruments, such as, bank deposits of corresponding tenure.

Further, this would enable different entities, such as, rural and cooperative banks, provident and pension funds across the country to participate in the transactions in Government securities with ease, transparency and safety.

Kelkar Committee Report

*69. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee has submitted its report in regard to direct and indirect taxes to the Government;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the two Committees headed by Shri Vijay Kelkar, Advisor to the Minister for Finance and Company Affairs with regard to direct and indirect taxes, being under consideration as part of the Budget process, can not be commented upon at present.

Taxes/Duty on Production and Export of Sugar

*70. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the taxes/duty imposed by the Union Government on production and export of sugar;

(b) whether the Government will provide some

incentives to the sugar mills so that the farmers could get remunerative prices of sugarcane; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The following duties on production of sugar are levied by the Central Government:

(In Rs. per quintal)

Duty/tax	Free Sale Sugar	Levy Sugar
Basic Excise Duty	34	17
Additional Excise Duty	37	21
Sugar Cess	14	14
Total	85	52

2. The following incentives have recently been introduced in the interest of the sugarcane growers and the sugar industry:

(i) *Buffer Stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar:*

A buffer Stock of 20 lakh tonnes of sugar has recently been created involving an outgo of Rs. 412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund; Rs. 374 crore would be released by Banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, an amount of Rs.786 crores would become available for the payment of cane once dues to the farmers.

(ii) *Reimbursement of Internal Transport and Ocean Freight Charges:*

It has been decided to reimburse the internal transport and freight charges to sugar factories. Reimbursement of internal transport charges, incurred on export shipments of sugar has already been allowed. Similarly, neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage at the rate of Rs. 350 per tonne on account of export shipments of sugar would now be reimbursable.

Interest Rates on Loan Taken by SSI and MIU

71. *SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loan facilities provided by banks to small and medium industrial units at present;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested a cut in rate of interest on loan provided to these industrial units;

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions made by the RBI and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the other steps taken by the banks to provide better loan facilities to these industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Banks provide financial assistance to Small Scale Industrial (SSI) Units based on the viability of the units. The working capital requirement of SSI Units are computed on the basis of simplified method of minimum 20% of the projected annual turnover of the unit for borrowal limits upto Rs.5 crore. Banks also provide composite loan upto Rs.25 lakhs to the SSI Units.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has not suggested any cut in rate of interest on loans provided to SSIs. RBI has, however, advised the Banks to set the interest rate on advances to SSI Sector keeping in view the prevailing declining trend in interest rates and that SSI Units with good track record may be accorded lower spreads over Prime Lending Rate (PLR).

(d) Many policy measures have been taken to improve the credit delivery system to the SSI Sector. These are:

- 1) Banks to ensure that out of their total funds lent to SSI Sector, at least 40% should be made available to the units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs.5 lakh 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) Increase in the borrowal limit for collateral free loan to tiny sector from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh. In order to further improve the flow of credit to SSIs, RBI has announced that Banks may on the basis of good track record and the financial position of the units increase the limit of dispensation of collateral requirement for loans from the existing Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.15 lakhs.
- 3) Banks have been advised to open atleast one Specialised SSI Branch in each district. Further Banks have been permitted to categorise their

general banking branches having 60% or more of their advances to SSI Sector as specialized SSI Branches for providing better service to this sector as a whole.

- 4) Raising of the Composite loan limit from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs.25 lakh;
- 5) Raising the borrowal limit to Rs.5 crores for computation of working capital on the basis of minimum 20% of the projected annual turn over.
- 6) To increase the outreach of banks to tiny sector, inclusion of credit provided to NBFCs or other financial institutions for on-lending to tiny sector under priority sector lending.
- 7) Launching of a New Credit Guarantee Scheme by SIDBI under which collateral free loans upto Rs.25 lakh are covered for guarantee under the scheme.
- 8) Raising the limit of the projects to Rs.50 lakhs for providing assistance under the National Equity Fund Scheme.
- 9) The individual credit limit to artisans, village and cottage industries for reckoning under advance to weaker sections is increased to Rs.50,000/- from the present limit of Rs.25,000/-
- 10) Earmarking of 30% of the Investment under NEF Scheme for the tiny Sector.

WTO Meeting on Foodgrains

*72. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the developed countries had requested to keep several agricultural products out of the purview of the World Trade Organisation in the meeting organized by the World Trade Organisation in December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the view expressed by India on the above issue and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the final decision taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Committee on Agriculture (COA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) met in Special Session, informally from 18-20 November, 2002 and formally on 22 November, 2002 to continue discussions on possible modalities for negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture based on specific inputs from various WTO Members. The COA did not meet in December, 2002.

While there is no proposal by any developed country Member to exclude any agricultural product from the purview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, some developed country Members, such as European Communities, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, have proposed flexibility among products such as rice, meat and meat products, milk and dairy products, in order to properly address non-trade concerns, such as maintenance of rural areas, animal welfare, and other aspects of a viable domestic agricultural sector in regions with disadvantaged production conditions. These Members have, therefore, proposed selective tariff reductions to take into account different priorities among products, maintaining current volumes under Tariff Rate Quotas, expanding current Special Safeguard measures against an import surge to cover additional products, and exemption from reduction commitments for governmental support towards addressing such non-trade concerns.

(c) India has stated that further commitments on market access by developing countries are contingent upon substantial reduction in all trade-distorting domestic support, elimination of all forms of export subsidies and substantial increase in market access by developed countries across all agricultural products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, any market access commitments by developing countries should take fully into account their economic and social conditions, development needs, food and livelihood security and rural development requirements. India has pointed out that the mandate for negotiations provides that special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations in agriculture.

(d) The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1 January, 2005.

[English]

Storage of Foodgrain

*73. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of monetary loss suffered on account of theft/pilferage in storage and transit of foodgrains during each of the last two years;
- (b) the steps taken to check such losses in future;
- (c) whether the Government propose to give more foodgrains to those States where such losses are more; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The available information in respect of monetary loss of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on account of theft/pilferage in storage and transit of foodgrains (for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001) has been reported as follows:

Year	Amount paid (in lakhs Rs.)
1999-2000	40.74
2000-2001	30.23 (provisional)

- (b) The following remedial measures have been taken by the FCI to prevent theft/pilferage of foodgrains during storage in FCI godowns:
- (i) Physical measures like installation of barbed wire fencing of the boundary walls, provision of light for illumination of godowns and proper locking of sheds to secure the godowns.
 - (ii) Deployment of security staff of the FCI (as well as Home Guards) for safety of the foodgrain stocks.
 - (iii) Deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the State Armed Police at "vulnerable" godowns.
 - (iv) Periodic security inspections, as also surprise checks of the depots at various levels to detect and plug theft/security lapses.
 - (v) In respect of occurrence of thefts, lodging of FIRs with the local police stations for investigation of the cases.

The following preventive measures have been intimated by the Railways to prevent theft/pilferage of foodgrains in transit:

- (i) Identification of "vulnerable" points and escorting of goods trains by Railway Protection Force (RPF) on "vulnerable" sections.

- (ii) Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections by RPF.
- (iii) Induction of the CISF at "vulnerable" depots to curb theft and pilferage.
- (iv) Special squad checking at selected railhead transshipment and destination/ dispatch centres.
- (v) Installation of lorry electronics weigh-bridges and their surprise inspection.
- (vi) Close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.
- (vii) Based on criminal intelligence, raids and searches are conducted in the premises of criminals/ receivers of stolen property in order to bring them to book.
- (viii) Proper marking and labelling of wagons to avoid their loss/over carriage.
- (ix) Use of metal tape on wagons to avoid mis-despatches and prevent them from becoming unconnected.
- (x) In order to ensure expeditious tracing and connecting of the consignments which could not reach the destination within a reasonable time, "Not Received Cells" have been set up on Zonal Railways.
- (xi) FCI personnel have also been allowed to travel in the brake vans of foodgrains rakes, as escorts, on payment of fares, as per rules; the FCI have been permitted to affix its own seal, alongwith the railway seal, as a further safeguard for their consignments.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Rules for Appointment of Managing Directors in SEZs

*74. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the restrictions were imposed in the past for the appointment of Managing Directors from the Non-Resident Indians in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);
- (b) if so, the rules applicable for the same;
- (c) whether the Government have now waived those rules; and

- (d) if so, the details of new rules made now?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) There was no bar to the appointment of Non-Resident Indians as Managing Directors in the Special Economic Zones. However, in terms of the provisions of the Companies Act 1956, for appointment of a Managing Director, the person should have been a resident in India for a period of 12 months prior to his appointment. This condition has been relaxed for companies in Special Economic Zones through an amendment vide Gazette Notification No.G.S.R.670(E) dated 30.9.2002 to the effect that a person, being a non-resident in India shall enter India only after obtaining a proper employment visa from the concerned Indian Mission abroad. Further, such person shall be required to furnish, along with the visa application form, a profile of the company and the principal employer, and the terms and conditions of his appointment.

Trade Relation with South Africa

*75. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

- (a) whether India and South Africa have any trade pact;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have a proposal to expand trade relations with South Africa;
- (d) if so, the steps taken in that regard;
- (e) whether free trade pact is proposed to be made between both the countries as a part of the plan to expand better trade relations with South Africa; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) India and South Africa entered into a bilateral Trade Agreement on 22nd August, 1994. The Agreement envisages strengthening trade, commercial relations and economic cooperation between the two countries on the principles of equality and mutual interest and benefit. It has a provision to review the working and to facilitate the effective implementation of this Agreement by establishing a Joint Inter Governmental Committee consisting of not more than ten Indian and South African representatives respectively. The

second meeting of this Committee called ISACA (India-South Africa Commercial Alliance) was held at Pretoria in June, 2002.

Department of Commerce has launched a Focus Africa Programme on 31st March, 2002 to give a boost to Indian exports to Sub Saharan Africa. In the first phase of the Programme focus was laid on seven major trading partners of India including South Africa. Under the Programme, a high level official and business delegation was led by Commerce Secretary to Johannesburg in June, 2002, to coincide with the second meeting of ISACA.

A Preferential Trading Arrangement (PTA) between India and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) of which South Africa is a member, is under discussion. A Joint Working Group (JWG) consisting of representatives from both the sides has been formed to work out the modalities of the agreement. The first meeting of JWG was held in December 2002 in South Africa and the next meeting is scheduled in March/April 2003.

N.K. Singh Committee on Textiles Sector

*76. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether N.K. Singh Committee constituted for textiles sector has recently submitted its report;

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

(c) whether the Government have reviewed these recommendations;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) The Steering Group constituted under the chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh has submitted its Report on Investment and Growth in Textile Industry to the Government. The Report has been classified as Secret. The Committee has made recommendations regarding the fiscal duty structure, credit requirement and financial restructuring of the textile industry. No decision on the recommendations has been taken by the Government so far.

Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation

*77. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for every State to constitute Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States which have constituted this Corporation as on date;

(d) the reasons for not constituting the Corporation by the rest of the States;

(e) whether the Union Government are providing any grants to the States for this purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the total amount provided to those States which have constituted this Corporation during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(g) whether a number of States, to whom grants were released, have not submitted utilization certificate so far;

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

(i) the action taken against the defaulting States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The names of the States which have constituted such a Corporation under different names as on date, are as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Kerala
Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh	Orissa
Manipur	Maharashtra	Meghalaya
Rajasathan	Tripura	West Bengal

(d) The scheme is participatory by nature and States interested in the scheme can avail of the facility.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h) This information is given in the statement enclosed. One of the main reasons is that the state government to whom the funds are released do not release the funds to their corporation in time.

(i) Further grants are released on receipt of the Utilization Certificates from the States.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Scheme	State	1999-00	2000-01	2001-2002
		FR/UC	FR/UC	FR/UC
STDCC	Andhra Pradesh	300.00/UC received	150.00/UC received	520.00/UC received
	Gujarat	150.00/UC yet to be received	*150.00/UC yet to be received	-
	Kerala	130.00/UC received in 2002-03	-	-
	Orissa	200.00/UC received	192.00/ UC received	200.00/UC received
	Rajasthan	25.00/UC received	Nil	251.61/UC awaited
	Maharashtra	-	350.00/UC received	200.00/UC awaited
	Tripura	50.00/UC received	-	62.06/UC received
	West Bengal	50.00/UC received	-	-
	Meghalaya	-	-	47.00/UC received

* Funds are released to the State Govt. of Gujarat as a special case because of the earthquake.

Sale of Tea

*78. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that tea producers in the country are facing difficulties to sell their products due to introduction of a new provision in Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2002 resulting in the closure of many tea gardens:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):
(a) to (c) It is not true that the tea producers in the country are facing difficulties to sell their produce due to the introduction of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and directives issued thereunder regarding changes in auction rules. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and the changes in auction rules were notified based on the recommendations of a reputed consultancy firm who conducted a study of the primary marketing of tea in India. The objective of the study was to safeguard the legitimate interests of the producers as well as buyers, keeping in view the overall aim of strengthening the primary system of marketing of tea through auctions in terms of transparency and fair price discovery. These measures have been widely welcomed by all sections of the producers, big and small and all the tea growing states. Some tea gardens in the country have, over the last few years, faced

closure due to the continuous fall in prices of tea, and increased costs of production. These factors have adversely affected the economy of the tea plantations. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order 2003 is designed to address this problem. After some disruptions initially, the new regime and auction system have settled down with improved transparency and price discovery.

In the context of the difficulties being faced by the Indian tea industry, the Reserve Bank of India has announced, in August 2002, a credit relief package, which provides for restructuring/ rescheduling of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc. to help the industry during the present crisis. RBI has also announced on 5th February 2003, a separate relief package for the small tea growers and, Bought Leaf Factories.

Furthermore, Government has also appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and to suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. The Committees are expected to submit their reports by March, 2003.

FDI in Edible Oil Industry

*79. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the multinational companies to set up their business in edible oil production sector;

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

(c) whether such FDI has adversely affected the indigenous oil industry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to save the domestic edible oil industry?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) One of the significant features of economic and financial reforms in India has been a conscious recognition of the role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in accelerated economic growth. FDI is encouraged in various sectors, including the vegetable oils and vanaspati sector. As per the available information, 38 proposals for FDI in this sector had been approved till December, 2002, which has not adversely affected the domestic industry.

Restrictions on Indian Basmati Rice

*80. SHRI V. VETRISLVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Basmati rice to USA is on the decline;

(b) whether American Government have imposed restrictions on Indian Basmati rice and returned a number of consignments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Government have taken up this issue with American Government; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) The total quantity and value of export of basmati rice to USA during the last 4 years and the period Apr.-Nov. 2002 are as under:

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1998-99	4982	20.09
1999-2000	16372	70.71
2000-01	35964	129.84
2001-02 (P)	26589	94.00
2002-03 Apr-Nov.,2002 P	22283	74.61
Apr-Nov.,2001	20511	69.41

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta
(P): Prov. Data)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

NABARD Funding

606. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects, proposals received by the NABARD in West Bengal during the last three years, project-wise and year-wise;

(b) the funds allocated to the projects during the said period, project-wise;

(c) whether the cases of misuse of funds by State Government have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in those cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The details of the Rural

Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) projects in the State of West Bengal and the sanctions made there against, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) NABARD has reported that no case of misuse of funds by the State Government has been noticed.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

Details of the projects sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in West Bengal during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003

(Rs. in Crore)

Projects	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
Minor Irrigation	235	8.43	1113	18.98	22	3.61
Major Irrigation						
Rural Bridges	23	41.75	13	71.67	1	5.56
Watershed Management						
Flood Protection	3	4.92	12	22.18	12	3.88
Rural Roads	93	248.51	64	216.53	10	20.37
Drainage	4	9.25	1	5.13	1	1.53
Fishing Harbour						
Primary School			1822	59.54	1207	38.68
Public Health			1036	16.97		
Rural Drinking Water					137	1.75
System Improvement	16	100.37	26	63.41	67	147.77
Power Sector						
Total	374	413.23	4087	474.41	1457	223.15

[Translation]

World Bank and ADB Loan for Poverty Alleviation

607. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial aid has been provided by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to India during the

last three years for implementation of poverty alleviation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of States which have utilised the said funds?

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

(b) and (c) The details are as under:

(Figures in US \$ million)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	States	Donor	Signing Date	Closing Date	Loan Amount	Disbursement upto 31.1.2003
1	AP-District Poverty Initiatives	Andhra Pradesh	IDA	12.5.2000	31.12.2005	111.0	16.97
2	MP-District Poverty Initiatives	Madhya Pradesh	IDA	5.12.2000	30.6.2006	110.1	7.12
3	Raj-District Poverty Initiatives	Rajasthan	IDA	19.5.2000	31.12.2005	100.5	5.44
4	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring	Uttar Pradesh	IDA	8.03.2002	31.10.2007	149.2	5.0
5	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring	Rajasthan	IDA	15.3.2002	31.3.2008	140.0	5.2
6	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management	Karnataka	IDA	4.6.2002	31.1.2009	98.9	2.2
7	Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management	Andhra Pradesh	IDA	8.10.2002	31.3.2008	108.0	2.5
8	Kerala Rural Water Supply Agency	Kerala	IDA	4.1.2001	31.12.2006	65.5	6.29
9	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	Karnataka	IDA	8.3.2002	31.12.2007	151.6	4.55
10	Calcutta Environmental Improvement Project	West Bengal	ADB	18.12.2000	30.6.2007	250.0	3.8

*[English]***Welfare of Forest Tribals**

608. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes/programmes being implemented for welfare of tribals living in forests, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing alternative livelihood to such tribals due to shrinking of forest areas;

(c) whether the Government have taken note that

some of the tribals are surviving on tree roots and wild grass/plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for their upliftment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) Considering the fact that tribals have a symbiotic relationship with forests, this Ministry has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations, basically for Minor

Forest Produce (MFP) operations since 1992-93. The Corporations seek to ensure a fair price to the tribals for MFP collection by eliminating middlemen.

Under the scheme, funds released to the States during the last 3 years are as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)	
1999-2000	905.00
2000-2001	842.00
2001-2002	1280.67

(c) to (e) No specific case has come to the notice of this Ministry.

[Translation]

Revenue Collected from Jharkhand

609. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue collected from the State of Jharkhand directly and indirectly during last three years;

(b) the share of Jharkhand out of this revenue collected during said period; and

(c) the allocation made by the Centre to Jharkhand during said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of Central revenue collected from the State of Jharkhand during the last three financial years are as under:

Revenue collected from Jharkhand		
(Rs. in crore)		
Financial Year	Income Tax	Central Excise Duty
1999-2000	Not separately maintained for	1621.00
2000-2001	Jharkhand during this period	1840.88
2001-2002	400.10	1645.50

In respect of Customs Duty, it is not possible to attribute collection of revenue to individual States.

(b) The shares (percentage) of the Central revenue

collected from Jharkhand to the total Central revenue collected during the said period are as under:

Financial Year	Income Tax	Central Excise Duty
1999-2000	Not	2.60
2000-2001	maintained	2.69
2001-2002	0.58	2.26

(c) The total amount of funds released by the Central Government to Jharkhand State during the period is as under:

Financial Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1999-2000	Not applicable
2000-2001	1076.54
2001-2002	2724.03

Waiving Off Loans of Farmers

610. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are codified rules for waiving off the loans given by Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had ever waived off the loans worth Rs. ten thousands to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any notification in this regard was issued; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and to the extent possible will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Rice

611. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether export of rice has become inoperative due to changes made in the export policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

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.

[English]

Audit of Cooperative Banks

612. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the auditors appointed for verifying the accounts of co-operative banks do not present the correct picture as in the case of Madhopura Mercantile Co-operative Bank;
- (b) if so, the number of such instances have come to light during the last three years; and
- (c) the action the Government propose to take against the auditors for giving wrong information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the statutory audit of co-operative banks falls under the purview of the State Co-operative Act of the concerned States. The provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 empowering RBI to appoint the Statutory Auditors for commercial banks, are not applicable to the co-operative banks. However, in order to ensure uniformity in reporting on the financial position of the co-operative banks by Statutory Auditors, RBI had issued guidelines to all the Registrar of State Co-operative Societies of the States/Union Territories in 1993 enumerating various parameters for the purpose of rating of the co-operative banks. RBI has also reported that in some cases, the audit ratings awarded by the Statutory Auditors were not in consonance with the actual financial position and other affairs of the banks concerned. RBI, had, therefore, introduced in February, 2002 a system for bringing to the notice of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies such divergences with a request to initiate remedial action. However, the action against the erring auditors, if any, falls under the purview of state governments.

Under Invoices Imports

613. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that large quantities of cloves and cardamom are being imported under invoicing into the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence of the port of Chennai and Mumbai has detected any such import;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to stop such under-invoiced import of cardamom and cloves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Certain instances of under invoicing in the import of cloves & cardamom into the country have been noticed. Details of the cases detected in this regard by Customs authorities & DRI at Mumbai are as under:

Commodity	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003 (Upto Jan'03)	
	No. of Cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in Crores)
Cloves	2	6.07	1	0.54	Nil	Nil
Cardamom	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	0.78

(d) Customs authorities are alert and vigilant to prevent and detect under invoicing in the import of all goods including cloves and cardamom.

Setting up of Indian National Rural Bank

614. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chairman of NABARD, Reserve Bank of India and the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Finance has recommended for establishment of an Indian Rural Bank combining all 196 rural banks to streamline and strengthen the rural economy; and
- (b) if so, action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The matter of formation of National Rural Bank of India (NRBI) by way of amalgamation of all the 196 RRBs in the country was considered by the Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) some time during the year 1992-93. After considering a number of alternative models for restructuring of RRBs, including setting up of National Rural Bank, it was decided to revamp the RRBs, by cleansing of their balance sheets on a "stand alone" basis. Accordingly, 187 out of 196 RRBs, have been taken up so far, for comprehensive restructuring including cleansing up of their balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital. In addition to this several policy changes have been initiated to facilitate strengthening and revitalization of RRBs.

These changes include:-

- i) introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding (DAP/MOU) on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way, introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, asset 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; and
- v) providing greater role to the sponsor banks in management of the affairs of RRBs etc.

These initiatives have brought positive results and out of 196 RRBs, 167 have reported profits as on 31-3-2002 and 86 have wiped off accumulated losses.

[Translation]

Assistance to Women

615. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the poor women living in the rural areas of Maharashtra are being provided assistance by NABARD through its programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of districts covered under these programmes during last two years alongwith the programme-wise details of number of women provided assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it provides refinance facilities for approved purposes to the banks in respect of their onlending to the farm and non-farm activities which are gender neutral. However, it also has exclusive promotional schemes for development of women for their credit needs. The details of the assistance provided to the poor women living in rural areas in Maharashtra are indicated below:

- i) NABARD has sanctioned assistance under its Assistance to Rural Women in Non-Farm Development (ARWIND) Scheme in Maharashtra covering 215 women for skill upgradation with a total grant assistance of Rs.9.49 lakh. The activities include clay toys and dolls, agro and food processing, bakery, woollen Galicha making and ready-made garments making.
 - ii) NABARD has sanctioned assistance under its Marketing of Non-Farm Products of Rural Women (MAHIMA) Scheme in Maharashtra covering 372 women with a grant assistance of Rs.10.24 lakhs.
 - iii) NABARD has also been supporting setting up of Women Development Cells (WDCs) in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks. In Maharashtra, 11 such cells in 5 RRBs, 5 Cooperative Banks and 1 in Maharashtra State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank have been set up. The credit flow to women during 2001-2002 in case of 7 banks with WDCs in Maharashtra was Rs.68.23 Crore, forming about 3% of the total credit flow of these banks.
 - iv) Under the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) programme, 21,683 SHGs have been formed in Maharashtra as on 31 January, 2003 of which 90% (app.) of these are women SHGs. Over three lakh women members from all the 30 districts of the State have been provided with financial assistance to the tune of Rs.47.78 crore and refinance of Rs.28.64 Crore from NABARD.
 - v) Under Adivasi Development Programme in Maharashtra, 14000 tribal families and 1000 landless women are being assisted through various economic and social welfare activities in 3 hilly blocks of Thane and Nasik Districts of Maharashtra.
 - vi) Under the Indo-German Watershed Development Programme in Maharashtra, about 16,396 women have been assisted under 100 watershed development projects in 21 districts of the state.
- (c) The details of the District-wise coverage of programmes and the number of women under the ARWIND and MAHIMA schemes in Maharashtra are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of the district-wise and programme-wise coverage of women in Maharashtra under NABARD's promotional assistance schemes

(i) **ARWIND** (Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Activity	District Covered	No. of Women covered	Assistance Granted
1.	Clay Toys and Doll Making	Badrawati & Chandrapur	20	2.00
2.	Agro and Food Processing EDP	Sindhudurg	90	0.48
3.	Woollen Galicha Making	Latur	20	2.65
4.	Bakery	Latur	40	3.26
5.	Ready-made Garments Making	Ahmednagar	45	1.10
Total			215	9.49

(ii) **MAHIMA** (Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Activity	District Covered	No. of women covered	Assistance Granted
1.	Setting up of Mother Unit and Marketing	Pune	332	7.43
2.	Marketing of Spices	Pune	40	2.81
Total			372	10.24

[English]

High Court Bench in Kerala

616. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to start a High Court Bench at Trivandrum in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Industrial Incentive Package

617. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide industrial incentive package to some States;

(b) if so, the details of such package, State-wise;

(c) whether modernisation of industries and new products have not been covered under said packages; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has granted Industrial Incentive Packages for North-Eastern States and the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttaranchal & Himachal Pradesh. The salient features of packages are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Modernisation of existing industries and addition of new products resulting in substantial expansion are covered under the policy.

Statement

1. Package for North-Eastern States

The new North East Industrial Policy and other concessions was announced on December 24, 1997 for promoting industrialization of the North Eastern Region which inter-alia envisage the following:

A. Development of Industrial Infrastructure:

1. The entire expenditure on growth centres would be provided as Central assistance subject to a ceiling of Rs.15 crores.
2. In respect of the IID centres the funding pattern would be changed from 2:3 between GOI and SIDBI to 4:1 and the GOI funds would be a grant.

B. Transport Subsidy Scheme:

- i. Transport Subsidy Scheme has been extended further for N.E. States, upto 31.3.2007 on the existing terms and conditions.

C. Fiscal Incentives to New Industrial Units and Their Substantial Expansion:

- i. Government has approved for converting the growth centres and IIDCs into a total tax free zone for a period of 10 years.
- ii. Industries located in the growth centres would also be given capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15% of their investment in plant and machinery, subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.30 lakhs.
- iii. The commercial banks and the North Eastern, Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI) will have dedicated branches/counters to process applications for terms loans and working capital in these centres.
- iv. An interest subsidy of 3% on the working capital loans would be provided for a period of ten years after the commencement of production.
- v. Similar benefits would also be extended to the new industrial units or their substantial expansion in other Growth Centres or IIDCs or industrial estates/parks/export promotion zones set up by the States in the NE region.

D. Relaxation of PMRY Norms:

- i. The PMRY would be expanded in scope to cover areas of horticulture, piggery, poultry, fishing, small tea

gardens, etc. so as to cover all economically viable activities. PMRY would have a family income ceiling of Rs.40,000 per annum for each beneficiary along with his/her spouse and upper age limit will be relaxed to 40 years. Projects costing upto Rs.2 lakhs in other than business sectors will be eligible for assistance. No collateral will be insisted for projects costing upto Rs.1 lakh. Group financing upto Rs. 5 lakhs will be eligible. Scheme will have a subsidy component @ 15% with an upper ceiling of Rs.15,000. The margin money may vary from 5% to 12.5% of the project cost to make the subsidy and margin contribution at 20% of the project cost. PMRY would continue to have Entrepreneurship Training Component as per the existing rate.

E. Other Incentives Proposed:

- i. A comprehensive insurance scheme for industrial units in the North East will be designed in consultation with General Insurance Corporation of India Ltd. and 100% premium for a period of 10 years would be subsidized by Central Government.
 - ii. A one time grant of Rs.20 crores will be provided to the North East Development Financial Corporation (NEDFi) by the Central Government through NEC to fund techno-economic studies for industries and infrastructure best suited to this region.
 - iii. State Government may consider setting up of a "Debt Purchase Window" by the NEDFi which buys the debt of the manufacturing units particularly in respect of the supplies made to the government Departments so as to reduce the problem of blocking of funds for these units.
 - iv. For development of markets in north east possibilities of exports of products of north east to the neighbouring countries particularly Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan would be explored.
 - v. It may be considered to provide assistance for restructuring State PSUs from National Renewal Fund.
 - vi. The community pattern of land holding in large parts of NE region, does not lend itself to providing collateral security as required under conventional bank lending. RBI has constituted a Committee to look into this issue. An appropriate system of "guarantees" will be evolved for NE region.
- ##### F. Procedure for Release of Assistance Under the Initiatives:
- i. It is approved that transport subsidy budget may be

released by a designated agency on the basis of the recommendations of the SLC. It is proposed that NEDFi may be designated as the nodal agency for release of transport subsidy in NE States. NEDFi may be paid administrative expenses for this service which may be decided in consultation with IDBI.

G. Development of Village & Small Industries (VSI) Sector:

Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) in NE region and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology at Guwahati would be suitably strengthened to provide technology and training support to the weavers. National Handloom Development Corporation will give priority in supply of hank yarn to the NE region. All the four varieties of silk would be covered under the Mill Gate Price Scheme. Priority would be given to the NE region in scheme of setting up of market complexes and permanent exhibition facilities. A new design centre for development of handicraft would be set up in NE region. To upgrade the skill of artisan, advance training programme through master craftsmen would be organised. New emporia will be set up and financial assistance for renovation of existing emporia would be provided. The Central Silk Board will give priority to NE region in implementation of its schemes.

2. Package for Jammu & Kashmir

Introduction: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir requested for a special package for development of industries in the state on the lines of the North East Industrial Policy. Keeping in view the fact that the State of Jammu & Kashmir lags behind in industrial development, need has been felt for structured interventionist strategies to accelerate industrial development of the state and boost investors' confidence.

Salient features of the package: New Industrial policy and other concessions for the state of J&K was issued on vide OM dated 14th June, 2002. The salient features of the package are:

100% excise duty exemption for a period of 10 years from commencement of commercial production to new industrial units and existing units on their substantial expansion. The Notification regarding the Excise exemptions has been issued by the Ministry of Finance on 14th November, 2002.

Capital Investment Subsidy @ 15% for investment in plant & machinery subject to a maximum of Rs.30 lakhs would be provided to all new Units

and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, 2002 notified on 22nd October, 2002.

- Interest subsidy of 3% on working capital loan would be allowed to all new units and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, 2002 notified on 22nd October, 2002.
- The insurance premium to the extent of 100% on capital investment would be available to all new units and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Comprehensive Scheme, 2002 notified on 22.10.2002.
- The Income tax exemption would continue as per existing dispensation applicable to Jammu & Kashmir under section 80 IB of Income Tax Act.
- The financing pattern of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres between Govt. of India and SIDBI will change from 2:3 to 4:1.
- Design-cum-Resource Centre for footwear and leather industry would be set up with the initial contribution of Government of Rs.1.00 crore.
- Ministry of Textiles will extend their package of assistance as applicable to NER, to the State of J&K also.

Industries ineligible for concession under the package are cigarettes/cigars of tobacco, manufactured tobacco and substitutes, distillation/brewing of alcoholic drinks and manufacture of branded soft drinks.

3. Package for Sikkim

Introduction: The Government of Sikkim requested for a special package for development of industries in the state on the lines of the North East Industrial Policy. Keeping in view the fact that the State lags behind in industrial development, a need has been felt for structured interventionist strategies to accelerate industrial development of the state and boost investors' confidence.

Salient features of the package: New Industrial policy and other concessions for the state of Sikkim was issued vide OM No. 14(2)/2002-SPS dated 23rd December, 2002. The salient features of the package are:

Incentives under the schemes:

1. 100% excise duty and income tax exemption for

a period of 10 years to new industrial units and existing units on their substantial expansion.

- Capital Investment Subsidy @ 15% for investment in plant & machinery subject to a maximum of Rs.30 lakh would be provided to all new units and the existing units on their substantial expansion under the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, 2002 notified on 24th December, 2002.
- Interest subsidy of 3% on working capital loan would be allowed to all new units and the existing units on their substantial expansion under the Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, 2002 notified on 24th December, 2002.
- The insurance premium to the extent of 100% on capital investment would be available to all new units and the existing units on substantial expansion under the Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme, 2002 notified on 24th December, 2002.
- The financing pattern of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDC) between Govt. of India and SIDBI will change from 2:3 to 4:1.
- The central assistance under the Growth Centre Scheme is raised from Rs.10 crore to Rs.15 crore per Centre as in the North East Industrial Policy.
- The negative list for Sikkim include polluting paper and paper products, cigarettes, tobacco and aerated branded beverages.

4. Package for Uttaranchal & Himachal Pradesh

Introduction: The Hon'ble Prime Minister, during the visit to Uttaranchal from 29th to 31st March, 2002, had, inter-alia made an announcement that 'Tax and Central Excise concessions to attract investments in the industrial sector will be worked out for the Special Category States including Uttaranchal. The industries eligible for such incentives will be environment friendly with potential for local employment generation and use of local resources.'

Salient features of the package: New Industrial policy and other concessions for the state of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh was issued vide OM No, 1 (10)/2001-NER dated 7th January, 2003, The salient features of the package are:

Incentives under the schemes:

- 100% excise duty exemption for a period of 10 years to new industrial units and existing units on their substantial expansion.

- 100% income tax exemption for initial period of five years and thereafter 30% for companies and 25% for other than companies for a further period of five years for the entire state of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh from the date of commencement of commercial production.

- Capital Investment Subsidy @ 15% for investment in plant & machinery subject to a maximum of Rs.30 lakh would be provided to all new units and the existing units on their substantial expansion under the Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, 2003 notified on 8th January, 2003.

- The financing pattern of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDC) between Govt. of India and SIDBI will change from 2:3 to 4:1.

- The central assistance under the Growth Centre Scheme is raised from Rs.10 crore to Rs.15 crore per Centre as in the North East Industrial Policy.

- The funding pattern between Government of India and both the States would be changed from 50:50 to 90:10 under Deen dayal Hathkargha Pratsahan Yojna. Ministry of Textiles would extend its package of incentives, as notified for North-Eastern States, to the states of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh also.

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries would include Uttaranchal in difficult areas category. The state of Himachal Pradesh is already included in the difficult areas category.

- Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries would provide for states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal relaxation under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) with respect to Age (i.e. 18-40 years from 18-35 years) and Subsidy (@ 15% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.15,000/- per entrepreneur).

- In order to utilise local resources in an environment friendly manner, certain polluting industries and those not utilising local resources would be excluded from the purview of proposed concessions. In addition, the Doon Valley Notification dated 01.02.1989 as amended from time to time, issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests would continue to operate in the Doon Valley Area, and the industries notified under it would be excluded from the proposed concessions, in the Doon Valley Area of the state of Uttaranchal.

*[English]***Interest Rates on State Loans**

618. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been gradually reducing interest rates in small saving schemes, which in turn affects the States to go in for crisis in investment towards developmental projects;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been suffering on account of huge loans burden of interest and wage bills; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken or likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) In the recent years, Government has reviewed and reset the interest rates on various small savings schemes in order to align them with the overall interest rate structure in the economy. The last such reset through a downward revision of 50 basis points in the interest rates of most small savings schemes was done on the basis of recommendations of an Expert Committee to make administered interest rates market determined by benchmarking them to the average annual yield on government securities of comparable maturity.

Collections under small savings schemes have, however, continued to grow inspite of revision of the interest rates. Further, pursuant to the recommendation of the Expert Committee *ibid*, the States' share of net small savings collections has been enhanced from 80% to 100% with effect from 1st April, 2002. Hence, funds available to the States on account of their share of net small savings collections have increased over the years.

The benefit of reduction of interest rates on small savings schemes has been passed on to the State Governments by simultaneous reduction of the interest rate on the special securities issued by them against their share of net small savings collections. In addition, the State Governments have been enabled to prepay their past high cost loans by utilising their incremental share of net small savings collections and current market borrowings on lower interest rates in order to bring down their interest liabilities.

*[Translation]***Silk Production**

619. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the strategy to increase silk production in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of this new strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The strategy for Sericulture sector for the X Five year Plan drawn up by the Central Silk Board in consultation with the State Governments aims to substantially expand mulberry silk and non-mulberry silk production, by assisting and supporting quality and productivity in on farm and post farm activities from an estimated 16400 tonnes of mulberry and 1580 tonnes of non mulberry silk in 2001-2002 (provisional) to a projected 24150 tonnes (includes 6700 MT of bivoltine silk) of mulberry and 2300 tonnes of non mulberry silk. Measures include the adoption of bivoltine sericulture wherever feasible, improved technologies in rearing & reeling, improved seed supply systems, expansion of area of plantation and diversification and development of products etc. Programmes for Research & Development, transfer of technology and provision of critical inputs to States through centrally sponsored schemes have been emphasized. An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been allocated for implementation of the plan schemes during X Plan period.

*[English]***Edible Oil From Malaysia**

620. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether edible oil imported from Malaysia and Indonesia are much cheaper than the domestic edible oil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether edible oil dumped by foreign countries in India is fit for human consumption;

(d) if so, the circumstances under which these countries are dumping their edible oil in India at cheaper rates; and

(e) the steps taken to check the quality of each lot of oil being dumped by foreign companies/countries?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is a gap between demand and indigenous supply of oil. The Government, with a view to ensure availability of edible oils in the domestic market, has allowed import of edible oils including Palm oils and its fraction except coconut oil under Open General License (OGL). As such, the import of edible oils including Palm oil and its fractions would depend upon the commercial judgement of the importers. Imported oils are checked for quality by the Port Health Authorities in accordance with the PFA Act and Rules framed thereunder.

PAN No.

621. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made mandatory for the passengers intending to go abroad to reveal their PAN number;

(b) if so, the reasons for making this condition mandatory; and

(c) the safeguards provided for persons not holding the PAN number to make their travel abroad without any difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Rule 114B of the Income Tax Rules, 1962 requires that the persons making payment in cash in connection with travel to any foreign country of an amount exceeding Twenty five thousand at any one time shall mandatorily quote the Permanent Account Number or General Index Register Number except in respect of certain specified neighbouring countries or places of pilgrimages.

(b) A person who is paying Rs. 25,000 in cash at any one time in connection with travel to any foreign country is a potential taxpayer. Therefore, it is made mandatory to quote PAN so that the transactions may be verified.

(c) Persons not holding PAN can quote General Index Registrar Number. Failing both PAN and General Index Number, a declaration giving particulars of such transactions, will have to be made in form 60.

Subsidy for Re-Planting of Tea Bushes

622. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy given by the Tea Board for replanting of tea bushes is hardly sufficient;

(b) if so, whether Tea Board is considering to increase the amount of subsidy for replantation of tea bushes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) to (d) The subsidy provided by the Tea Board constitutes 25% of the unit cost of planting per hectare, as computed by NABARD. The unit cost includes planting and maintenance up to 5th year. The rate of subsidy is revised by the Tea Board from time to time in parity with the unit cost of planting and these rates were revised upwards with effect from 1.4.2002.

International Customs Day

623. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has celebrated International Customs Day on 26 January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to strengthen customs authority in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The International Customs Day is celebrated by the members of the World Customs Organisation on 26th January every year. As 26th January is our Republic Day, the Central Board of Excise and Customs celebrated the International Customs Day this year on 24th January, 2003. Senior officers of the Government of India, the Secretary General of World Customs Organisation and the Director General of Customs of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal participated in the main function held in New Customs House, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The actions taken by the Government include strengthening of Customs formations in the country recently through cadre restructuring and creation of new posts at different operational levels; special thrust being given by customs to computerize procedures for improving customs control and providing a facilitated, hassle-free customs clearance regime, etc.

Income Tax Rebate

624. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has given rebate under Section 89(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, to persons opted VRS during 2000 and 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether keeping in view the decision of Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Commissioner of Income Tax Vs. J. Visalakshmi on 25.11.1993 vide I.T.R. Vol. 206, page No. 531 that the ex-gratia compensation received by the assessee consequent on his resignation or V.R.S. is entitled to the relief Section 89 (1) of the IT Act;

(d) if so, whether the Government have extended such relief to all such assesseees;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) The matter regarding eligibility of relief under Section 89(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, on amounts of compensation received in excess of limit prescribed under Section 10(10C) of the Act, to persons who opted for VRS is being examined in consultation with Ministry of Law.

Doubtful Loans

625. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has allowed lenders to restructuring big loans which can be classified as "doubtful loans";

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

(c) whether there is potential for some banks to misuse this provision;

(d) whether this policy is likely to affect loans already under BIFR jurisdiction;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the impact of this new policy on units referred to BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

has issued a revised scheme of Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) on 5th February, 2003 to provide for timely and transparent mechanism for restructuring corporate debt of viable corporate entities, affected by internal or external factors, outside the purview, of BIFR, DRT and other legal proceedings.

(c) No, Sir. Adequate safeguards have been put in place to ensure that the guidelines in the scheme are not misused.

(d) to (f) As per the CDR guidelines BIFR cases would not be eligible for restructuring under the CDR system. However, large value BIFR cases may be considered for restructuring under the CDR system if specifically recommended by the CDR Core Group. The Core Group may recommend exceptional BIFR cases on a case-to-case basis for consideration under the CDR system subject to the lending institutions completing all the formalities in seeking the approval from BIFR before implementing the package.

Investigative Cell to Monitor Imports

626. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a permanent investigative cell with in the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to monitor surge in imports of sensitive items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not set up any permanent investigative cell in the DGFT. However, there is an Inter-Ministerial Standing Group that monitor the imports of about 300 items identified as sensitive. Every month the data as received from DGCI & S is analysed and a Press Note is issued which is also made available on the Internet at <http://www.nic.in/eximpol>.

C & AG Observation on Tax Exemptions

627. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its Report No. 12 of 1999 (Direct Taxes) in Para 3.1.8 has brought out the fact that during 1994-95 to 1996-97 out of 105 cases of exemptions concerning 100 percent Export Oriented Units in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal and Maharashtra, exemptions aggregating

Rs.9422.90 lakh were allowed irregularly in 41 cases resulting into short levy of tax of Rs.6213.86 lakh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Although C&AG vide Para No. 3.1.8 appearing on page No. 57 of Report No. 12 of 1999, has mentioned the facts as reproduced in part (a) of this Question, the corresponding key documents received from C&AG specify 33 cases of under assessment which resulted in short levy of tax aggregating to Rs. 6365.01 lakhs. A copy of such key documents received from C&AG is enclosed as statement. Out of such 33 cases, 27 cases were not accepted, one case partly accepted and only 5 cases were accepted by the Ministry involving tax effect of Rs. 626.03 lakhs.

(d) Action Taken Notes in these cases have already been sent to C&AG and vetting comments have also been received from C&AG.

Statement

Key Documents Corresponding to Para 3.1.8 of Report No. 12 of 1999 Received from C&AG of India

S.No.	Para No.	Assessee M/s.	CIT Charge	Assessment Year	Tax Effect (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1-3	8.1	Trend Garments Pvt. Ltd. Interfit India Ltd.	Tamil Nadu-IV Coimbatore	1995-96 1994-95 1995-96	56.62 261.13 9.90 (P) 132.25
4-5.	8.2	Tata Tea Ltd.	WB-VI Kolkata	1993-94 1994-95	1756.32
6.	8.3 (a)	Mid India Industries	Indore, M.P.	1995-96	35.77
7.	8.3 (b)	Pure Helium (I) P. Ltd.	City-I, Mumbai	1992-93	125.11
8.	8.3 (c)	Amalgam Foods Ltd.	Kerala	1995-96	31.76(P)
9-10.	8.4 (a)	Jaswal Granites Ltd.	A.P. Hyderabad	1994-95 1995-96	31.46
11-12.	8.4 (b)	Kemwell International P. Ltd.	Karnataka-I	1994-95 1995-96	7.15
13.	8.5 (a)	Saketh India Ltd.	Delhi- VII	1993-94	342.90
14.	8.5 (b)	DSQ Software Ltd.	Tamil Nadu-IV	1995-96	208.68
15.	8.5 (c)	Asian Peroxide Ltd.	Tamil Nadu-V	1993-94	146.50
16.	8.6 (a)	Sociedade-de Fomento India Ltd..	Panaji, Goa	1995-96	201.98
17-18.	8.6 (b)	Deccan Granites Ltd.	AP., Hyderabad	1993-94 1994-95	35.83

1	2	3	4	5	6
19-20	8.7 (1)	Moon Rock Agencies P. Ltd.	Karnataka-I	1994-95 1995-96	88.36
21-22.	(2)	Index Computing P. Ltd.	Karnataka-III	1995-96 1996-97	169.15
23-26.	(3)	Sociedade-de Fomento India Ltd.	Panji, Goa	1992-93 to 1995-96	2373.88
27.	(4)	Mayfaire Exports (P) Ltd.	Tamil Nadu-IV	1995-96	63.44
28.	(5)	Chamundi Textiles (Silk Mills) Ltd.	Madurai	1993-94	24.98
29-31.	(6)	Rajapalayam Mills Ltd.	Madurai	1994-95 to 1996-97	67.44 115.67(P)
32.	(7)	Ralco Pvt. Ltd.	Coimbatore	1993-94	18.98 22.01 (P)
33	(8)	United Granites Ltd.	Coimbatore	1995-96	37.74

Shortage of Notary Public in District Courts.

628. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the general public face lot of difficulties as there are acute shortage of Notary Public in various district level courts in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to appoint Notary Public in order to obviate the difficulties of general public?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) The Government have not come across shortage of notaries public in any district.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Tribal Cooperative Marketing Circle

629. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the activities of Indian Tribal

Cooperative marketing Circle in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and those proposed for the current year; and

(b) the extent to which it has helped the tribal population of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) There is no such organization functioning under the aegis of this Ministry, or assisted by it.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Tariff Concession to Bangladesh

630. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has extended tariff concessions to 111 items exported from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trade volume between India and Bangladesh has increased;

(d) whether tariff concessions mutually benefits both the countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) and (b) During the Fourth Round of Trade Negotiations under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) which concluded on 1st November, 2002, India granted tariff concessions on a total of 111 items to the Least Developed

Member Countries of SAARC including Bangladesh. Of these, 107 items were from the request list of Bangladesh and four others from that of Maldives. The details of the list of items is available in the Customs Notification No. 13/2003-Customs dated 20th January, 2003.

(c) The details of the trade volume between India and Bangladesh over the last five years are given below:

(Values in Rs. Lacs)

S.No.	Year	1997-98	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Export	292,287.13	418,871.50	275,728.38	427,168.66	477,957.97
2.	% Growth		43.31	-34.17	54.92	11.89
3.	Import	18,884.54	26,252.50	33,865.95	36,778.27	28,194.03
4.	% Growth		39.02	29.00	8.60	-23.34
5.	Total Trade	311,171.66	445,124.00	309,594.32	463,946.92	506,152.00
6.	% Growth		43.05	-30.45	49.86	9.10

(d) and (e) India has also got tariff concessions on 29 items from Bangladesh during the Fourth Round of SAPTA negotiations. The exchange of tariff concessions mutually benefit both the countries by providing better market access.

Foodgrain Quota

631. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have reduced the foodgrains quota of some States and particularly the State of Karnataka despite their request to retain the existing quota of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of foodgrains requested by each State including Karnataka during the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of foodgrains allocated by Union Government to each State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No reduction has been made in the allocation of foodgrains to Karnataka. However, in conformity with the guidelines applicable to all the States, foodgrains quota for families above poverty line (APL) was reduced for some States from 1.4.2002.

(c) and (d) A statement, showing details of the requests made by the States during 2002-03 for restoration of their foodgrains quota is enclosed.

Statement

Details of requests made by the States for Restoration of their APL Quota

S.No.	State	Request
1.	Meghalaya	To increase the APL rice allocation to 9530 tonnes and APL wheat allocation to 3000 tonnes per month.
2.	Mizoram	To restore the APL rice allocation to 6810 tonnes month.
3.	Nagaland	To restore the previous level of allocation of APL rice allocation to 4825 tonnes and APL wheat allocation to 2000 tonnes per month.

*[Translation]***Electoral Rolls**

632. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the names of a large number of Bangladeshies are included in the electoral rolls in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to inquire into this matter and delete the names of such Bangladeshies from the electoral rolls;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***North-East Industrial Policy**

633. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) the details of the North Eastern States benefited by the North-East Industrial Policy of the Union Government;

(b) the reasons, if any, for not covering all the North-Eastern States under this policy; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for investment in N.E. States during the last three years and the number of people who got employment out of productive investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Government announced a new North-East Industrial Policy (NEIP) on 24th December, 1997 for promoting industrialization in the North-Eastern region. The NEIP is applicable to the seven States included in the North-Eastern region at that time, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

(b) The State of Sikkim was included in the North Eastern Council vide Notification No. 68 of 2002 dated 23.12.2002. The North East Industrial incentive package was extended to the State of Sikkim on 23rd December, 2002. Therefore, all the states under the North Eastern Council have been covered under the North Eastern Industrial Policy package.

(c) Details of the total loans sanctioned and employment generated in the North East (excluding Sikkim) by NEDFi, a Special Purpose Vehicle created for the North East, are as follows:

Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lacs)	Employment (In numbers)
2000-01	8324	3852
2001-02	6304	2531
2002-03 (Upto 27.1.03)	4565	4224
Total	19193	10607

Grievances of SC/ST Bank Employees

634. SHRI SALKHAN MURMU:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Association for SCs/STs and physically handicapped peoples upliftment (R) have brought SC/ST bank employees' grievances to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised by the Associations;

(c) whether the Government have directed the banks particularly to State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur to sort out their grievances;

(d) if so, the action taken by the banks thereon; and

(e) if not, the action taken so far and the time by when all their issues will be settled as per DOPT orders?

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

(b) The Association had raised issues of transfer and promotions of SC/ST Employees of the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur.

(c) to (e) The matter was referred to the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur who have informed that the Government guidelines are being followed. Further, it is informed that an Association known as All India SBBJ SC/ST Employees Welfare Association has been recognized as the representative body of SC/ST employees of the Bank and All India Association for SCs/STs and Physically Handicapped Peoples Upliftment (R) has been advised to route their issues through the recognized representative body.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

635. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange reserve of the country as on date including gold and Special Drawing Rights;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange reserve considered safe for forex needs;

(c) the country-wise foreign exchange available in the foreign exchange reserve of the country;

(d) the areas of exports which are contributing foreign exchange reserve;

(e) the details of the profit and loss to exchequer of the country due to fluctuations of foreign exchange reserve during the last three years;

(f) the outstanding foreign loans liability as on December 31, 2002; and

(g) the foreign loans proposed to be repaid during 2003-2004 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total foreign exchange reserves of the country as on February 7, 2003 were placed at US \$ 74.667 billion. The break-up of the foreign exchange reserves into foreign currency assets, gold and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) is given below:

	(in US \$ billion)
Foreign currency assets (FCA)	70.972
Gold	3.688
Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)	0.007
Total Reserves	74.667

(b) The policy for reserve management is judiciously built upon a host of identifiable factors and other contingencies. Such factors, inter-alia, include: the size of the current account deficit; the size of short-term liabilities (including current repayment obligations on long-term loans); the possible variability in portfolio investment and other types of capital flows; the unanticipated pressures on the balance of payments arising out of external shocks; and movements in the repatriable foreign currency deposits of Non-resident Indians. Taking these factors into account, India's foreign exchange reserves are at present comfortable and consistent with the rate growth, the share of external sector in the economy and the size of the risk adjusted capital flows.

(c) The break-up of the India's foreign exchange reserves into currencies in SDR basket stood at 99.89 percent and currencies not in SDR baskets at 0.11 percent as at the end of June 2002.

(d) In the recent years export of services has contributed in accumulation of foreign exchange reserves.

(e) There is no profit and loss to the exchequer of the country due to fluctuation of foreign exchange reserves.

(f) India's external debt outstanding as at end-June 2002 (latest period for which data is available) was US \$ 101.3 billion.

(g) The projected debt service payments (principal plus interest) during the year 2003-2004 is US \$ 12.5 billion, which includes redemption of Resurgent India Bonds.

[Translation]

Loan Taken by Government

636. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have obtained loans from various sources during the current financial year and the last year;

(b) if so, the amount of loan obtained from each source during the above period, source-wise;

(c) the estimated total amount of me loans likely to be obtained from various sources by the country by March, 2003; and

(d) the amount of loan repaid by me Government during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Central Government borrows

from various sources, such as market loans, public account and multilateral/bilateral sources. Details are mentioned in Receipt Budget of the Government every year. The net borrowing in the current financial year up to December 31, 2002 was Rs. 86269 crore.

World Bank and ADB Loan

637. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have granted loans to India for technical support programmes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States which have utilised this fund?

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

(b) The details are as under:

Sl.	Loan	Donor	Agreement Date	Loan currency	Loan Amount (in million)	Terminal Date of Disbursement	Cumulative utilisation As on 31.1.03
1.	N045-IN Economic Reforms Tech. Assistance	IDA*	19.5.2000	XDR***	33.6	31.12.2005	3.97
2.	4555-IN Telecommunication Sector Reforms Tech. Assistance	IBRD**	11.8.2000	USD	62.0	30.6.2004	4.28

* International Development Association

** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

*** Special Drawing Rights

(c) So far Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka have utilized funds under N045-IN. 4555-IN is under Central Sector.

Trade Fair in Russia

638. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are making preparation to organize an Indian Trade Fair in Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of entrepreneurs likely to take part in the said fair?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b); India Trade Promotion Organisation is

organising an Indian Trade Exhibition in Moscow, Russia from February 17-21, 2003. The product Profile of the fair includes Bulk Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Ceramic Granites, Chemicals dyes and intermediates, Consumer electronics and electrical home appliances/white goods, Herbal/Ayurvedic products, Engineering-Aeronautical, automobiles and auto-components, bicycles and parts, Builder hardware/handtools, Machine/equipment and spares, Steel and steel products, Gem and Jewellery, Handicrafts and shellac products, Health related products, Household kitchenware/appliances/articles (other than steel), Leather and leather products, Power, Oil, Packaging, Processed food/agro products, Plastic and rubber products, Paper/stationery items, Technologies-Bio, IT, Telecommunication, Software and other technologies, Textiles, Banking and Consultancy Services.

(c) A total of 214 companies have confirmed their participation in the fair.

[English]

Textile Mills in Rajasthan

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

(a) the details of textiles mills in public/private sector functioning at present in the State of Rajasthan as on December, 2002;

(b) the number of workers working in these mills, mill-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more such mills in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) There are 3 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) in public sector and 32 in private sector functioning in the state of Rajasthan as on 31.12.2002.

(b) The number of workers working in the mills is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The role of the government is that of a facilitator. Government through policy measures and schemes create a conducive atmosphere for the development and growth of the textile industry.

Statement

Name of mills with workers on roll functioning in state of Rajasthan as on 31.12.2002

S.No.	Name of mills	Workers on roll
1	2	3
Public Sector		
1	Udaipur Cotton Mills	475
2	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	477
3	Mahalakshmi Mills	528
Total		1480

Private Sector

1	Ajay Spinners Ltd.	52
2	Arham Spinning Mills	2093
3	Nitin Spinners Ltd.	549
4	Sangam Spinners	1638
5	Shree Rajasthan Texchem Ltd.	698
6	Simra Industries (P) Ltd.	52
7	Bhartiya Spinners Ltd.	125
8	Bhaval Synthetics Ltd.	948
9	M V Cotspin Ltd.	56
10	Reflex Textiles Ltd.	55
11	Prerna Syntex	553
12	Jagjanani Textiles Ltd.	35
13	Sanganeriya Spinning Mills Ltd.	152
14	Rajasthan Textile Mills	2956
15	Bhilwara Spinners Ltd.	1717
16	Tirupati Fibres & Indus. Ltd.	1150
17	Modern Threads (India) Ltd.	618
18	Reliance Chemotex Indus. Ltd.	1288
19	Jaipur Polyspin Ltd.	1173

1	2	3
20	Orient Syntex	1760
21	HEG Ltd.	1550
22	Shri Rajasthan Syntex Ltd.	2528
23	Super Syncotex (I) Ltd.	1323
24	Modern Polyester Yarn	241
25	Rajasthan SPG & WVG Mills Ltd.	2410
26	Rajasthan SPG & WVG Mills Ltd.	690
27	Ginni International Ltd.	892
28	Swatantra Bharat Mills	337
29	Banswara Syntex Ltd.	2903
30	Rajasthan SPG & WVG Mills Ltd.	2109
31	Maharaja Shree Umed Mills	2581
32	JCT Ltd.	2136
Total		37368
Grand Total		38848

Non-Payment of Deposits by Companies

640. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 14 dated November 29, 1999 and state:

(a) whether M/s Helios Corporation Ltd., Patna has repaid the instalments that were due along with the update interest to the depositors as per Company Law Board (CLB) orders dated October 7, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the competent authority to issue direction to the RBI to ensure timely payments to the depositors or action taken against the defaulting party?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) On a petition filed by Reserve Bank of India under section 45 MC of RBI Act, 1934 in view of various violations, the Company has since been put into liquidation by an Order of the High Court, Patna in May 2000. The matter is subjudice.

Sugar Warehouse in Sri Lanka

641. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up a sugar warehouse in Sri Lanka for sugar by Food Corporation of India is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which the warehouse is likely to become operational?

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.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

642. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal of Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project for Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accorded clearance to the project and forwarded the same for financial assistance to World Bank; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which project is likely to be sent to World Bank for approval?

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

(b) The broad objectives of the project, costing Rs. 945 crores, are to improve the living conditions of the people in the project area through improved health and productivity by providing safe and potable drinking water and environmental sanitation systems on a sustainable basis.

(c) Yes, Sir. The project proposal was posed to the World Bank in January, 1999 for consideration for funding.

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

Judges Involved in Corruption Cases

643. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report on alleged involvement in corrupt practices of three Judges of the Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana High Court has been examined; and

(b) if so, the follow up action taken in the matter to restore the credibility and image of the judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Government have consulted the Supreme Court of India. For the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Supreme Court has informed as below:

"A fact finding Committee constituted by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India to enquire into the alleged involvement of three Judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has submitted its report. The report has been examined and an appropriate action has been taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the in-House Procedure."

In so far as the High Court of Rajasthan is concerned, the Court has informed that the fact finding Committee constituted by the then Hon'ble Chief Justice of India to enquire into the allegations against the Judge of the said High Court has not submitted its Report so far.

Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance

644. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance to set up a Serious Frauds Investigation Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof and mode of operation of this office;

(c) the details of other recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is conceived as a multidisciplinary unit capable of investigating corporate white collar crime professionally. The SFIO will consist of officers possessing experience in the fields of Company Law, Income Tax, Information Technology, etc.

(c) and (d) The Committee has, inter alia, made recommendations on the aspects like disqualifications for audit assignments, prohibition of non-audit services, certification of annual audited accounts by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), setting up of independent Quality Review Board etc.

World Bank Assistance

645. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are seeking massive financial assistance from World Bank to meet the contingencies arising out of their structural adjustment programme;

(b) if so, the details of these States;

(c) the States which have sent their projects to the Union Government to recommend their projects to World Bank and the amounts thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. Some States have requested Govt. of India to seek financing of their structural adjustment programme from the World Bank.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from State governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra, U.P. and Tamil Nadu. So far the Govt. of India has posed the proposals for AP, Karnataka and Orissa to the World Bank and their programmes are under preparation.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The guidelines are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Structural Adjustment Assistance Facilities Guidelines

Some State Governments have been keen on accepting multilateral institutional funding to assist in undertaking fiscal and structural reforms. The key focus of the reforms is to bring fiscal deficit to a sustainable level and elimination of revenue and primary deficits. Since, in the past, there has been no uniformity in the Structural Adjustment Loans (SAL) being taken up by the different States with multilateral institutions like the World Bank, ADB etc., the institutions are being advised to ensure certain common criteria as a pre-requisite for accessing these facilities:

- (i) Putting in place a programme to undertake Structural Adjustment Programme for sustainable poverty reduction, and aimed at generating primary and revenue surplus and limiting consolidated fiscal deficit to less than 3% GSDP over a medium term (3-5 years).
- (ii) Programme for elimination of subsidies and a sustainable programme for power sector subsidy elimination or containment.
- (iii) Civil services reforms including reduction in administrative costs of governancc.
- (iv) Public Sector Enterprises reforms including disinvestments.

In view of the need to continue with sector intervention strategies, particularly in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, not more than 20-30% of the annual commitments from World Bank/ADB would be taken up in the form of SAL. An overall focus on poverty reduction and sector specific parameters (infrastructure, education etc.) which are ingredients of MDGs should also be reflected in the action programme of the SAL. The SAL should not be used for meeting revenue deficits.

The SAL would be based on a fully developed multi-year programme and negotiated as one single programme with multi-tranche releases linked to achievement of specific reform milestones agreed upon. The multi-year programme would be fully laid out in the Bank's project documents, while the legal agreements for allocation of funds may be processed separately for different tranches.

Requests of State Governments for availing of this facility with clear monitorable indication for the above programme would be then discussed by GOI with the World Bank and the State concerned. Appraisal and negotiation stages would follow, depending on the States' commitments to the FRF facilities.

Once the loan is put through and is under implementation, where the adjustment programme of the State has fallen behind by six months or is likely to be pursued further, the adjustment programme could be called off and the remaining undisbursed assistance cancelled.

Domestic Savings Rate

646. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether domestic savings have recorded a shortfall during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for such shortfall and the steps taken to improve domestic savings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Gross domestic savings as a proportion of GDP at current market prices during the last three years are as under:

Year	Rate of Savings (% of GDP)
1999-2000	24.1
2000-01	23.4
2001-02	24.0

(b) State-wise information on gross domestic savings is not available.

(c) The ratio of gross domestic savings to GDP has improved in 2001-02 as compared with 2000- 2001 and is almost at the same level as it was in 1999-2000. The Government has taken the following important measures in the current year to encourage the growth of domestic savings:

- (i) Increase in deduction under Section 80L to Rs. 15,000 comprising Rs. 12,000 for income from specified investments and Rs. 3000 on interest on Government securities.
- (ii) Increase in the limit in respect of dividend income up to Rs. 2500 received from each company or a mutual fund for tax deduction at source for senior citizens and investors.

- (iii) Exemption of life insurance premia from service tax.
- (iv) Introduction of a new scheme of 7 per cent tax free and non-transferable Savings Bonds from October 1, 2002.

Infrastructure Equity Fund

647. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the banks and financial institutions which have invested in the infrastructure Equity Fund;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines for the utilization of the Infrastructure Equity Fund; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. (IDFC), the following Banks and FIs have given their in principle approval. After finalisation of documentation the investment will be received.

S.No.	Institution	Amount
1.	IDFC	100 Crore
2.	LIC	100 Crore
3.	SBI	100 Crore
4.	GIC	10 Crore
Total		310 Crore

IDFC is in dialogue with other investors such as Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for their contribution.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Storage Facility for Foodgrain in Orissa

648. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing Food Corporation of India storage facility in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the storage facility for the State in view of the growing foodgrain production;

(c) if so, the details thereof and funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The existing storage capacity [owned & hired/covered & CAP (covered & plinth)] available with the FCI in the State of Orissa is 4.58 lakhs MTs.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Sanctions have been accorded for construction of covered storage capacity of 15,000 MT spread over 5 centres in the State of Orissa. The details thereof and funds earmarked for the purpose are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Centre/capacity (MTs)	Funds earmarked	
		2002-03	2003-04
1	Angul/5000		50.00
2	Dhankanal/2500		30.00
3	Keonjhar/2500	50.00	30.00
4	Phulbani/2500		30.00
5	Nowrangpur/2500		30.00

Further, a capacity of 2.5 lakhs MTs has been allocated to the State of Orissa for construction of godowns under the 7 years guarantee scheme which is in progress.

[Translation]

Proposals from Jharkhand

649. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Jharkhand and Maharashtra for tribal development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from the State Governments of Jharkhand and Maharashtra seeking assistance under the various Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as per the details given below:-

Jharkhand

1. SCA to TSP
2. Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution
3. Boys Hostels for STs
4. Girls Hostels for STs
5. Post Matric Scholarship for STs
6. Book Bank
7. Upgradation of Merit
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations

Maharashtra

1. SCA to TSP
2. Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution
3. Boys Hostels for STs
4. Girls Hostels for STs
5. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas
6. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
7. Post Matric Scholarship for STs
8. Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations
9. Village Grain Bank.

(c) The grants to the State Governments of

Jharkhand and Maharashtra under SCA to TSP have been released. The grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution have also been released to the Government of Jharkhand. The proposals of the Government of Maharashtra for grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution were approved for three years during 2001-02 and the first part of the admissible grant for the year 2001-02 was released. The release of the second part of the grant against approved projects for the year 2002-03 is under consideration of this Ministry.

The proposals received from the Government of Jharkhand under the other schemes were not as per the norms of these schemes. The State Government has been requested to submit revised proposals as per the approval which have not been received so far. The proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra have been examined and some clarifications have been sought from them.

[English]

US-64 Scheme

650. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government believes that almost all the unit holders of US-64 scheme are likely to redeem their respective share from the UTI-I after May 2003, and get out and explore other safest investment avenues;

(b) if so, the estimated units slated for redemption;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to give promotional offers to investors to re-invest the redeemed money in the mutual fund schemes or other Monthly Income Plan Schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Individual investors take investment/re-investment decision based on their risk-return perception, investment horizon, alternative investment avenues etc.

(c) and (d) Investors of US-64 will be given an option of five year, tax-free tradable bonds in lieu of cash payments at the time of redemption.

Implementation of Reform Linked Schemes

651. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two reform linked schemes Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) and City Challenge Fund (CCF) announced by the Government in the previous budget are yet in the implementation stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government for making early implementation of these schemes?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No amount has yet been released to the States for the Implementation of Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF) as the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has not been signed with the Centre. The draft MoA has been circulated to the State Governments to expedite the process. As regards City Challenge Fund (CCF), Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has informed that the design has been prepared by Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad and is at consultative stage with various stakeholders, including State Governments and Urban Local Bodies.

[Translation]

Development of Handloom/Handicrafts

652. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken adequate measures to fulfil the financial/technical needs of handloom/handicrafts sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated for implementation of various schemes/programmes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any specific scheme to promote the export of Indian handicrafts worldwide;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some of the States have not extended the benefit of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahari Yojana to the weavers; and

(g) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The Government have taken adequate measures to fulfil the financial/technical needs of handlooms and handicrafts sectors in the country through implementation of various schemes.

The schemes under implementation for the development of handloom sector and handicraft sector are as under:

(i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana:

With a view to improving the infrastructure facility for product diversification and quality up-gradation as well as supporting the efforts of marketing, design, consultancy etc., a comprehensive scheme called Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana has been introduced by the Government of India w.e.f. 1/4/2000. The scheme envisages product development, infrastructural support, institutional support, training to the weavers, supply of equipments and marketing support etc. both at macro and micro levels in an integrated and co-ordinated manner for an overall development of the handloom sector and the weavers.

(ii) Handloom Export Scheme:

A scheme titled Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM) was introduced during the year 1996-97 with the objective of giving substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country.

This scheme had provision for financial assistance to handloom agencies for building up, developing and marketing of exportable handloom products. The scheme covered activities towards development of export-worthy handloom,

products as design innovation, product diversification, modification of looms, skill upgradation, development of packaging etc. This scheme has been approved for continuation during the X Plan with the title "Handloom Export Scheme".

(iii) Mill Gate Price Scheme:

This scheme was introduced during the year 1992-93 in order to ensure adequate supply of all types of yarn to the weavers required for production of handloom items at prices prevailing at the Mill Gate, through the National Handloom Development Corporation.

(iv) Design Development And Training Programme (DDTP):

The Design Development and Training Programme is a Scheme providing for upgradation of skills of weavers through a variety of training programmes, workshops and exhibitions, and for development of design inputs to be disseminated to weavers, collection of traditional designs, and the provision of linkages between various agencies in the handloom sector for coordinating the designs, technological and skill based factors for developing products to meet market demand and improve productivity of the handloom weavers. The Scheme comprises the components like; Strengthening of Weavers' Service Centres (WSC) and Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs) and Grant to IIHTs, Decentralized Training Programme for weavers, National Centre for Textile Design, Research and Development and Cooperative Training.

(v) Marketing Promotion Programme:

Marketing Promotion Programme (MPP) is an integrated Scheme including components for Publicity and Awareness, setting up of Marketing Complexes and organization of Exhibitions and Fairs through various agencies to promote the marketing of handlooms in the country and to improve levels of awareness among handloom weavers and the general public in the interest of overall development of the handloom sector.

(vi) Workshed-Cum-Housing Scheme:

This Scheme was introduced in 1985-86 with the objective of providing a dwelling unit and suitable work place for weavers so as to improve their productivity, quality of life and earnings. The Central assistance under the Scheme is provided for the construction of Rural/Urban Worksheds/Workshed-cum-Houses.

The Handicrafts Schemes include: Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), training & extension, design & technical

upgradation, marketing support & services, research & development, financial assistance to State Handicrafts Development Corporations/ Apex Societies, export promotion etc. Five Regional Design and Technical Development Centres (RD&TDCs) located in Guwahati, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi undertake development of new designs and improvement of tools and equipment. Besides, an Indian Institute of Carpet Technology has been set up at Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh to undertake research, development and academic activities, apart from facilities for testing various quality parameters of textiles and carpets, as well as to impart advanced training etc. Assistance is also extended to Central and State Corporations/Co-operatives/Voluntary organisations to engage design consultants.

(c) No State-wise funds are allocated in the handlooms & handicrafts sectors for promotion & development of handicrafts. However, funds to the tune of Rs.716.66 crore. i.e. Rs.514.46 crore under handloom sector and Rs.220.20 crore under handicraft sector were released to various State Governments under different handloom and handicraft development schemes during the IX Plan.

(d) and (e) The schemes formulated to promote the export of Indian Handicrafts Worldwide include: organisation of buyer - seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation of workshops on design development; export marketing and packaging etc.; participation in various international fairs; sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; setting up of National level design center at Moradabad and New Delhi; and organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, annually in New Delhi.

(f) and (g) The Governments of Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Mizoram, Sikkim, Pondicherry and Goa, and Andaman & Nicobar and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Administrations have not submitted any proposal under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana. All of them have been requested to formulate and forward viable proposals under the Scheme for the benefit of the weavers of their States.

[English]

Amendments in Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

653. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are actively considering to adopt an in-built mechanism to check deviant behaviour of judges;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to make amendments in Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission, which, inter alia would draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has recommended that a permanent Committee comprising the Chief Justice of India and two seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court of India, be empowered to examine complaints of deviant behaviour of all kinds and complaints of misbehaviour and incapacity of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. A view is yet to be taken on the recommendation.

Price Index

654. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the items included to calculate the inflation in the country and to estimate the price index of the commodities;

(b) whether present inflation rate is the real reflection of the usable items that are required by the common people of the country at large;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether inflation ratio calculation device is absolute in terms of the average requirement of the under-privileged and lower middle-class population of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is the most widely used price index in India used for reporting annual inflation. It measures the movement in wholesale prices of 435 commodities in all trade and transactions. "Primary articles" contribute 98 items in the WPI series, "fuel group" 19 items and "manufactured products" 318 items. WPI is the only price index in India, which is available on a weekly basis with the shortest time lag of two weeks.

With a view to reflecting adequately the changes that have taken place in the economy since 1981-82, the earlier WPI series with base year 1981-82=100 was revised and a new series with revised commodity coverage, base year, and weighting diagram was introduced from April 1, 2000. Base year of the existing series is 1993-94=100.

(d) and (e) The Wholesale Price Index captures the weekly price movement of 30 essential commodities of daily use. These include staple foods like rice, wheat, sugar, pulses, coarse cereals, sugar and edible oils etc. consumed by the underprivileged and the lower middle class population of the country.

For the poor sections of the population, measuring the retail price movement is preferable. This is currently done through the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base 1982=100) and the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (base 1986-87= 100). Adoption of a more recent base year for these two series would capture the structural changes in the consumption pattern of the population in a more realistic manner.

Availability of Rice and Kerosene Oil in Kerala

655. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of rice and kerosene oil in Kerala as on date;

(b) whether the above availability is equal to the national average;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the per capita availability of rice and kerosene oil in other States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): The information in respect of rice is as under:

(a) Statewise per capita availability of rice is not being estimated.

(b) Per capita net availability of rice on all India basis for year 2002 as provisionally estimated is 84.8 kg per year and/or 232.4/grams/day. In view of reply to para (a) above comparison is not possible.

(c) Not applicable in view of para (a) and (b) above.

(d) Same as para (a).

The information in respect of kerosene Oil is as under:

(a) the per capita availability of kerosene oil in Kerala is 7.44 Kg/Annum for 2002-2003.

(b) No, Sir. The National Average is 9.35 Kg per annum.

(c) Per capita availability of kerosene in Kerala is not equal to national average because of the criteria for making allocation based on historicals followed till 1992-93.

(d) The details of per capita availability of kerosene oil in other states of the country are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The Details of per capital availability of Kerosene Oil in Kerala and other states as well as National Average

S.No.	States/UTs	Per Capita Allocation for 2002-03 (KG/Annum)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16.84
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7.48
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.97
4.	Assam	9.80
5.	Bihar	7.80
6.	Chandigarh	15.64
7.	Chhattisgarh	7.12
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13.62
9.	Daman & Diu	14.38

1	2	3
10.	Delhi	13.70
11.	Goa	16.37
12.	Gujarat	15.44
13.	Haryana	7.40
14.	Himachal Pradesh	9.30
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.38
16.	Jharkhand	8.06
17.	Karnataka	9.49
18.	Kerala	7.44
19.	Lakshadweep	14.43
20.	Madhya Pradesh	8.24
21.	Maharashtra	14.13
22.	Manipur	8.73
23.	Meghalaya	8.93
24.	Mizoram	7.57
25.	Nagaland	6.70
26.	Orissa	8.65
27.	Pondicherry	13.66
28.	Punjab	11.20
29.	Rajasthan	7.39
30.	Sikkim	11.85
31.	Tamil Nadu	9.38
32.	Tripura	9.89
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7.59
34.	Uttaranchal	11.61
35.	West Bengal	9.71
	All India	9.35

Functioning of Consumer Court

656. SHRI A. NARENDRA:

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether the Government have compiled latest data on the functioning of Consumer Courts in the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of cases disposed of by these courts in each State during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the percentage of cases decided by the District Forum within the stipulated period of 90 days has come down from 32 per cent to a dismal 24 per cent;
- (d) if so, the main reasons for such a low performance; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of Consumer Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the National Commission, the State-wise details of the cases disposed of by the State Commission and District Forums since inception are given in the enclosed statement. Year-wise details are not maintained.

(c) to (e) The disposal of cases by the consumer disputes redressal agencies in the country is mainly affected by the inadequate infrastructure, adjournments, non-filling up of the posts of the Presidents/Members in the consumer disputes redressal agencies. To remove these obstacles, some of the important steps taken for the speedy disposal of cases by these agencies are as under:-

- (i) One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores provided to the States/UTs by the Central Government to supplement their efforts to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies;
- (ii) Monitoring of the working of consumer disputes redressal agencies through the National Commission;
- (iii) States and Union Territories requested to take prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer disputes redressal agencies and maintain a panel of suitable candidates for appointment as President/Member;

(iv) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has recently been amended in 2002 mainly to facilitate the quicker disposal of complaints by enhancing the capabilities of the consumer forums, strengthening them with more powers, streamlining the procedures and widening the scope of the Act. Among various important amendments made to facilitate quicker disposal of cases include the procedures for selection of the Members of the State Commission and President and Members of the District Forum have been amended for uninterrupted selection of the Members of the State Commission and President and Members of the District Forums so as to fill up vacant post of the State Commission and the District Forums in time. A provision has also been incorporated in the amendment to empower the senior most Member to perform as President in the absence of the regular President of the National Commission, State Commission and the District Forum for smooth and uninterrupted functioning of these forums.

Statement

State-wise details of cases disposed of by the State Commissions and the District Forums, since inception

State/UT	Cases disposed of by the State Commission since inception	Cases disposed of by the District Forums since inception
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	11472	117976
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	27	237
Arunachal Pradesh	15	179
Assam	685	5702
Bihar	3021	36474
Chandigarh	3206	20879
Chhattisgarh		12853
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	23
Daman & Diu	0	37
Delhi	14866	100271
Goa	1107	3382
Gujarat	6566	52608

1	2	3
Haryana	12644	82568
Himachal Pradesh	6552	29168
Jammu & Kashmir	3444	8247
Jharkhand		11179
Karnataka	9709	63289
Kerala	14185	118927
Lakshadweep	9	38
Madhya Pradesh	10727	60644
Maharashtra	12172	88426
Manipur	41	774
Meghalaya	78	252
Mizoram	50	911
Nagaland	15	21
Orissa	5546	44769
Pondicherry	591	1918
Punjab	7490	54070
Rajasthan	10498	153087
Sikkim	21	119
Tamil Nadu	10067	57167
Tripura	278	949
Uttar Pradesh	9285	200227
Uttaranchal		
West Bengal	6056	39117

FFI in Indian Markets

657. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "FIIs remain market maker in India" as appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated the December 6, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported in the news item; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. The article points out that Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are contributing significantly to the liquidity in Indian capital markets.

(b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that FII's investment trend has been positive in the past except during 1998. FIIs have made a net cumulative investment of Rs. 60354.2 crore in Indian securities (for transactions reported till 19/2/2002). Total cash market turnover of Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange for the month of January, 2003 is Rs. 95654.5 crore, of which Rs. 9259.8 crore (or 9.68%) is the total FIIs turnover.

(c) It is a stated policy of the government to encourage foreign investment in India, through institutional investment as well as direct investment. As far as institutional investment is concerned, SEBI registered FIIs can operate in the Indian Stock Market with an individual ceiling of 10% and overall ceiling of 24% or up to the sectoral cap of issued capital of a company.

Transferring of Cases to Lok Adalats

658. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer all cases on service matters from High Courts to permanent Lok Adalats being set up to clear the huge backlog of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to fill up the vacancies of judges in the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up

of the existing vacancies and those expected to arise, as early as possible.

High Court Bench of Karnataka

659. 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 specially at Hubli-Dharwar which have all the facilities for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) to (c) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Bench of the High Court at Hubli-Dharwar, in consultation with the Chief Justice of that High Court. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Menace of Counterfeiting

660. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether various sectors of industry have demanded high priority to issues of intellectual property rights in view of increase in the menace of counterfeiting;

(b) if so, whether a Conference on "Combating Counterfeiting: Strategy and Practice" was held at New Delhi recently;

(c) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such menace of counterfeiting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In a Conference on "Combating Counterfeiting" organized at New Delhi from 21-22 January, 2003 by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the International Anti Counterfeiting Coalition (IACC), USA, various sectors of industry expressed concern

over the menace of counterfeiting and its impact on the economy.

(c) The Conference highlighted issues involved in tackling counterfeiting both at policy and enforcement levels and stressed the need to take up sector-specific issues, strengthen enforcement, upgrade technologies for preventing counterfeiting, chalk out strategies for Industry for a synergistic approach to deal with counterfeiting and take voluntary action both at industry and Government levels. After deliberations, the Conference made recommendations.

- for a synergistic approach to fight the menace and devise a mechanism for sharing of responsibilities by industry and Government;
- for organizing training modules to create awareness at all levels for target groups, namely consumers, industry, police, customs, judiciary and all other stakeholders;
- to seek and promote international cooperation with anti-counterfeiting bodies like the International Anti Counterfeiting Coalition, Business Software Alliance, World Customs Organization, Global Anti Counterfeiting Group, International Trademark Association, Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, the Anti-Counterfeiting Group etc.;
- for efficient and effective enforcement through establishment of Intellectual Property (IP) courts, better trained IP police force and cohesive public awareness;
- for smooth coordination between industry and enforcement agencies;
- for formation of multi-functional teams in industry with representatives from all interested groups including legal, corporate security, public affairs/consumer relations, sales and marketing, governments and packaging developers.

(d) With a view to check the menace of counterfeiting, the Government has taken effective steps for modernizing and amending various legislations related to IPRs. In that direction, the Copyrights Act has been amended and new Trade Marks and Design laws have been enacted to provide effective protection to the industry and the consumers, Penal provisions under the to-be-operationalised Trade Marks Act, 1999 have been enhanced to provide for effective deterrence. Certain offences have been made cognizable and the period of imprisonment further enhanced. In order to generate awareness among the public, users, enforcement agencies and the technical institutes, various programmes have been organized in different states about the effects of counterfeiting and its impact on the national economy.

Turn Over Fees

661. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SEBI has received representations from various agencies associations regarding reconsidering the base about turn over fees for the past years;
- (b) if so, the details of representation and other suggestions given therein; and
- (c) the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Following the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on February 01, 2001 on broker fees, several brokers associations had made representations to SEBI, seeking clarifications on various aspects related to the judgement.

SEBI obtained legal opinion of the Solicitor General of India, on the issues raised by the brokers. The SEBI Board considered the representations made by the brokers in the light of legal opinion and on 20th February, 2002 amended the SEBI (Stock Broker and Sub Broker) Regulations, 1992 to give effect to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

SEBI also issued two clarificatory circulars on the various issues raised in the representations received by it, on 28th March, 2002 and 30th September, 2002.

[Translation]

VRS for the Employees of Insurance Companies

662. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in all the four general insurance companies working under public sector;
- (b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be implemented alongwith the period of service after which VRS benefit will be given to the employees; and
- (c) the details of benefits proposed to be given to employees under this Voluntary Retirement Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Government has

introduced a Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme on 2nd January, 2003 for the Development Officers (Class II Employees) working in the four public sector general insurance companies.

(c) Under the scheme, the Development Officers seeking Special Voluntary Retirement package are entitled to sixty days salary for each completed years of service or salary for the number of months of service remaining, which ever is lowest, as ex-gratia, in addition to admissible retirement benefits. No proposal has been received from the Public Sector General Insurance Companies for any Voluntary Retirement Scheme for employees other than the Development Officers.

[English]

Interest Rates on Agricultural Loans

663. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agriculture being a priority sector, the rate of interest for agricultural loans are higher as compared to interest rate of other sectors of economy; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to reduce the rate of interest in agriculture sector to reasonable and affordable level and also to simplify the procedure of lending to the farmer to make agriculture credit easily available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Currently the lending rates have been deregulated and the banks are free to set their Prime Lending Rates (PLR), which would be minimum rate charged by banks for credit limits over Rs. 2 lakhs. Effective from April 29, 1998, it has been stipulated that the lending rates for credit limits of Rs. 2 lacs and below should not exceed the PLR. A substantial portion of the agriculture credit accounts will be covered under credit limits up to Rs. 2 lacs.

RBI has taken several steps to simplify the procedure for lending to agriculture in pursuance to the recommendations made by High Level (R.V. Gupta) Committee on agricultural credit through commercial banks. Banks were advised to implement its recommendations regarding simplification of procedures/forms in respect of applications, agreements, etc. rationalization of internal returns of banks, delegation of more powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limit to agriculturists, introduction of new loan products with savings components, cash disbursement of loans dispensation of 'No Dues Certificate' discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for agricultural loans above Rs. 10,000/- etc. These measures are expected to facilitate easy access to credit by farmers from banks, quicken the pace of flow of credit to agriculture sector. In

addition RBI has also advised banks to take several steps like formulating Special Agricultural Credit Plans (SACPs) by public sector banks, opening of Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches, introduction of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and issue of KCCs against specific targets issued every year, assistance to States under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), introduction of micro-credit delivery system etc.

Trade Relation with Sri Lanka

664. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are taking steps to improve trade relation with Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the plan drawn up thereon for 2003-04 and next two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Sri Lanka was signed on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi. The FTA has been made operative by the issuance of Customs Notification on 1st March, 2000. The Agreement envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products, over a period of time, except for a limited number of items in the Negative List. While India would complete the process of tariff elimination over a period of 3 years, Sri Lanka would achieve this over 8 years. During the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) held in New Delhi on 7th June, 2002, both sides have agreed in-principle to include trade in services to widen the ambit of the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. It has been agreed that a Task Force shall be set up for concretising the proposal for inclusion of trade in services in the FTA between the two countries.

Re-Appointment of Judges

665. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to re-appoint the retired judges on contract basis to expedite the disposal of civil cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps being taken for the speedy disposal of civil cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) In terms of the directions of the Supreme Court of India in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India & Others, the Government have set up Fast Track Courts in States for disposal of long pending sessions and other cases. The Supreme Court of India has directed that the first preference for appointment of Judges to the Fast Track Courts is to be given to ad-hoc promotion from amongst eligible officers. The second preference in such appointments is to be given to retired judges with good service records.

- (c) The others steps which have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of civil cases include amendments to the Civil Procedure Code, prescribing time limits for various stages of court cases, Permanent Lok Adalats for disputes relating to public utilities, filling up of vacancies of judges, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers etc.

[Translation]

Rural Branches of Banks

666. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of branches of various banks in rural areas are reducing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of branches of Public Sector Banks working in rural areas at present State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to open more and more branches of banks in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bank group-wise total number of rural branches of commercial banks as on 31st December 2000, 2001 and 2002 is given below:

Name of Bank Group	No. of branches as on December 31 of		
	2000	2001	2002*
SBI and its associates	5515	5513	5511
Nationalized Banks	13856	13755	13722
Regional Rural Banks	12083	12067	12059
Other Scheduled Commercial Banks	1217	1140	1140

* Provisional Data

The number of branches in rural areas has marginally reduced due to various factors furnished below:

- (1) As a result of increase in population of rural areas, certain rural centres have been reclassified as Semi-Urban/Urban.
- (2) Certain villages have been brought under the revenue

limits of Urban Municipal Corporations which has led to reclassification of rural centres.

- (3) Banks have been permitted to convert their loss-making branches at rural centres into Satellite Offices resulting in such Offices not being included in branch statistics.
- (4) Weak Banks like Indian Bank and United Bank of India were permitted to close/merge some of their loss making rural branches under the banks' Restructuring Plan.

(c) State-wise position of number of branches of Public Sector Banks working in rural areas is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Opening of branches in rural area are left to the judgment of individual banks to assess the need for opening additional branches at rural centres within their service area. The banks' proposal for opening branches at rural centres are considered by concerned District Consultative Committee (DCC) and submitted to the RBI for prior approval through the concerned State Government.

Statement

State-wise Total number of Rural Branches of Public Sector Banks (As on 31st December, 2002)

State Name	SBI and Associates	Nationalised Banks	Public Sector Banks*
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13	4	12
Andhra Pradesh	560	699	1459
Arunachal Pradesh	35	4	39
Assam	114	355	469
Bihar	280	959	1239
Chandigarh	4	5	9
Chhattisgarh	133	169	302
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	5	5
Daman & Diu	1	-	1
Delhi	28	30	58
Goa	34	119	153
Gujarat	309	892	1201

1	2	3	4
Haryana	114	328	442
Himachal Pradesh	189	344	533
Jammu & Kashmir	80	39	119
Jharkhand	240	387	627
Karnataka	301	856	1157
Kerala	69	85	154
Lakshadweep	-	9	9
Madhya Pradesh	330	735	1065
Maharashtra	340	1341	1681
Manipur	11	9	20
Meghalaya	67	17	84
Mizoram	16	-	16
Nagaland	30	3	33
Orissa	312	531	843
Pondicherry	3	17	20
Punjab	247	699	946
Rajasthan	365	540	905
Sikkim	23	13	36
Tamil Nadu	228	1083	1311
Tripura	17	32	49
Uttar Pradesh	470	1889	2359
Uttaranchal	202	151	353
West Bengal	346	1173	1519
All India	5511	13722	19233

* Public Sector Banks comprise SBI and its 7 Associates and 19 Nationalised Banks.

[English]

Performance of Ginning Industry

667. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton ginning industry is running hardly at 35% of its capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a poor performance;

(c) the quantity of cotton processed by the industry during the last two years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of the ginning industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) The ginning & pressing industry is a seasonal one working for a period of around 9 months (October-June) during the cotton year October-September. According to a recent survey there are 3342 Ginning & Pressing factories in the country, which include 902 composite units (both ginning & pressing facilities), 122 pressing units and 2318 ginning units. This capacity is sufficient to process about 250 lakh bales per year. Taking into account average domestic production of 160 lakh bales, the capacity utilization of ginning & pressing factories is about 65%.

(b) Excess capacity has been created partly due to various incentives given by some State Governments and also due to fluctuating production of cotton in different States.

(c) The quantity of cotton processed during 2000-01 & 2001-02 cotton years is 140 lakh bales and 158 lakh bales respectively.

(d) Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve the productivity and quality of cotton. Under Mini Mission IV of the TMC, capital incentive @ 25% subject to a limit of Rs.20 lakh is provided for modernisation of ginning & pressing factories.

Gold and Silver Jewellery Industry

668. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop gold and silver jewellery industry in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote gold and silver jewellery projects in Tamil Nadu;

(d) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the same during the last three years;

(e) whether the Union Government as well as State Government find it very difficult to monitor the performance of gold and silver jewellery industries in Tamil Nadu; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to fund and monitor such industries?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) to (c) The Government has been promoting/developing the gold and silver jewellery export through its Exim Policy measures throughout the country including the State of Tamil

Nadu. The Government and the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) have taken several steps to improve the exports of gem and jewellery and enhance competitiveness in the world markets. Some of these are given below:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry have prepared a Medium Term Export Strategy for various sectors including Gem & Jewellery sector;
- The GJEPC and the Govt. constantly explore the possibility of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;
- Government have provided funds to set up the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacture;
- The GJEPC promotes the image of Indian diamonds and jewellery abroad through advertisements, publicity and participation in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets and direct approach to market retailers;
- The GJEPC identifies new markets by organising market study through consultants. It also deputed Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions to study the latest trend in designs; and
- The GJEPC promotes export of Hallmark jewellery from India so that customers abroad can be assured of quality and purity of Indian made jewellery.

In addition, the following policy initiatives have been taken for the sector in the new Exim Policy effective from 1.4.2002:-

- Customs duty on import of rough diamonds has been reduced to zero and licensing regime for rough diamond abolished.
- Value addition norms for export of plain jewellery have been reduced from 10% to 7%. Export of all mechanized unstudded jewellery is now permissible at a value addition of 3% which was earlier restricted only to gold/platinum/silver unstudded Chains and bangles manufactured by fully mechanized process.
- Personal carriage of jewellery is permissible through Hyderabad and Jaipur airports as well, in addition to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bangalore.

(d) As per the information furnished by GJEPC an amount of Rs. One lakh was availed/dispensed during the year 2001-2002 to registered member exporters of Tamil Nadu.

During the current financial year upto the month of December 2002 an amount of Rs. Eleven lakhs has been disbursed to the registered member exporters of Tamil Nadu.

- (e) No, Sir
(f) Do not arise.

Permission to Banks to Raise Subordinate Bonds

669. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Reserve Bank of India has announced a policy to allow Indian banks to tap the overseas market to raise subordinated bonds;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether this new policy will endanger the stability of Indian banks by allowing them to get into easy foreign debt;
(d) if so, the safeguards which will put in place to ensure that Indian banks do not go on a loan raising spree abroad; and
(e) the measures proposed by RBI to ensure that this policy will not create instability in the banking world?

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

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Reconstruction Fund

670. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry has requested the Government to set up a textile asset reconstruction fund to restructure the debt portfolios by replacing the high cost debt of the textile units by debts at current rate; and

- (b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Decision is yet to be taken on the proposal.

[English]

Withdrawal of Export Incentives

671. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw export incentives and concessions;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Government have received any memorandum or representation against such a move; and
(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government is not considering withdrawal of the export promotion schemes under the Exim Policy. The apex chambers of commerce and industry, trade associations and some sections of the trade and commerce have sought the continuation of the various export promotion schemes.

[Translation]

No-objection Certificate from Income Tax Department

672. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is proposal under consideration of the Government to do away with the essentiality of No-objection Certificate from Income Tax Department while leaving the country for job or staying abroad;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Various proposals regarding rationalisation and simplification of Tax Laws are considered every year during the annual Budgetary Exercise and the decision of the Government is reflected in the annual Finance Bill.

Functioning of ICICI

673. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Reserve Bank of India have identified certain lacunae in the functioning of ICICI Ltd.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the action taken by RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) ICICI Ltd. was merged with ICICI Bank Ltd. on March 30, 2002 and as such ceased to exist from that date. RBI has not observed any lacunae in the functioning of the erstwhile ICICI Ltd. on which action is being taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Expanding and Streamlining the PDS

674. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to expand and streamline the Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Public Distribution System was in a state of collapse and that the targeted system, which replaced the universal one, had failed;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have any plans to scrap the present targeted system to reintroduce the universal PDS; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The review of Public Distribution System (PDS), its impact and the reforms, etc. is a continuous process for improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

- (c) No Sir.
- (d) No Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

NPA of Banks

675. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether non-performing assets of the public sectors banks have increased alarmingly during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the NPAs of each public sector banks as on date;
- (c) whether the main reasons for the mounting of NPA of banks is the practice of non-priority sector lending and investments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government to stop such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of public sector banks and their percentage to gross advances as on 31st March, 2001 and 31st March, 2002 are given below:

		March, 2001	March, 2002
A	Gross NPAs (Rs. in Cr.)	54,672	56,507
B	% of GNPA's to gross advances	12.4	11.1

While the gross NPAs of public sector banks in absolute terms have increased during the last two years, the percentage of gross NPAs to gross advances has decreased. The gross NPAs of all public sector banks as on 31st March, 2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

- (c) No, Sir. NPAs are spread in both Priority Sector as well as Non-Priority Sector.
- (d) Does not arise.

Statement**Gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks
as on 31st March, 2002**

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Gross NPAs
1	2	3
1	State Bank of India	15485.87
2	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	615.58
3	State Bank of Hyderabad	898.52
4	State Bank of Indore	320.1
5	State Bank of Mysore	624.61
6	State Bank of Patiala	628.02
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	443.25
8	State Bank of Travancore	727.6
9	Allahabad Bank	2001.85
10	Andhra Bank	524.14
11	Bank of Baroda	448.29
12	Bank of India	3722.41
13	Bank of Maharashtra	906.42
14	Canara Bank	2112.44
15	Central Bank of India	3375.69
16	Corporation Bank	587.05
17	Dena Bank	1996.03
18	Indian Bank	2175.35
19	Indian Overseas Bank	1818.54
20	Oriental Bank of Commerce	951.79
21	Punjab & Sind Bank	1091.84
22	Punjab National Bank	4139.86
23	Syndicate Bank	1299.13
24	UCO Bank	1332.65

1	2	3
25	Union Bank of India	2420.48
26	United Bank of India	1215.50
27	Vijaya Bank	602.69
Total		56506.69

Code and Ethics for Judges

676. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring some new code and ethics for the judges so that they are, more accountable to the systems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission, which inter alia would draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Legal Sector to Foreign Advocates

677. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are facing problems in opening legal sector to foreign advocates as committed by Government and General Agreement on Trade and Tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet stiff opposition by the Indian lawyers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) As it is one of the statutory functions of the Bar Council of India to safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates (vide section 7(1)(d) of the Advocates Act 1961), it was requested for its views on the subject. The Council is totally opposed to the entry of foreign lawyers in India. The Council also adopted a Resolution in its meetings held on 24th and 25th October, 2002, which reads as under:

"The Council considered the letter of Shri R.L. Meena, Law Secretary, addressed to the Chairman, Bar Council of India requesting the Bar Council of India to send comments

in the matter to enable the Department of Legal Affairs to offer its comments to the Department of Commerce. After consideration, the Bar Council of India has reiterated its earlier view on the issue of not permitting foreign lawyers and law firms in the country. The Bar Council of India once again strongly opposes the entry of foreign lawyers as its strong views are to be made known to the Ministry of Law and Justice and Company Affairs. In this view, the Council has no other views to offer on the subject."

The Government has so far not taken any dissimilar view.

National Symposium on Tobacco

678. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Symposium on Tobacco was held at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh in January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the items of agenda discussed therein; and
- (c) the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) No such symposium was organised by the Government. However it is learnt that a 'National Symposium on Tobacco' was organized by Indian Society of Tobacco Science (ISTS) - an association of Tobacco Scientists, traders and farmers. It is also learnt that the primary focus of this symposium was to enhance the competitiveness of Indian Tobacco and explore means which would enable further acceptance of Indian Tobacco.

[Translation]

World Bank Aided Projects in Chhattisgarh

679. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some projects of Chhattisgarh are being executed with the assistance of World Bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any time limit has been fixed for the completion of the said projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO

VITHOBAADSUL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Nine multi-state projects are being executed in the State of Chhattisgarh with the assistance of World Bank. Closing dates in respect of projects are indicated against each of them:

- (i) Rural Women Development and Empowerment Project (31.12.2003)
- (ii) Hydrology Project (31.12.2003):
- (iii) TB Control Project (30.9.2004)
- (iv) Malaria Control Programme (31.3.03)
- (v) II HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (31.7.2004)
- (vi) Immunisation Strengthening Project (30.6.2004)
- (vii) II National Leprosy Elimination Project (31.12.2004)
- (viii) Reproductive and Child Health Project (31.3.2003)
- (ix) District Primary Education Project-I (30.6.2003)

[English]

Scrapping of Export Promotion Scheme

680. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are considering to scrap the Export Promotion Capital Goods Incentive scheme;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of mill owners to such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Unclaimed Money in Banks

681. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of funds deposited in the various unclaimed accounts of the nationalised banks of the country as on December 31, 2002;
- (b) the modus-operandi of the utilisation of such funds and whether there is a provision of sending information on the address of the account holders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the total amount of unclaimed deposits lying with Nationalised Banks aggregated to Rs. 468.89 crores as on 31st December, 2001 (latest available).

(b) and (c) RBI have further reported that, at present unclaimed deposits lying with the banks are deployed by them for their general business like any other deposit resources and interest is credited to such deposit accounts every year. There is no provision of sending information on the address of the account holders.

[English]

National Design Council

682. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the significant outcome of the Design Summit held recently;

(b) whether it has been decided to set up a National Design Council with the support of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII);

(c) if so, the main functions of the proposed National Design Council; and

(d) the date on which the next Design Summit is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) A Design Summit was organized in December 2002 at New Delhi by the National Institute of Design (NID) in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with the primary purpose of increasing the design consciousness of Indian Industry. The summit provided an interactive forum for sharing design/product development experiences and for developing strategies for securing a "Competitive Advantage through Design". The Summit helped in mapping a future course of action especially in the areas of placing more emphasis by Indian industry on design, bringing technology closer to design, industry-academia partnership in design incubation and encouraging designers/organizations to create and protect intellectual property rights. The presence of the world body of design i.e. the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) has also helped the Summit in its efforts towards catalyzing global connectivity for Indian industry.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) It has been tentatively proposed to hold the next Design Summit on December 10-11, 2003 in New Delhi.

Inflation Rate

683. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the prices of essential commodities are increasing day by day;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the prices of essential commodities and to contain the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Annual price rise in the group of 30 essential commodities whose prices are monitored on a weekly basis is just 2.4%. Rice, wheat and some pulses recorded a price rise between 2-3.5% only. Sugar prices are currently lower than the last few years. Only edible oil prices have risen sharply because of high international prices.

(c) Government made concerted efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management as also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Large volume of public stock of foodgrains ensured comfortable supply situation of foodgrains and helped stabilise their prices despite the severity of drought. Government's liberal release of surplus foodgrain stocks under various welfare schemes provided increased support to the vulnerable sections of the society.

Non-Tariff Barriers of Foreign Countries

684. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exporters have had to face non-tariff barriers imposed by some countries;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years; and

(c) the strategy, if any, adopted by the Government to counter the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) to (c) With the falling of Tariff Barriers consequent upon the WTO coming into existence in 1995, Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) are resorted to by several countries. They are in the form of restrictive standards, burdensome regulations and procedures, market restrictions including labelling practices, environmental regulations, restrictive sanitary and phytosanitary conditions etc. These Non Tariff Barriers affect the capacity of many countries including India to trade in the global market. India attaches great importance to addressing the issues of Non Tariff Barriers particularly on products of export interest to us.

As a first step towards addressing this issue, the Government has collected information on the major Non Tariff barriers by interacting with exporters and intense research on this issue. The problems arising due to non-tariff barriers are being duly taken up with the authorities of the country concerned, bilaterally with a view to their early and mutually satisfactory resolution. Certain issues, that are not resolved this way, have been taken up for resolution through WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism. In the WTO negotiations, India has co-sponsored proposals along with some other developing countries to disallow use of measures by developed countries that make exports difficult for developing countries.

[Translation]

Economic Block to Promote Export-Import

685. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, Egypt and South Africa propose to form a joint economic block with a view to promote import-export of consumer goods alongwith communication and information technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) No Sir. Presently there is no proposal to form a joint economic block with Egypt and South Africa.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Contempt to Court Act, 1971

686. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Contempt of Court Act, 1971; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) and (b) No Sir. The provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were thoroughly reviewed in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up by the Government to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the Contempt of Court Act, 1971 for the present.

ADB Loan

687. SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are seeking eight billion dollars aid from the Asian Development Bank over the next four years;

(b) if so, the sectors for which this aid has been sought; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to get this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) to (c) The recent country strategy and programme mission 2003-06 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed to provide assistance of US \$ 7.5 billion to India during calendar years 2003 to 2006. These loans are proposed in transport, energy, urban infrastructure, financial, agriculture and natural resources sectors. The time taken to get these loans depends upon the processing schedules mutually agreed to and will vary from project to project.

Production of Plantation Crops

688. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of rubber, coffee, tea and pepper in India during the last three years alongwith the area under cultivation and productivity of each commodity;

(b) the price obtained by farmers for these crops year-wise during the past three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government to solve the problems of farmers and workers of these plantations;

(d) whether poverty death have occurred in some plantations areas of Kerala; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) The production of rubber, coffee, tea and pepper during the last three years along with area under cultivation and productivity are given below:

Year	Production (Tonnes)	Total Area (ha)	Productivity (Kg./ha.)
Rubber			
1999-00	622265	558584	1576
2000-01	630405	562670	1576
2001-02	631400	566558	1576
Coffee			
1999-00	292000	340306	947
2000-01	301200	346716	959
2001-02	300600	348995	937
Pepper			
1999-00	58280	192270	300
2000-01	63670	213870	300
2001-02	50800	215480	300
Tea			
1999-00	836510	490200*	1685*
2000-01	848360	507196*	1669*
2001-02	847250	510492*	1672*

* Relates to Calendar Year 1999, 2000 and 2001

(b) Price obtained by the farmers for these crops during the past three years is given below:

Year	(Rs./Kg.)				
	Rubber RSS-IV	Coffee*		Tea*	Pepper
		Arabica	Robusta		
1999-00	30.99	81	60	72.79	NA
2000-01	30.36	80	40	61.71	174.24
2001-02	32.28	56	29	61.66	80.39

* Relates to calendar year 1999, 2000 and 2001

(c) To safeguard the interest of the growers of rubber, Government has taken a series of measures which include market intervention operation through STC during 1997 to 2001, fixing and notifying the minimum price of rubber, continuing the ban on import of Natural Rubber even in the QR free regime and curbing surge in imports of NR by enforcing quality standards formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards on imported rubber also and restricting import of Natural Rubber through two ports viz. Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata only.

Concerned with the problems of the coffee growers, the Government has taken a number of steps for the benefit of coffee sector which includes re-phasing of loans availed by the coffee growers, providing 5% interest relief to small growers and 3% relief to large growers on the working capital loans taken by them from financial institutions, providing transport subsidy @ 50 paise per kg. for reducing the handling cost etc.

To mitigate the problems of the growers of tea and workers of tea plantations, Govt. of India has set up three separate committees to look into the problems of farmers and workers of tea plantations in Assam including Tripura, West Bengal and Kerala, in the gardens which are closed, introduced Tea Marketing Control Order, 2003, formulated medium term strategy for boosting export of tea, launched domestic tea campaign to boost demand for tea besides restructuring the loans taken by the tea gardens and companies.

For increasing production and productivity of black pepper a centrally sponsored scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture - Supplementing/complementing the State's effort through work plans" is being implemented. The scheme provides flexibility to State Governments to prioritize the crops and interventions as required.

(d) No case of poverty death has been reported from plantation areas of Kerala.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Textile Policy

689. DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any new policy in the textile sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated a separate policy in respect of the newly created States in this regard;
- (d) whether any assistance has been provided to the newly created Uttaranchal State in the textile sector;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government have any scheme for the revival of old mills in Uttaranchal State; and
- (g) if so, the amount of assistance being provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) No new textile policy, after the National Textile Policy-2000 is proposed to be formulated. However, for the States of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, a new Industrial Policy was defined in January, 2003 which provides concessions for development of industry, including textile industry. It declares in respect of the textile sector that the funding pattern between Govt. of India and these States would be changed to 90:10 and the Ministry of Textiles would extend to them its package of incentives for the North Eastern States.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs.199.83 lakh has gone to the State of Uttaranchal under various schemes in the handlooms, handicrafts, wool and sericulture sectors.

(f) and (g) As there is no public sector textile mill in the State of Uttaranchal, there is no revival plan.

Value of Rupee

690. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of rupee against the major foreign currencies as on date;
- (b) the number of times the value of rupee fluctuated during the last two years;

- (c) the reasons for fall in the value of rupees; and
- (d) the measures taken to stabilise the value of rupee and to ensure that it rallies in relation to other currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis the major currencies as on February 14, 2003 is given below:

(i)	Rs/US \$	47.86
(ii)	Rs/Euro	51.91
(iii)	Rs/Pound Sterling	77.64
(iv)	Rs/100 Japanese Yen	39.76

(b) The movements in the exchange rates are market determined. The rupee fluctuates daily against the various foreign currencies depending upon the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market.

(c) The movement of rupee against the major currencies during the last six months (August-2002 to January 2003), indicates that the rupee has depreciated against the Pound Sterling and the Euro by 3.6 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively, and has appreciated against US \$ and Japanese Yen by 1.2 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively. The movements in the exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis other currencies depend on the demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market.

(d) India's current exchange rate policy focussing on management of volatility without a fixed rate of target and allowing the underlying demand and supply conditions to determine the exchange rate movement in an orderly way has stood the test of time. Despite unexpected adverse developments on the external and domestic front, India's external situation has remained satisfactory. The Reserve Bank of India continues to follow the approach of watchfulness, caution and flexibility, by closely monitoring the developments in the financial markets at home and abroad, and takes appropriate monetary, regulatory and other measures as considered necessary from time to time.

[English]

Corrupt Judges

691. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of Bar Association of India has called for a law to weed out corrupt Judges;

(b) if so, whether he has also suggested US type Judicial Commission to fight the menace of corruption in the Judiciary as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the December 30, 2002 under Caption "Fali calls for US type Panel on corrupt judges";

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any initiative to frame the law to overcome this problem;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a law is likely to be framed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement of the President of the Bar Association of India.

(c) to (e) The Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission which would inter-alia draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

The Political parties have been requested to communicate their views on the question of setting up of a National Judicial Commission for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts and evolve a Code of Ethics for Judges. As setting up of the Commission would involve amendment to the Constitution of India, it is not feasible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

Generation of Consumer Awareness

692. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from State Government of Kerala regarding generation of consumer awareness and protection of consumers rights; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala has submitted a

proposal on State-wide consumer awareness programme consisting of the following components:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

1. Setting up of Consumer Affairs Cell	6.35
2. Publication of consumer journal	18.00
3. Training to Panchayati Raj functionaries	3.20
4. Publicity campaigns	3.00
5. Production of documentary Films	1.50

The Government of Kerala has already received two grants from Consumer Welfare Fund in April, 2002 for awareness programme. Accordingly, the Government of Kerala has been requested to implement the earlier two programmes and submit the Utilization Certificates etc. so that the present proposal could be considered.

Foodgrains in Godowns

693. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether total 333.14 lakh tonnes against the prescribed minimum buffer norms 181 lakh tonnes of foodgrains is still excess in various godowns across the country;

(b) if so, the alternative storage facilities arranged by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure excess foodgrains are not stored in the godowns as this leads to rotting and damage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of foodgrains as on 1.1.2003 was 482 lakhs tonnes which was in excess of buffer norms.

(b) and (c) Adequate capacity is available for scientific storage of foodgrains.

Deletion from ST List

694. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to delete the Marathi community living in part of Kerala State

from the Scheduled Tribes List of Kerala whereas the Marathi community living in parts of Karnataka State is retained in the Scheduled Tribes List of Karnataka;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government of Kerala has recommended the retaining of Marathi community in the Scheduled Tribes List;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have taken steps in order to review its decision in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Marathi Community of Kerala has been deleted from the Scheduled Tribes List of Kerala vide the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 because the Government of Kerala, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had recommended its exclusion. The Marathi community of Karnataka, which is notified as Scheduled Tribe in relation to South Kanara a district has been retained in the list as there was no recommendation from the Government of Karnataka for its deletion.

(c) to (f) The Government of Kerala had subsequently recommended the retention of the Marathi community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The proposal of the Government of Kerala has been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such proposals.

Production of Luxury Goods

695. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the globalisation era, the economic gap between the industrially developed countries and the developing countries is becoming gradually broader;
- (b) whether there is an overwhelming difference in fulfilment of the demands in basic needs and pompous luxury goods;
- (c) whether in the capitalist system, the priority is given on production of luxury goods and on fulfilment of the essentials that can reach the people in majority; and
- (d) if so, the steps the Government are planning to meet the basic needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Economic globalisation seeks to remove obstacles to global movement of capital and of goods and services. Globalisation shuns protectionist policies and encourages competition by removing barriers to trade and investment, thus leading to greater efficiency and growth. The impact of globalisation, however, depends upon a country's level of development and preparedness to take on the challenges of subjecting local producing units to global competition, of being able to break into world markets, weathering the volatility of private capital flows etc.

Developing countries like China, India, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Korea have benefited from globalisation and are amongst the fastest growing economies of the world. These countries also have high growth competitiveness rankings among 80 countries for which the World Economic Forum compiles Growth Competitiveness Index (GCI).

As per World Development Report 2002, the rate of growth of GDP per capita for the High income group countries and that of lower & middle income group countries was 3.2% and 4.2% respectively in the year 1999-2000, for which comparative data is available.

(b) and (c) The capitalist system is based on the principles of 'laissez-faire' and free market. The forces of demand and supply guide all economic decisions. The system itself does not accord priority to the production of luxury goods or basic needs. The consumer's choice is paramount.

(d) The government's growth strategy for the Tenth Plan is to ensure rapid growth of those sectors which are most likely to enable achievement of a high rate of growth of GDP and also create gainful employment opportunities and to supplement the impact of growth with special programmes aimed at special target groups which may not benefit from the normal growth process.

Export of Tea

696. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum and value of tea exported to different countries particularly to Russia during the last three years, variety-wise and country-wise;
- (b) the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby during the above period;
- (c) whether exports of orthodox tea is suffering due to inadequate production;

(d) whether Government are aware of idle capacity of about 20 million kgs. of orthodox tea in South India;

(e) whether Government are considering to provide WTO compatible export promotion subsidy to orthodox tea with proof of exports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The details of major country wise export of tea in terms of quantity and value terms during the last three years are given below:

(Quantity in Million Kgs.)

(Value in Rupees Crores)

Name of the Country	2000		2001		2002 (January to November) (estimated)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Russian Federation	85.87	621.30	66.88	468.83	40.22	250.11
Other CIS Countries	9.15	92.81	15.33	156.82	12.02	119.10
Iraq	10.87	77.02	16.86	112.36	40.25	260.62
United Arab Emirate	22.13	260.42	23.35	293.59	24.00	281.48
United Kingdom	20.93	204.84	16.10	145.85	18.73	171.55
United State of America	7.47	99.21	6.18	92.83	6.49	88.62
Poland	12.53	68.35	8.27	52.00	6.19	33.11
Germany	4.57	87.63	4.18	71.89	4.42	78.90
Others	33.30	387.03	25.44	287.94	22.98	199.73
Total	206.82	1898.61	182.59	1682.11	175.30	1483.22

Variety wise export of tea to different countries is not being maintained.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir.

(e) and (f) Government/Tea Board have introduced during the last quarter of 2001-02, an export incentive scheme for assisting tea exporters towards meeting part of the cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight charges and value-addition costs, in order to achieve a perceptible increase in the quantity of tea export. A sub scheme of assistance was also introduced during the same period towards meeting additional transport and handling charges incurred for teas exported through Inland Container Depot at Amingaon (Assam). These subsidy schemes are being continued in the 10th Five Year Plan.

(g) Does not arise.

Impact of Afghan War

697. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US/UK-Afghanistan war had any impact on India's economy;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to keep the economy of our country stable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) There was some temporary

impact of the war in Afghanistan on Indian exports, stock markets, foreign exchange markets and tourism. This impact, however, was short-lived, with the Indian economy recording a much higher growth of 5.6 percent in the year 2001-02, compared with 4.4 percent in 2000-01.

(c) External impacts are always kept in view while formulating policies. In order to maintain the buoyancy in domestic economic activity and to ensure greater liquidity in the system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had reduced the bank rate and the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) in its mid-term review of the monetary and credit policy, 2001. Later, the Union Budget (2002-03) announced a series of measures for enhancing investment and augmenting growth in the domestic economy.

Transaction of Export Sale

698. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) has urged upon the Government; that the transaction of export sales to non-resident associated enterprise should not be covered under the transfer pricing regulations;

(b) whether the Government are giving incentives to such enterprises to promote export;

(c) whether there are no guidelines formulated for such transactions;

(d) whether the transfer pricing regulations are applicable to purchase and sale of intangibles between the associated enterprises;

(e) if so, whether in the absence of such guidelines no proper comparable transactions in respect of the intangibles such as royalty, technical service fees, for use of licence, trademark etc., are made;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to lay down proper guidelines for transaction of export sales to non-resident associated enterprises; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (g) Sir, the issues raised relate to tax policy. Various proposals received from different Chambers of Commerce, including the ASSOCHAM are considered as a part of the annual budget exercise and the decision of the

Government is reflected in the or annual Finance Bill. At present, when the budgetary exercise is in process, it will not be possible to respond to the Question.

Stability of SEZ

699. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to give legal stability to the Special Economic Zones which are being set up in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made an investment plan of Rs.1051 crore for the Agri-Export Zones during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are also considering to enter into regional free trade agreements with smaller neighbours; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) In order to give legal stability to the policies relating to Special Economic Zones, steps have been initiated for a Central legislation.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has so far sanctioned 45 Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) in 17 different States. The total likely investment estimated in these AEZs will be around Rs. 1248 crores. About Rs. 362 crores will flow from various Central Government agencies like Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Ministry of Agriculture and Rs.195 Crores and Rs.691 crores will be contributed by State Governments and private enterprises respectively.

(e) and (f) India and its neighbouring countries namely Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives are members of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) which was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. The final objective of the negotiation under SAPTA is the achievement of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). In the SAARC Summit held in Colombo in July, 1998, the Prime Minister of India had indicated that India would be willing to consider entering into bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with SAARC countries interested in moving faster

towards trade liberalisation. Sri Lanka responded positively to this offer and India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was signed on 28th December 1998.

A proposal for a bilateral Preferential Trade Arrangement between India-Afghanistan is under negotiation.

India is also a party to the Bangkok Agreement under which concessions have been exchanged with the other participating countries, namely, Bangladesh, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. China has also acceded to the Bangkok Agreement recently but presently no concessions have been exchanged between India and China under the Agreement.

Monopoly Purchase of Cotton

700. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Monopoly Purchase of Cotton Scheme (MPCS) of Maharashtra, is pending for its extension for five years with the Government for authorisation;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the scheme; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (c) No Sir. The Government of India gave its consent in July 2001 to the Government of Maharashtra for extension of the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for a period of five years beyond 30.06.2001 i.e. upto 30.06.2006.

Committee on CDR Mechanism

701. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had constituted a Committee to make the Cash Deposit Ratio mechanism more efficient;

(b) if so, the terms of references of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has not

constituted any Committee to examine the issue relating to Cash Deposit Ratio.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Ban on Import of Indian Seafood

702. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several countries including France have banned the import of Indian sea products;

(b) if so, the names of such countries alongwith the reasons for imposing such ban;

(c) whether India has requested France to lift this ban during the recent visit of the French Prime Minister to India;

(d) if so, the response of French Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Union Government to get this ban lifted by the other countries?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Saudi Arabia had imposed a ban on import of Indian marine products during the year 1984 consequent upon the reported instances of Cholera and the said ban still continues. No other major importing country, including France, has imposed ban on import of Indian sea products.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The subject of lifting of ban on Indian marine products by Saudi Arabia is being discussed with that country at various fora.

Sugar Export Scandal

704. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government ordered a high-level probe into multi-crore sugar export scandal;

(b) if so, whether investigations in all sugar units have been ordered for five years with priority being given from January, 2000 onwards;

(c) whether any report in this regard has been received from the inquiry committee;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government on this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) Central Government has not ordered any high level probe in regard to the export of sugar.

(b) to (e) Questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Godowns

705. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India/Central Warehousing Corporation have received offers from foreign countries for setting up of godowns in their countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government in this regard?

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.

Cooperative Banks

706. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cooperative banks are either closed down or on the verge of closure in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has conducted an investigation in the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that based upon the on-site

inspection findings and other relevant information it had been observed that the financial position of a large number of District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in Bihar and Jharkhand were highly unsatisfactory. Despite giving sufficient time and opportunity to these banks to improve the financial position, such continued unsatisfactory financial position poses threats to the interests of depositors and other stake holders. With a view to protect the interest of the depositors and on the recommendations of NABARD, RBI had rejected the applications of Daltonganj DCCB in Jharkhand and Chapra DCCB in Bihar in public interest. In so far as the urban co-operative banks functioning in these two States, licences of three banks viz. i) The Begusarai Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd., Begusarai, ii) The Peoples Co-op. Bank Ltd., Muzaffarpur, and iii) The Madhepura Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd., Madhepura were cancelled by RBI. The application for licence in respect of Nalanda Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd., Nalanda was also rejected on account of serious irregularities deficiencies revealed in the statutory inspections.

[English]

Report of Law Commission

707. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its 177th report recommended changes in the legal provisions dealing with arrest and bail in the Criminal Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other recommendations made therein; and

(c) the time by which an amendment bill effecting these changes is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The 177th Report on "Law Relating to Arrest" has already been laid on the Table of the House on 21.11.2002.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the State Governments and Union territory Administrations have been requested for their views on the recommendations of the Law Commission, as 'criminal law' is in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Effecting changes in the law would be subject to receipt of views from the State Governments and introduction and passage of an Amendment Bill in both the Houses of Parliament, for which no time-frame can be fixed.

[Translation]

(Rs. in crore)

Investor Friendly Economic Scenario

708. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken various steps to make the trade atmosphere conducive to the investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the effects thereof on the economic scenario of the country; and

(c) the employment avenues generated in the country as a result of taking these steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) The various measures announced in the Union Budget 2002-03 and in Exim Policy 2002-07, along with a liberalized Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and the other measures taken by the Government have helped in establishing a regime conducive to investment as is evident from inflows of FDI in the country and improved trade performance during April-December 2002-03. FDI in green field projects, expansion of existing projects, manufacturing and services sector has led to considerable employment generation within the country.

Revenue Collection

709. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue collected through all sorts of taxes, cess, surcharge during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage it constituted to the GDP for these years, year-wise; and

(c) the expenditure incurred during each of the year as above for collection of taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total revenue collected through all direct and indirect taxes levied and collected by the Government of India during each of the last three financial years is as under:

Financial Year	Total Revenue Collected		
	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes	Total
1999-2000	57,959	1,13,432	1,71,391
2000-2001	68,305	1,19,832	1,88,137
2001-2002	69,198	1,17,222	1,86,420

(b) The percentage of total revenue collected to the gross domestic product (GDP) for these years is as under:

Financial Year	Percentage to GDP	
	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes
1999-2000	5.05	5.8
2000-2001	5.72	5.7
2001-2002	5.50	5.6

(c) The expenditure incurred on the collection of these taxes during each of the last three financial years is as under:

Financial Year	Expenditure on Collection	
	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes
1999-2000	894	1072
2000-2001	929	1197
2001-2002	924	1233

(Rs. in crore)

Impediments to Textiles Industry

710. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile producing machinery of India

have drawn the attention of the Government towards the impediments being faced by the industry;

(b) if so, the problems and difficulties cited by the representatives of the industry;

(c) whether this industry is utilizing only a part of its established capacity in India; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to remove the difficulties of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Textile machinery industry is facing a difficult situation due to slack demand from the domestic textile industry. High production costs and fiscal duties related issues have also been contributory factors.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The capacity utilization of the Textile Machinery Manufacturing Industry during the last five years are as under:

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Capacity	54	32	31	36	28
Utilization (%)					

Source: Federation of India Textile Engineering Industry.

Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernisation of the textiles industry with a view to increase demand for hi-tech textile machinery. Development Council for textile machinery industry has been reconstituted with representatives from various segments of textile and textile machinery industry to elicit their views for policy formulation.

[English]

Free Trade Agreement with WTO Member Countries

711. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any free trade agreement with any WTO member countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of agreements signed so far, separately; and

(c) the list of commodities that have been accorded duty concessions?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi. The FTA has been made operative by the issuance of Customs Notification on 1st March, 2000. The Agreement envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products, over a period of time, except for a limited number of items in the Negative List. While India would complete the process of tariff elimination over a period of 3 years, Sri Lanka would achieve this over 8 years.

(c) The list of commodities that have been accorded duty concession by India is available in the Custom Notification No. 26/2000-Customs dated 1st March, 2000 read with Notifications No.59/2000-Customs dated 12th May, 2000; No.60/2000-Customs dated 12th May, 2000; No.20/2001 Customs dated 1st March, 2001; No. 135/2001- Customs dated 31st December, 2001; No. 24/2002-Customs dated 1st March, 2002 and No. 126/2002-Customs dated 12th November, 2002.

Bank Loan Defaulters

712. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the public sector banks to submit Status reports on the notices issued under the Securitisation Law to take over the properties of defaulters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases in which loans have been recovered through serving such notices, bank-wise; and

(d) the other actions proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the bank loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Banks have issued 15,316 notices by 31.12.2002 involving an amount of Rs. 570747.18 lakhs.

(c) The Banks have recovered an amount of Rs.7985.80 lakhs after issue of notices by 31.12.2002. The Bank-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) RBI has recently issued guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs of public sector banks upto Rs.10 crores which may also include cases where bank has initiated action under the above Act.

Statement

Bank-wise Details of Notices issued and amount recovered by Public Sector Banks as on 31.12.2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Bank	Notices issued	Amount outstanding	Amount Recovered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	680	10024.00	406.00
2.	Andhra Bank	122	5251.95	226
3.	Bank of India	726	18875.23	414.48
4.	Bank of Baroda	105	36784.00	184.00
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	36	1135.16	15.43
6.	Canara Bank	628	20010.00	265.00
7.	Corporation Bank	23	2883.19	0.00
8.	Central Bank of India	1902	90541.00	1092.00
9.	Dena Bank	190	31583.00	198.75
10.	Indian Bank	664	26686.80	559.00
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1445	31512.03	1321.08
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1097	17306.00	225.00
13.	Punjab National Bank	1467	19050.95	605.70
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	259	10132.00	197.00
15.	Syndicate Bank	999	12247.00	432.00
16.	United Bank of India	131	1385.00	125.00
17.	Union Bank of India	658	27967.00	423.00
18.	UCO Bank	1034	7464.56	200.54

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Vijaya Bank	1903	20698.00	520.00
20.	State Bank of India	284	15732.00	166.00
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	-	-	-
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	220	3742.00	261.00
23.	State Bank of Indore	-	-	-
24.	State Bank of Mysore	213	5758.00	21.30
25.	State Bank of Patiala	447	8076.00	80.58
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	67	3576.85	42.85
27.	State Bank of Travancore	16	525.46	3.81
Total		15316	570747.18	7985.90

[Translation]

Loan Against States

713. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the loans taken by the State Governments from the Union Government as on date;

(b) the names of the States which have requested additional loans from Union Government during the current financial year; and

(c) the Government response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The total outstanding loans due to Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs from the State Governments as on 31.1.2003 was Rs. 1,93,653 crores.

(b) and (c) Some State Governments like Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have requested for soft term loans in view of fiscal stress being faced by them. Government of India has assisted the States by providing Ways & Means Advances and also by advancing Plan and Non-Plan assistance to take care of their temporary mismatches in receipts and expenditure during the course of the current financial year. The Union Government has allocated Medium Term Non-Plan Loans of Rs. 3154 crores during the current financial year to some fiscally stressed State Governments, linked to Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme for fiscal consolidation by the State Governments.

PAN Cards for Private Companies

714. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people who have been issued PAN (permanent Account Number) card out of total applications received by the Income Tax Department till date;

(b) whether the Government are deliberating over handing over the work of preparation of PAN cards to private companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interest of taxpayers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As on 31.1.2003

Total applications	2,81,48,339
Valid applications	2,69,02,958
PAN allotted	2,65,94,768
% of PAN allotted over valid applications	98.85
PAN Cards issued	2,42,60,007
% of PAN Cards over PAN allotted	91.22

(b) and (c) The proposal to outsource the allotment of PAN and issue of PAN cards is under consideration of the Government. This is being done for providing better taxpayers' service and to enable the Income Tax Department to focus on its core functions such as assessment, investigation and revenue collection.

(d) Necessary safeguards to protect the interest of taxpayers' are being taken.

[English]

FDI Rules

715. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India is incorporating

many new components in the FDI basket in line with international practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which India's foreign direct investment is expected to rise as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) data released by RBI only accounts for cash acquisition of equity and preference share capital, whereas the International Monetary Fund (IMF) / Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD), definition of FDI includes apart from equity capital, reinvested earnings and intra-company debt transactions between related entities.

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) constituted a committee with representatives from DIPP and RBI which has recommended that the components of FDI should be incorporated in terms of the norms prescribed by the IMF.

According to a recent study conducted by International Finance Corporation (Washington), adoption of international standards for computation of FDI would raise India's net annual FDI inflows from US\$ 2-3 billion to about US\$ 8 billion.

Apparel Park in U.P.

716. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up Apparel Exports Park at Aganampudi in Vishakhapatnam District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the setting up of the Apparel Export Park at the above-mentioned place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project proposal was received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up an Apparel Park at Aganampudi in Vishakhapatnam District with a project cost of Rs. 27.53 crores (including cost of land) 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 above project proposal. The central assistance under the Scheme would be admissible to the extent of 75% of the infrastructure development cost (excluding the cost of land) subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores. In addition, 100% assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 5 crores is available for setting up of an effluent treatment plant, creche/s, any multi purpose centre/hall for marketing / display etc. and assistance to the tune of 50% subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 crores is available for the cost of any training facility created in the park. Central grant under the Scheme is to be released on regular reimbursement basis.

(c) and (d) The State Government has already acquired land for the Park and has conducted the survey and layout approval for development of site. The PAC reviewed the progress of implementation of the Park on 18-12-2002.

Amendment to Law Pertaining to Rape and Sexual Assault on Women

717. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Law Commission has recommended for amending the laws pertaining to rape and sexual assault on women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) The Law Commission in its 172nd Report on "Review of Rape Laws" has recommended various changes in law concerning rape and other sexual offences. A copy of the said Report has already been laid on the table of the House on 21.12.2000.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the State Governments have been requested for their views on the recommendations of the Law Commission, as 'criminal law' is in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Take over of UTI-II Scheme

718. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the bifurcated portion of the UTI (UTI-II) will be entrusted on a Asset Management Company (AMC) and it will make it privatised;
- (b) if so, the details of the sponsors of the AMC; and
- (c) the benefits the Government are expecting from the privatisation of UTI-II?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (sponsors) have set up UTI Mutual Fund, the UTI Trustee company and the UTI Asset Management company (P) Ltd., in accordance with SEBI (Mutual Fund) Regulations. The UTI Asset Management Company (P) Ltd. is managing the schemes mentioned in the Schedule II to the Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Act 2002. As per the agreement signed between the government and the above sponsors on 15th January, 2003, Government will receive compensation from the sponsors for a price to be determined by mutual agreement. Also, this move ring fences the liability of Government towards UTI and allows UTI-II to be run like other Mutual Funds in the country under SEBI regulations.

Import of Vanaspati

719. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Vanaspati producing units have been closed down as a result of import of cheap vanaspati from neighbouring Nepal;
- (b) if so, whether these imports are a result of World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement;
- (c) if so, the steps taken to save the country's vanaspati units;
- (d) the number of workers affected due to closures in various units, State-wise; and
- (e) the welfare measure taken for these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (e) The closure of vanaspati producing units was on account of various factors, such as creation of production capacity not commensurate with availability of raw materials, obsolete technology, poor economics of scale, shift in consumer preference towards soft oils, competition from cheaper imports from Nepal under Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, etc. No precise figures/information about the number of workers associated with such closed vanaspati producing units, affected exclusively due to import of cheap vanaspati from Nepal and the welfare measures taken for those workers are available.

Trade between India and Nepal is governed by the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade which had allowed duty free entry to the Nepalese products into the Indian market without any value addition.

On the basis of certificate of origin issued by His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) after December, 1996 it had resulted in excessive inflow of certain commodities manufactured in Nepal including vegetable oils adversely affecting the Indian domestic industry. Accordingly, on March 2, 2002 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade was reviewed and modified incorporating the following major revisions to address the concerns of Indian Industry:-

(i) Value addition norm has been reintroduced under which a maximum of 75% of third country inputs have been allowed for one year from 6.3.2002 and a maximum of 70% of third country inputs thereafter.

(ii) Third country inputs have to be different than the finished products manufactured in Nepal at four digit H.S.Code.

(iii) Nepal is to provide data to India on calculations for grant of Certificate of Origin. The Revised Treaty has provisions for review of Certificate of Origin by India in case of doubt.

(iv) Safeguard clause introduced when Nepalese imports cause injury or threaten to cause injury to Indian Industries. Under this clause, India can withdraw the preferential facility to Nepal if consultation do not resolve the problem.

(v) Annual Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) has been fixed for duty free imports of certain items including vegetable fats (Vanaspati) for which the quota is 1,00,000 MTs per year. Imports beyond this quota are permitted under normal MFN rates of duty. Vegetable oil imports upto the TRQ limit of 1 lakh MTs have been allowed through Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) the Indian canalizing agency.

[Translation]

Mid Term Review of PDS System

720. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have made mid-term review of Public Distribution System during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the target fixed for that plan period has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had made the recommendations after mid-term review of the Public Distribution System (PDS). These include:-

i) Items other than rice and wheat need to be excluded from the purview of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

ii) Completely decontrol sugar and take it out of PDS.

iii) The coverage of TPDS and food subsidy should be restricted to the population below poverty line.

(c) to (e) With regard to TPDS, no quantitative targets were fixed for the 9th plan. However, to increase food availability to below poverty line families, the scale of issue of foodgrains has been increased to 35 kgs per family per month. The Central Issue Prices (CIP) for BPL families has not been revised since 25.07.2000. For the, one crore poorest of the poor families, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched wherein 35 kg of foodgrains are being supplied at highly subsidized price of Rs.2 a kg for wheat and Rs.3 a kg for rice.

The Sugar supplied under PDS has now been restricted only to BPL families in all States/UTs except the North-Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where it is being supplied to all ration cardholders.

*[English]***Distribution of Sugar and Kerosene**

721. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar and kerosene given to Tamil Nadu and Kerla for distribution through the Public Distribution System during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government intend to stop distribution of sugar and kerosene through the PDS; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The quantum of sugar and kerosene given to Tamil Nadu and Kerala for distribution through the Public Distribution System during the each of the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Quantum of Sugar and Kerosene oil allocated for distribution through Public Distribution System during the last three years:

Sugar

(Figures in tonnes)

Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Kerala	1,53,240	1,46,188	56,436
Tamil Nadu	2,93,644	2,80,073	1,43,420

Kerosene

(Figures in tonnes)

Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Kerala	3,02,078	3,09,149	2,69,497
Tamil Nadu	7,32,527	7,32,527	6,34,658

Corruption in PDS

722. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System is collapsing due to widespread corruption;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to monitor the scheme more effectively; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 had been issued by the Government on 31st August, 2001 in order to streamline the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System and to make it more effective and accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provision of the Order invokes criminal liability under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A Task Force has been constituted to look into the irregularities in the implementation of the TPDS and Antyodaya Anna Yojana in the identified areas. The State Governments are also required to furnish Utilisation Certificates confirming that the foodgrains lifted from the Central Pool have been distributed to the intended beneficiaries under the TPDS.

European Investment Banks Investment to SSI

723. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Investment Bank proposed to lend 50 million Euros to small-scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the detail thereof and the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government have finalised any strategy for disbursement of loans; and

(d) if so, the detail in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) European Investment Bank (EIB) is considering a proposal to lend 50 million Euro to Rabo India Finance Private Limited. As per the proposal, the loan would part finance investment projects implemented in India to help finance small and medium size investment projects featuring a mutual interest for Indian and the European Union in industry and related services, infrastructure, tourism, energy, information technologies, environmental protection and telecommunications. A request has been received on 18-02-2003 from EIB for the agreement of the Indian authorities on the proposed loan.

(c) and (d) Rabo India Finance Private Limited would be the borrower of the contemplated loan and would on lend to beneficiaries and the Government would not be disbursing the loan.

Meeting to Step up Investment

724. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Dr. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently held a meeting with industry chamber to discuss ways to step up investment and to remove the bottlenecks impeding the investment climate;

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

(c) the views made by the FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM in the meeting; and

(d) the response of the Government on the views/demands of the industry chambers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. A meeting between Commerce & Industry Minister and Industry Chambers was held on 6th January, 2003. Issues raised by the Chambers in that meeting included the need for reducing interest rates and subsidies; adopting flexible labour laws; providing investment for better infrastructure; and proposals relating to Direct and Indirect Taxes. These were taken into account in preparing the pre-budget proposals/recommendations of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion for the Budget 2003-04 which were forwarded to Ministry of Finance.

Insurance Frauds

725. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recently admitted that the Indian laws are inadequate to handle insurance frauds;

(b) the details of insurance frauds came to the notice of the Government during the past three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the effective laws to deal with insurance frauds?

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

Recovery of Banks Loans

726. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the public sector scheduled Banks which have improved their position as on 31st March, 2002 through recovering their NPA;

(b) whether there is a decline in seeking loan from the banks by the entrepreneurs; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The following 10 public sector banks have shown improvement in position of gross non-performing assets as on 31st March, 2002 as compared to the previous year:

1. State Bank of India
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur
3. State Bank of Hyderabad
4. State Bank of Indore
5. State Bank of Patiala
6. State Bank of Saurashtra

7. State Bank of Travancore
8. Canara Bank
9. Indian Bank
10. United Bank of India

(b) No, Sir. The loans and advances given by the public sector banks increased from Rs.4,14,989 crores as on 31st March, 2001 to Rs.4,80,681 crores as on 31st March, 2002.

(c) Does not arise.

Investment in Kerala

727. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced any new financial investment in Kerala in the recently held global investment meet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other areas where Government are planning to invest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL) : (a) to (c) The Global Investors Meet held in Kochi during 18-19 January, 2003 was organised by the Government of Kerala to converge investors from across the globe to promote foreign investment in Kerala.

In his speech the Prime Minister mentioned that while Kerala has the potential to absorb huge private and foreign investments, over the next few years and Kerala will see Central investments of over Rs. 10,000 crore in projects of public sector units.

Further, the work in regard to the Vallarpadam International Container Terminal would commence within the next few months.

Ocean Freight Subsidy

728. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to give ocean freight subsidy to boost country's sugar export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which said subsidy is likely to help to boost the sugar export;

(d) the present level of sugar export; and

(e) the incentives given/proposed to be given to the sugar industry to overcome deep crisis faced by the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Central Government has decided that neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage would be reimbursed to sugar factories at the rate of Rs.350 per tonne with effect from 14.02.2003. It would boost exports of sugar further.

(d) As per published data of Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, the quantity of sugar exported between April, 2003 and August, 2003 is 4.62 lakh tonnes valued at Rs.509.89 crores.

(e) In the recent months the Government has given the following incentives to the sugar industry:-

(i) Buffer Stock of 20 lakhs tonnes of sugar:

A Buffer Stock of 20 lakhs tonnes of sugar has already been created involving an outgo of Rs.412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund; Rs.374 crores would be released by Banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, an amount of Rs.786 crores would become available for the payment of cane price dues to the farmers.

(ii) Reimbursement of Internal Transport and Freight Charges

It has been decided to reimburse internal transport and freight charges to sugar factories. Reimbursement of internal transport charges, incurred on export shipments of sugar, has already been allowed. Similarly, neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage at the rate of Rs.350 per tonne on account of export shipments of sugar would now be reimbursable.

Funds Through Disinvestment

729. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money so far earned by the Government through disinvestments of PSU-wise;

(b) in which fund the said money has been deposited; and

(c) the sector-wise details of the funds spent during each of the last three years out of the money earned through disinvestments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) A statement showing the amount of money earned by the Government through disinvestment PSU-wise is annexed.

(b) and (c) Amount realized through disinvestment of PSUs is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and appropriation therefrom is approved by the Parliament.

Statement

Disinvestment proceeds realized during 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (upto 17.2.03)

Name of PSU	Proceeds realized (Rs. in crore)
1	2
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Domestic issue.	75.00
Gas Authority of India Ltd. GDR issue	945.00
Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. Strategic sale.	105.45
BALCO Financial Restructuring.	244.42
Proceeds of cross purchase of shares during 1998-99 received during 1999-2000.	459.27
Total	1,829.14
Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)	551.50
Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	148.80
Madras Refineries Ltd. (Chennai Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.)	509.33
Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL)	659.10
Total	1868.13
HTL Ltd.	55.00
CMC Ltd.	152.00
India Tourism Development Corporation.	
(i) Ashok Bangalore	39.41@
(ii) Bodhgaya Ashok	1.81
(iii) Hassan Ashok	2.27
(iv) Madurai Ashok	4.97
(v) TBABR, Mamallapuram	6.13

	1	2
(vi) Agra Ashok		3.61
(vii) Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur		6.77
(viii) Qutab Hotel, New Delhi		34.46
(ix) Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi.		71.93
Sub Total		171.36
Hotel Corporation of India		
(i) Juhu, Mumbai		153.00
(ii) Rajgir		6.51
Sub Total		159.51*
IBP Ltd.		1,153.68
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.		3,689.00**
State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.		40.00#
Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd.		60.00#
Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.		151.70
Total		5,632.25

* Proceeds to go to Air India.

** Includes dividend of Rs. 755 crore and special interim dividend and dividend tax of Rs. 1,495 crore.

Transfer of cash reserves.

@ Inclusive of Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment (MGAP), Security Deposit and Business Transfer Consideration etc.

Name of PSU	Amount realized (Rs. in crore)
Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	445.00
Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	1,491.00
Ten Hotel properties of ITDC	272.81
Maruti Udyog Ltd.	1,000.00
Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai (an unit of Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.)	83.00
Modern Foods (India) Ltd. (sale of residual 25.995% shares)	44.07
Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (disinvestments of 1.46% shares in favour of employees)	6.18
Total	*3,342.06

*Upto 17.2.2003.

CBI Raids on Public Servants

730. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn to the newsitem captioned "ACs for dogs and Cash in Mattresses" published in the 'Times of India' dated 10th January, 2003 (Delhi edition);

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such tendency amongst high ranking officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBI who conducted the raids has forwarded a preliminary investigation report in the case of both the concerned officers as under:

(i) In the case of one officer it has been reported that during the searches, cash amount of Rs. 1.5 crores including 3 cheques and bank balance of Rs. 51.5 lacs, FDRs worth Rs. 77 lacs, Gold - 3.7 kgs. worth Rs. 15 lacs (approx.) and properties worth Rs. 70 lacs including two cars were seized.

(ii) In the case of the other officer it has been reported that investigations have revealed that the officer has assets (moveable as well as immovable) worth Rs. 1.22 crores which includes a huge farm house at Jaipur, one flat in a posh locality of Ahmedabad, four vehicles, cash of Rs. 22 lacs recovered from the locker of his wife, huge balances in the bank/PPF accounts etc.

(c) The concerned officers have been placed under suspension. After receipt of final report from the CBI and after consulting Central Vigilance Commission, if necessary, further action will be taken. Besides, in the Income Tax Department a restructured set up has been put in place under which there is close monitoring by the supervisory officers, which will act as a check on corruption. The vigilance machinery of the Income Tax Department has also been strengthened by upgrading the existing Directorate of Income-tax (Vigilance) to the level of Directorate General of Income-tax (Vigilance). Four Regional Directorates of Income Tax (Vigilance) have been created at Delhi, Mumbai Kolkata and Chennai.

Prices of Silk

731. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have increased the price of imported silk of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its impact on domestic market; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interests of domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (c) The Government of India vide Customs' Notification No. 2/2003 dated 2nd January, 2003 has imposed anti-dumping duty equivalent to the difference between the amount of US \$ 33.19 per kg and the landed value of imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown), 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported from, Peoples' Republic of China. The said anti-dumping duty has been imposed provisionally, pending final determination and shall be effective upto 1st July, 2003. Its exact impact on domestic market cannot be assessed so early though there seems to be marginal increase in the domestic prices of raw silk and reeling cocoons.

(d) Government has taken the following steps to protect the interests of domestic market:

i. The central and centrally sponsored sericulture schemes of X Plan period aim to substantially expand mulberry silk and non-mulberry silk production, by assisting and supporting quality and productivity in on farm and post farm activities. Measures include the adoption of bivoltine sericulture to improve quality of Indian silk to international standards and its productivity and cost competitiveness, improve technologies at all stages of the process of silk development, encouragement to clustering of activities of reeling and weaving and strengthen linkages between the producers and industry and diversify products with inputs for improvement of looms and designs to expand the export share of the country.

ii. Central Silk Board (CSB) operates raw material banks and provides margin money to the State marketing agencies to ensure fair price to sericulture farmers; and

iii. For technological upgradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile sector is available inter alia to silk sector.

iv. Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under Open General Licence (OGL), which has increased availability of good quality silk.

BPL Quota of Wheat and Rice

732. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are allotting Below Poverty Line quota of wheat and rice on the basis of 21 :20 lakh BPL families instead of 35 lakh BPL families in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government for the increase of quota; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union government on the demand of the State Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), allocation of foodgrains to all States/UTs is being made as per the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission (1993-94), up-dated on the population projections of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000, without exception. This criteria is being uniformly followed for all the States/UTs and can't be altered in isolation.

[Translation]

External Loan

733. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the loan taken by the Government from World Bank during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of loan of World Bank and Asian Development Bank outstanding on the country as on date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to repay the external loan during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) The Government took the following loans from the World Bank [International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)] during the last three years:

(Figures in Rs. crore)

Year	IDA	IBRD	World Bank (Total)
1999-00	3515.56	850.32	4365.88
2000-01	4338.21	6452.13	10790.34
2001-02	4264.44	5713.47	9977.91

(b) The external debt outstanding in respect of IBRD, IDA and ADB as on 31.1.2003 is Rs. 27064.13, 101192.26 and 13974.75 crore respectively.

(c) This year (upto 31.12.2002), amounts of Rs. 8089.84 crore and Rs. 3064.94 crore respectively have been paid towards principal and interest., The Government of India has also decided to repay prematurely two ADB and IBRD loans for US \$ 1254 million and US \$ 1549 million respectively in the current financial year, ahead of schedule.

The repayment in a particular year is done as per the Budget Provisions for that year. The Government of India is following a prudent external debt management policy that focuses on concessional and less expensive debt from multilateral and bilateral sources, keeping the maturity structure of the total external debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt, prepayment of more expensive external debt and encouraging non-debt flows on capital account and exports and invisibles on current account.

[English]

Cooperative Banks

734. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has urged more powers to supersede the boards of erring cooperative and also to cancel their licences;

(b) is so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check frauds in cooperative banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) The extant provisions of the Banking Resolution (BR) Act, 1949 do not give Reserve Bank of India (RBI) powers to supersede the Board of Directors of

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) on its own but the same are vested with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) in terms of provisions contained in Cooperative Societies Act of the concerned State. RBI, however, in the interest of depositors and in order to secure proper management can requisition RCS to supersede the Board of Directors. Of late, in order to give more autonomy to the Cooperatives, some of the State Governments have recently passed new enactments, which grant lot of operational freedom to them. While examining the provisions of these enactments it was observed that UCBs registered under these enactments as cooperatives cannot be termed as a Cooperative Society as defined under section 2 (f) of the NABARD Act, 1981 and would therefore be outside the purview of Section 56 of BR Act, 1949. Thus RBI has no regulatory powers on such banks. In view of the above, the matter has been taken up by RBI with the concerned States for making necessary amendments so as to bring UCBs registered under the concerned Act on par with the definition of eligible Cooperative Bank as defined in Section 2 (gg) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 and also empowering RBI to issue necessary regulatory orders.

(c) As a measure towards prevention of frauds, RBI has been issuing detailed guidelines for curbing occurrence of frauds in various sensitive areas of bank functioning. Banks have also been issued detailed instructions for prevention of fraudulent encashment of dividend warrants, etc. and to strengthen their internal control machinery and to introduce a system of internal inspections. The banks have also been advised to be extra careful in the area relating to account opening procedures, custody of documents, loans against deposits, use of middlemen, etc.

Capital Account Convertibility

735. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a nine-points reforms agenda to take India towards full capital account convertibility;

(b) if so, the details of the reforms agenda;

(c) the reaction and response of the Indian and foreign trade and industry thereto; and

(d) the impact of this on the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) On January 10, 2003 speaking on the occasion of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebration in New Delhi, the Union Minister of Finance and Company Affairs announced the following relaxations on capital account transactions for a period of six months:

- Removal of the limit of US \$ 20,000 for remittance under the Employees Stock Options Programme (ESOP) Scheme;
- Discontinuation of limits on trade-related loans and advances by Export Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) account holders, though the transactions will continue to be reportable to RBI. General permission to retain ADR/GDR proceeds abroad for future foreign exchange requirements;
- Permission to corporates, who have set up their branches and offices abroad to acquire immovable property overseas for their business/staff residential purposes;
- Permission to listed Indian companies to invest abroad in companies listed in recognized overseas stock exchanges and having at least 10 percent shareholding in a company listed on a recognised stock exchange in India, on January 1 of the year of investment. Such investments should not exceed 25 percent of the Indian company's net worth as on the date of the last audited balance sheet;

Mutual funds are permitted to invest abroad in companies which are listed on overseas stock exchanges and which have at least 10 percent shareholding in a company listed on a recognized stock exchange in India on January 1 of the year of investment. The overall cap for investment abroad by mutual funds is raised to US \$ 1 billion;

- Apart from companies, individuals are also permitted to invest abroad in companies which are listed on overseas stock exchanges and which have at least 10 percent shareholding in a company listed on a recognized stock exchange in India on January 1 of the year of investment. However, no investment limits are fixed for individuals;
- With regard to transfer of assets in India, remittance of proceeds up to US \$ 1 million is permitted.

(c) and (d) The announcement of these policies, in general, was welcomed by the industry, trade organisations and the Non-Resident Indians.

Supply of Foodgrains for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

736. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India has to realise an amount of more than Rs. 500 crore from the Ministry of Human Resource Development for supplying foodgrains for the mid-day meal scheme;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof,
- (c) whether the FCI has now threatened to stop supply of foodgrains unless the Ministry of Human Resource Development pays these arrears first;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) the response of the Ministry of Human Resource Development thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by FCI, amount of Rs.493.04 crores is to be realised from the Ministry of Human Resource Development as on 31.01.2003 for the supply of foodgrains for the mid-day meal scheme.

(c) and (d) The FCI has not stopped the supply of foodgrains for the mid-day meal scheme. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been advised to clear the outstanding immediately.

(e) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has requested the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution not to interrupt supplies under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. They have also informed that they have requested the Ministry of Finance to provide sufficient funds for the purpose to settle the outstanding payment.

Special Scheme in Powerloom Sector

737. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to launch a special scheme in the powerloom sector;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and
- (c) the time by which the scheme is proposed to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) to (c) Government has the following schemes in the 10th Plan period (2002-07) for the powerloom sector:

(i) Modernisation and strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres

Government has set up 44 powerloom service centres, in major powerloom concentration areas in different states to provide various service including training, testing, technical consultations, design development etc. to powerloom units and weavers. In 9th Plan 21 powerloom services centres were provided with modern machines and equipment such as shuttle less looms, pirn winders, and sectional warping machine etc. In the 10th plan Government has approved a scheme to equip the remaining 23 powerloom service centres with similar machines and also strengthen all 44 powerloom service centres with enhanced grant-in-aid to use suitable technical man-power to increase the effectiveness of the services of these centres.

(ii) Support to Computer Aided Design Centre

To facilitate the creation of new designs, so as to meet the need of fast changing global trends in fashion, Computer Aided Design Centres have been set up in 17 powerloom clusters located in different parts of the country. Government would continue the support to these centres in the 10th Plan as per the pattern approved.

(iii) Welfare of Workers

With a view to provide safety net to the powerloom workers, who are likely to be affected due to globalisation of the industry, Government is implementing a scheme of Welfare of Workers. Under the scheme since 1992-93, Government has introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Worker in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The scheme is being continued in the 10th plan with revision to enable greater death and disability benefit, which would be available to powerloom workers aged between 18 to 60 years and earning a minimum average wage of Rs.700 per month on payment of a premium contribution of Rs.40/- per annum. Another component of the scheme is to provide assistance for worksheds for powerloom workers so as to improve their working condition and enable them to modernize.

Development of Export Promotion Councils

738. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have any plans to

develop more export promotion councils in the country to promote exports;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to promote export promotion councils in the country;
- (d) the details of the amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the same during the last three years;
- (e) whether the Union Government as well as the State Government of Tamil Nadu find it very difficult to fund and monitor the performance of export promotion councils; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Exim Policy, the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) have been made responsible for the promotion of a particular group of products, projects and services. Financial support to EPCs is provided under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme to facilitate various promotional activities such as participation and organization in respect of international exhibitions/fairs, buyer-seller meets, sales-cum-study tours, publicity campaigns, dissemination of trade information, etc.

(d) The year-wise details of the total amount allocated and disbursed/utilised under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) Schemes during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Financial Year	Amount Allocated		Amount Disbursed/Utilised	
		MDA	MAI	MDA	MAI
1.	1999-2000	27.00	--	27.00	--
2.	2000-2001	35.00	--	35.00	--
3.	2001-2002	44.00	14.50	44.00	14.50

(e) No specific difficulties have been faced by the Government. As the EPCs are working at national level, the State Governments are not involved.

(f) Does not arise.

Foreign Exchange Holdings

739. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has changed its policy of deployment of foreign exchange;
- (b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has decided to hold more of the foreign exchange in cash rather than in foreign exchange bonds;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether this policy is likely to earn less interest in foreign currency than before; and
- (e) if so, the details of the changes of present deployment policy of RBI with regard to foreign exchange holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India continues to be led by objectives of safety, liquidity, and return in deployment of foreign exchange reserves. There has been no change either in the objectives set out for management of reserves or in the broad procedures followed by the Bank to achieve these objectives. Depending upon the conditions prevailing in the international financial markets, the Reserve Bank makes marginal changes in the currency/asset composition in the portfolio with a view to increasing the return and/or minimising the risk of losses.

(d) and (e) The interest rates on financial assets have been declining very steeply in the international markets during the last two years due to sluggish economic growth prospects in the major economies, and hence any investment in the international markets is likely to fetch a lower rate of return currently than what could have earned two years back.

Action Against Vanished Companies

740. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names and other details of companies declared vanished during the last three years;
- (b) whether the SEBI has taken any action against the Director and Managements of vanishing companies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, company-wise; and

(d) the further action plan of Government in this regard?

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

[Translation]

Food for Work Programme

741. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of additional foodgrains demanded by the State Governments under 'Food for Work Programme';

(b) the quantity given by the Union Government to each State during each of the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (c) The foodgrains allocated to the notified drought affected States under Food For Work Programme during each of the last two years is as per the statement. The Programme was discontinued on 1.4.2002.

Statement

(Fig. in tonnes)

Sl.No.	State	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	165000
2	Bihar	-	100000
3	Chhattisgarh	207000	419007
4	Gujarat	90000	58105
5	Himachal Pradesh	11549	-
6	Karnataka	-	100000
7	Kerala	-	5000
8	Madhya Pradesh	63079	188665
9	Maharashtra	10000	140000

1	2	3	4
10	Orissa	100000	150000
11	Rajasthan	118145	621360
	Total	599773	3432137

[English]

Agri-Export Zones

742. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up Agri Export Zones (AEZs) in various States for the export of farm produce on the basis of specific products and geographical areas;

(b) if so, the location-wise and product-wise details of AEZs already established and the results achieved therefrom;

(c) the States in which AEZs are proposed to be set up and the time schedule fixed therefor;

(d) whether any consultations have been held with the State Governments in this regard;

(e) whether AEZ is also proposed to be set up in the State of Kerala and in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra which have great potential for export of agricultural produce; and

(f) if so, the assistance provided to the State Governments for the establishment of AEZs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) Till date the Central Government has sanctioned 45 Agri Export Zones (AEZs) for being set up in 19 different states as per details given in the enclosed statement. These AEZs are in different stages of implementation. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA) is the nodal agency appointed by the Central Government to promote setting up of AEZ and it interacts with the State Governments as required.

(e) and (f) An AEZ has been approved for being set up in Kerala entailing likely investment of Rs. 29.87 crores which

includes support of Rs. 9.98 crores from Central Government agencies. Five AEZs have been approved in the State of Maharashtra with a total likely investment of Rs. 107.31 crores including support of Rs. 30.34 crores from Central Government agencies.

Statement

List of Approved Horticulture Agri Export Zones

S.No.	State	Product
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Mango Pulp & Fresh Vegetables, Mangoes, Mango & Grapes
2.	Assam	Fresh & Processed Ginger
3.	Bihar	Lychee
4.	Gujarat	Mango & Vegetables
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Apples
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Apples, Walnut
7.	Jharkhand	Vegetables
8.	Karnataka	Gherkins, Rose Onions, Flowers,
9.	Kerala	Horticulture Products
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Potatoes, Onion and Garlic, Seed Spices, Wheat
11.	Maharashtra	Grapes & Grape Wine, Mango, Kesar Mango, Flowers, Onions
12.	Orissa	Ginger and Turmeric
13.	Punjab	Vegetables, Potatoes, Basmati Rice
14.	Sikkim	Flowers (orchids) & Cherry Pepper, Ginger
15.	Tamil Nadu	Flowers, Mangoes
16.	Tripura	Organic Pineapple
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Potatoes, Mangoes & Vegetables, Mangoes, Basmati Rice
18.	Uttaranchal	Lychee, Flowers, Basmati Rice, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants
19.	West Bengal	Pineapple, Lychee, Potatoes, Mango, Vegetables

Indian Economy

743. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-resident Indians are depositing their money to seize opportunity presented by the interest rate differentials between US and India;

(b) if so, its impact on the Indian economy; and

(c) the steps to be proposed to naturalise the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) A recent study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 'Accretion to Foreign Exchange Reserves in India: Sources, Arbitrage and Costs', indicates that non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits have experienced a net increase of US \$ 2.1 billion during April-November 2002, compared with an almost identical increase of US \$2.2 billion during April-November 2001. The accretion includes drawdown of deposits from the non-resident, non-convertible rupee accounts, which were discontinued from March, 2002. Since 1999-2000, annual net inflows in NRI deposits have ranged between US \$1.5-2.7 billion. Thus, the current trends in non-resident deposits have been consistent with those observed during the past few years. The RBI study points out that despite a differential of 3-4 percent between Indian and international interest rates, there is no evidence to suggest that arbitrage opportunities have led to accretion of foreign exchange reserves in India.

[Translation]

Income Tax Against Filmstars

744. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of income tax outstanding against each of the famous ten top film artists and industrialists of the country during the previous financial year separately;

(b) the names alongwith the date from which the income tax is due against each of them;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to recover the income tax dues; and

(d) the rebate being offered by the Government to ensure timely deposit of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details of outstanding taxes in respect of categories such as famous film artists, industrialists, etc.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Recovery of Income Tax is being effected through the machinery as provided under Chapter XVII and Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961. The measures include, inter-alia, issuance of statutory notice U/s 220(2), charging of interest and levy of penalty for non-payment of dues, attachment of bank account of the defaulter and amounts owed by debtor(s) to such a defaulter, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties of the defaulter, arrest of the defaulter, appointing a receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties, etc.

(d) No rebate is offered by the Government to ensure timely deposit of Income Tax.

[English]

National Law School

745. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the National Law Schools have been set up on the pattern of Bangalore;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up at least one such National Law School in every State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The Bar Council of India has informed that apart from the National Law School of India University at Bangalore there are four more National Law Schools in the country. They are:

1. National Academy of Legal Studies & Research University of Law, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;
2. National Law University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan;
3. National Law Institute University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; and

4. National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata, West Bengal.

(b) There is no proposal to set up at least one such National Law School in every State.

(c) Question does not arise.

Role of Independent Directors in Companies

746. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naresh Chandra Committee has submitted its Report on the Corporate Administration;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee on the role of independent directors; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The committee has broadly recommended that independent directors should be able to speak in the interest of shareholders and discharge their fiduciary oversight functions. The Government is taking steps to define 'independent directors' in the Companies Act, 1956.

Agreement Signed by SEBI

747. SHRI AMBAREESHA :

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed or proposed to sign agreements with its various counterparts in the world to share information on securities dealings in order to get timely information against market manipulators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact in the share market of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed Memorandum of Understanding with:

- a) Securities Commission Malaysia

- b) Financial Services Commission, Mauritius
- c) Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka

SEBI has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on co-operation, consultation and provision of technical assistance.

SEBI also proposes to become signatory of the Multilateral MOU amongst members of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). SEBI's application is pending for approval by the IOSCO Committee of Chairman.

SEBI is also contemplating signing bilateral MOUs on co-operation with other IOSCO members.

(c) The provisions of the respective MOUs facilitate providing assistance and exchange of information to for ensuring compliance with securities markets' laws and regulations. The scope of the MOU includes providing assistance and taking action against insider dealing, market manipulation and other fraudulent practices in securities dealings. The exchange of information also seeks to promote high standards of fair dealing and integrity in the conduct of business.

Consumer Forums

748. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat have requested the Union Government for grant of Rs. 120 lakhs to open Consumer Forums in new districts formed in the State to hear the complaints and grievances of the consumers;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the grant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat requested for the financial assistance of Rs. 120 lacs for setting up of District Forums in six newly created districts in Gujarat. Setting up of the State Commission and District Forums is the responsibility of the State Government as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Central Government does not provide any grant to the State/UT for setting up of State Commission and District Forums. However, financial

assistance under One-Time-Grant scheme had been provided to the States and UTs in 1995-99 to supplement their efforts for strengthening the infrastructure of the State Commissions and District Forums already established at the time of approval of the said scheme by the Planning Commission. Proposals made to provide additional grant to strengthen the infrastructure of the forums already established, besides the newly established State Commissions and District Forums were not approved by the Planning Commission.

Group of Ministers for Non-Agri Products

749. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on WTO Affairs approved setting up of the Group of Ministers to expedite finalization of proposal on non-agricultural products for the WTO.

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the group; and

(c) the time by which the GoM has been asked to submit its recommendations to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir an appropriate decision making structure has been established for finalization of India's proposal on non-agricultural products for the negotiations in the WTO.

(b) The decision making structure includes the concerned ministries of the Government.

(c) No specific time limit has been set.

Inclusion in ST List

750. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the inclusion of Kunduvadiyan community of Wayanad district of Kerala in the List of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) The Govt. of Kerala has recommended inclusion of the Kunduvadiyan community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of that State. The proposal has been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims.

Export of Poultry Goods

751. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of poultry goods and the countries to which the poultry goods are being exported or have been exported during the last three years and the foreign exchanges earned thereby;
- (b) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the poultry sale to different countries;
- (c) if so, the projection made for 2003-04 and also for coming years; and
- (d) the steps being taken to fulfil that projection?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) :

(a) The major poultry products being exported from India are Table Eggs, Hatching Eggs, Frozen Poultry, Egg Powder, Day Old Chicks etc. and the countries to which these products are exported include UAE, Oman, Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Yemen. The quantity and value of poultry products exported during the last three years are as below:

Year	Qty. (MTs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1999-2000	8,368	54.25
2000-2001	15,836	86.18
2001-2002	19,876	130.07

(Source: DGCI&S)

(b) to (d) International trade in all agricultural products including poultry products depends on various international and domestic factors. Projections of performance are made based on past trends and are in the nature of estimates. Government has taken several steps including specification of standards, monitoring of pesticide residues, financial assistance to exporters for developmental and export promotional activities, development of infrastructure/export promotion marketing assistance etc. to increase export of poultry products to different countries.

Free Legal Aid to Poor and Weaker Section

752. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether free legal aid is being given to the poor and weaker section;
- (b) if so, since when and what was the ceiling limit of income for such facility at the time of beginning and categories of Government employees which were covered under this facility;
- (c) whether this limit has been revised till date;
- (d) if so, the details of revisions made alongwith the date of revision;
- (e) whether the Government propose to raise the limit in view of revision of salaries to Government employees w.e.f. January 1, 1996;
- (f) if so, by when; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Free and competent legal services to the weaker section is provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which came into force on 9.11.95. As per Clause (h) of Section 12 of the said Act, every person whose annual income does not exceed Rs.9000/- is eligible for free legal aid in cases coming before High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto. In cases before the Supreme Court, the limit was Rs.12,000/-. The Government employees as a class are not recognized separately as a category eligible for legal aid. However, the following persons are entitled to legal aid/legal services:

- (i) a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes;
- (ii) a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution;
- (iii) a woman or a child;
- (iv) a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person;
- (v) a person under circumstances of undeserved want such as being a victim of a mass disaster, ethnic violence, caste atrocity, flood, drought, earthquake or industrial disaster; or
- (vi) an industrial workman; or
- ‡ (vii) in custody, including custody in a protective home

within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, or in a juvenile home within the meaning of clause (j) of section 2 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 in a psychiatric hospital or psychiatric nursing home within the meaning of clause (g) of section 2 of the Mental Health Act, 1987; or

- (viii) in receipt of annual income less than rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

A government employee falling within any of the above mentioned criteria is entitled to legal aid.

(c) and (d) The minimum income ceiling prescribed under clause (h) of Section 12 of the said Act can be enhanced by the appropriate Government. In pursuance of the decision taken at the Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of National Legal Services Authorities on 12.9.1998, the minimum income ceiling limit for cases before High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto was required to be increased to Rs.25,000/-p.a. Barring Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Laskhadweep, the income ceiling limit has since been enhanced. For cases before Supreme Court the Central Government has enhanced the annual income ceiling limit to Rs.50,000/- on 28.2.2000.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. Government employees are not treated as a separate category under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

New Foodgrain Policy

753. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL:

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

- (a) whether the high level committee formed to formulate new Foodgrain Policy has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay and time by which it is likely to be submit its reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) The High Level Committee constituted under Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy has submitted its report on 31st July, 2002.

The Committee has made far-reaching recommendations with regard to the policy in the short as well as long run on:

- (i) Foodgrains-based welfare schemes;
- (ii) Public Distribution System;
- (iii) Minimum Support Prices and Procurement Policy;
- (iv) Policy on Open Market Sales, Exports and Imports;
- (v) Role of private trade; and
- (vi) FCI

The details of the recommendations are given in the enclosed statement.

- (c) Does not arise.

Statement

Report of the High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy:

Major Recommendations

The Chairman of the High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy, Prof. Abhijit Sen submitted the Final Report of the Committee to Shri Sharad Yadav, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. The Committee Members included, inter alia, Dr. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai Dr. Madhura Swaminathan, Professor of Economics, ISI Kolkata, Shri A. Mohandas Moses, ex-MD FCI and Dr. S.N. Kaul, Consultant, Department of Economic Affairs, New Delhi.

2. The Committee has made far-reaching recommendations with regard to the policy in the short as well as long run on

- (i) Foodgrains-based welfare schemes;
- (ii) Public Distribution System;

- (iii) Minimum Support Prices and Procurement Policy;
- (iv) Policy on Open Market Sales, Exports and Imports;
- (v) Role of private trade; and
- (vi) FCI

Long Run Recommendations

(i) Welfare Schemes

With regard to the welfare schemes, the Committee has recommended a massive foodgrains employment programme, expansion of the existing Antyodaya scheme to cover the entire destitute population, Central support for moving to a cooked Mid day Meals scheme for all school-going children and strengthen programmes for women and children.

(ii) PDS

With regard to the Public Distribution System, the Committee has recommended a system of Universal PDS with uniform Central Issue Prices for rice and wheat for all consumers in all parts of the country. The Committee has also recommended that an additional subsidy meant for poor consumers or persons in relatively backward regions should be given in cash to States. Other recommendations for streamlining the PDS include the setting up of an independent watchdog body, relaxation of restrictions on eligibility to be a licensed fair price shop dealer, effective implementation of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 and greater responsibilities to be given to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(iii) MSP and Procurement Policy

With regard to Minimum Support Prices, the Committee has recommended that the MSP policy should continue with an immediate correction. The Committee has recommended that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) should go strictly on the basis of C2 cost of production (i.e. all costs including the imputed costs of family labour, owned capital and rental on land) in more efficient regions. It has also recommended that the MSP should have Statutory status and the CACP should be made an empowered statutory body.

It has further recommended to take care of the States which impose excessive levies on MSP purchase, the Central Government may announce its MSP policy by declaring a procurement price inclusive of a uniform 4% allowance, which should be the maximum price payable for MSP purchases. At

this MSP price, the Central Government should underwrite open-ended purchase of FAQ grains to assure growers an adequate return on their cost.

The Committee has also recommended that FCI's operation should focus more on Eastern and Central India than in the past. The Committee has further recommended that while the Centre should continue to take primary responsibility for procurement, procurement should also become more dispersed. With regard to coarsegrains, the Committee has recommended that MSP operations should be decentralized to State Governments with full financial support from the Centre.

Another major recommendation of the Committee is that all compulsory levy orders on rice millers under the Essential Commodities Act should be removed with immediate effect and be replaced by orders requiring mills to custom mill the paddy procured under MSP and give delivery of the resultant rice to the Central Pool.

To ensure improvement in quality, the Committee has recommended that Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms should be adhered to strictly in all purchases of grains. In unforeseen circumstances if below FAQ norms grains are procured, they should not be taken to the Central Pool and should be disposed of at commercial terms.

Along with the correct MSP policy, the Committee has recommended that the Central Government should explore expeditiously with the insurance sector the commercial viability of insurance, devised strictly on actuarial principles, against shortfalls not only of yield but also of prices from their past averages computed on an area basis. Any start-up subsidy required for this should be phased out within two years of implementation for all except poor and marginal farmers.

The Committee has also recommended measures for crop diversification given the changing dietary patterns.

(iv) Open market sales, export and imports.

With regard to open market sales, the Committee has recommended that the prices should be based on the corresponding Central Issue Prices plus the full cost of transport and storage as well as market conditions.

With regard to export and imports of foodgrains, the Committee has recommended that it should be based on the system of variable tariffs and the exports should be entirely on private account.

(v) Role of private trade

The Committee has recommended that barriers to private trade should be eased. The Essential Commodities Act should in normal circumstances apply only to situations of natural disasters or other contingencies. However, it has

recommended that a new set of orders, on the lines of PDS (Control) Order, 2001 may be required to apply to those who voluntarily enter activities encompassed in public procurement and distribution.

(vi) FCI

With regard to the Food Corporation of India, the Committee has expressed the opinion that it has performed its role reasonably well and should continue to do so. It has recommended that FCI should move into areas where reports of distress sale continue to be received and in such areas FCI should open procurement centres. It has further recommended that FCI should change the way it does business to enable fast commercial oriented decision-making. It has recommended that the FCI should develop a work culture of total quality management. The Committee has recommended that the FCI's role should be confined to procurement of major cereals for the PDS, i.e. rice and wheat and price support operations in coarse cereals should be handled by State agencies.

The Committee has suggested that the FCI should identify areas of cost control by nominating of FCI's costs based on the norms recommended by the BICP. The Committee has also suggested several measures to cut down the storage and transit losses.

Short Run Recommendations

For the immediate short run, the Committee has recommended lowering of the MSP to average C2 cost, steps to be taken to give statutory status to MSP, removal of levy orders on rice millers and strict maintenance of quality specifications. Lowering of the C2 cost has been recommended along with a compensation package to be given to State Governments for compensating its cultivators, estimated at a total of Rs. 3915 crores.

The Committee has recommended that the State Governments should be free to offer this compensation to farmers in anyone or combination of the following:

- i) Direct per hectare transfer to farmers
- ii) Subsidising premiums on insurance schemes on crop incomes/yield
- iii) Specific crop diversification schemes
- iv) Other credit/input linked schemes to offset cost, including electricity

The other recommendations for the short run, including

shifting of the FCI's focus to East and Central India and removal of existing bottlenecks in the decentralized procurement system.

The Committee has recommended several stock reduction measures, including disposal of old and relaxed quality stocks. It has recommended that the lustre lost stocks of wheat should be liquidated by March 31, 2003 and all possible steps should be taken to segregate available stocks by age and quality.

It has further recommended that the FCI implements the method of physical verification within a period of three months, keeping in view the new sampling method proposed by the ISI.

With regard to exports, the Committee has recommended that steps should be taken to prevent leakages into the domestic market and a review of the current export drive should be taken up as and when stocks come down to 35 million tonnes.

With regard to the PDS, the Committee has endorsed an immediate shift to a unified PDS, which in its view, would bring back many of the poor and moderately poor who have been excluded from the BPL category. The unified system should be accompanied by a uniform CIP for all consumers at Rs 4.50 per kg of wheat and Rs. 6 per kg of rice to be accompanied by a transfer of 35 paise per kg of grain offtake as cash incentive to State Governments, conditional on lifting and accounting. This should be till stocks reduce sufficiently, after which the CIP should be increased towards acquisition cost.

The Committee has further recommended that the allocation under present Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna scheme should be doubled and the expansion of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana be initiated.

Export of Sugar

754. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total sugar exported during 2001-02;
- (b) whether the sugar industry has estimated that about 15 lakh tonne of sugar can be exported between October, 2002 and September, 2003 if the Government renders adequate support to them; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, (DGCI&S), during the financial year 2001-2002, a quantity of 14.56 lakh tonnes (Provisional) had been exported.

(b) and (c) In order to boost exports of sugar, Government has taken various measures which include:

- (i) Sugar meant for export has been exempted from levy obligation.
- (ii) The quantity of sugar released for export is treated as advance free sale release, to be adjusted in the free sale stocks of the sugar factories after a period of 18 months.
- (iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) at the rate of 4% of the F.O.B. value of export has been allowed.
- (iv) The Government has amended the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, so as to enable it to defray the expenditure on internal transport & freight charges that includes a component of neutralization of ocean freight disadvantage, to the sugar factories on the export shipments of sugar.

No target has been fixed by the Government or the Industry.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Bihar and Jharkhand

755. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain projects and development work of Bihar and Jharkhand are undertaken with the assistance of the World Bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions and interest rate of the loan;
- (c) the details of the targets achieved by each of the projects so far, State-wise; and
- (d) the time stipulated for the completion of each project, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a), (c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details are shown in the statement enclosed.

(b) The IBRD loans have been provided to Government of India on single currency variable spread basis. The interest is equal to LIBOR base rate plus LIBOR Total Spread. These loans attract a front-end fee of 1% and have a commitment fee of 0.75%. IDA credit is interest free, but there is a 0.75% service charge and a commitment fee of 0.50%.

Statement

(Amount In US\$/Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project Loan/ Credit No.	Date of Agreement/ Closing	Sector	Area of Implementation	Donor	Loan/ Credit amount	Cuml. Disb. As on 31.12.02	Balance as on 31.12.02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	3rd National Highway Proj. LN.4559-IN	11.8.2000/ 31.12.2005	Central	UP/Bihar	IBRD	516.00	82.840	433.160
2.	Grand Trunk Road Imp. Proj. LN.4622-IN	27.7.2001/ 31.12.2006	Central	UP/Bihar	IBRD	589.00	64.092	524.908
3.	National Agri. Tech. Proj. LN. 4296-IN/CR.3048 -IN	22.6.1998/ 31.12.2003	Multi-State	AP, Bihar, Jharkhand, HP, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab	IDA/ IBRD	96.8/ 100.00	8.942	87.858
4.	Rural Women Dev. & Empowerment Proj. LN.2942-IN	14.9.1998/ 30.6.2004	Multi-State	Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Kar., MP, Chhattisgarh, UP, Uttaranchal	IDA	19.5	15.008	4.492

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Ecodevelopment Proj. CN.2916-IN	30.9.1996/ 30.6.2003	Central	Jharkhand, Gujarat, Kar., Kerala, M.P., Rajasthan & WB.	IDA	28.0	13.821	8.579
6.	TB Control Proj. 2936-IN	14.3.1997/ 30.9.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	142.40	39.14	103.26
7.	Malaria Control Prog.2964-IN	30.7.1997/ 31.3.2003	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	164.80	49.31	115.49
8.	II HIV/Aids-3242-IN	14.9.1999/ 31.7.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	194.75	86.15	108.60
9.	Immunization Stren. Proj. 3340-IN	19.5.2000/ 30.6.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	142.60	81.94	60.66
10.	II National Leprosy Elemination Proj. 3482-IN	19.7.2001/ 31.12.2004	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	30.00	14.97	15.03
11.	RCH Proj. 018-IN	30.7.1997/ 31.3.2003	Central	Nation-wide	IDA	248.30	166.76	81.54
12.	DPEP-III, Bihar 3012-IN	23.2.1998/ 30.9.2003	Central	Bihar & Jharkhand	IDA	152.00	38.85	113.15
13.	Power Grid.II	30.5.2001/ 30.6.2006	Central	Nation-wide	IBRD	450.00	114.90	335.10

Pending Cases in Supreme Court and High Courts

756. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Civil and Criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court, high courts, district courts and lower courts separately;

(b) the number of years since when these cases are pending;

(c) the details of the name of the cases on which judgements have been reserved for pronouncements but pending for more than one month as on date, category-wise;

(d) the number of posts of judges lying vacant in all the courts;

(e) the action taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the pending cases; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government for filling up the vacancies of the judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) :

(a) A statement-I indicating the pendency of cases in Supreme

Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts including the District Courts is enclosed.

(b) As per information available, as on 15th April, 2002, there were 1633 civil cases and 788 criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court for more than five years. As regards High Courts, the age wise pendency of cases is as per statement-II.

(c) This relates to substantive functioning of Judiciary. However, as per information available as on 13.3.2001 there were 82 cases which were pending in the Supreme Court for pronouncement of final Judgement out of which 17 cases were pending for more than six months. The month wise category of cases where judgements were reserved/pending in High Courts as on 31.12.99 is placed at statement-III.

(d) As on date, there is only one vacancy in the Supreme Court out of the sanctioned strength of 26 Judges including the Chief Justice of India. As on February 18, 2003 against the approved strength of 647 Judges/Additional Judges, 512 Judges/Additional Judges were in position in the various High Courts leaving 135 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges to be filled up. As per information received from various State Governments/High Courts, there are 2041 vacant posts of Judges/Magistrates as on 5.2.2003.

(e) Statement-IV is enclosed.

(f) While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Ministers to initiate proposals for filling up all vacant posts of Judges in the High Courts. Minister of Law & Justice addressed the Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts demiofficially on 4.4.2001, 21.5.2001 and 5.2.2002 requesting them to fill up vacant posts of judges & magistrates and supporting staff in order to speed up disposal of cases. In the

meantime, the Supreme Court, vide its judgement dated 21.3.2002, in 'All India Judges' Association and Others Vs. Union of India & Others has inter-alia, directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all level should be filled, if possible, latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States. The Central Government have been periodically urging all the State Governments/Union Territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of Judges and Magistrates. The Minister of Law & Justice has written to the Chief Justices of all the High Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 26.4.2002 and on 30.11.2002 for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid order of the Supreme Court dated the 21st March, 2002.

Statement-I

Number of cases pending in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts

Sl.No.	Court	Pendency of cases		As on
		Criminal	Civil	
1	2	3	4	5
	Supreme Court	4747	19634	1/11/2002
High Courts				
1.	Allahabad	149587	760054	31/3/2002
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10863	152649	31/3/2002
3.	Bombay	27936	265344	30/9/2001
4.	Calcutta	36433	190697	31/3/2002
5.	Delhi	17718	73414	31/12/2000
6.	Guwahati	5629	39413	31/12/2000
7.	Gujarat	19526	120041	31/12/2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4037	13910	31/3/2002
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1740	31625	31/3/2002
10.	Karnataka	7417	87819	31/3/2002
11.	Kerala	17107	393972	31/3/2002
12.	Madhya Pradesh	46121	84530	31/3/2002
13.	Madras	33258	314562	31/12/2001
14.	Orissa	10598	137168	31/3/2001

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Patna	17297	63942	31/3/2002
16.	Punjab & Haryana	44487	188288	31/3/2002
17.	Rajasthan	27718	110406	31/12/2001
18.	Sikkim	20	102	31/3/2002
19.	Uttaranchal	5365	25479	31/8/2002
20.	Jharkhand	5437	9028	31/12/2001
21.	Chhattisgarh	16948	22690	31/10/2002
Total		488130	3062443	

(As on 31.12.2002)

State-wise pendency of cases in the District/Subordinate Courts

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	As on	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	06/2002	470719	397325	868044
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	06/99	331	1469	1800
3.	Assam	06/2001	37229	118424	155653
4.	Bihar	06/2001	207417	809789	1017206
5.	Chhattisgarh	12/2001	50657	143667	194324
6.	Goa	06/2002	24687	11367	36054
7.	Gujarat	06/2002	719166	2524734	3243900
8.	Haryana	12/2000	196851	323948	520799
9.	Himachal Pradesh	06/2001	69976	73194	143170
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12/99	43418	82596	126014
11.	Karnataka	12/2001	592380	398960	991340
12.	Kerala	12/2001	229714	437266	666980
13.	Madhya Pradesh	12/2001	294191	844829	1139020
14.	Maharashtra	06/2002	927296	2185648	3112944
15.	Manipur	12/2000	4278	3487	7765
16.	Meghalaya	12/99	1561	11322	12883

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Mizoram	12/2000	817	986	1803
18.	Nagaland	Not available			
19.	Orissa	12/2001	143142	555017	698159
20.	Punjab	12/2000	212173	255975	468148
21.	Rajasthan	06/2001	274277	558083	832360
22.	Sikkim	12/98	467	1352	1819
23.	Tamil Nadu	06/2001	593703	267601	861304
24.	Tripura	06/2002	6856	15164	22020
25.	Uttar Pradesh	06/2001	1073234	2431929	3505163
26.	West Bengal	12/99	473325	861754	1335079
27.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	12/99	580	26790	27370L
28.	Chandigarh	06/2000	15215	33349	48564
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	06/2002	484	2215	2619
30.	Daman & Diu	12/2001	952	711	1363
31.	Delhi	06/2002	145851	543981	689832
32.	Lakshadweep	06/2002	73	57	130
33.	Pondicherry	06/2002	6791	7630	14421
Total			6817511	13930619	20748130

Statement-II*Age wise pendency of cases in High Courts as on 31.12.2001*

Sl.No.	Name of the High Court	Pending As on	Case Type	> 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs	5-6 yrs.	6-7 yrs.	7-8 yrs.	8-9 yrs.	9-10 yrs.	<10 yrs.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Allahabad	31.12.2001	Main	78286	65788	61245	47495	35256	33651	28250	27987	34277	34961	207755	654951
			Misc	33425	26724	17168	17331	13520	9994	11665	11572	12863	10673	72786	237671
			Total	111711	92512	78413	64826	48776	43645	39915	39559	47140	45634	280541	892622
2.	Bombay	30.9.2001	Main	57027	23115	21068	17454	14519	12942	11223	9850	9092	6657	31544	214491
			Misc	32359	12656	9840	7889	5561	2470	1900	1626	1425	1301	1782	78789
			Total	89386	35771	30908	25343	20080	15412	13123	11476	10517	7958	33306	293280

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.	Calcutta	31.6.2000	Main	23270	21360	19429	12527	15147	11229	15840	11777	10360	15267	144257	300463
			Misc	549	235	156	184	250	331	666	392	445	189	1379	4776
			Total	23819	21595	19585	12711	15397	11560	16506	12169	10805	15456	145636	305239
4.	Delhi	31.12.2000	Main	17246	9554	9614	6559	5485	4825	4511	4822	4834	3661	29817	100928
			Misc	22301	15270	9728	7210	4917	2441	2230	2415	2197	2316	6048	77073
			Total	39547	24828	19342	13769	10402	7286	6741	7237	7031	5977	35865	178001
5.	Guwahati	31.3.2001	Main	13620	8034	5133	3140	1793	724	237	88	22	4	1	32796
			Misc	4988	3262	2074	1013	499	232	0	0	0	0	0	12068
			Total	18608	11296	7207	4153	2292	956	237	88	22	4	1	44864
6.	Gujarat	30.6.2001	Main	34007	11440	8474	6506	5935	6934	8616	6415	6178	1734	12870	106209
			Misc	16297	5735	1977	2206	1441	1098	619	943	625	1364	624	32929
			Total	50304	17175	10451	8812	7376	9235	2558	7373	3803	3998	13494	139138
7.	Himachal Pradesh	31.12.2001	Main	6906	1823	1221	1249	1010	605	755	443	80	19	20	14131
			Misc	2521	329	137	81	47	35	35	14	9	3	0	3211
			Total	9427	2152	1358	1330	1057	640	790	457	89	22	20	17342
8.	J&K	31.12.2001	Main	7520	3518	2023	1567	1113	633	222	179	93	41	99	17008
			Misc	7647	3317	1918	1351	744	243	146	79	44	32	111	15832
			Total	15167	6835	3941	2918	1857	876	368	258	137	73	210	32840
9.	Karnataka	31.12.2001	Main	43786	17522	9028	4652	3727	1917	1952	936	1228	287	707	85742
			Misc	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
			Total	43786	17522	9028	4652	3729	1917	1952	936	1228	287	707	85744
10.	Kerala	31.12.2001	Main	31275	24020	18324	14235	9996	8697	6215	4706	3478	2332	1959	125237
			Misc	57721	48500	40740	35808	26166	23246	18874	16961	13075	10838	4171	296100
			Total	88996	72520	59064	50043	36162	31943	25089	21667	16553	13170	6130	421337
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31.12.2000	Main	32315	17409	13067	9607	7414	5558	4329	3156	2426	2355	5938	103574
			Misc	3266	741	92	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4106
			Total	35581	18150	13139	9614	7414	5558	4329	3156	2426	2355	5938	107680

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12.	Madras	31.12.2001	Main	50156	22172	14082	10131	8388	6956	5762	4579	3073	2940	5703	133942
			Misc	105782	56799	25845	15598	8360	5343	2738	1977	744	421	271	213878
			Total	155938	68971	39927	25729	16748	12299	8500	6556	3817	3361	5974	347820
13.	Orissa	30.9.2001	Main	14690	12719	10287	10687	7945	5861	3220	2657	1811	1428	4675	75980
			Misc	22681	14059	8608	15471	528	483	399	234	151	69	22	62820
			Total	37371	26778	18895	26158	8473	6344	3619	2891	1962	1497	4697	138800
14.	Patna	31.12.2001	Main	42930	6284	4813	3768	2891	1668	1532	1882	1681	1055	5833	74337
			Misc	4958	755	440	227	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	6620
			Total	47888	7939	5253	3995	3041	1668	1532	1882	1681	1055	5833	80957
15.	Punjab & Haryana	31.9.2000	Main	34874	24874	21019	17436	15417	12815	12167	9703	9588	9152	48497	215542
			Misc	16329	162	53	43	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	16592
			Total	51203	25036	21072	17479	15424	12816	12168	9703	9588	9152	48497	232134
16.	Rajasthan	31.12.2001	Main	21417	14038	13300	11903	4484	6316	4717	4273	3845	2714	7933	97940
			Misc	13198	8745	8127	6334	2051	721	458	280	315	104	46	40179
			Total	34615	22783	21427	18237	6535	7037	5175	4553	4160	2818	7979	138119
17.	Sikkim	31.12.2001	Main	55	8	3	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	77
			Misc	29	7	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
			Total	81	15	4	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	117

Statement-III

Number of cases in which judgement reserved & pending in various High Courts as on 31.12.1999

Name of the High Court	Months				
	1-2	2-4	4-6	Over 6	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Allahabad	0	0	0	0	0
2. Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3. Bombay	0	0	0	0	0
4. Calcutta	3	19	6	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Delhi		0	0	0	0
6. Guwahati		0	0	0	0
7. Gujarat		0	0	0	0
8. Himachal Pradesh		0	0	0	0
9. Jammu & Kashmir		0	0	0	0
10. Karnataka		4	8	0	0
11. Kerala		0	0	0	0
12. Madhya Pradesh		0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madras	110	90	137	229
14.	Orissa	0	0	0	0
15.	Patna	0	0	0	0
16.	Punjab & Haryana	0	0	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0
18.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
Total		117	117	143	229

Statement-IV

The Steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases.

The Minister of Law and Justice has been requesting Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts.

Various measures have been adopted by the High Courts for expeditious disposal of cases including classification and grouping of cases, computerization of records in High Courts, identification and listing of cases covered by the decisions finally made by the Supreme Court and High Court on the same point.

Government have been compiling Annual Analysis reports on pendency of cases both criminal and civil in High Courts and District Courts and forwarding them to the High Courts for their information and necessary action. High Courts have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, inter-alia, expedite disposal of pending cases. Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides reviewing and increasing judge strength of High Courts every three years, Government have set up/encouraged alternative modes of dispute resolution including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc., have been set up to expedite the disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of causers, providing information to the litigants/advocates etc., for speedy disposal of cases. A Pilot project has been started for Networking and Computerisation of City Courts in the four major metropolises of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai to serve as a model. The purpose of this project is to augment the capacities of

courts and speed up adjudication through, better court management with the use of information technology.

This year the Department of Justice is initiating a pilot project of upgrading the computer network of the four metropolitan High Courts of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to the level of the Supreme Court so as to bring about the same speed and efficiency in disposal of cases in these High Courts as exists in the Supreme Court.

Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 1.07.2002 which, inter-alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail, authorise the court to fix time limit for oral arguments & provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of cases. Permanent Lok Adalats are, being set up for expeditious resolution of disputes relating to public utilities.

Impact of Economic Reforms

757. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the economic reforms started during the last one decade on the economy of the country;

(b) the impact of economic reforms particularly on labour sector; and

(c) the role of economic reforms on creation of employment avenues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (c) Various economic reform measures have been taken by the Government since 1991 aimed at accelerating economic growth, facilitating greater investment, enhancing the competitive spirit, reducing the level of poverty, allowing higher private initiative and achieving greater integration with the world economy. The reforms have resulted in improved growth of the economy on an annual average basis during the period 1992-93 to 2002-03 compared to previous two decades. The reforms have also led to lower rate of inflation, an overall increase in inflow of foreign direct investment, a significant improvement in the balance of payments' position, accumulation of comfortable foreign exchange reserves and an all round improvement in the external debt indicators.

Review of labour laws and necessary labour reforms are a continuous process in order to bring the labour laws in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the

economy. Reforms in labour laws are meant to make Indian industry efficient, cost effective and competitive. Therefore, these reforms are expected to have positive impact on overall economic growth and employment in the medium and long run by way of encouraging efficiency, productivity and ensuring achievement of full growth potential.

[English]

Credit Facilities for Women

758. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Public Sector Banks have formulated specific schemes offering credit to women;
- (b) if so, the salient features of such schemes; and
- (c) the credit provided by each bank under these schemes during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that certain banks have drawn out specific schemes for extending finance to women as per details given below:

(i) Bank of India (Priyadarshni Scheme) - Under this scheme women are assisted for setting up small scale industries, village and cottage industry including purchase of machinery, public transport vehicles etc. The bank is offering 1% concession in rate of interest to limits over Rs. 2 lakh for women.

(ii) Bank of Baroda (Special Scheme) - Under this scheme the bank encourage rural women for dairy pursuit in Gujarat. A number of women beneficiaries have availed of finance.

(iii) Central Bank of India (Kalyani) - This scheme was introduced by the bank in 1995-96 for betterment of women entrepreneurs and for catering to the requirement of women engaged in different activities.

(iv) Oriental Bank of Commerce (Oriental Mahila Vikas Yojana) - This scheme is exclusively for women which covers the credit requirement of women entrepreneurs on concessional terms. This includes 2% concession in interest rate for loans above Rs. 2 lakh and upto Rs. 10 lakh and 1% concession in interest rate for above Rs. 10 lakh.

(v) State Bank of India (Shree Shakti Package Scheme) - Under this scheme, bank is exclusively extending

credit to women entrepreneurs. There are concession in promoters' margin and rate of interest. The scheme aims at imparting entrepreneurial skills to inspire women and offers a credit package on concessional terms.

(vi) Syndicate Bank (Pigmy Deposit Scheme) - This is a daily saving scheme which caters to a large section of women entrepreneurs.

(vii) 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 any productive venture.

(c) Data reporting system of RBI does not generate this information.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST

759. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and Undertakings under his Ministry have been given promotions and whether fresh recruitments have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during this period and in the current year till date, year-wise and category-wise;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) to (f) The recruitment and promotion,

wherever permissible under extant instructions, is an ongoing process and while making such recruitment and promotion in respect of various organizations of the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs, all relevant instructions regarding reservation to the members of SCs/STs are invariably followed. The details of vacancies, if any, as also details of recruitment and promotion made, in various offices of the Ministry of Finance & Company Affairs, which are scattered all over the country, are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Investors Awareness Campaign

760. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have launched investors awareness campaign of SEBI in January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether similar type of campaign is also undertaken by Department of Company Affairs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to direct both the aforesaid organizations to co-ordinate and have a common campaign to assure a healthy capital market; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL) : (a) and (b) Securities Market Awareness Campaign was launched by SEBI on 17.01.2003 which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Main objective of the programme was to educate investors, intermediaries, professionals and opinion makers and to promote the Indian capital market to investors.

(c) and (d) Under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956, the Central Government has notified the establishment of a fund called the 'Investor Education and Protection Fund' as a non-Governmental fund to manage unclaimed deposits and dividends etc., of investors. The Rules for the Fund were notified on 1st October, 2001.

(e) and (f) The amounts to be credited to the Funds are such amounts that have remained unclaimed and unpaid for a period of seven years from the date they become due for payment. As on 31.10.2002, an amount of Rs.82 crores has been credited to this Fund.

A Committee has been appointed to administer the Fund, comprising members nominated by RBI, SEBI, DCA etc. dealing with investor protection activities and experts from the field of investor education and protection. The Committee's mandate is to recommend activities relating to this area including, inter alia, education programmes through media; seminars and symposia; proposals for registration of voluntary associations/institutions/other organizations engaged in investor education and protection activities; research projects etc.

Credit Flow for Agriculture Sector

761. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether credit outflow of the commercial banks to the agriculture sector is not up to the desired rate;
- (b) if so, the details of the percentage of credit outflow of the commercial banks separately towards agricultural and industrial purposes during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government had given directions to the commercial banks for giving agricultural advances upto 18 per cent;
- (d) if so, whether such directives achieved its objective; and
- (e) if not, the action taken against defaulting banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

World Bank Assistance to Punjab

762. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the financial assistance received by the State Government of Punjab from the World Bank for Literacy, welfare of Anganwadis and development works during the last three years;
- (b) the terms of conditions on which these assistance were received;

(c) the details of the works commenced with these assistance received so far by the State Government; and

(d) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) There are no World Bank assisted projects in the areas of literacy and child and woman welfare in Punjab as such. However, an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs was provided to Government of Punjab during 1999-2000 for Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Training Programme—Project Udisha.

(b) The funds for Project Udisha were provided as grant to Government of Punjab.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Money Deposited in Switzerland

763. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of Indians have hoarded their money in Switzerland;

(b) if so, the estimated figure thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No such information is available with any of the investigating agencies.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates

764. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the total amount of loss incurred by the Indian companies due to changes in Foreign Exchange rate while claiming their overseas sales bills;

(b) whether the Government have appointed any expert group to analyse the problems and solution relating to such losses incurred by the Indian companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) Such information is not being collected by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

765. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Foreign Minister recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held during his visit;

(c) whether the issue of restoration of overseas development assistance which was stopped due to nuclear tests on 1998 was also discussed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Japanese Foreign Minister Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi paid an official visit to India on 7-8 January 2003 and discussed bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interests of the two countries.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

On 26th October 2001, Government of Japan unilaterally lifted the economic sanctions imposed on India following the nuclear tests in May, 1998.

Foreign Minister of Japan conveyed the decision by the

Government of Japan to provide Japanese Yen 110 billion as official development assistance loan under financial year 2002 package.

Errant Judges

766. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Attorney General of India has emphasised the need to set up a body to check errant judges in the country;

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

(c) whether the judges in the country are deliberately delaying justice for the years together;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to tone up the judiciary so that the cases are resolved within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Attorney General for India referred to Paragraph 7.3.8 of the Report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution which deals with the Removal of Judges and remedies for deviant behaviour.

(c) and (d) No. Sir. The pendency of cases in Courts could be ascribed to various factors which, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, new legislation, substantial increase in fresh institution of cases, rise in population, heightened awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increase in trade and commerce and socio-economic matters, legislative and administrative aspects touching on the lives of citizens, lawyers' strike etc.

(e) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include Fast Track Courts, amendment to the Civil Procedure Code, Permanent Adalats for disputes relating to public utilities,

increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, improvement in the standards of Legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts, the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Ministers of States to initiate proposals for filling up vacant posts of judges in High Courts. They have been reminded last on October 28, 2002.

Fake Currency

767. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that fake currencies of Rs.500 and Rs.100 note denomination created a problem in the country;

(b) if so, whether Security and Printing Presses have been advised to plan new devices to ensure that common man can understand difference between the fake and the genuine currencies, specially in the rural and border areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) While fake currencies in the denominations of Rs. 100/- and Rs.500/- have been detected, the quantity of fake currency notes seized/recovered is miniscule as compared to the volume of Indian Banknotes in circulation.

(b) and (c) The Indian Banknotes contain both overt and covert security features which are upgraded from time to time. The information on security features available in Indian Bank notes is disseminated through Print media and over Doordarshan through a film telecast in English, Hindi and other regional languages. A booklet describing the features of the genuine notes has been published by RBI and this has also been placed on the RBI's Website www.rbi.org.in.

Financing for Infrastructure & Green Fields Service Package

768. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has suggested a single window approach by banks and financial institutions for financing infrastructure and green fields and service package as reported in the Hindu, dated January 27, 2003;

(b) if so, the measures suggested by the ASSOCHAM in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government/Banks and Financial Institutions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the news-item published in 'The Hindu' dated 27.1.2003. ASSOCHAM has suggested a Single Window approach by Banks/FIs for financing infrastructure and green field projects which, inter-alia, should include the following:

- (i) FIs/ banks shall enhance their financing in case of power projects to 70% from existing 50%.
- (ii) FIs/banks should not expect very high rate of interest from infrastructure and green field and service projects;
- (iii) The appraisal system of Indian Financial Institutions/Banks should be in line with international banking system.
- (iv) FIs/Banks should liberally extend financial assistance to long gestation infrastructure projects particularly telecom projects.
- (c) (i) FIs/Banks already extend financial assistance upto 70% of the project cost in case of power projects, in case, on detailed appraisal, the project is found to be financially viable.
- (ii) Interest rates are charged by FIs/Banks, based on their cost of funds and risk perception about a particular project. Interest rates have softened considerably in the recent past and bankable projects are being financed by Banks/FIs at very competitive rates. Loans to green field projects, being of the high risk variety, carry relatively higher interest rate.

(iii) FIs/Banks have, over the years, evolved a detailed appraisal system, which is quite robust and comparable with that adopted by the international banks.

(iv) A flexible approach with regard to financing norms is adopted by the FIs/ Banks, while considering assistance to projects in a particular sector (say telecom) FIs also fix the repayment schedules based on implementation period of the projects and anticipated revenue generation (i.e. projected cash flows).

(v) Financial Institutions have adopted a uniform approach towards financing norms such as debt-equity ratio, promoters contribution, security structure, etc. For large projects where more than one FI/Bank is involved, one of the institutions takes the lead and carries out detailed appraisal. The other FIs/Banks normally consider their assistance based on the appraisal carried out by the lead institution. Similar financing norms/terms and conditions are generally followed by all the participating institutions.

Patent on Pharmaceuticals

769. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has won cases against India on patents in pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its ultimate effect on Indian pharmaceutical industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Patent rights have territorial, jurisdiction in as much as patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries in accordance with their respective patent laws. Further, patents are essentially private rights and are, therefore both acquired and protected by those whose interests are involved or affected. In the pharmaceutical sector, like other sectors, cases relating to grant of patents, infringement of patents, post-grant opposition of patents etc. are filed by individual/companies (right seekers/holders) concerned. Data in respect of such cases being filed worldwide, in general, or the USA, in particular, is not maintained. Since the primary purpose of acquiring patent rights is to protect and promote

commercial interests the outcome of such cases generally has a bearing on the business and marketing strategies of the involved parties.

Project for Saharia Primitive Tribe

770. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for integrated development project for Saharia Primitive Tribe;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of Rajasthan have submitted four proposals amounting to Rs. 598.29 lakhs for the Integrated tribal development of the Saharia Community, a Primitive Tribe, as per details given below :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
Integrated Tribal development project	57.95
Drinking Water Project	396.36
Maa Badi Yojana Project	57.24
Integrated, Health & Sanitation Campaign Project	86.74
Total	598.29

(c) An appropriate decision will be taken, based on the scheme's priorities and the availability of funds.

Silk Import Policy

771. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to amend the silk import policy as the prices of silk has fallen very sharply;

(b) whether the President of Central Silk Board has given proposals for the proposed amendment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)) : (a) No Sir. Import of raw silk is under Open General Licence Scheme since 1/4/2001.

(b) No proposal to amend the existing silk import policy is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Crisis in Sugar Industry

772. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether the sugar industry at present is in a deep crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government held recently a meeting with the representatives of sugar mills and other players to resolve the present crisis;

(d) if so, the outcome of the discussion;

(e) whether a diversification of sugar mills to produce ethanol as a brazilian model is one of suggestion; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (f) Difficulties have been encountered in sugar following a general fall in sugar prices. Discussions have taken place with the representatives of the sugar industry to address the same. The steps recently initiated to assist the industry include the creation of a buffer stock of 20 lakhs tonnes for a period of one year. It involves an outgo of Rs.412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund, Rs.374 crores would be released by banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, an amount of Rs.786 crores would become available to sugar industry for the payment of cane price dues to the farmers. It has also been decided that neutralization of

ocean freight disadvantage at the rate of Rs.350 per tonne on export shipments of sugar would be reimbursed to sugar factories with effect from 14.2.2003.

The Sugar Development Act, 1982 has been amended, inter alia, for providing loans at concessional rate of interest to any sugar factory or any unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol with a view to improve their viability. The relevant Rules for the purpose have been notified in January, 2003.

Priority Sector Lending

773. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the norms for priority sector lending to agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether lending to agriculturists and agri business centres under the revised guidelines qualify as direct loans to the agricultural sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the year 2002-2003 certain changes in the scope of lending to agriculture under priority sector were brought about. These include, increasing of limit for financing of distribution of inputs for agriculture and allied activities such as cattle feed, poultry feed, etc. from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, increasing the limit for produce marketing loan from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh and enhancing the repayment schedule to twelve months. Further, the limit on advances granted to dealers in drip irrigation/spinkler irrigation system/agricultural machinery, located in rural/semi urban areas has also been increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh under priority sector lending for agriculture.

(c) to (e) The lending by banks to agri-clinics and agri-business centres is treated as direct finance to agriculture under priority sector lending as the Scheme aims at supplementing the existing extension network to accelerate the process of technology transfer to agriculture and providing

supplementary sources of input supply and services, for which, by and large, farmers presently depend on State agencies.

One Time Settlement of Loans of Banks

774. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government and the Reserve Bank of India has reviewed the present One Time Settlement Scheme for bad loans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have agreed to raise the amount to be settled under the scheme for bad loans;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and other conditions attached to this change in policy; and
- (e) the details of measures being taken to give banks total flexibility in settling such debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued guidelines on compromise settlements of non-performing assets (NPAs) upto Rs.5 crores, by public sector banks, in July, 2000. This scheme was in operation upto 30th June, 2001. The Government had recently brought in a new legislation viz. "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002". With the enactment of the said Act, it was felt that one more opportunity may be given to the borrowers to come forward for settlement of their outstanding dues. Therefore, RBI have issued a fresh one-time settlement scheme on 29th January, 2003 for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs upto Rs. 10 crore. The cut-off date for such NPA accounts is 31st March, 2000. The last date for receipt of applications is 30th April, 2003 and processing of such applications is required to be completed by 31st October, 2003. These guidelines will not cover cases of willful default, fraud and malfeasance.

(e) In addition to OTS Scheme, Government and RBI have advised the banks and financial institutions to frame their own recovery policy with the approval of their Board of Directors. The banks have also been advised to reach compromise settlements through Settlement Advisory Committees and filing of suits in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). Banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlements.

SEBI Direction to Companies for Secretarial Audit

775. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has ordered that all listed companies should subject themselves to a secretarial audit within two months to be undertaken by a qualified chartered accountant or a company secretary; and

(b) if so, the purpose and objective to be achieved by this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it received complaints from the Investors Grievances Forum alleging that several companies have dematted shares in excess of their paid up capital and that the promoters have colluded with ROC, Depositories, Stock Exchanges and managed to demat the additional shares even before getting them listed on the stock exchanges.

SEBI has, as a measure to prevent such occurrences in the future, issued a circular, on 31st December, 2002, to the Stock Exchanges, Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) and the Depositories, casting an obligation on the RTAs to conduct a secretarial audit to be undertaken by a qualified Chartered Accountant or a Company Secretary, for the purpose of reconciliation of the total admitted capital with both the depositories and the total issued and listed capital.

The audit is also required to certify that:

(i) the Register of Members is updated;

(ii) that the dematerialisation request has been confirmed within 21 days and state the shares pending confirmation for more than 21 days from the date of requests and reasons for delay;

(iii) the details of changes in share capital during the quarter and certify in case of listed companies whether "in-principle" approval for listing from all stock exchanges was obtained in respect of all further issues.

The first such report as of 31st December, 2002 should be obtained by the stock exchanges within 60 days and thereafter every calendar quarter within 30 days.

Merchant Banking Activities of Commercial Banks

776. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has relaxed the exposure norms for merchant banking subsidiaries of commercial banks;

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

(c) to what extent this will help commercial banks to increase their merchant banking activity;

(d) whether RBI has also suggested any additional safeguards in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide their circular dated 31st January, 2003 have advised the banks that the existing ceiling on underwriting commitments prescribed for merchant banking activities of banks would henceforth not be applicable to merchant banking subsidiaries of banks. The merchant banking subsidiaries of banks would, consequently, be governed by SEBI norms on the various aspects of the underwriting exercise taken up by them. The guidelines were relaxed to provide a level playing field to the merchant banking subsidiaries of banks. According to SEBI norms merchant banking companies are permitted to take up underwriting commitments upto 20 times their network.

(c) The relaxation will provide a level playing field to the merchant banking subsidiaries of banks on par with other merchant banking companies.

(d) and (e) RBI have also advised the banks to ensure continued viability of their merchant banking subsidiaries through periodic reviews of their performance, adherence to prudential norms relating to capital market exposure, asset-liability management and allocation of additional capital for risk weighted assets.

Base Depot of FCI

777. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depot of Food Corporation of India which distribute foodgrains under Public Distribution System, State-wise;

(b) whether these are sufficient vis-a-vis of the State;

(c) if so, the names of districts in States where there are no such depots; and

(d) the action taken to open depots in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) There are 464 Revenue Districts with Base Depots of the FCI in the Country which distribute foodgrains under the Public Distribution System. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The names of Revenue Districts where there are no base depots of the FCI are given in the enclosed statement-II.

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

Statement-I

Name of the State	No. of Revenue Districts with Base Depots of FCI
1	2
Delhi	7
Haryana***	18
Punjab & Chandigarh \$\$	18
Jammu & Kashmir	11
Uttar Pradesh @	59
Uttaranchal@ #	8
Rajashtan	30
Himachal Pradesh #	11
Tamil Nadu	23
Pondicherry	2
Andhra Pradesh	23
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
Karnataka	21
Kerala	13
Lakshadweep	Stocks are being handed over to Lakshadweep Administration from Cochin.

1	2
Bihar	26
Jharkhand	11
Orissa	25
West Bengal@	20
Sikkim#	2
Assam	22
Arunachal Pradesh #	4
Manipur #	2
Meghalaya #	5
Mizoram#	3
Nagaland #	4
Tripura #	2
Goa	1
Maharashtra	25
Gujarat	16
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Not identified
Daman & Diu	Not identified
Madhya Pradesh @	35
Chhattisgarh @	16
Total	464

Note :

(#) - In addition to base depots, Government has declared Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) in the States/Union Territories to cater to the needs of PDS for which Hill Transport Subsidy/Road Reimbursement Charges are reimbursed.

(@) - State Government distributing foodgrains from their own godowns under decentralized procurement scheme.

(***) - Stocks are being issued for all the FCI owned/hired godowns.

(\$\$) - Stocks are being issued by State Government of Punjab for its owned godowns through State Agency PUNSUP

Statement-II

Name of the State	No. of Revenue Districts without Base Depots of FCI
Delhi	2 - New Delhi & Central District
Haryana	1 - Punchkula
Jammu & Kashmir	4 - Udhampur, Kupwara, Badgam & Phulwama
Uttar Pradesh	11- Kausambi, Chitrakut, Ambedkar Nagar, Kushi Nagar, Sidharath Nagar, Maharaj Ganj, Sant Kabir Nagar, Balrampur, Bagpat Nagar, Kannauj & Bhodhoi
Uttaranchal	5 - Almora, Bageshwar, Tehri (Garhwal), Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag
Rajasthan	2 - Rajsamand, Karauli
Himachal Pradesh	1- Lahul Spiti
Tamil Nadu	6 - Perambalur, Thiruvarur, Ariyalur, Nagapattinam, Padu Kottai & Sivganga
Karnataka	6 - Chikkamagalur, Dharwad, Koppal, Chithradurga, Haveri & Bagaikot
Kerala	1 - Pathanamthitta
Bihar	9- Jahanabad, Aurangabad, Banka, Shekhpura, Khagaria, Gopalganj, Siwan, Seohar & Bhabhur
Jharkhand	5- Dumka, Bokaro, Pakur Lahardaga & Godda.
Orissa	7- Cuttak, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Puri, Boudh & Deogarh
West Bengal	2- Bishanpur & Subarban
Sikkim	2- North District & West District
Assam	1 - Marigaon
Arunachal Pradesh	7 - Twang, East Kameng, Lower Subansiri, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, Uppar Siang, Dibang Valley
Manipur	7- Bishenpur, Chandel, Charachandpur, Senapati, Imphal East, Thoubal and Tameinglong
Meghalaya	2 - West Khasi Hills & South Garo Hills
Mizoram	3 - Chhimtaipui, Lownthlai & Champhai
Nagaland	4 - Kohima, Phek, Wokha & Zunheboto
Tripura	2 - South Tripura & Dhalai
Goa	1 - North Goa
Gujarat	9 - Nareli, Sabarkantha, Patan, Dahod, Narmada, Surat, Navsari, Dangs & Porbandar
Madhya Pradesh	4 - Raisen, Panna, Mandsaur & Shajapur

Credit to Tea Sector

778. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether a Working Group (Madhukar Committee) appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has come out with a series of recommendations to ease credit flows especially for tea sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of recommendations of said Group that have been implemented so far; and

(d) the details of recommendations which are yet to be implemented and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Based on the report submitted by a Working Group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri Madhukar, Chairman and Managing Director, United Bank of India to study the problems of the tea industry in depth, RBI has announced, in August, 2002 a relief package which provides for restructuring/rescheduling of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc. RBI has also announced on 5th February 2003 a separate relief package for small tea growers and Bought Leaf Factories and also certain changes in the package announced earlier in August 2002 for large tea growers and manufacturers.

The credit relief packages announced by the RBI cover the following:-

- The seasonal deficit of tea borrowal accounts (classified as standard assets) may be converted to a term loan repayable within a period not exceeding 5 years, subject to the conditions that at least 60% of the peak hypothecation outstanding has been liquidated by the borrowers.

Subsequently on 5.2.2003, RBI has announced that in view of the difficulties faced by the industry, the period of repayment, the amount of dues considered for restructuring and dues required to be paid upfront by the borrowers may be decided by the individual banks themselves. It has also been stated that the restructuring exercise may also be made applicable to the Cash Credit Limits of the tea borrowers. RBI

has also extended the above modifications, as a one time measure, to the loans restructured recently under the Madhukar Committee's recommendations.

- Extension of period to liquidate the working capital dues of last season, may be allowed up to a maximum of six months in those cases where the entire outstanding is backed by stock of tea or the prompt (receivables) without affecting the drawings and the working capital limit of current season, provided at least 60% of the peak hypothecation outstanding has been liquidated and in this case there is no need of conversion of working capital limit of term loan as stated above.

With reference to a modification suggested that the 60% ceiling may be relaxed to 50%, RBI has now left the decision to the discretion of the individual banks.

- Release of need based working capital finance for current season based on realistic projection keeping in view the production track record, accepted price level, market demand etc. may be allowed in accounts classified as standard assets.
- Rescheduling of existing term loan repayment schedule on the basis of borrowers future projection and repayment capability may be allowed.
- After the conversion/restructuring/rescheduling in the tea account, the term loan as well as working capital limit shall be treated as current dues and need not be classified as NPA, provided that all the time of conversion/restructuring/rescheduling, the account was classified under standard assets as per the prudential norms issued by RBI from time to time. The asset classified thereafter would be governed by the revised terms and conditions adopted at the time of restructuring of the account.
- Fresh Working Capital Term Loan in accounts classified as standard assets, may be allowed under certain conditions. This facility would be granted to genuine good borrowers with satisfactory track record having minimum debt equity ratio of 3:1 and who have not diverted the fund by way of investment in other companies, transferring fund to the subsidiaries group companies or created asset other than productive purpose.
- Bank may allow a rate of interest upto, two stages better than the rate as applicable to such borrowers according to its credit rating by the individual banks, subject to the condition that after such reduction the rate of interest should not be below PLR.

Relief Package for Small Tea Growers

- The existing term loan extended to Small Tea Growers holding not more than 10 hectares which were outstanding as at 30.6.2002 and classified as Standard Assets may be consolidated into a single term loan as a "Special Tea Term Loan (STTL 2002)". The repayment period of this term loan would be determined on case to case basis depending upon their repayment capabilities subject to the condition that the overall period of repayment shall not exceed 7 years including a maximum moratorium period of one year.
- Regarding charging of interest, the issue is left to the banks to decide based on their commercial judgement and loan policy in this regard.
- During the moratorium period, the tea growers shall pay the interest portion.
- The portion of existing Cash Credit Account which is not covered by the primary securities, shall not be less than 60% of the limit and this portion of uncovered dues (not exceeding 60% of the limit) shall be considered for conversion to a Term Loan subject to the following conditions :
 - * 20% of such uncovered portion shall be repaid by the farmers.
 - * Remaining 80% will be converted to term loan.
 - * The loan will be merged with STTL 2002.
 - * Financing banks will satisfy itself that the uncovered portion in the account is only due to low price realisation or deficit in production and not due to any diversion of funds.
 - * Sanction of fresh crop loan may be considered as per scale to be advised by the Tea Board on annual basis.
 - * Small growers who want to take up pruning may be given a term loan of Rs.7000 per acre (average pruning cost plus loss of income on account of pruning) with applicable rate of interest repayable within 3-4 years provided such expenditure of pruning is not included in the cash budget and also the margin being brought in by the borrowers as per the lending policy of individual bank.

Relief Package for Bought Leaf Factories

- The portion of the existing outstanding dues in working

capital limit which is not covered by the Primary Securities against which the facility was allowed should not exceed 60% of the total working capital limit. For this purpose any outstanding dues in adhoc limit/excess drawing in temporary overdraft account etc. should also be added to the outstanding dues in working capital limit. This uncovered portion (not exceeding 60% of the working capital limit) may be considered for conversion to a Term Loan subject to the following conditions:-

- * 20% of the uncovered portion should be liquidated by the borrowers and the remaining 80% (not exceeding 60% of the limit) shall be converted to the loan.
- * The uncovered portion of the limit should not be on account of diversion of funds.
- * Repayment period of converted term loan shall be determined on the basis of repayment capability of each individual cases but not exceeding 5 years including a maximum moratorium period of one year.
- * Interest shall be paid during the moratorium period.
- Re-phasing of existing term loans may be considered on the basis of merit in each case.
- Fresh working capital limit can be sanctioned to Bought Leaf Factories whose accounts are Standard Assets and based on the current requirement and as per norms to be decided by NABARD/SLBC concerned.
- For sanction of such additional working capital facilities, fresh additional collateral securities need not be insisted upon in cases where the value of existing collateral securities is adequate to cover the existing plus additional limit sought for. The margin requirement will be as per the norms of individual banks. The liabilities to the brokers should be taken care of while determining the financial viability of the units.
- The concession in the rate of interest as announced in respect of large tea growers may be allowed to Bought Leaf Factories also.

Most banks which have major exposure to tea sector, have started implementing the relief packages announced by the RBI based on necessary requests by way of application made to them by the borrowers concerned.

FDI Proposals Cleared by FIPB

779. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of FDI has been cleared by FIPB during the last six months, till January, 2003, sector-wise;

(b) the total amount involved therein;

(c) the number of proposals of FDI are pending for clearance with FIPB;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared;

(e) whether the Government have agreed to clear FDI in core sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A total of 429 proposals covering various sectors involving FDI of Rs.2475.58 crore were approved by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during the period from July 2002 to December 2002.

(c) and (d) The pendency position in respect of FDI proposals varied on a daily basis, as receipt and disposal of FIPB applications is a continuous process. Government has put in place a transparent and time-bound approval mechanism for dealing with proposals involving Foreign Direct Investment. Under this mechanism, information at all stages of the application is available.

(e) and (f) 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. Amongst others, most of the manufacturing and mining sectors, are on the 100% automatic route with only a few exceptions. Highways and roads, ports, inland waterways and transport, urban infrastructure are also on the 100% automatic route. FDI is also permitted in Telecom, Air-ports, Civil Aviation and Oil and Gas Pipelines within certain equity limits.

Indo-Japan Economic Co-operation

780. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand Indo-Japan Economic co-operation;

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

(c) the steps taken to implement those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon lifting of economic sanctions by Japan on India in October 2001, the Policy Dialogue on economic cooperation was held in March, 2002. The Policy Dialogue was significant in the context of the Indo-Japan economic co-operation being put back on tracks. The Government of Japan and the Government of India through mutual consultations have identified economic infrastructure, environmental protection and basic human needs like health, education, water and sanitation as the areas for possible assistance.

Government of Japan has recently committed official development assistance loan of Japanese Yen 110 billion under financial year 2002 for seven projects. A development study on water quality management plan for Ganga river has also been agreed.

Tax Deduction at Source

781. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have come to know that the some organisations are indulging into malpractices by not depositing the TDS amount deducted from incomes to individuals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total loss to the exchequer during the last year on this account; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted by the Government to curtail this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In some cases failure to deposit the amount of tax deducted at source has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Since the default in respect of non-deposit of tax deducted at source is dealt with at the Field Unit level, such details are not centrally maintained. It is mentionable that collection of information from all the Field Units in the country would involve substantial time and effort, which may not be commensurate to the objective sought to be achieved.

(c) The remedial measures are prescribed in the Income Tax Act, 1961 itself and include recovery of the amount of tax not deposited, levy of interest and penalty and institution of prosecution proceedings.

Import Restrictions on Drug

782. SHRI AMBAREESHA:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

- (a) whether a number of import restrictions on certain drugs have been imposed by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of drugs manufactured in the country which have been put on the negative list by some European countries and also in our own country alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to give relief to the pharmaceutical companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Import of some drugs viz. Penicillin, 6-APA and their down-stream products, Refampicin and its intermediates are restricted as per EXIM Policy. In addition, under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, requirement of Registration of all imported Drugs has been notified by Notification No. GSR (604) dated 24.08.2001. Similarly, the imports of all prepackaged commodities have been made subject to the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 which are applicable to the domestic manufacturers also. Anti-dumping investigations have been initiated against exports from India including export of drugs. Such cases are normally defended by the respective exporters in co-ordination with and assistance from the concerned Export Promotion Councils.

Consumer Education

783. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the study conducted by Voluntary Organizations in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) according to which top brands pass off sub-standard soaps to the consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE) in its study have, inter-alia commented on 12 brands of toilet soaps with regard to ingredients, weight, Total Fat Contents and lather they generate apparently with a view to enlighten the consumers.

(c) Soaps are not covered under the Mandatory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards. Therefore, manufacturers of soaps are not required to obtain Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark for manufacturing soaps which could ensure their conformity to the quality specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Beside, none of the brands tested by VOICE are ISI marked.

[Translation]

GDP Growth

784. SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Statistical Organisation has estimated decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the areas in which the decline is likely to occur; and
- (d) the main reasons of this decline, Sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As per the Advance Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on February 7, 2003, the growth in real GDP in the current year is estimated at 4.4 per cent as compared with the growth rate of 5.6 per cent in 2001-02.

The advance estimates for 2002-03 indicate growth in agriculture and allied sectors to decline by 3.1 per cent compared with a growth of 5.7 per cent in 2001-02. The growth of trade, hotels, transport and communications sector is estimated at a lower rate of 7.8 per cent in 2002-03 as

compared with 8.7 per cent in 2001-02. Based on past trends, GDP from mining, manufacturing and electricity during 2002-03 is estimated to grow at 4.8 per cent, 6.1 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively considerably higher than the rates observed in 2001-02. Construction sector is estimated to grow at 7.1 per cent during 2002-03, again higher than the rate in 2001-02. The financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector is estimated to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2002-03, relative to 4.5 per cent in 2001-02.

(d) The estimated decline in the growth of real GDP in the current year is mainly on account of negative growth of 3.1 per cent in the agriculture and allied sector due to drought in several parts of the country.

[English]

Tariff Concessions by EU

785. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

SHRI J.S. BRAR:

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

(a) whether European Union had granted tariff concessions under its generalized system of preferences scheme to some countries including Pakistan except India for combating drug trafficking;

(b) whether India has made any complaint with WTO against E.U. in this regard;

(c) if so, whether World Trade Organisation has agreed to India's request for establishment of a panel to examine tariff concessions granted by countries including European Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

(a) to (d) The scheme of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of the European Union (EU) for the period 1st January 2002 to 31st December 2004 inter-alia provides for suspension by the EU of customs duties for all products which have not graduated under special tariff arrangements to combat drug production and trafficking. Pakistan is one of the beneficiary countries under this special arrangement. As this may adversely affect India's exports to EU, India had taken up this issue with EU through bilateral consultations held in February 2002 and July 2002 and consultations under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

on 25th March 2002. During these consultations it was highlighted that India would stand to lose substantial trade on account of duty concessions given to Pakistan. The EU was requested to rectify the adverse trade impact due to such concessions. As the EU did not address our concerns in this regard the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) was requested to establish a panel in this dispute. During its meeting held on 27th January 2003 the DSB has established a panel to examine India's claims in this dispute.

Buffer Stock of Sugar

786. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have laid down any norms for creation of a buffer stock for sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private sugar mills have opposed this move of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the reasons advanced by the private sugar mills in this regard;

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to help the sugar mill owners in maintaining the buffer stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) The Government had decided that 25% of the buffer stock would be apportioned on production basis and the balance 75% on the basis of stocks, as on 31st October, 2002. The quantity dispatched/lifted for exports would be taken as "deemed" stock. The Government has received no representation from any sugar mill or any association of sugar mills against these norms.

(f) The creation of a buffer stock of 20 lakh tonnes for a period of one year involves an outgo of Rs.412 crores from the Sugar Development Fund; Rs.374 crores would be released by banks on account of the Buffer Stock. Thus, an amount of Rs.786 crores would become available to sugar industry for the payment of cane price dues to the farmers.

[Translation]

Implementation of Textile Projects

787. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals received from the State for Bihar for the implementation of textile projects in the State;

(b) the present status of those projects including the projects which are already sanctioned, amount allotted and the details of achievements made so far; and

(c) the details of projects pending for sanction and time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The status of various textile project proposals from the State of Bihar is as under:

Handicrafts: Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has received ten project proposals under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Yojana, out of which only six are at various stages of approval and sanction for a total amount of Rs 3.95 lakh. Other project proposals were rejected, as they were not fulfilling basic parameters of the guidelines of the scheme.

Handlooms: Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) received three project proposals under Handloom Export Scheme, out of them only one project was approved and sanctioned for a financial assistance worth Rs. 6.50 lakh. One project is in the process of scrutiny and the third one has been rejected because of deficiencies in the proposal. Proposals for holding for one National Handloom Expo and four District Level Events received from State Government of Bihar were not approved as the utilization certificate in respect of previous grants had not been submitted.

Sericulture: The Central Silk Board (CSB) has not received any proposal from the State of Bihar for implementation of sericulture schemes/projects.

Exports: The project proposals for setting up of Apparel Parks in Bhagalpur & Banka received from State Government of Bihar were not considered as the same did not fulfil the basic parameters of the guidelines of the scheme namely "Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme".

Production of Sugar

788. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of sugar production recorded in the country during the last year, State-wise;

(b) the location-wise number of sugar mills in private and public sectors, separately in Haryana;

(c) whether the sugar mills in Haryana are proportionate in number to the total production of sugar in the state;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to set up new sugar mills in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The extent of sugar production recorded in the country during the last sugar season 2001-2002 (Oct.-Sept.), State-wise is at enclosed statement.

(b) There are three sugar mills in private sector and none in public sector in the state of Haryana. The locations of the sugar mills pertaining to private sector are as under:

Sl. No.	Location of the sugar mill
1.	Yamunanagar, Distt. Ambala
2.	Naraingarh, Distt. Ambala
3.	Indri, Distt. Karnal

(c) The total production of sugar in the State of Haryana is in proportion to the number of sugar mills in the State.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Statement

The State-wise Production of Sugar during the Sugar Season 2001-2002 (Oct.-Sept.)

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

State	Sugar Season 2001-2002 (P)
1	2
Punjab	5.93
Haryana	6.23
Rajasthan	0.05
Uttaranchal	4.45

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	52.53
Madhya Pradesh	0.73
Gujarat	10.56
Maharashtra	55.84
Bihar	3.52
Assam	0.00
Orissa	0.25
West Bengal	0.03
Nagaland	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	10.49
Karnataka	15.77
Tamil Nadu	18.36
Pondicherry	0.39
Kerala	0.04
Goa	0.08
All India	185.25

(P) - Provisional

*[English]***World Bank Assistance to Orissa**

789. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has sought further financial assistance from World Bank for the reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in the Super Cyclone hit areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to approve the proposal submitted by State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes Sir, the State Government of Orissa had sought financial assistance from the World Bank through Government of India.

(b) and (c) A short term project for reconstruction and rehabilitation activities with an estimated cost of about Rs. 250 crore was under preparation since the Orissa Super Cyclone in 1999. Further work on the Project was discontinued in April 2002 due to delays in implementation of the on-going project and delays in project finalisation.

Seizure of Assets of Defaulters

790. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Supreme Court has given its verdict saying that the lenders can now seize the assets of the bank loan defaulters but cannot sell them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the verdict dilutes the interim gaining power of banks; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) In a writ petition filed by M/s Amulet International Pvt. Ltd. challenging the constitutional validity of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (now repealed by Act), the Supreme Court has passed an interim order that it would be open to the secured creditors to proceed against the borrowers under sub clauses (2) & (4) of Clause 13 of the said Ordinance. However, they shall not part with the assets of the borrower by way of lease, assignment or sale. However, secured creditors still have the option to exercise their rights through other provisions of the Ordinance.

(d) Matter is subjudice. Necessary legal steps care being taken.

*[Translation]***Vacant Posts for SC/ST**

791. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings under the Ministry have been given promotions and whether fresh recruitments have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during the said period and in the current year till date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SC/ST; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Default on State Government Guaranteed Bonds

792. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether defaults on State guaranteed bonds are piling up alarmingly as reported in the Indian Express dated January 1, 2003 under caption "Defaults mounts on State backed bonds";

(b) if so, whether as per banking industry assessments default have crossed Rs. 2500 crore mark on September, 2002;

(c) whether banks have urged RBI to look into the matter; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to minimize the default on State backed bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) State Government guaranteed bonds can be categorised into SLR bonds and Non-SLR bonds. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as on 30th June, 2002, State Governments had defaulted to the extent of Rs. 817.04 crores in respect of SLR bonds. The default in respect of Non-SLR bonds, was to the tune of Rs. 3122.45 crores as at the end of December, 2002.

(c) and (d) Banks and RBI take up the matter with State Governments to sensitize them for honouring their guarantees.

RBI had constituted a Technical Committee on State Government Guarantees in February, 1999 and later constituted a Group to Assess the Fiscal Risk of State Government Guarantees and to formulate effective measures to deal with the issue of rising State Government guarantees. State Governments have also been encouraged to constitute Guarantee Redemption Fund and impose ceiling on such guarantees.

ADB Loan

793. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds received from Asian Development Bank for Rural Telecommunication and Rural Electrification; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Issuance of Rs. 10 Coins

794. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to issue ten rupee coin;

(b) if so, the extent to which it will reduce the paper currency in circulation;

(c) whether the Government are aware that people prefer currency notes of small denomination;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure adequate circulation of currency notes of small denomination particularly of Rs.5 currency notes; and

(e) the details of the policy prepared by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A new series of coins is being planned that would include a coin in Rs.10 denomination too and the extent to which it will reduce the paper currency would

be known only after a decision is taken as to the quantum of coins to be issued.

(c) Though people prefer small denomination notes of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5, the coins issued in these denominations have also been accepted by people.

(d) With a view to supplementing the short supply of coins, notes of Rs.5 denomination were reintroduced in August, 2001.

(e) The policy decision regarding coinisation of any currency note is taken keeping in view the percentage share of that particular denomination to total currency notes in circulation, both volume-wise and value-wise. The volume of Rs. 10 denomination is almost 27% of the total volume of currency notes in circulation, whereas, the value of these notes is only 4% of the total value of notes in circulation. In view of the large printing and processing cost involved and the relatively short life span of these notes, it is proposed to coinise a proportion of the total requirement of Rs.10 notes.

UTI Set Up

795. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to make new UTI set up from February 1, 2003;

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

(c) whether the new management company will be successful in carving out of the trust with all the New Schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Act, 2002, the erstwhile Unit Trust of India has been bifurcated, with effect from 1st February, 2003, into (a) the "specified undertaking" viz. UTI-I, comprising of schemes mentioned in Schedule-I of the above Act and managed by government appointed Administrator and (b) the "specified company" viz. UTI-II, comprising of NAV based schemes mentioned in Schedule-II of the above Act. Government decided to bifurcate UTI to ring fence the liabilities on government with regard to US-64 and assured return schemes of UTI; and to distance itself from the mutual fund activities of UTI which are regulated by SEBI.

(c) and (d) UTI-II has been set up as per SEBI regulations and will work accordingly.

Food for Poor

796. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Desperate villagers ready to fight to stave off hunger" appearing in the Times of India dated 14 January, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have collected necessary data of States which have failed to implement Supreme Court directions to provide cooked meals of 300 calories with 8 to 12 grams of protein in all Government and Government aided primary schools; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure implementation of Supreme Court directions by all the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No such news item has been seen in the New Delhi edition of "The Times of India" on 14th January, 2003.

(c) Cooked meals are being provided in eleven States/UTs namely, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar, Pondicherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Chandigarh and Andhra Pradesh. This apart, cooked meals are served in 89 tribal blocks of Madhya Pradesh, all blocks of Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput (KBK) districts and 74 Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA) blocks of non-KBK districts of Orissa, 7 districts of Karnataka and 1250 Schools of West Bengal. Except the above mentioned States/UTs, only foodgrain is supplied to the eligible School Children by the remaining States/UTs.

(d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development had taken up the issue with the State Governments/UTs.

Jute Bags

797. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to make it

mandatory for the FCI and other organisations to store 40 to 50 percent of the foodgrains and sugar in jute bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether extension counters of the jute service centres and jute raw material banks are being set up in the country specifically in Karnataka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) and (b) The compulsory orders are being issued under Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 from time to time by the Government, specifying the percentage of foodgrains and sugar to be compulsory packed in jute packaging material. The current compulsory packaging order issued came into force from 12.07.2002. This order provides for compulsory packaging of Foodgrains and Sugar in jute material to the extent as given below:

Period	Foodgrains	Sugar
12.07.2002 to 30.06.2003	80%	75%
01.07.2003 to 30.06.2004	60%	50%

This order is currently sub-judice in an Appeal a petition filed by Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) in High Court at Kolkata.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD), a registered body under the Ministry of Textiles has opened 14 Jute Service Centre (JSC), two Jute Service Extension Centre (JSEC) and 29 Jute Raw Material Bank (JRMB) in the country. One Jute Service Centre (JSC) has been also opened recently at Bangalore (Karnataka). To set up a raw material bank, a survey has been ordered in respect of Bijapur and nearby district of Karnataka.

(d) State wise list of existing Jute Service Centres, Jute Service Extension Centre and Raw Material Banks is enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of Jute Service Centre (JSC)

S.No.	Name of JSC	State
1	2	3
1.	Stellar India, Delhi	Delhi
2.	West Bengal Consultancy Organisation Limited, Burdwan	West Bengal

1	2	3
3.	West Bengal Consultancy Organisation Limited, Siliguri	West Bengal
4.	Mankind Manocovers, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
5.	PSG College of Technology, Comibatore	Tamil Nadu
6.	Siddha Products Private Limited, Guwahati	Assam
7.	A.T.R. Enterprises, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
8.	Agriculture Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa, Limited, Bhubneshwar	Orissa
9.	District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Madhya Pradesh Hasta Shilp Evam Hath Kargha Vikas Nigam Limited, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
11.	North Eastern Industrial Consultants Limited, Silchar	Assam
12.	North Eastern Industrial Consultancy Limited, Agartala	Tripura
13.	Karnataka State Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB), Bangalore	Karnataka
14.	Warangal Durries & Textiles Manufactures Welfare Association, Warrangal	Andhra Pradesh

List of Jute Service Extension Centre (JSEC)

S.No.	Name of JSEC	State
1.	Stellar India, Jaipur	Rajasthan
2.	West Bengal Consultancy Organisation Limited, Gangtok	Sikkim

*List of Jute Raw Material Bank***Uttar Pradesh**

1. Durga Trading Company
Gyan Mandal Plaza, Shop No. 11, 12, 16
K 61/123-127, Kabir Nagar, Maidagin,
Varanasi - 211 001 (U.P.)
2. Gramin Hasta Kala Vikas Samiti
F-111, 1st Floor, Anand Vrindraban
Near Saheed Smarak, Sanjay Palace,
Agra-283 125
3. Uttar Pradesh Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
110, Industrial Estate, Fazalganj, Kanpur-208 012

Punjab

4. Harjit Singh & Sons, Chowk Mallah Singh,
Majith Mandi, Amritsar - 143006

New Delhi

5. New Range Agencies Private Ltd.,
1/G, First Floor, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony,
New Delhi-110065

Andhra Pradesh

6. Orugallu Durries Manufacturers
H.No. 11-25-1177, Kothawada,
Warrangal-506012
7. Sai Kiran Handlooms
H.No. 11-25-589, Kothawada,
Warrangal - 506012 (A.P.)
8. Jute Raw Material Bank
District Rural Development Agency
DRDA Complex, Near Collectorate,
Srikakulam-532001
9. Manjira Handlooms
Plot No. A-45, Huda Colony,
Saroor Nagar,
Hyderabad-500035
10. Project Director
DRDA, Vishakhapatnam-530017
JRMB at T&TDC, Pendurthi, District
Vishakhapatnam (A.P.)

11. Mahila Sanatkar Mutually Aided Cooperative
Society Ltd.,
20-4-10, Near Bus Stand, Charminar,
Hyderabad - 500002

West Bengal

12. Marketing & Research Centre,
86, B.R.B. Bose Road, (2nd floor),
Kolkata - 700001
13. Sarada Textiles
25, G.T. Road, Baidyabati
14. Mangalam, B/37, Block-II, H.R.B.C. Complex,
Dumurjala, Howrah-711101
15. The Champadany Industries Ltd.
25, Princep Street, Kolkata-700072
16. Dinhata No. I & II Block Tantubay Samabay,
Samity Ltd.
Babupara, Dinhata, Coochbehar
17. Sree Sree Ma Padma Tantujibi Samabaya
Samity Ltd. Vill. Krishnapur Chak, P.O.
Kalarayanpur, Dist. Nadia
18. Roy Traders, 16, G.N. Mitra Lane,
Burdwan-713101, West Bengal
19. M/s. AAR & Aar Enterprises,
Mangal Pandey Road, Near Paramount Hospital,
Siliguri-5, District Darjeeling,

Madhya Pradesh

20. Madhya Pradesh Hastashilp Evam Hathkargha
Vikas Nigam Ltd., I sector, Industrial
Area, Govindpura, Bhopal-462023

Maharashtra

21. M. Wool Weaving Industries,
P.O. Chakur-413513, Maharashtra

Haryana

22. The Ashoka Handloom & Handicraft Society,
Building No.918, Ward No. 11, Near Kutani Chungi,
Panipat-132103

Orissa

23. M/s. Mohan Traders, Rout Estate Building Link
Road, Kolkata-12

Bihar

24. District Rural Development Agency (DRDA),
Government of Bihar, Purnea, Bihar

Tamil Nadu

25. PSG College of Technology,
Jute Raw Material Bank,
Peelamedu Coimbatore-641004,
Tamil Nadu

Manipur

26. Rural Service Agency (RUSA) Save Ozone Layer,
Palace Compound (West), Imphal-795001, Manipur

Assam

27. Jute Raw Material Bank (NCJD), C/o, NECON,
Hospital Road, Silchar-788001
28. Nidhi Trade Centre, D.K. Kakati Road, Opp. DGP
Office, Ulubari, Guwahati, Assam
29. Jute Centre, G.T.B. Road, Sangeet College
(Mela Math), Dhubri, Assam

VAT System

798. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments sought the assistance of the Union Government to compensate the States for loss in revenue consequent on the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) from April 1, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to the request of the State Governments;

(c) the loss to be suffered by the State Government on the introduction of VAT, State-wise; and

(d) to what extent the said loss is to be compensated by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) VAT is yet to be introduced by the States. Therefore, State-wise loss, if any, cannot be assessed at this stage.

(d) The Government of India would compensate the revenue loss, if any, upon introduction of VAT by the States at the rate of 100 per cent in the first year (2003-04), 75 per cent in the second year (2004-05) and 50 per cent in the third year (2005-06), based on an agreed formula.

Duty Free Imports

799. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: "

(a) whether the Government have notified a scheme for duty-free imports of inputs and material by the developers of the Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, whether any committee has been constituted to approve of the merits;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any guidelines have been formulated for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) In August, 2002 the Government has issued two notifications (No.82/2002- Customs and 39/2002- Central Excise both dated 13.8.2002), allowing the facility of duty free import/procurement of goods to the developers of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for the purpose of development, construction and maintenance of SEZs. The import/procurement of goods is subject to approval by an inter-ministerial Committee. For the purpose of availing of the benefit of above notifications, the developers of the SEZ are required to make an application to the concerned Development Commissioner for approval of the list of goods proposed to be imported/procured duty free. The Development Commissioner is required to process the same and place the list before the aforesaid Committee for approval of such duty-free imports/procurement.

Detailed guidelines have been laid down by the Government in this behalf.

Urban Cooperative Banks

800. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has proposed the creation of a fund for Urban Cooperative Banks to meet liquidity requirements on an emergency basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken to strengthen the UCBs?

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

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

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken several steps to strengthen the system of regulation and supervision of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). These include, putting ceiling on operations in call money market and bank finance against shares and debentures, increase in percentage of SLR investments in Government Securities, restrictions on interest rates on deposits offered by UCBs and investment of funds as deposit with other UCBs, introduction of revised entry point norms while setting up new UCBs, reduction of credit exposure, constitution of Audit Committee of Board of Directors to review the internal audit reports, introduction of electronic data processing (EDP) audit system, introduction of capital adequacy norms in a phased manner, introduction of a system of Off-site Surveillance, modification of norms for identifying weak UCBs, introduction of a system of supervisory rating under the CAMELS model, etc.

Life Insurance Corporation Housing Finance Limited

801. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation Housing Finance Limited (LICHFL) is offering house loans at cheaper rates;

(b) whether the LICHFL has also floated 'Apna office' and 'personal' loans; and

(c) if so, the salient features of these schemes of LICHFL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation Housing Finance Limited (LICHFL) has informed that they are offering housing loans at competitive rates.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Apna Office scheme is for Professionals like Medical Practitioners, Architects, Engineers,

Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries and Management Consultants, Maximum loan under this scheme is 85% of the Property Value subject to maximum of Rs.1 crore at the rate of interest of: (a) 11.75% - Fixed (Monthly interest), (b) 11.50% - Floating (Monthly interest) with maximum term of 10 years. Since the loans are advanced against the security of property, they cannot be categorized as personal loans in the conventional meaning of the term.

Kania Committee Report

802. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI S. MURUGESAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kania Committee has recently given its report on corporatisation of the stock exchanges;

(b) if so, whether the SEBI has approved the report;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to amend the income tax laws to facilitate the conversions of existing stock exchanges into profitable venture;

(d) if so, whether there is also a proposal to set up a Central Listing Authority in March, 2003; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) In order to advise the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on the process of corporatisation and demutualisation of stock exchanges, SEBI set up committee under the chairmanship of Justice M.H. Kania Committee, which submitted its report to SEBI on 28th August, 2002.

(b) The Kania Committee report has been approved by the SEBI Board on 29th November, 2002, with certain modification.

(c) Yes, Sir. Necessary amendments to facilitate conversion of mutualised exchanges to demutualised form are under contemplation.

(d) SEBI's Delisting Committee, which submitted its report in August, 2002, inter-alia recommended the setting up of a Central Listing Authority (CLA) to bring about uniformity in the exercise of due diligence in scrutinising listing applications. Accordingly, SEBI has notified the SEBI (Central Listing Authority) Regulations, 2003 on 13th February, 03 to provide for setting up of a CLA.

(e) The proposed CLA shall, inter-alia, discharge the following functions:

- (i) processing the application made by any body corporate, mutual fund or collective investment scheme;
- (ii) making recommendations as to listing conditions;

The CLA shall give a "letter of recommendation" to any corporate/mutual fund or Collective investment scheme to get itself listed on a particular exchange, after examining its listing application.

Price Stabilisation Fund for Plantation Sector

803. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to step up a price stabilization fund for plantation sector as recommended by the Committee constituted to work out the operational modalities of the price stabilization fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the fund is likely to be operationalised in order to mitigate sufferings of workers in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Government has approved in principle the setting up of a Price Stabilisation Fund for the benefit of the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco. The operational modalities of the Scheme have been worked out by an Inter-Ministerial Committee and the same are under consideration of the Government for appropriate decisions.

Amendment in Patent Act

804. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the Patent Act to incorporate necessary changes as per the Government's commitment to the Trade Related Aspects of intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs);

(b) if so, the salient features of the amended Act;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the People's Commission on Patent Laws for a shorter product patent term particularly for the pharmaceutical sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Patents Act, 1970 has already been amended by the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002 in order to fulfil India's current obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

(b) The salient features of the amended Act are:

- definition of the term "invention" in accordance with international practices and the TRIPs Agreement;
- exclusion of inventions from patentability as permitted by TRIPs Agreement and inclusion of subject matters like discovery of any living or non-living substances occurring in nature in the list of inventions not patentable.
- provisions for protection of bio-diversity and traditional knowledge;
- alignment of the rights of patentees in accordance with the TRIPs Agreement;
- provisions for parallel import to ensure availability of products at competitive prices;
- provision for reversal of burden of proof in accordance with the TRIPs Agreement;
- provision of uniform term of patent protection of twenty years for all categories of inventions;
- comprehensive provisions for protection of public interest and public health;
- simplified and rationalised patent granting procedures.

(c) to (e) The report of the People's Commission on Patent Laws for India suggests a shorter term of product patent protection for pharmaceutical products. The Patents Act, 1970 does not provide for product patent protection for pharmaceuticals. Further, the suggestion is not compatible with India's obligations under the TRIPs Agreement.

Inspector Raj

805. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to eliminate Inspector Raj from the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any plan to encourage domestic investment has also been formulated; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) and (b) Government are continuously in the process of streamlining and simplifying administrative procedures to make administration more responsive and harassment free. This is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) The tariff structure of direct as well as indirect taxes provides specific incentives which are enshrined in these legislations. Periodic reviews of Sectoral needs are also made. This is a continuous and ongoing process.

Import of Cotton

806. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of cotton in the country during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the total domestic demand and supply of the cotton during the year 2001-2002;
- (c) the total quantity of cotton imported during the last year;
- (d) whether firm global prices and better quality of local produce have cut India's cotton imports in the year 2002; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which it has fallen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) : (a) The total production of cotton in the country during the last three years is as under:

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

Year (Oct.-Sept.)	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Production	156	140	158

(b) The total domestic demand and supply of cotton during the year 2001-02 are as under:

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

	Demand	Supply*
2001-02 (Oct.-Sept.)	171.70	187

* Includes carryover stock of 29 lakh bales and production of 158 lakh bales.

(c) Import of cotton during 2001-02 was 24.70 lakh bales of 170 kg. each.

(d) and (e) Import of cotton during 2001-02 (Oct-Sept) increased marginally to 24.70 lakh bales as compared to 22.13 lakh bales during 2000-01.

[Translation]

Procurement of Sugarcane

807. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the difference in price of the sugarcane being procured by the cooperative and private sector sugar mills in Haryana;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to take some steps to provide uniform price for sugarcane to the farmers in order to protect the domestic sugar industry; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Government fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane which is uniform. However, it is fixed with reference to recovery level and the recovery level varies from factory to factory, therefore, the SMP fixed factory-wise, varies from factory to factory.

[English]

False Drawback Claims

808. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have detected some exporters in the country who have made false drawback claims;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to the notice of the Government during the current financial year particularly in Delhi;

- (c) the details of such fraud cases; and
 (d) the action taken against such fraud exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have detected 116 cases involving an amount of Rs. 40.25 crores of misuse of Duty Drawback during the current financial year. Out of these cases, 64 cases involving Rs. 5.33 crores pertain to Delhi Zone. Action against such exporters is taken as per the provisions of Customs Act 1962 by way of imposition of penalties, arrests and in some cases ordering detention under COFEPOSA Act.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

809. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of SCs/STs under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various categories of the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been given promotions and fresh recruitments have also been made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitments made under various categories during the above period and in the current year;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed with regard to the recruitment and promotion of persons belonging to SC/ST categories; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Meeting of State Finance Secretaries

810. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 11th Annual Meeting of State Finance Secretaries was held in Mumbai in the month of January, 2003.

(b) if so, the details thereof and main issues discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether almost all the States are defaulting on their repayment commitments;

(d) if so, whether there is any improvement on this default on their market borrowings;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether RBI has warned the States in this regard; and

(g) if so, the guidelines issued by the Government to States to honour their repayment commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The 11th conference of State Finance Secretaries was held on January 9th 2003 at RBI, Mumbai. The main issues discussed therein included Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on WMA to State Governments, Report of the Group of Finance Secretaries to Assess the Fiscal Risk of State Government Guarantees, Market borrowing of State Governments, default on Guaranteed Bonds of the State Governments, Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill of the State Governments and Issue of Power Bonds by the State Governments.

(c) States do not default on the repayment of their market loans which are serviced by the RBI. There are some defaults on State guaranteed SLR bonds issued in the past.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) and (g) RBI has been regularly taking up the matter with the States and sensitizing State Governments to the need to honour their guarantee commitments and also to minimize and manage issue of guarantees effectively.

Litigation Cases in Central Excise

811. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a increase in the number of cases of litigation between manufacturers and Excise assessing authorities on the ground of interpreting the

expressions "Manufacture" and "Marketability" while levying Excise duty under the Central Excise Act, 1944;

- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) the details of the cases where the Supreme Court of India has interpreted the above expressions;
- (d) whether the Government have any proposal to amend the Central Excise Act, 1944 to give a precise definition to the above expressions; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Supreme Court interpreted the word "Manufacture" to mean bringing out a new commodity which must be usable, movable, salable and marketable. Though there are several judgments on this issue, the following cases lay the law: (i) Union Of India Vs Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co. Ltd. 1977 (1) E.L.T (J 199) (S.C). and (ii) Moti Laminates Vs Collector of Central Excise - 1995 (76) E.L.T.241.(S.C).

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Concession for Exporters

812. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently announced several concessions for exporters in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the same are proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates have been modified to factor in the incidence of Special Additional Duty (SAD) with effect from 01.04.2002, the notification for which has already been issued.

Gold Stocks with Banks

813. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Public Sector Banks have huge stocks of gold with them presently;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) to what extent it is advisable for Public Sector Banks to maintain stocks of gold in volatile situation;
- (d) whether the Government propose to evolve any new policy in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Import of Plantation Commodities for Re-Export

814. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have introduced the scheme of duty free imports of plantation commodities for re-export;
- (b) if so, whether the plantation industry has represented against this scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objections raised in the representations; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Duty free import of commodities including plantation commodities for export purpose is allowed under the Duty Exemption/Remission Schemes and Export Oriented Units/Export processing Zone Scheme. Representations have been received that duty free import be stopped as these commodities are produced in large quantities in India. However, duty free imports for export purpose are required to cater to the needs of overseas consumers and to make Indian, exports competitive. There is no general restriction on plantation commodities except rubber, where the Government has issued instructions prohibiting its duty free import.

Closure of Tea Gardens

815. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Committee appointed to survey the closure of tea gardens has completed its work;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the steps taken to work out a revival package for tea gardens?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Expert Committees appointed in January, 2003 to make a full and complete investigation into the affairs of closed tea units in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura have not submitted their reports so far.

Black Money

816. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-items captioned, "Return of Black Money" appearing in the Hindu dated February 2002;

(b) if so, whether the major reason for this inflow is alleged to be the possible return of the stashed black money abroad consequent on the global tightening of screws on secret accounts in the wake of the international crackdown on terrorists funding;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the facts about the unprecedented inflow of foreign exchange into the country during the short period of 2-3 months; and

(d) if so, the result of the investigations made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the current financial year from April 1, 2002 to January 17, 2003, India's foreign exchange reserves have increased from US\$ 54.1 to US\$ 72.4 billion - an increase of US\$ 18.3 billion. According to a recent RBI study, major sources of accretion of foreign exchange reserves during the current financial year till end November 2002, have been surplus in current account, increase in "other capital" and valuation changes in reserves. The study has found that the increase in "other capital" has been on account of leads in export receipts due to rupee appreciation. Export receipts which may have been withheld earlier due to expectation of further depreciation of the rupee, are also being realized faster as the rupee has appreciated. The study further states that the valuation changes reflecting the appreciation of the Euro, GBP and Yen against the US dollar account for US\$ 2.1 billion in the value of foreign exchange reserves. The details are given below:-

Major Sources of Accretion

(figures in US\$ billion)

Item	April-November	
	2001	2002
I. Current Account Balance	-1.3	2.5
II. Capital Account Balance (Net)	6.2	8.0
Foreign Investment	2.7	1.9
Banking Capital: of which	3.6	4.0
NRI Deposits	2.2	2.1
Short Term Credit	-0.5	0.1
Other Capital	1.2	3.8
Commercial Borrowings	-0.9	-1.8
III. Valuation Changes	0.4	2.1
Total	4.5	12.6

Delay in Payment to Employees of SBM

817. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Super Bazar Management is not paying salary to its employees;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the number of such officials who are yet to receive their salaries and the amount which the management is to pay to them as on 31-12-2002;

(d) the time by which and manner in which Government propose to make the payment of dues to these employees; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise manpower engaged in Super Bazar and where these officials are likely to be deployed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Super Bazar has been wound up by the order of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, on 5.7.2002. The services of

employees come to an end with the winding up of any society. In order to protect the interest of outgoing employees, a Voluntary Separation Scheme was offered by the Official Liquidator to all the outgoing employees. The employees who have opted the Voluntary Separation Scheme have been paid their terminal benefits and arrear salaries upto 30/9/2002, from the funds released by the Government as loans to Super Bazar. The Super Bazar have no financial resources to meet the salary liabilities, of the remaining employees, after the said date.

(d) The Super Bazar is a Multi State Cooperative Society registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984. As per the provisions of Rules 12 of Multi State Cooperative Societies Rules 1985 "No Multi-State Cooperative Society with limited liability shall accept deposits or loans by any other way incur liability exceeding 10 times the sum of the paid up share capital plus accumulated reserves minus any losses." Further more during the liquidation, the liability of Society cannot be increased. The dues of employees will be paid by the Super Bazar as and when the employees will produce their No Demand Certificate to the Liquidator.

(e) Being a cooperative society, the Government have no obligation to deploy the manpower of Super Bazar after their separation from the services.

Local Purchases

818. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 5159 dated April, 26, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the action has been taken to review the relaxation of provisions of GFRs relaxed by his Ministry as asked for by C&AG in its Report No.8 of 1999; and
- (e) the details of the provisions that were relaxed of GFRs alongwith reasons for relaxing those provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) to (c) The Unstarred Question No. 5159 answered on 26th April, 2002 sought information regarding the sale of overhead projectors and computers at higher rates by NCCF. NCCF being under the administrative control of

Department of Consumer Affairs, the responsibility of collecting the information as envisaged in Question No. 5159 was transferred to D/o Consumer Affairs, which has since been accepted by them.

(d) and (e) With a view to promote cooperative movement, Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) in consultation with this Ministry had issued an Order dated 14.7.1981 which made it incumbent on all Central Government Departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by Government to make all local purchases of stationery and other items only from Kendriya Bhandar in relaxation of the procedure of inviting tenders/quotations prescribed in GFRs. Keeping in view the ongoing policy of liberalisation of the economy and the emphasis on making Govt. organisations competitive and self-striving, the question of reviewing the existing special dispensation given to Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF has been considered and the DOP&T was requested to review their O.M. dated 14.7.1981 and issue revised instructions providing for adherence to the provisions of GFRs with suitable safeguards for protecting the interest of the three cooperatives. However, these revised instructions were not issued since DOP&T decided to hold Inter-Ministerial consultations. Any decision in the matter can be taken only after Inter-Ministerial deliberations and decisions thereon.

Foodgrain Stock

819. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country has surplus foodgrain stock;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have decided to provide free foodgrains to implement Mid-day meal Scheme in Government Schools;
- (d) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has sought free foodgrains to its Mid-Day Meal Scheme;
- (e) if so, the quantity of free foodgrains sought for by the State Government; and
- (f) the number of Students likely to be benefited by this scheme in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The stock of

foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.1.2003 is 482.02 lakh tonnes, which is above the buffer norms.

(c) to (f) Under the NP-NSPE (popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme), the Central Government provides foodgrains free of cost to all States. 56.22 lakh children are covered under the scheme during 2002-03 in Karnataka.

Steps to attract MNCs for FDI

820. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to business outlook survey conducted by American Chambers of Commerce in India (AMCHAM), most of the American countries are hesitating in making investment in India and preferring other Asian countries like China, Malaysia, Phillipines, Taiwan, etc.

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons of hesitation among American companies in regard to investment in India; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to convince the MNCs and to attract them to make more investment in Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The AMCHAM INDIA-GALLUP Business Outlook Survey 2002 has indicated that there seems to be status quo on future US investments in India because of better investment climate in competing investment destinations. According to the report, sector-specific red-tapism and bureaucracy, lack of stable policies and regulatory framework, security issues facing India and political instability were contributing factors.

However, the World Investment Report 2002 published by the UNCTAD, identifies India as one of the four countries in developing Asia which are expected to witness increased FDI inflows.

(d) Government has put in place a liberal FDI policy to attract investment and most of the sectors have been put under the automatic route except for a small negative list. Delays in realising FDI occur mainly due to implementation problems at the state level. An inter-ministerial Committee set up to look into the simplification of investment procedures has recommended an empowered State level single window system to accord approvals.

Foreign Investment

821. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a new panel to attract foreign investors;

(b) if so, the main objects of this new panel; and

(c) the extent to which this new panel would help the foreign investors to invest more in India without any obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government has not set up any panel to attract foreign investors in the recent past. However, the Steering Committee on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), was constituted by the Planning Commission in the context of the 10th Five Year Plan which has, inter alia, recommended raising/removal of FDI caps in certain sectors, strengthening of institutional framework for investment promotion and simplification of entry/exit norms and procedures. The Report of the Committee is under consideration of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on FDI.

[Translation]

Demand of Foodgrains

822. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

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

(a) the demand of foodgrains during each of the last year, Scheme-wise and State-wise;

(b) the year-wise, State-wise and foodgrains-wise quantity of foodgrains allocated by the Union Government during the above period, Scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) the States which have lifted the allocated foodgrains till January, 2003 foodgrains-wise quantity lifted by them;

(d) the States which have not lifted the allocated foodgrains;

(e) the reasons for not lifting the allocated foodgrains; and

(f) the details of utilization of the foodgrains lifted by the States during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs is made as per guidelines.

(b) to (d) The statement showing State-wise, scheme-

wise details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in respect of States/UTs during the years 2001- 2002 and 2002-2003 (upto January, 2003) under various schemes are at Statement I to VI.

(e) The lifting of foodgrains by the States depends on several factors such as parity between the issue prices of foodgrains and the open market prices, availability of foodgrains in the open market, purchasing power of the consumers and eating habits etc.

(f) The details are given in the enclosed statements I to VI.

Statement-I

(Rice - 2001-2002)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1470.960	1495.680	186.840	3153.480	972.348	564.141	191.522	1728.011
2	Arunachal Pradesh	24.459	70.320	1.134	95.913	25.007	21.065	0.740	46.812
3	Assam	515.058	311.280	28.152	854.490	429.825	45.296	28.515	503.636
4	Bihar	656.370	69.732	60.000	786.102	64.639	0.686	43.252	108.577
5	Chhattisgarh	305.748	60.012	86.220	451.980	148.292	0.210	77.884	226.386
6	Delhi	11.790	163.320	0.480	175.590	9.699	18.652	0.246	28.597
7	Goa	6.431	42.840	0.979	50.250	3.539	4.208	0.734	8.481
8	Gujarat	234.604	216.000	12.350	462.954	130.324	2.653	11.785	144.762
9	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	Himachal Pradesh	173.955	62.760	14.172	250.887	102.705	3.772	13.721	120.198
11	Jammu and Kashmir	115.247	150.120	19.323	284.690	120.544	129.449	4.072	254.065
12	Jharkhand	227.000	25.308	36.650	288.958	76.529	5.609	26.925	109.063
13	Karnataka	646.182	444.000	67.287	1157.469	639.186	380.709	64.640	1084.535
14	Kerala	374.958	1375.440	71.460	1821.858	371.494	21.005	61.507	454.006
15	Madhya Pradesh	289.756	64.188	57.120	411.064	121.551	0.791	51.922	174.264

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16	Maharashtra	725.426	268.560	93.749	1087.735	426.556	1.509	82.663	510.728
17	Manipur	35.136	34.320	1.914	71.370	25.455	0.000	0.740	26.195
18	Meghalaya	44.240	114.360	3.515	162.115	43.278	4.511	2.812	50.601
19	Mizoram	16.461	81.720	3.156	101.337	16.168	18.931	3.156	38.255
20	Nagaland	24.185	103.560	2.280	130.025	24.185	3.143	2.280	29.608
21	Orissa	907.045	44.640	88.466	1040.151	488.185	11.584	87.277	587.046
22	Punjab	18.080	3.360	0.000	21.440	1.588	0.000	0.000	1.588
23	Rajasthan	6.282	9.360	1.284	16.926	0.338	0.159	0.484	0.981
24	Sikkim	11.205	35.640	1.176	48.021	11.371	5.972	1.146	18.489
25	Tamil Nadu	1350.423	461.280	35.475	1847.178	1040.753	0.000	24.780	1065.513
26	Tripura	62.718	109.440	7.917	180.075	61.115	15.363	6.786	83.264
27	Uttar Pradesh	736.649	126.636	82.111	945.396	253.688	0.942	84.006	338.636
28	Uttaranchal	70.962	7.764	8.028	86.754	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	West Bengal	831.438	128.760	54.960	1015.158	213.648	28.757	27.957	270.362
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3.686	28.200	0.591	32.477	2.888	9.585	0.303	12.776
31	Chandigarh	0.350	2.040	0.318	2.708	0.055	0.000	0.318	0.373
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.009	2.160	0.600	5.769	2.475	0.745	0.570	3.790
33	Daman & Diu	0.639	1.320	0.120	2.079	0.056	0.219	0.085	0.360
34	Lakshadweep	0.044	6.580	0.040	6.644	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
35	Pondicherry	22.701	3.480	1.125	27.306	8.502	0.120	0.917	9.539
Total		9923.197	6124.160	1028.992	17076.349	5835.986	1302.786	903.725	8042.497

(P) = Provisional

Statement-II

(Wheat - 2001-2002)

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAV	Total	BPL	APL	AAV	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	96.000	0.000	96.000	0.000	7.385	0.000	7.385
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.565	6.360	0.000	8.925	1.715	2.795	0.000	4.510

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	Assam	0.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	0.000	70.011	0.000	70.011
4	Bihar	1164.501	104.604	90.000	1359.105	313.475	0.325	65.300	379.100
5	Chhattisgarh	87.597	41.100	0.000	128.697	39.649	1.788	0.000	41.437
6	Delhi	102.375	413.520	1.920	517.815	77.062	7.645	0.949	85.656
7	Goa	3.420	20.280	0.000	23.700	0.000	1.350	0.000	1.350
8	Gujarat	634.936	354.000	49.400	1038.336	313.857	1.317	44.960	360.134
9	Haryana	182.541	8.640	27.346	218.527	71.349	0.000	22.655	94.004
10	Himachal Pradesh	74.280	38.400	9.444	122.124	31.021	5.485	9.371	45.877
11	Jammu & Kashmir	36.516	88.320	6.084	130.920	41.962	45.988	3.195	91.145
12	Jharkhand	340.491	37.956	54.980	433.427	152.531	0.861	35.867	189.259
13	Karnataka	161.542	111.000	16.823	289.365	159.683	69.951	16.156	245.790
14	Kerala	0.000	452.640	0.000	452.640	0.000	98.533	0.000	98.533
15	Madhya Pradesh	696.227	110.700	132.600	939.527	460.717	6.306	121.639	588.662
16	Maharashtra	1370.786	496.560	174.112	2041.458	736.350	1.802	151.707	889.859
17	Manipur	0.000	20.520	0.000	20.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18	Meghalaya	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.000	6.334	0.000	6.334
19	Mizoram	0.000	12.120	0.000	12.120	0.000	8.887	0.000	8.887
20	Nagaland	5.937	18.480	0.558	24.975	5.937	12.314	0.558	18.809
21	Orissa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.468	0.000	0.000	0.468
22	Punjab	96.283	18.120	19.723	134.126	44.354	0.000	8.070	52.424
23	Rajasthan	909.987	392.160	110.496	1412.643	559.028	10.458	102.298	671.784
24	Sikkim	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.000	0.600	0.000	0.600
25	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
26	Tripura	0.000	15.360	0.000	15.360	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
27	Uttar Pradesh	1603.140	250.668	178.680	2032.488	895.511	7.805	162.420	1065.736
28	Uttaranchal	38.760	15.372	3.420	57.552	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29	West Bengal	422.931	776.400	54.966	1254.297	309.607	159.547	28.952	498.106
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.764	8.160	0.231	10.155	1.547	2.534	0.128	4.209

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
31	Chandigarh	5.330	11.640	0.000	16.970	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.753	0.600	0.240	1.593	0.489	0.230	0.206	0.925
33	Daman & Diu	0.330	0.480	0.060	0.870	0.020	0.015	0.029	0.064
34	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35	Pondichery	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.315	0.000	0.315
Total		7942.992	4057.700	931.083	12931.775	4216.382	533.581	774.460	5524.423

(P) = Provisional

Statement-III

(Rice - 2002-2003)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2002 to January, 2003 under TPDS

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1204.000	1760.890	217.980	3182.870	1180.859	302.839	190.211	1673.909
2	Arunachal Pradesh	26.140	57.751	5.290	89.181	23.632	30.125	5.180	58.937
3	Assam	568.570	395.950	98.530	1063.050	421.176	38.037	84.636	543.849
4	Bihar	754.760	763.810	140.000	1658.570	51.161	0.390	102.432	153.983
5	Chhattisgarh	375.480	517.250	100.590	993.320	10.461	0.000	4.654	15.115
6	Delhi	36.569	265.407	3.104	305.080	27.758	12.625	2.596	42.979
7	Goa	6.540	66.579	2.560	75.679	5.139	3.643	1.803	10.585
8	Gujarat	166.043	907.493	22.750	1096.286	103.493	11.642	19.015	134.150
9	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	Himachal Pradesh	72.940	186.932	15.819	275.691	74.017	7.930	15.911	97.858
11	Jammu & Kashmir	138.779	223.000	30.060	391.839	133.584	147.156	17.926	298.666
12	Jharkhand	308.101	82.556	57.217	447.874	25.397	0.220	38.766	64.383
13	Karnataka	742.754	1380.400	133.436	2256.590	725.110	323.938	120.451	1169.499
14	Kerala	460.470	1134.200	83.370	1678.040	266.466	6.935	82.857	356.258

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15	Madhya Pradesh	287.275	736.039	59.883	1083.197	134.509	0.897	59.959	195.365
16	Maharashtra	677.680	1484.695	122.710	2285.085	426.351	5.687	105.607	537.645
17	Manipur	36.570	24.750	8.930	70.250	32.294	0.543	9.315	42.152
18	Meghalaya	54.210	31.040	9.840	95.090	50.141	5.275	9.338	64.754
19	Mizoram	20.220	31.936	3.680	55.836	20.219	30.081	3.680	53.980
20	Nagaland	29.540	42.463	5.320	77.323	27.221	2.728	5.351	35.300
21	Orissa	1236.980	882.504	176.930	2296.414	294.841	0.050	146.150	441.041
22	Punjab	6.576	82.599	0.000	89.175	0.980	0.016	0.000	0.996
23	Rajasthan	7.710	60.980	1.500	70.190	0.274	0.050	0.280	0.604
24	Sikkim	12.850	33.037	2.350	48.237	12.493	5.735	2.408	20.636
25	Tamil Nadu	1461.489	3130.620	240.491	4832.600	988.739	0.000	237.465	1226.204
26	Tripura	87.420	132.191	15.830	235.441	84.309	16.746	16.289	117.344
27	Uttar Pradesh	1024.024	2268.258	190.952	3483.234	216.527	1.797	108.685	327.009
28	Uttaranchal	84.802	126.275	18.730	229.807	29.050	0.032	6.963	36.045
29	West Bengal	860.272	507.726	128.240	1496.238	202.890	15.885	77.897	296.672
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.170	23.500	1.080	28.750	1.999	12.040	0.000	14.039
31	Chandigarh	0.150	10.219	0.740	11.109	0.150	0.030	0.740	0.920
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3.690	4.660	0.700	9.050	1.978	0.540	0.467	2.985
33	Daman & Diu	0.790	7.043	0.140	7.978	0.075	0.084	0.060	0.219
34	Lakshadweep	0.310	4.161	0.140	4.611	0.000	0.650	0.000	0.650
35	Pondicherry	26.110	45.316	3.150	74.576	7.413	0.067	2.524	10.004
	Total	10783.984	17412.230	1902.042	30098.256	5580.706	984.413	1479.616	8044.735

(P) - Provisional

Statement-IV

(Wheat- 2002-2003)

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2002 to January, 2003 under TPDS

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	128.060	0.000	128.060	0.000	6.959	0.000	6.959

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3.150	5.942	0.000	9.092	1.944	3.205	0.000	5.149
3	Assam	0.000	442.975	0.000	442.975	0.000	315.067	0.000	315.067
4	Bihar	1119.560	1145.790	210.000	2475.350	274.643	1.135	159.611	435.389
5	Chhattisgarh	107.580	354.250	0.000	461.830	57.606	2.052	0.000	59.658
6	Delhi	95.381	671.424	8.096	774.901	77.200	96.734	7.045	180.979
7	Goa	4.200	33.507	0.000	37.707	0.000	2.304	0.000	2.304
8	Gujarat	471.012	1486.346	91.000	2048.358	218.080	7.061	73.044	298.185
9	Haryana	217.410	979.804	39.140	1236.354	144.168	25.404	35.561	205.133
10	Himachal Pradesh	48.620	114.243	11.731	174.594	38.368	6.671	11.555	56.594
11	Jammu & Kashmir	45.688	131.200	9.460	186.348	41.758	85.424	6.466	133.675
12	Jharkhand	370.809	97.694	71.063	539.566	164.670	1.890	51.804	218.364
13	Karnataka	185.683	345.100	33.357	564.140	184.532	112.245	29.521	326.298
14	Kerala	0.000	373.250	0.000	373.250	0.000	136.257	0.000	136.257
15	Madhya Pradesh	774.635	1606.868	161.457	2542.960	536.089	22.429	147.563	706.081
16	Maharashtra	1258.640	2745.440	227.890	4231.970	699.273	13.269	192.691	905.233
17	Manipur	0.000	14.800	0.000	14.800	0.000	6.290	0.000	6.290
18	Meghalaya	0.000	5.514	0.000	5.514	0.000	5.053	0.000	5.053
19	Mizoram	0.000	9.266	0.000	9.266	0.000	9.106	0.000	9.106
20	Nagaland	7.240	18.556	1.300	27.096	7.271	18.602	1.319	27.192
21	Orissa	0.000	210.000	0.000	210.000	0.000	41.466	0.000	41.466
22	Punjab	132.104	1304.836	25.100	1462.040	72.162	4.993	13.066	90.221
23	Rajasthan	662.330	2480.986	128.910	3272.226	520.071	126.924	122.762	769.575
24	Sikkim	0.000	1.865	0.000	1.865	0.000	1.866	0.000	1.866
25	Tamil Nadu	0.000	80.000	0.000	80.000	0.000	16.673	0.000	16.673
26	Tripura	0.000	19.611	0.000	19.611	0.000	5.735	0.000	5.735
27	Uttar Pradesh	2031.513	4490.092	379.876	6901.481	843.982	6.196	222.965	1073.143
28	Uttaranchal	47.492	250.052	7.980	305.524	24.722	3.188	4.744	32.654
29	West Bengal	558.688	3057.514	128.250	3744.452	411.455	189.369	88.562	689.386

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30	A & N Islands	2.030	6.800	0.420	9.250	1.001	3.593	0.000	4.594
31	Chandigarh	7.140	56.407	0.000	63.547	0.960	0.030	0.000	0.990
32	D & N Haveli	0.930	1.290	0.280	2.500	0.132	0.388	0.152	0.672
33	Daman & Diu	0.400	1.392	0.070	1.862	0.041	0.018	0.021	0.080
34	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.416	0.000	0.416	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35	Pondicherry	0.000	3.337	0.000	3.337	0.000	0.570	0.000	0.570
Total		8152.234	22674.627	1535.380	32362.242	4320.155	1278.166	1168.452	6766.773

(P) = Provisional

Statement-V

(2001-2002)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under Welfare Scheme

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid Day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme				Annapurna		
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat		Total	Rice	Wheat
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Offtake (Rice + Wheat)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	232.75	167.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.14	21.53	14.03	11.99	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.30	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.09	0.00
3	Assam	91.72	32.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.27	0.67	0.19
4	Bihar	46.92	35.87	170.65	107.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.06	6.47	10.62
5	Chhattisgarh	126.72	59.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	3.20	0.94	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	20.21	6.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.07	0.00	0.00
7	Goa	2.41	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00
8	Gujarat	45.08	10.65	45.08	11.36	0.09	0.03	22.05	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Haryana	24.25	18.43	24.25	18.34	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	20.06	19.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.23	0.20
11	Jammu & Kashmir	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.50	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	Jharkhand	21.43	18.17	2.04	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.51	0.00	0.00
13	Karnataka	120.45	106.11	35.70	29.16	36.42	7.86	37.00	16.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Kerala	46.69	43.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.51	3.52	0.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	44.35	35.91	146.26	131.51	5.73	0.07	55.16	29.68	0.00	1.12	4.44
16	Maharashtra	293.76	249.86	0.00	0.00	33.96	23.83	0.00	9.03	17.82	0.09	0.10
17	Manipur	8.38	6.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.05	0.00
18	Meghalaya	12.57	8.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.18	0.00
19	Mizoram	2.95	2.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.10	0.00
20	Nagaland	4.79	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.40	0.00
21	Orissa	92.22	79.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.92	10.63	6.50	6.45	0.00
22	Punjab	0.00	0.42	49.79	28.83	2.27	0.00	3.04	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	186.65	147.31	0.00	0.00	4.60	0.00	12.64	0.00	10.93
24	Sikkim	2.42	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00
25	Tamil Nadu	116.01	81.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	2.57	8.64	0.00	0.00
26	Tripura	14.24	9.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	1.78	0.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	161.26	128.61	313.87	245.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	0.00	28.89
28	Uttaranchal	19.21	15.87	1.72	0.51	0.00	0.00	7.00	1.05	1.27	1.00	0.05
29	West Bengal	287.44	207.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60	1.37	0.38
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.15	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00
31	Chandigarh	0.00	0.04	0.56	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.76	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00
33	Daman & Diu	0.45	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	1.25	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
Total		1867.50	1348.81	996.79	727.96	80.17	31.85	175.11	103.41	162.25	37.06	55.80

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	SC/ST/OBC/Hostels			SGRY				Food for Work			
		Total	Rice	Wheat	Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allot.	Offtake	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
		(Rice + Wheat)										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	100.23	62.28	0.00	232.44	381.67	0.00	0.00	1650.00	1598.63	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	0.18	0.00	0.00	328.70	102.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	228.48	24.90	0.00	0.00	100.00	5.05	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.29	124.22	0.00	2.75	120.55	130.38	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Goa	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Gujarat	5.32	0.00	3.19	0.00	0.14	92.45	11.60	11.59	25.03	46.51	80.76
9	Haryana	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.79	66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06	5.46	7.19	5.08	0.00	5.97	0.00	0.00
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.98	13.20	9.73	6.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Jharkhand	0.76	0.00	0.00	115.52	10.01	53.54	8.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	Karnataka	17.07	8.03	3.10	158.96	117.88	22.55	17.90	57.46	57.25	42.54	42.54
14	Kerala	1.61	0.75	0.00	41.52	13.25	0.00	0.00	5.00	4.98	0.00	0.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.92	78.57	265.88	253.78	43.43	60.72	145.24	208.92
16	Maharashtra	20.85	0.29	0.37	81.86	24.58	153.90	39.81	28.00	7.44	112.00	27.09
17	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.38	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.97	10.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Mizoram	1.01	1.01	0.00	7.25	5.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.18	5.19	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Orissa	21.94	1.08	0.00	197.81	175.63	0.00	0.00	150.00	155.76	0.00	0.00
22	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.67	14.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Rajasthan	3.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	137.59	9.52	0.00	0.00	621.36	502.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.59	3.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Tamil Nadu	17.41	2.94	0.00	151.84	34.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Tripura	0.18	0.00	0.09	32.67	17.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	253.52	10.55	244.74	121.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Uttaranchal	0.13	0.00	0.00	16.98	5.88	12.89	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	West Bengal	5.82	0.00	0.00	225.60	146.57	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.64	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		196.47	76.42	6.79	2357.09	1318.92	1114.37	563.66	2166.03	2051.21	967.65	861.54

Allocation under SC/ST/OBC Hostels Scheme was in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Statement-VI

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2002 to January, 2003 under Welfare Schemes

(2002-2003)
(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid Day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme				Annapurna		
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat		Total	Rice	Wheat
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	223.69	119.06	0.00	0.00	2.12	0.00	27.47	14.46	11.18	7.65	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
3	Assam	91.72	37.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.47	0.01
4	Bihar	57.59	20.14	185.29	66.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.52	4.08	5.80
5	Chhattisgarh	74.55	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	9.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	20.22	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7	Goa	2.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.03	0.00
8	Gujarat	32.59	8.49	32.59	8.49	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Haryana	23.07	15.27	23.07	15.26	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	19.20	14.23	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.60	2.14	0.69	0.76	0.74	0.00
11	Jammu & Kashmir	24.66	0.43	0.00	0.00	1.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00
12	Jharkhand	47.44	10.91	4.36	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.52	3.79	0.00
13	Karnataka	142.92	60.66	10.64	7.48	55.99	19.55	35.00	8.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Kerala	47.11	37.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.89	0.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	49.31	28.15	161.34	97.23	2.00	0.00	60.00	27.58	0.00	0.55	2.18
16	Maharashtra	297.93	201.15	0.00	0.00	45.47	13.13	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.12	0.06
17	Manipur	8.62	7.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Meghalaya	13.04	10.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.40	0.00
19	Mizoram	2.81	1.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
20	Nagaland	4.79	4.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	1.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
21	Orissa	123.76	70.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.30	10.36	7.78	5.48	0.00
22	Punjab	0.00	0.00	48.62	25.27	21.06	0.00	28.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	154.04	113.29	0.00	0.00	5.16	1.07	12.64	0.00	9.67
24	Sikkim	2.31	1.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00
25	Tamil Nadu	108.03	55.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.76	5.67	8.64	6.35	0.00
26	Tripura	13.80	5.92	0.00	0.00	3.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	0.77	0.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	151.10	94.70	294.57	181.61	0.00	0.00	31.07	6.73	0.00	0.00	29.84
28	Uttaranchal	20.79	7.22	3.86	0.69	0.00	1.40	7.00	0.01	0.00	0.55	0.00
29	West Bengal	292.92	157.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.16	2.71	0.00
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.08	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.78	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.00
33	Daman & Diu	0.90	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	1.25	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		1884.22	993.61	939.85	518.01	133.80	34.68	311.00	85.69	77.85	40.08	47.56

Allotment under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains and offtake shown is inclusive of the offtake against the allotment made for the year 2001-02 (Provisional)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2002 to January, 2003 under Welfare Schemes(2002-2003)
(In '000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	SC/ST/OBC/Hostels				SGRY			
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	72.24	40.96	0.00	0.00	2024.26	1463.06	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.57	0.21	0.19	0.00	4.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Assam	34.12	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	174.91	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar	44.39	0.00	66.58	0.00	131.46	108.37	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgerh	22.52	0.00	6.46	0.00	259.31	8.14	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	1.58	0.00	6.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Goa	0.40	0.01	0.25	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Gujarat	9.86	0.00	27.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.08	49.70
9	Haryana	0.00	0.00	13.04	0.05	0.00	0.00	78.69	69.92
10	Himachal Pradesh	4.38	0.70	2.92	0.23	9.58	3.58	8.46	1.84
11	Jammu & Kashmir	8.06	0.00	2.54	0.00	7.12	6.93	3.43	2.56
12	Jharkhand	16.30	0.00	24.44	0.00	96.44	20.93	56.22	13.43
13	Karnataka	44.57	7.96	11.15	2.19	318.89	257.99	14.97	13.57
14	Kerala	27.62	0.45	0.00	0.00	51.48	43.31	0.00	0.00
15	Madhya Pradesh	19.18	0.00	44.53	0.00	165.16	45.76	265.35	170.27
16	Maharashtra	40.66	3.56	75.52	5.34	49.92	52.75	90.51	87.02
17	Manipur	2.20	0.37	0.00	0.00	4.53	1.02	0.00	0.00
18	Meghalaya	3.25	0.57	0.00	0.00	7.23	4.41	0.00	0.00
19	Mizoram	1.21	0.71	0.00	0.00	1.85	2.80	0.00	0.00
20	Nagaland	1.78	0.00	0.43	0.00	3.58	2.78	1.96	1.96
21	Orissa	74.22	1.74	0.00	0.00	495.14	371.39	0.00	0.00
22	Punjab	1.32	0.00	7.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.96	7.79
23	Rajasthan	0.47	0.00	39.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.86	355.32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24	Sikkim	0.77	0.04	0.00	0.00	2.76	0.02	0.00	0.00
25	Tamil Nadu	91.15	13.39	0.00	0.00	190.64	106.08	0.00	0.00
26	Tripura	5.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.89	18.35	0.00	0.00
27	Uttar Pradesh	49.63	0.00	108.02	0.00	81.34	106.54	493.38	323.08
28	Uttaranchal	4.69	0.00	2.63	0.00	44.94	15.19	26.98	9.46
29	West Bengal	72.73	0.01	12.41	0.00	93.80	98.05	0.00	0.00
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.25	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.38	0.57	0.00	0.00
31	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	Daman & Diu	0.22	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00
35	Pondicherry	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.00
Total		658.21	70.72	452.87	7.82	4058.34	2913.42	1420.85	1105.92

(Provisional)

(* This includes offtake against backlog)

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2002 to January, 2003 under Special Component of SGRY

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

1	2	Allotment			Offtake		
		3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	20.00	-	20.00	18.00	-	18.00
2	Chhattisgarh	2.36	-	2.36	1.31	-	1.31
3	Haryana	-	0.25	0.25	-	-	-
4	Karnataka	3.65	-	3.65	2.00	-	2.00
5	Madhya Pradesh	1.44	2.23	3.67	0.23	1.19	1.42
6	Rajasthan	0.00	10.10	10.10	-	4.75	4.75
7	Orissa	4.00	-	4.00	2.89	-	2.89
8	Uttar Pradesh	-	2.00	2.00	-	0.01	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Uttaranchal	0.31	0.19	0.50	-	-	-
10	Tamil Nadu	0.50	-	0.50	0.5	-	0.50
11	Jharkhand	0.20	0.20	0.40	-	-	-
12	Himachal Pradesh	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.03	0.02	0.05
13	Kerala	0.16	-	0.10	-	-	-
Total		32.62	15.01	47.63	24.96	5.97	30.93

[English]

Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme

823. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) the number of people benefited from Antyodaya Anna Yojna during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the State-wise off-take of foodgrains under this scheme during the last two years;

(c) whether some States have expressed any reservations about this scheme and are not implementing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether any study has been conducted to find out whether the foodgrains earmarked for targeted sections of the people are actually reaching them; 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) and (b) The required information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Studies on various aspects of the functioning of the Public Distribution System in various States are conducted from time to time.

Statement

S.No.	States/UT	No. of Antyodaya families	Offtake of foodgrains for AAY during (figures in '000 tonnes)	
			2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	622,800	2.83	191.52
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15,100	0	0.74
3.	Assam	281,500	0	28.52
4.	Bihar	999,982	0	108.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	287,400	0.34	77.88
6.	Delhi	32,000	0	1.2
7.	Goa	7,300	0	0.73
8.	Gujarat	325,000	0.09	56.75
9.	Haryana	111,838	0	22.66
10.	Himachal Pradesh	78,700	1.89	23.09
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112,900	0	7.27
12.	Jharkhand	366,500	0	62.79
13.	Karnataka	479,700	0	80.8

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Kerala	238,200	0	61.51
15.	Madhya Pradesh	632,400	10.94	173.56
16.	Maharashtra	1,001,700	0	234.37
17.	Manipur	25,500	0	0.74
18.	Meghalaya	28,100	0	2.81
19.	Mizoram	10,500	0	3.16
20.	Nagaland	18,900	0	2.84
21.	Orissa	505,500	0	87.28
22.	Punjab	71,700	0	8.07
23.	Rajasthan	372,600	8.27	102.78
24.	Sikkim	6,700	0	1.15
25.	Tamil Nadu	716,088	0	24.76
26.	Tripura	45,224	0	6.79
27.	Uttaranchal	76,300	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1,637,000	0	246.43
29.	West Bengal	740,941	0	56.91
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4,300	0	0.43
31.	Chandigarh	3,200	0	0.32
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2,800	0	0.78
33.	Daman & Diu	600	0	0.11
34.	Lakshdweep	400	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	10,000	0	0.92
Total		9,869,373	24.35	1678.19

Mini-Ministerial Conference of Trade Ministers

824. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to host a mini-ministerial conference of trade ministers in March, 2003 to discuss the agenda for the Cancun ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which have shown keen interest to discuss the proposal; and

(d) the salient features of the proposed agenda prepared by India for discussion?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) There is no proposal by Government of India to hold a Mini-Ministerial Conference of Trade Ministers in March, 2003.

However, the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), a private body of business leaders from the Commonwealth countries, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has planned to hold a Commonwealth Trade Summit in New Delhi from 15-16 March 2003. The Commerce and Industry Ministry on their request has issued an invitation letter to the Trade Ministers for attending the Conference. This Summit, being organized by two trade bodies is not a Mini-Ministerial Conference of WTO, given the inter-governmental character of the WTO.

Revision of O.M.

825. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4136 dated August, 9, 2002 regarding purchase from Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Department of Personnel & Training has since reviewed or withdrawn its OM dated 14.7.1981;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the same shall be reviewed/withdrawn positively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Unstarred Question No. 4136 answered on 9th August, 2002 sought information regarding Purchase of Stores from Kendriya Bhandar. Kendriya Bhandar, being under the administrative control of

Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T), the responsibility of collecting the information as envisaged in part (g) to (i) of the Question No. 4136 was transferred to DOP&T by this Ministry, which has since been accepted by them.

(c) to (e) With a view to promote cooperative movement, Department of Personnel & Training (DOP & T) in consultation with this Ministry had issued an Order dated 14.7.1981 which made it incumbent on all Central Government Departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by Government to make all local purchases of stationery and other items only from Kendriya Bhandar in relaxation of the procedure of inviting tenders/quotations prescribed in GFRs.

Keeping in view the ongoing policy of liberalisation of the economy and the emphasis on making Govt. organisations competitive and self-striving, the question of reviewing the existing special dispensation given to Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF has been considered and the DOP&T was requested to review their O.M. dated 14.7.1981 and issue revised instructions providing for adherence to the provisions of GFRs with suitable safeguards for protecting the interest of the three cooperatives. However, these revised instructions were not issued since DOP&T decided to hold Inter-Ministerial consultations. Any decision in the matter can be taken only after Inter-Ministerial deliberations and decisions thereon.

Phasing Out of Scheme of LIC

826. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC has again decided to phase out some assured return schemes recently;

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

(c) the reasons for phasing out such schemes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the faith of investors is not eroded on insurance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reviews their portfolio of products regularly/continuously to ascertain their financial viability. The withdrawal/revision of an existing plan depends on circumstances/factors such as long term interest rates available in the market, expense experience, changing needs of the customers etc.

The Corporation has informed that they have reviewed their existing portfolio and have decided to withdraw 3 plans w.e.f. 15th February, 2003. These are Limited Payment Life Policy (Without Profits) - Table No.3; Limited Payment Life Policy by Single Premium (Without Profits) - Table No.7 and Double Endowment Policy (Without Profits) - Table No. 18.

The Limited Payment Life Policy provides for the payment of the Sum Assured only in the event of death. Under Table 3, the proposer/life assured has the option of selecting the premium paying term from 5 to 25 years according to his/her convenience. Under Table 7, the entire premium is to be paid in the lump sum as a Single Premium.

The Double Endowment Policy provides for the payment of double/twice the basic sum assured on maturity. However, on death during the term only basic sum assured is payable.

The reasons for withdrawal of these plans are reduction in investment returns and non-sustainability with existing premium rates.

However, the commitment under life insurance policies issued before withdrawal will be honoured by LIC as per policy conditions.

Packaged Foods

827. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that while packaged foods are now carrying the green/red dots most product do not list their contents;

(b) if so, whether type of emulsifiers used are also not listed; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure the such information are printed on packaged foods?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) As per the provisions

of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, every package of food shall carry a label and unless otherwise provided in these rules, there shall inter-alia be specified the name of ingredients used in the product in descending order of their composition by weight or volume as the case may be including displaying symbol in green colour for vegetarian food and brown colour for non-vegetarian food, class title of food additives such as emulsifying and stabilizing agents. The noncompliance of the provision of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 made there under attracts the penal provisions. The State Government who are implementing the PFA Act have been advised to strictly enforce the provisions of the PFA Act.

Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas

828. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deliberations during Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas celebrations have convinced NRIs to play an active role in economic development of India;

(b) if so, the economic achievements of the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas celebrations; and

(c) the nodal agency entrusted with the follow up action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations were held in New Delhi from January 9-11, 2003. The outcome of the deliberations have been positive and many valuable suggestions and ideas have emerged from the conclave with participants from 61 countries. The Ministry of External Affairs which organized the celebrations will monitor the follow up action with the concerned Ministries and Departments.

Recommendations of Prabir Sengupta Committee on Tobacco

829. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Peer Review' report of Shri Prabir Sengupta, recommending the deregulation of FCV tobacco production has been received by the Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The 'Peer Review' Report has recommended inter-alia phased deregulation of production of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco without discontinuing auction system and adoption of a facilitator's role by the Tobacco Board. The process of consulting the concerned State Governments on the recommendations made in the Report has been taken in hand.

Norms for Big Floats

830. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has a proposal to ease norms for big floats; and

(b) its impact on Indian bourses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, any company desirous of listing its securities on the exchange is required to offer at least 25% of its post issue paid up capital to public or offer less than 25% of their post issue paid up capital (minimum 10%) in case all of the following conditions were fulfilled:

1. The number of securities offered should be at least 20 lac.
2. The size of the offer should be at least Rs. 100 crores and
3. The issue to be made through book building mechanism with minimum allocation of 60% of the issue size to QIBs.

SEBI has received representations from companies and merchant bankers to review the 3rd condition mentioned above. SEBI is examining these representations.

Amendments in the Advocates Act, 1961

831. SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the National Human Rights Commission there is a need for amending the Advocates Act, 1961 to provide for a mechanism to deal with complaints of sexual harassment in the legal profession;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has suggested that till such time the Act is amended, the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Councils could set up a disciplinary committee to deal with cases of sexual harassment;

(c) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the suggestion; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for Relief Works

832. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned "Rahat Karyaon Ke Liye Rajasthan Ke Pas Dhan Nahin" appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 04.02.2003;

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

(c) the reasons for not providing funds to the Rajasthan for relief works;

(d) whether such type of requests have also received from other States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of the State towards calamity relief through releases under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) & National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), in terms of the guidelines of the Schemes for CRF and NCCF. An amount of Rs.534.35 crores has been released as Centre's share of CRF during 2000-01 to 2002-03 and Rs.331.31 crores under NCCF for drought relief. Rajasthan has been provided 10.1 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains under Special component of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to meet drought situation. The State Government has also been allocated Rs.463.00 crores during 2002-03 to meet the fiscal stress faced by them on account of inter-alia drought relief expenditure.

(d) and (e) Requests for Central assistance for calamity relief have been received from some States and assistance under NCCF are considered taking into consideration the assessment of Central Teams deputed to visit these States, consequent upon receipt of memorandum from the State Government.

[Translation]

Payment of Salary by Companies in Foreign Exchange

833. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item under the captioned "kai kompaniya ney vetan ka bhugtan desh key bahar videshi mudra main kiya" published in 'Dainik Hindustan' dated 01.02.2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies involved therein; and

(d) the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After investigation under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1973, eighteen multinational companies were found to have paid salaries/perquisites abroad to their employees (foreign nationals) working in India, without obtaining the necessary permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) The names of the eighteen companies involved in the matter are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Action under the provisions of the FERA, 1973 has been taken by the Directorate of Enforcement and adjudication proceedings have been initiated accordingly.

Statement

Names of Multi-National Companies to which Show Cause Notice(s) have been issued under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

S.No.	Name of Multi-National Companies	Amount Involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	M/s. Japan Airlines, New Delhi	103.47
2	M/s. Hyundai Motor (I) Ltd., New Delhi	804.50
3	M/s. Samsung Corporation, New Delhi	2403.93
4	M/s. Merubeni (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	983.72

1	2	3
5	M/s. Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd., New Delhi	2043.19
6	M/s. Motorola (I) Ltd., Gurgaon	557.67
7	M/s. Mitsubishi Corporation, New Delhi	2052.92
8	M/s. Sanwa Bank Ltd. (UFJ Bank Ltd.), New Delhi	260.04
9	M/s. Bank of Nova Scotia, New Delhi	42.31
10	M/s. LG Electronics, New Delhi	80.63
11	M/s. Sony (I) Ltd., New Delhi	J. Yen - 574963183
12	M/s. Deutsche Bank, New Delhi	1343.42
13	M/s. Sakura Bank, New Delhi	J. Yen-40978509
14	M/s. All Nippon Airways, New Delhi	147.33
15	M/s. Nokia Telecommunications, New Delhi	1086.02
16	M/s. Ericsson (I) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	3546.05
17	M/s. Daewoo Motors, New Delhi	266.68
18	M/s. Fuji Bank Ltd., New Delhi	280.88

[English]

World Economic Forum

834. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Economic Forum, 2003 initiative to monitor progress in the global efforts to implement social, economic and environmental goals have submitted its report; and

(b) If so, the salient features of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The 2003 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (23-28 January, 2003; Davos, Switzerland) took place in the backdrop of growing global

uncertainty and complexity. "Building Trust" was the theme of the meeting. The various issues discussed at the meeting included: trust and values, prospects for the global economy, security and geo-politics, corporate governance and global governance. Deliberations on global governance were based on the discussions and outcomes of the latest World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), which had focused on combining knowledge and legitimacy of NGOs with resources and entrepreneurship of business communities for achieving powerful outcomes. The meeting also discussed the recent World Bank projection on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal, which could be achieved by most regions of the world, if growth in per capita income increased to an annual average of 3.6 percent.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arun Jaitley.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Permanent Lok Adalat (Other Terms and Conditions of Appointment of Chairman and Other Persons) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 3 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2003 under sub-section (1) of section 30 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7002/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7003/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7004/2003]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, this has become too common. I can understand that the hon. Minister may be busy with important work. But at least, intimation should have been given.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it has been given.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Has it been given?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Yes, it has been given.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it has been given.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Basangouda R. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7005/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 5 in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2003, under sub-section (2) of section 40 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.105 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2003 specifying "Cooperative Bank" as defined in clause (cci) of section 5 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as 'bank' for the purpose of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7006/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

(i) G.S.R. 827 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 39/2001-CE., dated the 31st July, 2001.

(ii) G.S.R. 834 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.

(iii) The CENVAT Credit (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 835 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) G.S.R. 858 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.

(v) G.S.R. 859 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt ethanol blended petrol (manufactured from blending of motor spirit

and ethanol, on which the appropriate duties of excise have been paid) from the whole of the Additional Duty of Excise leviable thereon.

- (vi) G.S.R. 860 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Motor Spirit when intended for use in the manufacture of 5% ethanol blended petrol, from so much of the duty of excise leviable thereon as in excess of the duty leviable on motor spirit sold by the manufacturer to an independent buyer.
- (vii) G.S.R. 4 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (viii) G.S.R. 9 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 32/1999-CE., dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (ix) G.S.R. 12 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend two Notifications mentioned therein.
- (x) G.S.R. 62 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No 64/2002-CE., dated the 31st December, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7007/2003]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:

- (i) G.S.R. 483 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 227-Cus., dated the 29th November, 1980.
- (ii) G.S.R. 833 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (iii) G.S.R. 856 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (iv) G. S. R. 857 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 105/99-Cus., dated the 10th August, 1999.
- (v) G.S.R. 10 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (vi) G.S.R. 13 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (vii) G.S.R. 6 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (viii) G.S.R. 30 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 40/2002-Cus., dated the 12th April, 2002.
- (ix) G.S.R. 41 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 105/99-Cus., dated the 10th August, 1999.
- (x) G.S.R. 53 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notifications issued under sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 so as to substitute the numbering scheme adopted for Chapters, headings and sub-headings under the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003.
- (xi) G.S.R. 26 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 2003 together with

an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 25/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.

- (xii) The Customs Regulations under Section 157 (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 58 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 11 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to waive special additional duty leviable thereon under section 3A of Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7008/2003]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 7 of section 9A of Customs Tariff Act, 1975:

- (i) G.S.R. 839 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final provisional anti-dumping duty on Vitamin AD3-500/100, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (ii) G.S.R. 840 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydroxide, originating in, or exported from the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (iii) G.S.R. 844 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final provisional 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.
- (iv) G.S.R. 1 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to

impose final provisional anti-dumping duty on Induction Hardened Forged Rolls, originating in, or exported from Russia, Ukraine and Korea RP and imported into India, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.

- (v) G.S.R. 2 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final provisional anti-dumping duty on Mulberry raw silk, 2A grade and below, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and imported into India.
- (vi) G.S.R. 7 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 69/2000-Cus., dated the 19th May, 2000.
- (vii) G.S.R. 14 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Float Glass of thickness 2 mm to 12 mm of clear as well as tinted variety but not including processed glass meant for decorative, industrial or automotive purposes, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China and Indonesia and imported into India.
- (viii) G.S.R. 31 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Hydrofluoric Acid, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (ix) G.S.R. 32 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the first schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (x) G.S.R. 40 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend anti-dumping duty on graphite electrodes, originating in, or exported from the United States of America, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, People's Republic of China and Belgium.

- (xi) G.S.R. 54 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notifications issued under section 3A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (xii) G.S.R. 55 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notifications issued under section 8B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 56 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notifications issued under section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 57 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend rules made sub-section (1) of section (5) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (xv) G.S.R. 74 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on import of graphite electrodes-Ultra High Power grade, originating in, or exported from Poland and Brazil at specified rates as recommended by the designated authority.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 75 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 59/2002-Cus., dated the 5th June, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7009/2003]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:
 - (i) The Income-tax (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 255 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) The Income-tax (27th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1345 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iii) The Income-tax (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 104 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) of item (6) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7010/2003]

- (8) A copy of the General Insurance (Rationalization of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Development Staff) Amendment Scheme, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 7 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2003 under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7011/2003]

- (9) A copy of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 44 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7012/2003]

- (10) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 830 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2002 notifying the change in area of jurisdiction of the Debts Recovery Tribunals mentioned therein issued under section 3 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7013/2003]

- (11) A copy of the Expenditure-tax (1st Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 46 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2003 under sub-section (4) of section 31 of the Expenditure-tax Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7014/2003]

- (12) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7015/2003]

- (13) A copy of the Report on Trend and Progress of Housing in India (Hindi and English versions) for the period ended the 30th June, 2000 under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7016/2003]

- (14) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2002, together with Auditor's Report thereon:

- (i) Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia, Shillong.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7017/2003]

- (ii) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7018/2003]

- (iii) Kamraz Rural Bank, Sopore.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7019/2003]

- (16) A copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.763 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2002 together with explanatory memorandum under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7020/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control) and Inspection Act, 1963:

- (1) The Export of Dried Fish (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1376 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2002.
- (2) The Export of Fresh poultry meat and poultry meat Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2002 published in Notification

No. S.O. 1378 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2002.

- (3) The Export of Basmati Rice (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 68 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd January, 2003.

- (4) The Export of Milk Products (Quality, Control, Inspection and Monitoring) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 3719 in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 7021/2003]

12.05 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS AMENDED BY RAJYA SABHA-LAID

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th May, 2002, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th February, 2003, with the following amendments:-

Enacting Formula

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-third", the word "Fifty-fourth" be substituted.

Clause-1

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2002", the figure "2003" be substituted.

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendment be communicated to this House.'

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2002, as returned by Rajya Sabha with amendments.

12.06 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, with your permission, I beg to inform the House that the Government Business in the Lok Sabha during the week commencing Monday, the 24th February, 2003 will consist of:

1. Discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address;
2. Presentation of the Railway Budget for 2003-2004 on 26th February, 2003 immediately after the Question Hour;
3. Presentation of the General Budget for 2003-2004 on 28th February, 2003 at 11 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Submission to be made by the Members.

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please take up the submissions later on. We have given notice of Adjournment Motion. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, you may take up the Submissions afterwards. Adjournment Motion should be given preference. It is always given preference. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There are only 5-6 submissions. You may please sit down.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The Regional Rural Bank (RRB) has not covered Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta districts in Kerala. In other States, the Regional Rural Bank covered all the districts under the various nationalised banks. In Kerala, North

Malabar Gramin Bank and south Malabar Gramin Bank covered entire Malabar area. But Travancore area of Kerala has not been paid adequate attention. Therefore, the Government of India should take urgent steps to set up a Regional Rural Bank in Travancore area of Kerala.

- (2) In Kerala, there are more than five lakh applicants wait-listed for getting telephone connections. This is the highest waiting-list in the country. But the BSNL has not taken any concrete steps for providing connections timely to reduce the waiting-list in Kerala. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to clear all the wait-listed telephone connections in Kerala.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Pending Women's Reservation Bill should be discussed.
- (2) Provident fund for unorganised workers and agricultural workers.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) Formation of foolproof mechanism to responding to drought, flood and earthquake which should automatically come into operation without delay.
- (2) Cynical attempts to communalise the atmosphere of the country every time and every where.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. This year, the foodgrain production in West Bengal is very good but the increased production caused the problems of marketing. The price of paddy has also dropped and farmers are in great trouble. But FCI is not purchasing adequate quantity of paddy. The FCI should enter the market in a big way in West Bengal and must procure paddy in support price to save the farmers of the State.
2. The Special Export Zone was set up at FALTA in West Bengal. But for its functioning properly and better infrastructure, the Government should give more funds. Another, the Special Export Zone should be set up at HALDIA so that this new industrial area may be brought in our export map soon.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. Need to lay report of National Commission for Protection of Cow, as it has been handed over to hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture on 31 July, 2002, on the table of the House and accept its recommendations for putting a blanket-ban on cow slaughter.
2. Need to hold discussion on unabated increase in number of Madarasas in India-Nepal and other bordering areas and their role.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:

Need to hike central assistance of Rs. 30,000 provided to the economically weaker people for treatment of serious ailment such as Cancer, Kidney, Heart and other diseases under Prime Minister's Relief Fund as the State Government provide assistance for this purpose upto Rs. 1 lakh.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): The following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. Need to hold discussion on Delay in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna in Madhya Pradesh during last two years. The Government of India have provided over Rs. 7 crore to the M.P. Government but the State Government has hardly spent 25 percent out of it, that too, most of it has been utilised for repair of existing roads.
2. Shortage of foodgrains in drought-affected districts of Madhya Pradesh and improper implementation of "Food for Work" programme. Foodgrains provided under this programme is being black-marketed. Recently, two-truck load of grains were seized by Maihar Police Station under Satna district. Poor people are not getting grains.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Sir, the following issues may be included in the next week's business of the House:

1. Need to hold discussion on code of ethics formulated for national flag in the matter of "Jan Shiksha Khand 2" to be published by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh".
2. Need to hold discussion on Centre-State relations

and their responsibility as Union and State Governments to collectively fight against naxalite and other terrorist organisations.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Sir, the following subjects may be included in next week's business of the House:

1. Need to hold discussion on review of economic situation of Bihar due to reconstitution of the state and to provide economic package as per the assurance given to people of Bihar.
2. Need to hold discussion on formulation of national youth policy and future programme for employment generation in view of rising problem of unemployment in the country.

12.09 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Zero Hour, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

RE: REPORTED STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPLE AT AYODHYA

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Legislative Assembly elections are taking place in Himachal Pradesh. Yesterday, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressed election meetings. All major dailies are bearing captions like these: "Vajpayeeji ne mandir nirman ki jamkar vakalat ki" and "Himachal mein Atal ne khela Hindu card". Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. They want to create riots in the country by saying such things. ... (Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): If temple will not be constructed over there, then where will it be constructed. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they do not have any work. They never pay attention towards serious matters like poverty and unemployment. They want to play only Hindu card. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, first ask them to sit. I want your protection in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, may please take your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: First, let me express my

views. After that, you can speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Will you not allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: If you want, let the discussion be held on this topic. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you may please sit down. The discussion on Ayodhya issue is going to be held in the House. You can participate in that discussion at that time. The Prime Minister has a submission to make on this issue and in that regard he has a point. He has given me a notice in this regard and I have given him permission to speak. Let him present his point. If you want to oppose that point, you can do it. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has got full right to raise his issue. He will raise the issue and the Government will reply. Why are you worried.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are deliberately creating interruptions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdasji let him speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has fixed 21st as the next hearing date for Ayodhya dispute and just before that the Prime Minister has given such statement in election meeting in Himachal Pradesh: "Himachal mein Atal ne Hindu card khela, Vajpayee ne ki mandir nirman ki jam kar vakalat" and Prime Minister said "Aise athasik aur poranic dastavej hamare pas hain jin se sabit hojayga ki Ayodhya mein vivadspad sthan per pahle kabhi mandir tha", it means they have such historic and scriptural documents which prove that there was temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Your statement is going on record. Please speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is presenting distorted form of Prime Minister's Statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, you have permitted him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: If the Prime Minister will not reply on issue of Ram Janam Bhoomi, who else will do. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have permitted a Member to speak on a subject. You have been kind enough to give him the permission. ...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen, senior Member like Shri Somnath Chatterjee is standing, please listen to him.

(English)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, you have been kind enough in your judgement to call a Member to speak on a subject about which he has given notice but your decision is being challenged in this manner by the ruling Party. How can Parliament function if no respect is shown to the Chair by the ruling Party? ...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

What is this?

(English)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Sir, their Leader is not in the House to control them. ...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): Please read the entire statement first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yogiji, you know that you have not given any notice. Why are you standing? Why did you not give notice in this regard? You too could have given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shivaji Maneji, you too have not given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can I speak, first let them sit.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you permission you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first I should be heard, after that these people will speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do not you complete your speech, please conclude.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: First ask them to sit down; only after that I can speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your statement is going on record. Please speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that hearing in Supreme Court on this case would be held on 21st. If the Government of India is having evidence, it should be presented in the Court. Yesterday, the Prime Minister said in an election meeting in Himachal Pradesh that they are having such historical and mythological documents which will prove that once there was temple at the disputed site. Convenor of Babri Mosque Action Committee and former MP, Shri Sayeed Shahabuddin has filed a petition in Supreme Court which has been accepted. 'Dharam Sansad' is going to be held on 22, 23 and 24 of February. Hearing in Supreme Court was to take place on 21st i.e. today, which has been postponed till 6 March.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are trying to create environment of communal hatred in the country. At the time of Gujarat elections it was proclaimed that Hindutva will not be the election issue, but Hindutva had been issue of Gujarat elections. Since this Government have proven failure in case of resolving serious issue like unemployment and price rise, therefore, deliberately it is creating communal discord in the country. They are trying to vitiate atmosphere of the country. I want that Government should give clarification in this regard because it is being done deliberately.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, only on Monday, respected Rashtrapatiji, in his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament, stated that everyone of us should wait for the court's judgement. The problem of Ayodhya should be solved by mutual consultation or by a verdict of the court. The matter is still pending in the court. It has not given its final judgement. The court has not come to the conclusion as to whether there was any temple before the construction of Babri Masjid. How could the Prime Minister of India make such a statement in Himachal Pradesh in an election rally? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when discussion is going to take place on this issue as per B.A.C. decision, then why it is being discussed?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the statement given by the Prime Minister during election meeting in Himachal Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Government will reply. You please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, everyone of us should wait for the court's verdict. This has been said only to win the election in Himachal Pradesh by using the name of Lord Rama. The Prime Minister has stated that he has the document which could prove that there was a temple before the Babri Masjid was constructed. If he had such a document, why does he not submit it to the court to prove that there was a temple earlier? This would create communal tension in our country.

This is a very unfortunate statement made by the hon. Prime Minister of India. I demand that the Government should clarify, the Minister should clarify here as to why the Prime Minister had made such a statement when the matter is sub judice. Why did not the hon. Prime Minister make such a statement when the court has not given its final verdict on the issue? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (BIJNORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell about situation in Bihar. The condition of farmers is very bad in Bihar. ...(Interruptions) The issue of Bihar is very grave.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, 98 per cent people are not in its favour.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, there is an attempt to influence the court. ...(Interruptions) Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is trying to influence the court. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I would like to speak.

[English]

Shri Banatwalla, I said and the Members agreed that when I am speaking, the Member has to sit down.

I had received notice of Adjournment Motion from two hon. Members, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Basudeb Acharia. On the issue of Ayodhya there is going to be a discussion. A full-length discussion will take place on this issue in the House. In the meantime a statement has been made by the hon. Prime Minister and according to them this statement is not proper and therefore, they have raised the issue. I would like the Government to make its stand clear on the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Sir, there are many important matters. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has given the notice. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Ram Mandir should in Ayodhya. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to open this issue once again because if the issue is opened, then the entire time of the 'Zero Hour' would be taken up on this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I would not take more than one minute. I have given a notice also. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: 98 per cent people of the country are in favour of secularism. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI): Ayodhya issue would be discussed later on, why they are speaking now.

MR. SPEAKER: When your subject would be discussed. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Please sit down. Let me listen to the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the Congress Party is to speak something not on this issue. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, you were very kind to fix a discussion on this issue on the 26th of this month. We would be happy to make our points then. But in the meanwhile a statement has been made by the hon. Prime Minister and that statement is quite divisive. It is going to harm the interest of the society and the country. If a statement of that nature is coming from him for the sake of garnering votes and attention, then it is not good for the Parliament and for the country. If the hon. Prime Minister is making a statement like that, then it appears that he is a party to the litigation that is in the court which is not in the interest of the country. That is why we have raised this issue to highlight it and not to discuss it at length. We briefly wanted to make the point that a statement of this nature coming from the hon. Prime Minister of our country is not in the interest of the society, is not in the interest of our country. It is going against the principle that we have been following up to this time of not discussing a matter which is under the Supreme Court. Today itself the Supreme Court was going to discuss this matter. The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing of the case and has postponed the hearing. It should not have been so. That is the only thing which we wanted to highlight and nothing more.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Sir, if the entire debate would be held on this issue then what will happen to our important matters. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Since there are a number of issues during the 'Zero Hour', I would permit only Shri Somnath Chatterjee very briefly to make his point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (DARBHANGA): What is this; everytime these people rise to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I totally agree with you. The convention in the House has been that whenever the Party leaders speak, we normally permit them to speak. If this convention is to be changed, I will have to apply my mind to it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, I am thankful to you for this opportunity. We are concerned because a statement has come from the head of the Government. The Prime Minister, in a pending matter where the very issue is

before the court, has observed that he is confident that there was a temple where the Babri Mosque was. What else is to be decided by the court? Therefore, can anybody say such things? A humble mortal would have been hauled up before the court for contempt. The Prime Minister is trying to influence the decision of the court by his clearest assertion on the very merits of the dispute. ...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly, when the Prime Minister or India tries to utilise communal issues during an election speech, which is prohibited by the Representation of the People Act in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): You can go to the court.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is very easy to say 'go to the court'. The question is, should an election be decided on the communal lines? Now, it is very clear that the BJP and the ruling combination - I do not know who all are there in the NDA - have decided that the only card they can play to win an election is the Hindutva Card. They want to communalise the election. They have nothing to say. Therefore, we strongly oppose the deliberate attempt to utilise religion for the purpose of elections and condemn the action of the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that you will provide me opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I said, I will give you opportunity to speak on this issue.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: My issue is very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please remain calm for two minutes and let the discussion on this should be held for two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the Prime Minister of India. He is not just the leader of a Party. The Prime Minister of India should not speak on behalf of a litigating party. He spoke on behalf of one party in a pending dispute before the court.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): Despite

your ruling, the Member on treasury bench make more noise. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We object to the statement made by the Prime Minister on a number of grounds. Firstly, Shri Vajpayee is the Prime Minister of India and not the leader of a Party. The Prime Minister of India cannot speak on behalf of one litigating party in a pending matter. He spoke on behalf of one party. It is absolutely improper and outrageously irregular. Secondly, he spoke in an election speech. As Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said, in our considered view he has violated the election code. I do not know what anybody can do if the Prime Minister of India is guilty of violation of the election code. We strictly disapprove of this communal approach by the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I want to express my views on behalf of Shiv Sena. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Devendra Prasad ji, the Member of your allied party is speaking, please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on reported statement of the Prime Minister in election meetings in Himachal Pradesh published in newspapers is going on in the House. Nobody in the country wants that the communal harmony of the country should be disturbed but people sitting on other side are trying to vitiate the atmosphere of country by holding repeated discussion on Ayodhya, Mosque and Temple.

Sir, if newspaper is read, it should be read thoroughly. It has been reported in newspaper that there is mythological evidence, it is also published that they will abide by the court's decision.

At the same time I would like to know as to which dispute would come up later on. Along with this I would also like to state that all scriptures of Hindus prove that Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya; all people of country and world know that Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya. If Lord Ram's temple will not be constructed in Ayodhya, will it be constructed in Pakistan? ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir these people are deliberately trying to vitiate the atmosphere of the country. Therefore, I would like to request you that discussion on all these issues should not be held in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Rawaleji, please conclude in one sentence. I cannot give you more time. I cannot give time to everybody to speak on this subject.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as he said on the basis of facts that Ram Mandir existed in Ayodhya. The Congress leader and the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had begun his election campaign from Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. He gave permission for 'Shilanayas' during his tenure. A few days back, the Congress leader, Shri Chaturvedi said that Ram Mandir should be constructed at Ayodhya.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the elections are going to take place on February 26 in Himachal Pradesh. I do not want to say anything which may adversely affect the public opinion. All of us are in politics but we should not see everything from political point of view. Our respectable leader, Udhav Thackreyji said that riots took place due to Ayodhya issue and many people lost their lives in it. If you want to build Mangal Pandey's monument over there, then we are ready. Our feelings and feelings of Hindu community should be respected.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Rawaleji, please sit down. Shri Banatwalla.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, the Prime Minister has made objectionable statements. He has tried to influence the court. There are day-to-day hearings in the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court and evidences are being presented. At this point of time, the Prime Minister says that there are conclusive evidences in favour of mandir.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prophet Mohammed was born in Madina, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, Lord Mahavir was born in Kundupur. Similarly, Lord Ram was born in Ayodhya. There is no difference of opinion in this regard. It is our pilgrimage centre. Lord Ram was born over there, it is our place of worship. Is there any Mosque in world, where anybody other than Allah is worshipped? At the time of Indian's Independence, 86 per cent population of India was Hindu, but unfortunately while remaining in India, we have to fight for Ram Mandir. Till now, 1 lakh 79 thousand persons have sacrificed their lives for Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. For last 45 years, 'Namaz' has never been offered over there. Since 1949, 'Pooja' is being performed over there Namaz has never been performed over there.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Rawaleji, please conclude. No other speech will go on record. Whatever, the hon. Minister speaks will go on record.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will conclude within a minute. Please give me time to express my viewpoint. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sushrnaji, let us hear Yadavji a bit.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Parliament is the supreme panchayat of the entire country and the discussion on the two percent fanatics takes place everyday in the House and these extremists are opposing the sentiments of the 98 percent people by organizing the so called 'Dharam Sansad'. Does not this parliament have any importance at all? The Parliament representing 100 crores people of the country does not need the parliament of religion. The case is pending in the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Devendrajji, whatever you speak won't go on record. Only what the hon. Minister will speak, will go on record. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, hon. Minister is on her legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing, I have said that nothing will go on record. Whatever you speak won't go on record. Hence you please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not taking that on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sushmaji, you please speak.

* Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you going this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You asked me to give two minutes time to speak, I okayed it. You will keep on speaking after every five minutes. I am sorry to say that this is not a good thing. I can understand the excess of one or two minute. Now the discussion on this subject is going to take place and you can express your views then who is denying you to speak?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have to let the Minister speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let the Minister speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, we won't tolerate if they speak like this.

MR. SPEAKER: House should not be misused. Khaireji, you resume your seat, hon. Minister is replying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yogiji, you cooperate, hon. Minister is replying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yogiji, whatever you say won't go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that I have myself read the reports on the basis of which hon. Sumanji and Acharyaji have raised the question and you also might have read these. Hon. Prime Minister has very categorically stated that we will abide by the decision of the court and later on I had myself talked to the hon. Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quite now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Comrade Achariaji, not only the hon. Prime Minister has spoken but it has also been published in the newspapers. I don't have the newspapers here, you can find it in every newspaper. We don't decide about the captions of the news items but I own the responsibility of every single word spoken by the hon. Prime Minister. I have myself talked to the hon. Prime Minister and he has categorically stated that we would abide by the court's decision. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Everybody will have to abide by the court's decision. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to the statement of the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing and how can you do it. Please resume your seat. Hon. Minister is making a statement, you will have to listen to it. If you have any objection on the statement, you can raise it during the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to say in the full election meeting that we will abide by the court's verdict despite there being a strong evidence in favour of temple construction, there can not be a more convincing step and statement. ...(Interruptions) These can not be a more pacifying and assurance bearing statement than this one. Do this statement raises communal discord or entail communal harmony. Hon. Prime Minister says in the large electoral meeting that we will abide by the decision of the court.

12.40 hrs.

RULING BY SPEAKER
RE: ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you have given notice of an Adjournment Motion. It is about the atrocities committed on *dalits* in India. Your subject is going to be discussed after 1st of March. Therefore, I am not in a position to accept your Adjournment Motion.

[English]

Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak now on the 'Zero Hour' issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen, I am working here. You sit down, your subject is over. Prabhunath Singh ji, your Notice is in the Zero Hour.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, very well done!

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is passing through a phase of pathetic economic condition. All the factories are lying closed. So much so that even the fertilizer plant in Barauni has also closed down the other day. Several agitations, dharnas have been staged on the closure of that plant and this issue has also been discussed in the House several times.

Now, a new situation is emerging in Bihar. Barauni refinery was basically set up in 1964 to process low sulphur crude oil of Assam with a functional capacity of 2 million metric tonnes annually. Later on this capacity was upgraded to 3.3 million tonnes annually. However the supply of the crude oil from Assam was stopped to the Barauni oil refinery after the Numaligarh oil refinery became operational there. Consequently Barauni oil refinery has to start processing the imported crude oil. Presently, the processing of the imported low sulphur crude oil is being done in Barauni oil refinery which is costlier than the Assam crude oil and High sulphur crude oil.

I would like to tell you that a meeting was held on 27.11.2002 in the office of the Minister of Petroleum which was attended by several officers of the petroleum companies besides those of the Ministry of Petroleum. It was urged in the meeting that the allocation of raw oil to the refinery be increased so that it may not get closed down. There are only two ways to make Barauni refinery functional again, one is to increase the supply of crude oil to the maximum to keep it going and secondly either to decrease the tax thereon imposed by the Government of Bihar or that the alternative arrangement be done by the Government of India. If both these measures are not taken the Barauni refinery is on the verge of closure.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to take steps to ensure that the Barauni refinery may not close down in view of the deplorable economic condition of Bihar and the current circumstances prevailing there and also that the people working there don't lose their employment. Hence, through you I would like that the Government should give assurance by accepting the truth seriously or you use your good offices to direct the Government to take necessary steps on this important issue in view of the situation prevailing in Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Is anyone taking note of what you are saying? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha, your name will be associated with this. You can now speak on your 'Zero Hour' issue.

[Translation]

I am permitting you because you have given notice on it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ): I am speaking on the notice. The condition of the sugarcane farmers is worst in the country and it has been discussed several times in the House. The Sugarcane farmers have also not got their appropriate remunerative price. The MSP was further decreased this year as compared to previous years but the minimum remunerative price which is fixed in different sugar factories on the basis of recovery has also not been implemented in Bihar. The minimum price fixed in the Sidhbalia sugar factory, Karkhua and Sashamusa factory in Gopalganj district this year is the same as was during last year. Later on it was declared by the Prime Minister that Government would further give it at Rs.5 per quintal. However, instead of paying it, the price was further reduced i.e. less by 21 per quintal is being paid to the farmers. Besides under weighing to the tune of 15 quintals per truck is also being done and this under-

weighing is five quintals on every tyre vehicle. Besides the weighing centers are also faulty. Several complaints were lodged in the office of the District administration but no action was taken in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I have the receipt of Pugalía Sugar Factory with me which I want to lay on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* The farmers don't get the MSP fixed for their produce. ...*(Interruptions)* Detour be taken in this regard. I would like to lay this receipt on the Table of the House with your permission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (BIJNOR): I would like to say something about the inactivity of the Chief Minister of Bihar Shrimati Rabri Devi. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to speak about the maltreatment to which the public of Bihar is being subjected to. ...*(Interruptions)* The Governance is in such a bad condition there. ...*(Interruptions)* that the heinous murders of several labourers, farmers are continuously taking place there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, you provide an opportunity to the House to hear something atleast. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Seven labourers were mercilessly killed in Navada district on 12th February. ...*(Interruptions)* Five farmers were killed in district Sekhupura on 13th February. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, you give some opportunity to the House to hear as to what he wants to say. He has not said anything so far. Hence you let him say something. You can raise your objections after he says something.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Seven farmers were killed in district Navada on 16th February. ...*(Interruptions)* Again, five dalit workers were killed on 18th February in Patna. ...*(Interruptions)* A student was killed on 20th February in Madhepura. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rajo Singhji, you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Atrocities were being committed against the dalits, farmers and the workers here. ...*(Interruptions)* I want that a delegation of the Government visit and investigate the matter there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing said by Shri Sheesh Ram Singhji will go on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to make a submission on this issue?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the metro project from Delhi was started with great fanfare. ...*(Interruptions)* The reports of severe financial crunch being faced in the first phase of the project itself are pouring in. ...*(Interruptions)* The economic aspects of the project were not considered properly in the beginning. ...*(Interruptions)* The Union Government tried to take the credit for its success but now the project is facing the danger of being closed down due to the internal bickering and lack of coordination among the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Planning of the Union Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are the Chairman of the panel. You resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now you have stated what you wanted to, now you sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rajo Singhji, you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you don't sit, I won't give you an opportunity to speak in future.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Under these circumstances, even the Japanese participants can show their reluctance to continue in this important project of the country's capital. ...*(Interruptions)* Through the House I would like to know from the Minister of Urban Development or the Ministry of Finance or the Planning Minister as to who is responsible for the bringing this project related to the conception of national prestige in a financial mess. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, I am not taking him on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Why was not a clear policy framed on all the related aspects of the scheme before implementing it? ...(Interruptions) All the same I would urge upon the Ministry of Planning to shun their policy of reluctance in providing necessary funds for the scheme and cooperate in the maintaining the credibility of the scheme by making available the necessary funds for the scheme.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can a Chief Minister be abused like this on the floor of the House? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have removed it from the record.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can a Chief Minister be insulted? ...(Interruptions) There are certain norms to be followed while making such statements in the House. If the Member has not done that, he should be pulled up. Let him be named. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have expunged the words from the record. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAMAN SINGH (RAJNANDGAON): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, today the matter towards which I would like to draw your attention concerns the dignity of the Chair. ...(Interruptions) The censure motion against Deputy Speaker of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly was passed by Congress legislative party in the presence of Chief Minister. ...(Interruptions) The censure motion is passed in the presence of Chief Minister. ...(Interruptions). It is contempt of the Chair. ...(Interruptions) The reason behind this contempt is that a case of hon. Deputy Speaker is lying pending in the High court against Chief Minister. I condemn the way the motion was moved against Deputy Speaker in the presence of Chief Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Why do you speak on every topic.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Union Government have provided many facilities to Haj

pilgrims. Subsidy of Rs. 60 crore provided by Union Government to Haj pilgrims has been increased to Rs. 260 crores. ...(Interruptions) Air Ticket of Rs. 36,000/- is provided to the Haj pilgrims at only Rs. 12,000/-. They are provided 75% subsidy. I would like to tell the House that all the pilgrimages of Hindus such as Vaishno Devi, Tirupati, Amarnath, Pandharpur, Kolhapur etc. are in Hindustan. There are 12 Jyotirlingas, 8 Shaktipeethas, and 8 Dhams in Hindustan. But there is no provision of subsidy for Hindus going to their holy places. I demand that the government should provide this facility to all the people who visit Vrishano Devi, Pashupati Nath temple in Kathmandu etc. All the passenger buses passing through Maharashtra have to pay separate tax in MP and then again from MP to Gujrat and from Gujrat to UP. My submission is that all the tax Hindu Pilgrims have to pay should be waived off by the Union government. If subsidy can be provided to Haj pilgrims then why not to Hindus? Therefore, Hindu pilgrims should also be provided subsidy. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also associate ourselves with this. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you will associate on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: All the 12 Jyotirlingas, 8 Shaktipeethas and 4 Dhams in the country are the holy places of Hindus, whether it is Vaishno Devi, Tirupati, Amarnath or any other pilgrimage our demand is that a provision for the grant of Rs. 100 crore should be made by the Union Government in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject towards which I would like to draw the attention of the House is about the Bhojnalaya in Dhar. In his letter to Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, hon. Minister of Tourism, Government of India Shri Jag Mohan said that the ban imposed on the request of previous government is being lifted by us and now you are to decide.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will also be associated on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: The Madhya Pradesh Government did not take any action even after receiving the letter, with regard to the Bhojshala issue I would like to invite the attention of the House towards the fact that when someone is unaware of any fact then it is fine but the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, in the State assembly, and outside the State assembly, the temple of Saraswati, which was built by Raja Bhoj. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (REWA): This is not the truth. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Please do not interrupt. ...(Interruptions) Not opening the doors of the Saraswati temple which was built by Raja Bhoj and which was the meeting place of scholars was a deliberate attempt to create a critical condition in Madhya Pradesh. On 19th, for the first time firing was opened in which seven people were injured. Yesterday also firing was opened in which one tribal was killed. I would like to say that if the State Chief Minister provides wrong information, the doors are not opened even at the insistence of Union Minister and thus the situation allowed to deteriorate, then there is nothing shameful than that. The tribal people have been killed there. ...(Interruptions) roads are being blocked. ...(Interruptions) first of all Dhar was closed, after that entire Indore was closed. ...(Interruptions) I would like to say that the Madhya Pradesh Government, their Chief Minister and Congress leaders are deliberately trying to deteriorate the situation of the State in such places of national interest. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Sir, I have also given notice. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh, Raja Bhoj had built a temple in 14th or 15th century and the puja of goddess Saraswati was performed in that temple everyday but the recent government of Shri Digvijay Singh imposed a restriction on it giving a decision that the puja would be performed only once in a year on the occasion of Vasant Panchami. ...(Interruptions) we can imagine the situation that there is a temple where the permission for performing puja is only for one day in a year and rest of the year it is not allowed. Therefore, it has been a long standing demand of the people there, that the temple should be opened for Puja every day but Digvijay Singh Government is not allowing to do so and since they lost the elections in Gujarat and Goa they are conspiring to create communal problem. ...(Interruptions)

Therefore we request the Union Government to open the Bhojshala temple. This is our demand from the Government. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Kerala, there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders. The consumers are very much angry with the LPG agencies. This shortage has been created by agencies deliberately. The agencies are selling cylinders in black-market for higher prices. Oil companies are not taking any step to solve this problem.

Due to conspiracy by the oil company officials and LPG agencies, there is a shortage. The agencies are charging extra for these cylinders. Allover Kerala, they are selling these cylinders at black-market. There is a lot of delay in getting cylinders by the consumers. The refilling also takes a lot of time. The people of Kerala are facing serious crisis for getting LPG cylinders.

I would request the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to take urgent steps on this burning issue.

[Translation].

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have a notice on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am checking whether your notice is there on same issue. If it is there, then I will allow you also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have given a notice regarding firing on Tribals, I will allow you later on.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra, especially tribals. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (REWA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever he said about that, it is an effort to misguide the whole House. ...(Interruptions) A case is going on with regard to Bhojshala there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can give notice on this and can hold discussion. How can you speak like this. All right whatever you spoke has been recorded, now you take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra, particularly the tribal area is facing a severe famine. ...(Interruptions) There is no water to drink for human beings as well as for cattle. Cattle are without fodder, people are starving, they are wondering here and there. The Government of Maharashtra have requested the Union Government and they had sent a committee but the committee report says that There is no drought in Maharashtra. ...(Interruptions) Therefore I would like to request the Government of India to send another committee to Maharashtra and provide maximum aid to meet the famine situation in Maharastra. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my notice is also there on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I will also give you a chance to speak. I have received your notice.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Friday prayer's time is also coming. You are pushing me out.

MR. SPEAKER: I have also received your notice. Your notice is at number 37 in my list.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: When the matter has come up, you should allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen that. Even though your number is much below in the list, I am going to permit you to speak.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: When the matter has come up, I must be permitted to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER On the same issue, his notice is also there.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a humble submission. In the mega cities of India such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata Pipelines for supplying gas have been laid. A gas pipeline passes near Jaipur. Jaipur is my constituency and no gas pipe line is laid there. My

submission is that a gas pipeline should also be laid there so that people do not have to go here and there for gas connection and the gas is available to them at their door step. The Ministry of Oil and Natural gas should be instructed to lay a gas pipeline in Jaipur area so that the problem of lakhs of people of that area is solved.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, you have gone to other subjects. This is not fair. ...(Interruptions) My notice was on the same subject. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has been allowed to speak because he has given the notice before you gave your notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he also has given a notice on the same subject, he can speak after me. In 997 AD Raja Bhoj had built Bhojshala in Dhar, and Idol of goddess Saraswati was installed which is still there. At that time Bhojshala was the meeting place of scholars. From 997 AD to 1997 Hindu devotees used to come there continuously to perform the Puja of goddess Saraswati. ...(Interruptions) But in 1997 the State Government had banned the entry of Hindus in Bhojshala by suppressing the feelings of Hindus. In this regard it was propagated that this was being done by the Union Government. But then the Union government dispatched a letter to them which stated that this action was not taken by them and it will be a matter of joy for the Union government if the State government opens the doors of Bhojshala for public. Later on, when it was demanded by the Hindus, then innocent Hindus were suppressed in Dhar district and Indore sub division. When some tribal people were returning after performing the last rites of an innocent priest who was killed in Amjhera then police opened fire on them without any reason, in which three people were killed. One of them was tribal, Van Singh. ...(Interruptions) Besides, in Megh Nagar in Jhabua also police opened fire on innocent people who were demanding to open Bhojshala. Action was taken under TADA on people in Rajgarh and Dhar. The Madhya Pradesh government and their Chief Minister are deliberately suppressing the Hindus of the State. A cow was slaughtered in Ganjvasauda Nagar of Madhya Pradesh. After that the State Government is protecting the killer and the person who exposed the cow slaughter was put in jail under NSA. The entire Malwa region is living under the cloud of terror. Due to the vote-bank politics, innocent Hindus are being suppressed by the State Government. A survey was conducted by a British officer Kartizen in 1870 about the situation of Bhojshala of

Dhar which depicts everything. If the Union Government goes through the report of that survey, then they will know the facts. Therefore, my humble submission is that Union Minister of Tourism and Culture should be sent there to study the actual situation and Bhojshala should be opened for Hindus. Besides, the area encroached should be cleared.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a totally wrong politically motivated dispute, with an eye on the election, has been raised. At Dhar, there is an ancient Kamal-Moula Masjid and a wrong history is sought to be produced before the House in order to mislead the House.

At present, this Kamal-Moula Masjid is under the Archaeological Survey of India. There is an Act and the Act has several sections. They must prevail. Sir, threats are being given that Dhar and Kamal-Moula Masjid issue will be turned into a new Ayodya Issue. The violence has been unleashed there. This is the time, when the Government must be firm and see to it that firm action is taken in this case. An ancient Masjid once again is being brought under dispute.

The attempt is to set the entire nation on communal fire. Archaeological Survey of India is managing this Kamal-Moula mosque. Every Friday *namaz* is being offered at Kamal-Moula masjid. Today is also a Friday. Unnecessarily, with a political motive and with an eye on the election, this particular dispute has been raised. I appeal to the Government to be firm with all these people who want to turn the issue into a new Ayodhya.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No advocates are allowed in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the Jharkhand State which was formed about two and a half years ago. But the cadres have not been decided there which is creating many obstructions in government work. Corrupt officers are taking the advantage of it whereas good officers are keeping a mum over it. Therefore, I would like to request the Union government to intervene and help in deciding the cadres at the earliest in Jharkhand.

Secondly, the State of Bihar has Bihar Niwas and Bihar Bhawan whereas Jharkhand do not have a single building due to which people have to face a lot of trouble. All the public representatives who come to Delhi from Jharkhand have to stay in hotels which is not only inconvenient but also puts burden on their pocket. The officers are not being promoted

and since the cadres have not been decided therefore the employees are not getting their salary for last 3-4 years. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the cadres should be decided immediately and one building out of Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas should be allotted to Jharkhand.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Congress leaders of Madhya Pradesh have levelled an allegation that the hon. Prime Minister eats beef. The Congress workers in Madhya Pradesh raised a slogan that 'Gai hamari mata hai, Atal Bihari knata hai.' Such false allegation was levelled against hon. Prime Minister. Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee ji is the popular leader of not only this august House but the leader of the country and such false allegations can put the law and order situation of the country in danger. This has hurt the feelings of the people of the country. I would like to appeal the Congress, leaders to apologise for this propoganda and action should be taken against the people who have made this allegation.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I hail from Kashi. The holy river Ganges flowing through this city is getting polluted. In Kanpur, the Ganges water has turned black due to pollution and in Prayag it has become unfit for use. The condition in Kashi is deteriorating day by day. Today there is resentment among the saints and people of Kashi due to this. This issue is not concerned to any party or institution but to this House and to the country.

Factories in Agra have been shut down to save Taj from pollution. I am not against this step but I would request that the factories in Kanpur which are dumping poisonous substances in Ganges should also be shut down. When more than 1000 factories can be shifted from Delhi to save it from pollution, why not the factories of Kanpur-Prayag polluting Ganges by dumping their industrial wastes and poisonous substances be shifted from there.

Through you, I would like to tell the Government to check the main cause of this situation. The flow of Ganges Water coming from Gaumukh has been blocked for construction of Tehri Dam. But this is polluting Ganges water. Therefore, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a similar situation that was arisen in 1914. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please conclude in one line.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Sir, this is not a party issue.

MR. SPEAKER: One has to be brief during Zero Hour.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Sir, in 1914, Britishers also tried to block the Ganges. At that time from 1914 to 1916 an agitation took place under the leadership of great Shri Malviyaji and was supported by the local kings also. The whole country stood unitedly on that issue. An agreement was signed among the British Lieutenant Governor, Malviya ji and local kings which stated that the flow of water from Gaumukh would continue up to Gangotri and will not be blocked. I would like to tell the present Government to solve the problem by adopting that agreement and make the river Ganges free of pollution.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, I just want to say that the hon. Member has raised a very good issue before this House regarding cleanliness of Ganges water. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had formulated a project to keep the Ganges water clean and I was the Member of the concerned Committee. He had given funds to Corporation through State Governments to clean the water polluted by municipalities and industries. Through you, I would like to request that the Government should take all possible steps in this regard and State Governments should also pay special attention to it. Besides, corporation should also utilize the allocated funds to clean the Ganges water.

The issue raised by the hon. Member is very good and I whole heartedly support it.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Sir, this issue is also concerned with my district, therefore, I also associate my feelings with it.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (RAMTEK): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention towards a leading newspaper of Vidarbha. The farmers of this area are in a pitiable condition due to torrential rain and hailstorm for the last four days. They are now shelterless. As newspapers are reporting, hundreds of farmers got injured and crops worth crores of rupees got damaged in this heavy rain and hailstorm. Even the bodies of the dead farmers have not been cremated yet. Today is the sixth day but no relief has been provided by Maharashtra Government till now. Life has been disturbed there completely. ... (Interruptions) As Shri Ramdas Athawale was saying that the acting Minister has visited there, I would like to tell him that Maharashtra Government has not yet appointed any acting Minister for Nagpur. It is really unfortunate. I request the Central Government to provide a special package of Rs.300 crore for Vidarbha as Maharashtra Government will provide the relief lately: Yesterday, Agriculture

Minister was present in the House. He stated that this issue would be considered during the discussion on issue of agriculture. This is the peak time for orange crop. Earlier a loss of Rs.900 crore was occurred but the Central Government has not provided any relief till date to compensate that loss. If Central Government will not provide help this time, again the farmers will suffer heavy losses. I hope Central Government would extend help in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited is the only industry in our country which was set up to manufacture flint buttons, but this industry has become sick for the last 15 years. The BOGL was referred to the BIFR. There were a number of meetings held and the last meeting was held in the month of December. The BIFR passed its order on 9th January, 2003. In its order, the BIFR has directed the Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries to submit their final decision for revival within 45 days. This period of 45 days will expire on 25th February, 2003.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, you know better about it. I discussed the issue of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited with you a number of times when you were Minister of Heavy Industries. But till now, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has not submitted its revival plan. Therefore, I urge upon the Government - Shri Kashiram Rana, Minister of Textiles, who is here, will convey - that the Ministry of Heavy Industries should submit its revival plan. It is a very small industry and only Rs. 20 crore or Rs. 25 crore will be required for its revival. The Government should take serious and sincere steps to revive BOGL and in order to revive it, the Government should submit the revival plan to BIFR by 25th February.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, I have also given notice on the same subject.

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (ASANSOL): Sir, I also want to say something on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Your names will be associated.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Progressive Construction Limited is making a loot in Jharkhand State under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. The National Highway from Govindpur to Bagodar comes under my Parliamentary Constituency. A four lane road is being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana from Govindpur to Bagodar via Dhanbad, Bokaro and Giridih. In this regard, I have written a letter to hon. Minister that the

labourers working there are not being paid adequately though they work for 12 hours a day. Construction of the road is not being done properly. The surface is not being levelled properly with the soil. Road is being constructed without the use of sand. The Government should check the durability of this road and take the necessary steps in this regard.

13.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

14.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty four minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to give an important information to the House. Today the Youth wing of our party has announced to organise a demonstration in Lucknow. On 19th the President of the Samajwadi Party of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Sharan Das had assured the District Magistrate, Lucknow and the Senior Police Superintendent that the demonstration would be peaceful. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): It is a state subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is not a State subject. The police resorted to lathi charge there. ...*(Interruptions)* Thousands of workers have been arrested. Even Shri Mulayam Singh is not safe there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: It is a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I gave him permission to make his submission.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: My point is what about the business listed in today's agenda? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please put it in one or two sentences.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: How can they be allowed to raise anything at any time? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a serious issue. Thousands of workers of our party have been arrested. There is a threat to the life of hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. It is a serious issue.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I should also be allowed to speak. Three persons have been killed in Dhar District. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He sought my permission. I gave him permission. I allowed him to make his submission in one or two sentences.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He sought my permission and I gave him the permission.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Under what rule is he making this submission?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I have given him the permission.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Under what rule, Sir?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Please maintain order in the House. The House's proceeding can not continue like this, they are challenging your authority. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

...*(Interruptions)* Who are you to ask that? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Who are you to ask me that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I gave him the permission.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN): He has been permitted by the hon. Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have permitted him to make a submission. He said that four Members of this House have been taken into custody and, therefore, he wanted to make a submission. Please do not obstruct him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: He will have to tell as to who we are. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: There the workers and leaders of our party are being beaten. Thousands of people have been arrested there. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House functions according to some rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Pandeya, he sought my permission and I gave him the permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: My request is that you please maintain order in the House.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: What type of words he is using. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have given him the permission to make a submission about the arrest of four MPs including his leader, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have given him the permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Look at the way the hon. Member is speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asked my permission and I gave him the permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You please do not teach me manners. I have been in the House for 25 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Chair might have given him the permission, but look at the way the Member behaves in the House. He should withdraw those words. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please put it in one or two sentence.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I was submitting that the Samajwadi Party was to organise a demonstration in Lucknow on 21st under the leadership of Member of Parliament, Shri Akhilesh Yadav on the issue of peasants, labourers and youth. For that the President of Samajwadi Party of U.P. State, Shri Ram Sharan Das had written a letter to the Senior Police Superintendent and the District Magistrate seeking permission for demonstration. He also mentioned the route and place of the demonstration and also assured that the demonstration would be peaceful. But section 44 has been enforced all over the State and most of the people who have to participate in demonstration are arrested in various districts. The office of our party is located at Vikramaditya Marg where a meeting was to be held at 10 O' clock. The national president, Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Shri Amar Singh, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Shri Ahmed Hassan, Ajam Khan etc. leaders were present there. 20 rounds have been fired there. ...*(Interruptions)* The workers were beaten. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue. The Government should reply in this regard. The minister of Home Affairs is present here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shivraj Patil, would you like to say something?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, it was very kind of you to allow the hon. Member to raise this issue. Some Members of this House are involved in this incident. When a very important issue involving Members of this House is before the House, under the inherent jurisdiction of the hon. Speaker you can allow a discussion. The hon. Member has stated and reports are coming that 20 rounds have been fired there, and MLAs and MPs are sitting over there. We cannot say how correct or how wrong they are. We would like to know from the Government what the situation is. The information should be collected and given to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Sir, hon'ble Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is a honourable leader of a Party in this House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: With Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Shivraj V. Patil, submissions on this subject are over. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, if you want to associate, you do that.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is the leader of a Party in this House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: About raising State subjects here, it is a debatable question. I Actually the hon. Speaker had fixed time for a meeting of leaders of all Parties in order to discuss whether State subjects can be raised in this House. That is a matter under consideration. If matters relating to States are raised here again and again, it is not good for the concept of autonomy of States and the power of States.

I, therefore, rule that hereafter no State subject can be brought to the notice. There is no State Minister here to answer. The State Cabinet is not here to answer. How can the Minister here answer? How will this Minister get instructions from a State Government? If a Government headed by another party is there in a State, you will not be able to get instructions properly. So, I rule that hereafter no State matter, especially matters relating to law and order, can be raised here.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is the law and that is the Constitution. In spite of your ruling and with your ruling, that will be the position in the House. What we are raising in this House is that a Member of this House has been held there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been taken note of.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Reports have come in saying that 20 rounds have been fired. We are seeking just information, nothing else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will not prevent that. But one cannot make any allegation against a State Government; one cannot make from here any allegation against a Chief Minister.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, a large number of people were prevented to enter into Bhojshala in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. The police resorted to lathi charge there and used teargas also. As per the information three persons are killed in firing. The situation is tense in whole Indore region. The curfew has been imposed at various places. The entire Indore city remained close today and there is a strong reaction over this incident in the entire Madhya Pradesh. The law and order situation can further deteriorate. The Minister of Home Affairs should give a statement in this regard.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, dozens of Members of this August House are there and are they safe? They are in the office located at Vikramaditya Marg.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I have given you enough hearing.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is an honourable leader of a party.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I allowed. I allowed it because Shri Mulayam Singh's name was there.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Several other Members were ready to go there. Arresting people and resorting to firing there is not a healthy trend. The democracy is being scuttled in this way. The House should ponder over this. The situation is serious there so the Government should ponder over it and a statement should be given in this regard.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, four Members of this House are involved over there. It is a matter where democracy is being scuttled. When four Members of this House are involved, serious note has to be taken. Not only a statement, but a complete statement must come before the House, before the rise of the House today. That is the direction that must go to the Government from the Chair. Please direct the Government to make a complete statement in the House before the rise of the House today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given my ruling. I cannot give a direction to the Central Government to get an instruction from the State Government and apprise this House. It is for the State Government to act on the law and order subject there.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: When four Members of this House are involved. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter has been brought to the notice of the House. That is all.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let them give the information.
...(Interruptions) Let them collect the information.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request hon. Sushmaji that the concerned Minister Shri

Harin Pathak is present here and it would be better if he gives reply in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after your ruling, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Shri Shivraj Patil ji said that the said matter is related to the Members of the House, so this matter cannot be treated as a State subject. I fully agree with his views and not only as a part of the Government but also as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs it is my duty to protect the dignity of the every Member of the House. Hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Sumanji said that since M.O.S. is present here so he should give reply. I would like to assure, the House on behalf of the Government that the Government are looking into it and as soon as the facts come to light the Government will share it with the House and will also take necessary action in this regard. I am giving this assurance not only to Shri Sumanji but also to all Members of the entire House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, by what time the matter will be investigated. There should be a prescribed time limit like one hour or two hours. Shri Pathakji. should please tell us about it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as has been told that today there was a rally of Samajwadi Party and other parties and some action has been taken by the police there. Such action has been taken in Madhya Pradesh also. As the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said that some hon. Members of this House were also present there. The moment the Government get the information from the State Governments regarding the police action it would be provided to the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: But Mr. Chairman, Sir, by what time? A time limit should be fixed in this regard.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: As soon as the Government would get information from the State Governments, it would be provided to the House accordingly.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Pathakji by when the Government would get information.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Today, it self the Government is going to get the information.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we go to item No.8 - Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I have given you enough time. Please take your seat now.

DELHI HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL*

14.46 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1966.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delhi High Court Act, 1966."

The motion was moved.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

14.47 hrs.

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Sir, with your permission, I, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri L.K. Advani, beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

by the Central Government and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the objectives sought to be achieved with the enactment of CVC Bill, 1999 have been given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached with the CVC Bill, 1999. To recapitulate briefly, the Central Vigilance Commission was set up in 1964 in pursuance to the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption headed by Shri K. Santhanam. The Commission was envisaged to be an advisory body with same measure of independence and autonomy as the Union Public Service Commission.

In September 1997, the Government constituted an Independent Review Committee (IRC) comprising Sarvasbri B.G. Deshmukh, S.V. Giri and N.N. Vohra to suggest measures for strengthening, inter alia, anti-corruption activities. Based on the recommendations of the IRC and subsequent directions of the Supreme Court in its order dated 18th December 1997, in the case of Vineet Narain and others versus Union of India and others, the Government decided inter alia to confer statutory status upon the Central Vigilance Commission.

Sir, the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 under consideration of this august House was again introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20th December 1999. After introduction, this Bill was referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament under the chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, for examination and report.

Sir, after hearing the views of the experts and officers appeared before it, and after going through the suggestion/comments received by the committee from various organization/individuals etc., and after clause-by-clause consideration on the provisions of the Bill, the Joint Committee presented its Report to the Parliament on November 22, 2000.

Sir, the Joint committee in its Report has made various recommendations and also presented 'the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999', as reported by the Joint Committee. Sir, the Joint Committee has recommended principal changes in twelve out of the twenty-nine clauses of the Bill, besides certain general recommendations.

Sir, after thorough examination of the various recommendations of the Joint Committee, the government has accepted all the recommendations of the Joint Committee and also the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 as reported by it.

Sir, the Bill also seeks to repeal the Government of India Resolution dated 4th April 1999, as amended on 13th August

2002, under which the Central Vigilance Commission is presently continuing as a non-statutory body.

Sir, I may also submit here that necessary official amendments in regard to the enacting formula and the change of year to the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999, have already been moved.

With these words, Mr. Chairman Sir, I request that the above Bill, as reported by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, may kindly be considered and unanimously passed along with the official amendments proposed, by this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, the Central Vigilance Commission Bill is before us. This Bill incorporates the suggestions given by the Joint Committee. We have no objection to pass this Bill.

Having said this, I would like to make the views of some of us over here known to this hon. House. One of the things which is happening with respect to this Bill is that we are making a law in pursuance of the directions given by the Supreme Court. We shall have to deal with this issue in a very responsible manner.

The Constitution of India provides that the executive decisions will be taken by the Executive; the laws will be made by the Legislature; and the judiciary shall interpret these laws.

As far as the interpretation of these laws is concerned, whatever is said by the Supreme Court or the High Court or the Judiciary is final. The Legislature certainly can change the law, but it cannot change the decision. The decision stands if the laws are not made. The Executive can issue the executive decisions and directions.

We have been respecting the Supreme Court directions and we should respect the Supreme Court directions. Unless we respect the Supreme Court directions, the Supreme Court decisions, it would be difficult for us to maintain the order, tranquility and peace in the society. But while doing this thing

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

in a very responsible manner, at some point of the time, we shall have to consider whether the judiciary is in a position to give the directions to the Legislature to make a law or not to make a law or to make a law in a particular manner. That decision has to be taken by the representatives of the people. That decision is within the jurisdiction of the legislature. So, on the one hand, while respecting the power and authority of the Judiciary to interpret the law, on the other, is the Judiciary, as per the Constitutional provisions, in a position to direct the Legislature or the Executive to make a law in a particular fashion? It is not possible for me to go into the details of this topic and come to certain conclusions. But this is an issue which has acquired very huge proportions and this has to be considered by us at a particular point of time - not with a view to flout the orders given by the Judiciary, but with a view to implement the spirit of the Constitution, according to which, the legislative power rests with the Legislature and not with any other authority. This issue has to be very very carefully considered.

The second issue which should be considered by us is this. Allegations are levelled against the Executive and against those who are in public life for having committed corruption. If the allegations are correct, action should certainly be taken against them. But if the allegations are not correctly made, not based on the facts, then it creates political difficulties, not only political difficulties, but also administrative difficulties and it also creates hurdles in taking decisions.

For instance, if an allegation is made against a Ministry and that allegation is published in the media, and discussed in the House and outside the House too, then the officers who have to take decisions would rather like to avoid taking decisions than to take decisions. What happens is that when a file is presented to an officer and if he is an honest officer and if he becomes apprehensive that allegation can be levelled against him, he would rather not take a decision on the file, but he will see that the file moves from one table to the other.

I have seen files which have been moving not, only from one table to the other, but they have been moving from one Ministry to the other. If the Ministry of Defence has to take a decision, the matter is referred to the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry's opinion is obtained and then the Finance Ministry also does not give the final opinion. It says that it could go to the Industries Ministry and let the Industries Ministry decide whether a particular thing is to be imported or whether it can be manufactured in the country. If the Industries Ministry says that can be manufactured in the country or it can be imported from outside also, then they would say that they should examine the legal position. So, the matter goes to the Law Ministry and it opines something and then it comes back to the Ministry of Defence. Then, the Ministry of Defence again

says that they have taken decisions separately sitting in their own offices, but they should take the decision jointly sitting in a meeting. Again, the file goes back and then the officers have to come together and take a decision.

The result of this kind of procedure adopted is that not only months, but years pass before the final decision is taken. When years pass, the cost of acquiring the equipments or the cost of implementing a project goes up by 25 per cent or 30 per cent or even 50 per cent. The delays are there; time has its own cost. If you do not respect time now, it will certainly increase the cost. This aspect has to be considered. So, while governing and administering, a balanced attitude is required; and that balanced attitude is that there should not be corruption and at the same time, there should not be undue delays which can increase the cost of doing things.

15.00 hrs.

So, it is easy to allege anything against anybody but it is very difficult to substantiate an allegation. As a Government it has a responsibility to see that there is no corruption and everything that is necessary for this purpose should be done. At the same time, it has a responsibility to see that delays are avoided. That is a very important thing. That is why we shall have to be careful in seeing that corruption is not there, delay is not there and the innocent people are not put to any inconvenience.

The matter was discussed and a question came up as to whether the CBI, the Central Bureau of Investigation, be totally under the control of CVC. I think the Government has come to the conclusion that it may not be necessary. The Government has come to the conclusion that the police, which is investigating into the matter, to the extent of investigation of cases, shall be guided by the directions given by the CVC. On this, there may be a difference of opinion in and outside the House. But it does appear to me the view is quite balanced. They can express opinions against this view yet if the sum total of it, is taken into account the view is acceptable.

The last point with respect to this is, we have seen in many cases that the peoples' representatives are less believed than the nominated persons. Sometimes it is thought that the peoples' representatives, who are sitting here, as part of the Government, Ministers or the MPs, are not in a position to come to the correct conclusion and that is why persons are nominated to take decisions. In some cases those who have to take the decision have to be independent. The Members of the judiciary have to be independent. There is no doubt about that, but if all the cases are transferred from the elected representatives' jurisdiction to the nominated persons, that is our good and democratic. You have made the members of

the CVC answerable. You have also provided that if any allegation is levelled against a member of CVC, it can be looked into by the Supreme Court and after the Supreme Court gives a decision, action can be taken against the CVC members. But we know how difficult it becomes. The Minister is answerable to us at all times. We can pull him up and tell him as to what he is doing is not correct. He is not under the scrutiny of one or two persons but under the scrutiny of nearly 1000 people. There are 545 Members in this House and 245 Members in the other House and each one, whether he belongs to the ruling party or the Opposition, is entitled to ask questions and entitled to hold the Ministers of the Government accountable. If we do not believe in the capacity of the Members to do this thing and if we believe that only the nominated persons can do this, it is a journey from democracy to oligarchy. This journey from democracy to oligarchy should be avoided.

In olden days, if a criminal case was to be decided there used to be a jury - a jury and a judge used to sit - and the decision given by the jury, who were not experts in law but common persons, was held as correct and legal. Why was it done? It was done because relying upon one person is not good but relying upon the judgement of many persons would be good. When we are travelling from democracy to oligarchy, from democracy to a sort of oligarchy, this process is being reversed. We are not relying upon the judgement by many persons but we are relying upon the judgements of a few persons and that too of nominated persons, the persons who are not directly and clearly accountable to a body like ours. This other view has also to be kept in mind.

I would like to repeat and repeat it again and again that with the corruption charges levelled against many persons, the machinery to investigate into it, the machinery to supervise it, and the machinery to decide it should, by all means, be strengthened. Everything that is necessary for this purpose has to be strengthened but that is one side of the coin. The other side of the coin also should be kept in mind while doing this. I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more than this. I think this Bill is salutary. Let us approve it.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): I stand in support of the CVC Bill. Moribund mindset and low moral character are the bane of this country at present. We have a democracy, a thriving democracy with lots of vibrant activities. But with democracy, we have brought in two matters. One is population explosion and the other is black money. Black money is coming because of numerous social legislations that have been taken up within the last 50 to 55 years. I do not say that it has been done by this Government or that Government but many Governments have brought in social legislation. Once social legislation comes naturally the decision making

rests on some people. When it is a question of decision making or it is a question of arbitrary method of taking a correct path or a proper path, there is bound to be corruption. In this country corruption has come to stay in a very big manner. It is but necessary that we should stem corruption. The ominous signs of this type of corruption were noticed as far back as in 1964.

15.07 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, in 1964, the Government of India brought in a Resolution after a proper enquiry by Shri Santhanam. Shri Santhanam had given a report keeping in mind the numerous types of corruption in which unscrupulous persons were indulging in to become rich overnight. It is also a fact that there has been a nexus between the politicians and the administrative machinery and because of this nexus, corruption has been thriving in a very big manner than what it was earlier.

Now, it became necessary to inquire into the corruption. The objective was that the misconduct, corruption, and malpractice of the public servants had to be looked into. That is why, the first Central Vigilance Commissioner was appointed with some amount of independence. As you are aware, in the first stage, the Central Vigilance Commissioner was to be appointed under the seal, signature, and warrant of the President of India. But at a later stage in 1995 - I do not know for what reason - it was withdrawn. Now it has become necessary that a certain procedure should be adopted to see that corruption has to be stemmed - I do not say completely eradicated.

I would further embellish what Shri Shivraj Patil said by saying that the executive had frittered its right in bringing about resolutions and legislation to ensure that corruption is prevented in a big manner. The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 was of no use because of which the 1988 Act was enacted by this Parliament. But in spite of that also, they were not able to stem corruption.

As the Executive failed, rather frittered away its powers, naturally the vacuum was filled up by the Judiciary. In the case of Vineet Narain versus the Union of India, the first thing that the Supreme Court did was to usurp the powers of the Legislature itself. It is an ominous sign. It is an ominous sign because as per the constitutional requirement, the Judiciary is to make interpretation and not to give directions. That is the main reason for which the Joint Committee had taken exception to the Objects and Reasons that had been indicated

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

in the Bill of 1999. While I stand here to support the Bill, I am only giving the idea or the background of the matter that had gone into the minds of the framers of the Bill itself.

Sir, the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been telling - also has been working towards it - that corruption has to be completely wiped off and that there should be transparency in the administrative functioning of the Government and its different branches. So, for that purpose and keeping that aspect in view, ordinances were brought in since the Bill could not be passed because of certain difficulties. The Bill had the meandering of the Brahmaputra river, going from one Committee to another, coming back and again and ordinance being promulgated and again going back to the Committee and all those things. It was necessary to promulgate an ordinance and then bring the Bill itself. The Bill had to go to the Joint Committee and the Joint Committee had recommended certain amendments. We are grateful that the recommendations of the Joint Committee have been accepted almost in toto by the Government.

Sir, the present day society has one difficulty. The difficulty is that an honest person or an honest administrator is not able to withstand the pressures of corrupt administrators or public servants. I would like to quote, with your permission, a portion of a poem by Oliver Goldsmith. In the late 18th century he had given a very good message to the public about how the honest people are under pressure not to say what they are willing to say or wish to say. I quote, "Conscience is a coward and those faults it has not strength enough to prevent, it seldom has justice enough to accuse". It does not have the strength to prevent it and it cannot accuse also. So, now we have to think in what manner we can accuse and we should not be cowards and in order to accuse others of being corrupt in many manner, it is necessary that there should be a legislation.

Sir, as you know for any good administration, there has to be seven conducts, namely, selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and the last is leadership. Unless there is leadership, all the other six qualities would be completely eclipsed. In the present day governance, the leadership that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee gives an impetus to ensure that there is honesty, integrity and a little bit of selflessness, in the bureaucracy and, to some extent, in persons who are in public life. As everybody knows, honesty and integrity are at a premium in this country. How do we ensure that there is a certain amount of honesty and integrity amongst the administrative functionaries? For this there has to be some sort of a punitive action. There has to be some sort of a procedure to see that those who are corrupt and

those who are not doing their work properly have to be weeded out and for weeding them out certain rules have to be framed and certain functionaries would have to be appointed. That is what the Central Vigilance Commission Bill aims at.

As you know, the Central Vigilance Commission Bill stands on four pillars. Firstly, when we are thinking of weeding out people, the net that has to weed out the unwanted things from the water has to be very strong. So, it is important as to how the fabric is prepared. Therefore, the question comes as to who are the persons to be appointed as Central Vigilance Commissioners. The appointment of the Commissioners is the most important aspect. The Bill has carefully taken this aspect into consideration as to who are the persons who would qualify to be appointed as Central Vigilance Commissioners and who are the people who would decide about the qualifications of the members to be selected for the post of the Central Vigilance Commissioner. Who are the persons who would select them? They are the Prime Minister of India, the Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. This selection machinery is a very good composition.

In the initial stage it was thought that there would be a five-member Commission - one would be the Chairperson and four others would be Commissioners. But, after due deliberations, the Government decided that there would be one Chairperson and two Commissioners - one Chief Vigilance Commissioner and two more Commissioners. It is a good thing. Appointing a person of integrity from different services itself is absolutely necessary. It is not necessary that all the members, including the Chairman, should be from the Indian Administrative Service or some from the Indian Police Service. A rider has been provided wherein it indicates that not more than two shall be from the same Service. It has been done because corruption has various angles. Corruption, like adultery, has to be inferred in many respects. Corruption is a question of consent between two groups. So, lots of things have to be gone into while deciding about the corrupt practices of an administrative functionary. Therefore, officers or public servants from different walks of life have to be taken into the Commission. It is not necessary that only IAS or IPS officers should be taken. It is also not necessary that officers from Customs and Revenue Services need be taken. It can be an officer of a public sector undertaking. As I know, at present the former Chairman of the State Bank of India has become the Central Vigilance Commissioner. It has to be done so that we keep track of corruption in different departments, different corporations and different public sector undertakings. As I said, the first thing is how do we recruit people and give them a certain amount of impunity from breathing down their neck.

The question of removal from office comes next. The question of removal has been very clearly taken into account.

In case of any misconduct by the commissioners, a certain procedure has been provided. The President of India is to take steps to suspend him and the Supreme Court of India is to decide after due inquiry as to what action has to be taken. The first section is about the appointment and the removal from service of the CVC. I am not going into all the sections of the Bill.

Once we have decided about certain amount of independence for the CVC, now it is necessary to know as to what are the duties of the Commission. Clause 8 enumerates at length the duties of the Commission. When the Commission takes up a case for action in respect of anybody, a certain amount of stigma will be attached to that officer. As Shri Shivraj Patil has said about decision making, there could be two sides to it. Three or four years after an officer has taken a particular decision, that could come into question. The officer concerned may not be able to answer the questions being put by the same investigating agency or the inquiring authority. So, certain elaborate procedures have been provided for the Vigilance Commission itself. As of now, the Vigilance Commission has to look into 605 departments and public sector undertakings. They cannot do it alone. If they try to do it, it would be superficial. So, the Central Vigilance Commission must also have other vigilance officers in different departments, institutions, corporations, public sector undertakings, etc. These vigilance officers are to work in tandem with the CVC. If they do not work in tandem with the CVC, then the entire objective of this Bill will be vitiated. Whatever we may try to achieve will be vitiated and again, we will be sending it back to the Supreme Court itself to decide on the interpretation part of it. As I said in the beginning, we have frittered our powers. The Legislature has given away its powers. That is why, the vacuum was filled up by the Judiciary. We have to be very cautious. Whatever is required has to be done by this Parliament itself. It is the power of the Parliament as per the Constitution of India.

For example, what are the powers to be given to the CVC? This Bill has indicated that the powers of the civil court would be given to the CVC. So far so good. There are powers like summoning people to appear, filing affidavits or to seize property and all those things. Unless powers are given, it would not be possible for any Central Vigilance Commission to work in a proper manner.

But what is most important is that there are two functionaries who would be assisting the Central Vigilance Commission. The Directorate of Customs and Excise is the most important functionary or a body of people who are mostly involved in collection of taxes, funds, etc. and coming in contact with the people. The second one is the Director of Central Bureau of Investigation. One part is the Directorate of

Excise and Customs and those functionaries in the Finance Ministry and the other is the Delhi Special Police Establishment. Appointments of these functionaries are very important for the working of the Central Vigilance Commission. Appointments of the officials of the Directorate of Excise and Customs or the Director of Enforcement have been taken into account by the Bill itself. Clause 26 is very elaborate on who are the persons who can be taken into consideration and who would appoint them.

In the initial stage, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner was to sit with other Members but, later on, it was decided that the other two Members also will associate themselves in deciding as to who would be the officer to preside over the matter relating to the Directorate of Enforcement. That is a very vital thing because the Directorate of Enforcement comes in contact with different people and there is easy money. One interpretation here and there may cause loss or gain to the other person himself. So, it is a very vital work which has been done.

As you know, we are facing lots of difficulties because of the enforcement agencies. As I have said in the beginning, many pieces of social legislation, tax reforms and other aspects have complicated the working pattern of this administrative machinery.

The other agency is the directorate of Central Bureau of Investigation. One thing which crept in mind is the superintendence over the working of the directorate of the CBI. Sir, superintendence, as such, has been indicated in Article 227 of the Constitution of India where the High Courts have been given the powers of superintendence which is a very wide power. Every High Court shall have superintendence over all the courts and tribunals throughout the territory in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction. Superintendence is a two-edge sword. It can cut on both sides. So, one has to be very cautious when the question of superintendence is given to the Central Vigilance Commission.

It is because we have seen in the past that the Central Vigilance Commissioner was too big for his toes. He started giving directions as if he was deciding on the policy of a particular Ministry or a particular Department or a particular public sector undertaking. This is too much because the policy decisions are to be taken by the Government of India or by those people who are in power at a particular given moment of time. If the Central Vigilance Commission starts giving policy directives, then the entire Government machinery will fail. That is why the question of superintendence has to be thought of properly.

The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 has given superintending powers to the Government because the Government has the powers for superintendence of all functionaries in different Departments. Now, when we have

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

constituted the Central Vigilance Commission with far-reaching consequences in the administrative functioning of the Government because it mostly relates to Government of India - the Central Government - the superintendence matter has to be thought of in a proper manner.

Then, we come to clause 27 of this Bill. I would like to know whether the Central Vigilance Commission will have the total power of superintendence over the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act or the CBI for that matter. Now, the CBI looks into investigation of criminal cases or those which are related to Indian Penal Code and certain minor Acts. Investigation of a particular type of case relating to Prevention of Corruption Act should only be the domain of the Central Vigilance Commission. Nothing else. That has to be kept in mind. When we say that the superintendence of the Central Vigilance Commission shall apply to the CBI, it is only with respect to investigation of cases relating to Prevention of Corruption Act and other related matters of corruption. Not beyond that. If that is not properly adhered to, then we may have a system which would collapse in no time. That has been taken into account. As I said earlier, a person of integrity has to be appointed as the Director of the CBI. Certain procedures have been provided in clause 27 itself. There is a note of caution. The note of caution is regarding the single directive system.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I had said earlier, suppose an officer of the level of Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary decides on a particular matter and after five or ten years that matter comes up, and somebody either in the Directorate of Enforcement or in the CBI would think it proper that the decision was not proper - or the CVC itself thinks that the decision was not proper although the CVC might not have been privy to the decision that was taken earlier and if the CVC immediately starts an inquiry or directs the CBI for an investigation, then it would be travesty of justice and fairness.

The most important thing is that we must give protection to certain group of officers at certain level, like Group V officers of the public sector undertakings or the Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary rank officers or above the Additional Secretary and Secretary level officers, as the case may be. So, the single directive system is most important when we empower the CVC to go into the matter relating to corruption. I do not say that corruption is not there. It has become all-pervading in our society. But there are certain officers who, in spite of all pressures from different sides, like monetary, psychological and mental agony, have tried to withstand the pressures and give decisions. Those are the officers who have to be protected. If we protect them properly, if we give them due assurance that no harm would befall them, then only we can change the tide which has created a lot of difficulties for

this society in the last fifty-five years after Independence. So, the single directive system is absolutely necessary to ensure that officers give their opinion freely and fearlessly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anadi Sahu, you can continue your speech in the next working day, that is, on Monday probably.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Thank you, Sir, I will continue next time.

15.30 hrs.

**MOTION RE: THIRTIETH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
AND RESOLUTIONS**

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (NOMINATED): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 20th February, 2003."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 20th February, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

15.31 Hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of article 323)

[English]

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (BELLARY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Para-II, Section-2 dated 21.2.2003.

15.31½ hrs.

RELIEF AND COMPENSATION TO AND REHABILITATION
OF VICTIMS OF MASS VIOLENCE AND INJUSTICE BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for relief and compensation to and rehabilitation of victims of mass violence and injustice and to provide for the constitution of a Commission to monitor the implementation of the Act and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for relief and compensation to and rehabilitation of victims of mass violence and injustice and to provide for the constitution of a Commission to monitor the implementation of the Act and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I introduce** the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES (COMPULSORY
NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES)
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (BELLARY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: I introduce the Bill.

15.32½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of article 171)

[English]

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (BELLARY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

EUTHANASIA (REGULATION) BILL*

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compassionate termination of life of persons who have become completely and permanently invalid and/or bed-ridden due to suffering from incurable disease or any other reasons.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compassionate termination of life of persons who have become completely and permanently invalid and/or bed-ridden due to suffering from incurable disease or any other reasons."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.33½ hrs.

SOIL CONSERVATION BILL*

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of land resources against soil erosion and for other purposes.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Para-II, Section-2 dated 21.2.2003.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.2.2003

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of land resources against soil erosion and for other purposes."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduce** the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 83)

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduce** the Bill.

15.34½ hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the people Act, 1951.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the people Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FULL PARTICIPATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (NOMINATED): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995."

The motion was adopted.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D' SOUZA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for application of the convention concerning the protection of world cultural and natural heritage adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and to give its provisions the force of law, for greater vigilance in the protection of cultural heritage, for the constitution of a Board for protection of cultural heritage, making provisions for deterrent punishment of those guilty of offence against cultural and heritage and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for application of the convention concerning the protection of world cultural and natural heritage adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and to give its provisions the force of law, for greater vigilance in the protection of cultural heritage.

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** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.2.2003.

for the constitution of a Board for protection of cultural heritage, making provisions for deterrent punishment of those guilty of offence against cultural and heritage and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Omission of article 44, etc.)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item no. 28. The following Motion was moved by Shri Yogi Adityanath on the 19th July, 2002, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

On the last occasion the House had to adjourn for want of quorum and the Division on this Motion was held over. Before I put the Motion to the Vote of the House, this being a Constitution Amendment Bill, voting has to be by Division. Let the lobbies be cleared.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members; I have ordered the Lobbies to be cleared and so whatever you all said during this period has not gone on record.

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Lobbies are cleared now, again I would like to submit for the record that this is an abuse of the procedure followed in the House. If a Member has moved a Bill, it is his duty to see that, at least, 50 Members support his proposal on the floor of the House. It is for the Ruling Party and for the Member concerned, who has moved the Bill, to keep the Members in the House and see that, at least, there is a quorum.

Sir, this is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, for the passing of which, according to the rules, at least 50 per cent of the Members of the House have to support it and two-thirds of the Members present in the House and voting have to support and vote for it. But even 50 Members are not present now. So, what is the result? Shri Ahamed's Bill is to be taken up next. Since there is no quorum in the House, the House will be adjourned, the time of the House will be wasted and

his Bill will not be taken up. This has not happened for the first time, but this is happening for the third time and this is being done with a design. So, I would request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to help us. We are helping the Government to pass the Bills. We should not create a situation in which the Members of the Opposition parties are not in a position to do that. Let us, at least, have a quorum and let us put it to vote.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support his submission. There is a stalemate and there is absolute necessity that the matter must be resolved. Otherwise, the Private Members' Business suffers.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have great respect for the submission made by Shri Shivraj Patil. But again I would like to plead that since we have permitted the Member to introduce the Bill, it has now become the property of this House. So, just because sufficient number of Members is not present in the House, how can we bypass the procedure? It is neither the responsibility of NDA Members nor the Government to see that sufficient number of Members are present in the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have great respect for my friend sitting on the other side. ...*(Interruptions)* If the Member is not in a position to keep 50 Members in the House, let him withdraw this Bill. The least he can do to help the Parliament is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Why should every other Member give up his privilege? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me hear the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I respect hon. Shivraj Patilji. I would like to associate myself with his concern regarding this Bill especially regarding the procedure.

Sir, I have to say only two things which he has referred. I am really sorry for that comment. First he said that.

[English]

It is the duty of the ruling party.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that at

the time of private Members business, the House becomes impartial and it does not remain confined to the party ideology and whosoever moves Resolution or Bill here does not do so on behalf of any party. So, it is not proper to expect from the ruling party that it is the duty of the ruling party to arrange quorum and arrange for 50 Members. Secondly he made an uncharitable comment.

[English]

"This is with a design."

[Translation]

Sir, it is not true for the first time. It has come to my notice.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let her speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, why are you interrupting her?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: As far as the procedure is concerned, for any Constitution Amendment Bill, 50 per cent of the total number of Members or two third of the present Members is required. It is mentioned in the rules of procedure. Through you I would like to assure the House that the next Friday is for the Private Member's Resolutions and next Friday again the Bills will be moved. We will certainly make efforts that the Members of BJP should remain present here and some solution should be found out and the Bill moved by the Members of the parties either ruling or opposition who have moved other Bills may not create obstructions for it and this Bill may not create obstacle for other Bills also.

Sir, I will personally look into this matter, however, it is not proper to say that it is being done with some design and the people of ruling party are doing this. I would like to submit to hon. Patilji that the Government certainly find out some way and ensure that this Bill does not become obstacle for other Bills that have been moved by the other Members.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to once again clarify that as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj said that it is not her responsibility. My submission is that being the Member of her party it can be her responsibility. I would not like to blame the Government for this. However, it is also the responsibility of the Members who has moved this Bill to ensure presence of 50 Members.

...(Interruptions) If it is not so then I would like to say that this Bill should certainly be taken next time. However, the Members of my party who want to speak should be allowed to do so. If quorum is there then please take up other subject. ... (Interruptions) But it is not happening for first time but third time. I do not have any doubt in my mind that this Bill is going to be defeated. What should I understand from this that since the Bill is going to be defeated so the Government will not allow voting on it. I am not blaming Shrimati Sushmaji or the Government. However, it is the responsibility of the Member who has moved this Bill. Even after three times, it is not passed, we are freed to say that it is being done deliberately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, invariably all these three times, I had to take the responsibility of sitting here and giving the final judgement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, now please resume your seat.

Let me also say something and then we will take up the next item on the agenda. It is because of this Bill that we are going to adjourn now for want of quorum. That means, all the other hon. Members, who have given their Bills for consideration and passing, are coming and they are stuck up somewhere. Therefore, there must be some mechanism by which we must be in a position to come out. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has already said that next time Resolutions are going to be taken up. Next to that, she will make sure that this crisis does not take place. Let us hope that. Shri Ahamed's Bill is there and the Bills of so many other hon. Members are there. It is quite natural that they all get agitated. Also, the time of the House is wasted. I am not going to add anything. I cannot do anything. But I find that there is no quorum in the House. Therefore, the Division on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill moved by Yogi Adityanath is held over and it will take place on the next day allotted to the Private Members' Bills.

As there is no quorum, the House is to be adjourned for want of a quorum.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 O' clock on 24th February, 2003.

15.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, February 24, 2003/Phalguna 5, 1924 (Saka).

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