

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Sixteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 1, 1996/Phalguna 11, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at two Minutes Past
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow of the passing away of one of our colleagues Shri Rudasen Chaudhary and three of our former colleagues namely Shri Gopi Ram, Sardar Swaran Singh Sokhi and Shri Bishan Chander Seth.

SHRI RUDRASEN CHAUDHARY : Was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Bahraich Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a Member of the Sixth and Ninth Lok Sabha representing Kaisarganj parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1977-79 and 1989-91.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Chaudhary worked hard for rural upliftment and for motivating farmers and the agricultural labourers in the values of education and modern methods of agriculture.

An active political worker he had been imprisoned on several occasions for his participation in various movements and satyagrahas.

Shri Rudrasen Chaudhary had special interest in seminars and discussions. He wrote a few articles on problems of agriculture in some journals. He had also organised discussions on the problems of agriculture and allied fields.

An active parliamentarian, he was a Member of several parliamentary and Consultative Committees. He also served as a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Shri Chaudhary who had been ailing for some time breathed his last in the morning today at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi at the age of 66 years.

SHRI GOPI RAM : Was a member of the First Lok Sabha representing Mandi-Mahasu Parliamentary Constituency of Himachal Pradesh during 1952-57.

He was also a member of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly for three terms during 1957-72.

An active social and political worker, Shri Gopi Ram started his public life as a Member of Mandi Municipality in 1949. He served as a member of Provisional Advisory Committee of Community Projects of his area and was

also a Member of Regional Employment Advisory Committee of Punjab Circle.

A man of masses, Shri Gopi Ram worked hard for the welfare of downtrodden and served as an Associate Member for Himachal Pradesh in the Backward Classes Commission.

Shri Gopi Ram passed away on 22nd September, 1995 at Chadyana near Mandi District at the age of 73 years.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : Was a member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Jamshedpur Parliamentary constituency of Bihar during 1971-77.

An active social worker, Shri Sokhi involved himself in the labour movement and worked hard for their welfare.

Sardar Swaran Singh Sokhi passed away on 29th November, 1995 at New Delhi at the age of 71 years.

Shri Bishan Chander Seth was a member of Second and Third Lok Sabha representing Shahjahanpur and Etah parliamentary constituencies of Uttar Pradesh during 1957-62 and 1962-67 respectively.

A businessman by profession, he was a leader of Arya Samaj. Besides, he held various positions in several social and cultural organisations.

A well known social worker, Shri Seth was the Manager and the Secretary of Sardar Patel Hindu Inter College, Shahjahanpur. He authored two books in Hindi.

Shri Bishan Chander Seth passed away on 11th February, 1996 at Brindavan in Uttar Pradesh at the age of 89 years.

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

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

11.06 hrs

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, on a previous occasion also I had pointed out and now I am pointing out again, I do not understand why obituary references are made six months after the hon. Member passed away. Surely there is some mechanism by which information can be obtained earlier by the office. This one gentleman passed away in the last September.

MR. SPEAKER : You will please understand that people are living at distant places. These are references made to the old people and we do not want to make the references without having an authentic report.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 6th of March, 1996 at 11 a.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

*61. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) the foreign exchange reserves as on date and how does it compare with the previous three years on the same date;

(b) the details of foreign exchange reserves with the Government as on June 30, 1995, December 31, 1995 and February 15, 1996;

(c) whether there has been any decline in foreign exchange reserves of the Government during the recent months;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the declining trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves, including gold and SDRs, as on February 16, 1996, with the position on the corresponding dates of the previous three years were as under :

Date	Foreign Exchange Reserves (US \$ Million)
February 18, 1993	8645
February 18, 1994	16179
February 17, 1995	23797
February 16, 1996	20634

(b) The details of foreign exchange reserves of the country comprising foreign currency assets of the RBI, gold held by the RBI and SDRs as on June 30, 1995, December 31, 1995 and February 15, 1996 are as follows :

(US \$ Million)

Date	Foreign Currency Assets			
	Gold	SDRs	Total	
June 30, 1995	19,601	4,457	95	24,153
December 31, 1995	17,467	4,457	139	22,063
February 15, 1996	15,873	4,587	59	20,519

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Changes in the level of foreign exchange reserves result from variations in a large number of items

of inflows and outflows in the current and capital accounts of the balance of payments. It is difficult to precisely attribute changes in reserve levels to one or more of these items. However, among the factors leading to a decline in foreign exchange reserves in recent months are; a slow down in inflows of foreign portfolio capital, large repayments of external debt incurred earlier and strong growth in imports caused by rapid growth of industry and other sectors.

(e) Several measures have been undertaken both by the Government and the RBI to improve the foreign exchange supply position. The trade and exchange rate policies lend effective support for achieving a dynamic export growth and import substitution in a cost effective manner. Most recent measures focus on accelerating the receipt of export proceeds and on preventing pre-payment for imports. Non-debt creating foreign investment flows are encouraged through adoption of liberal foreign investment policy measures. To enable banks to mobilise non-resident deposits, the RBI has relaxed the Cash Reserve Ratio requirements in respect of non-resident deposits and increased the interest rate on Non-Resident (External) Rupee term deposits for maturities of 6 months to 3 years and more.

[Translation]

Bank Deposits by NRIs

*62. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a considerable decline has been registered in the deposits made by the non-resident Indians with the nationalised banks and in the branches of foreign banks in India during the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been made in regard thereto;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to attract the non-resident Indians to deposit more money with the nationalised banks and in the branches of foreign banks in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the year 1995-96, upto 2nd February 1996 the total non-resident deposits have shown an increase as follows :-

	(Rs. Crores)	
	1995-96 (March 31, 95 to February 2, 1996)	1994-95 (March 18, 1994 to February 3, 1995)
All Scheduled Commercial Banks	+6097	+5902

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) The RBI have undertaken the following measures to increase the growth of non-resident deposits :

- (i) The interest rate on Non-Resident (External) (NRE) term deposits for maturities of six months to three years was raised by two percentage points to 'not exceeding 10.0 percent per annum' effective from 1st October 1995, and further to 'not exceeding 12.0 percent per annum' effective from 31st October, 1995 with a view to bringing about a better alignment of interest rates on domestic term deposits and NRE term deposits.
- (ii) During the period October 1995 to January 1996 relaxations were made in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) on specific Non-Resident Deposit Schemes. The average CRR on NRE liabilities outstanding as on 27 October, 1995 was reduced from 15.0 percent to 10.0 percent and on the increase in such deposits over this level the CRR was prescribed at zero per cent. The reduction in CRR on NRE deposits was intended to enable the banks to balance the increase in their cost of NRE deposits by increasing the return on the deployment of their funds.
- (iii) The CRR on Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) bank deposits was reduced to zero with a view to making the scheme more attractive to banks and to enable them to market FCNR(B) deposits more competitively.
- (iv) The CRR on Non-Resident, Non-Repatriable (NRNR) deposits was brought down to zero to enable the banks to market NRNR deposits more competitively.

[English]

Export of Pulses

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

(a) the policy to the Government regarding export of pulses;

(b) the total quantity of pulses exported during 1995-96, till-date and the foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise;

(c) the reasons for allowing export of pulses when there is already shortage of pulses for domestic consumption; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) As per current Export and Import Policy, export of pulses, including processed pulses is restricted and requires a licence. However, such a restriction does not apply in respect of processed pulses made out of pulses imported under the Duty Exemption Scheme or by EQU unit/EPZ unit.

During the year 1995-96 an initial ceiling of 10,000 tonnes was fixed for export of pulses. Subsequently, following a bumper kharif crop of gram dal the Agriculture Ministry approved release of 20,000 tonnes of gram/gram dal for general export and 14000 tonnes for export through STC and NAFED. This was done to shore up the declining prices of the item in the domestic market. According to available information, so far 4857 tonnes of pulses have been exported against licences. The total quantity of pulses exported during April to December, 1995, after including exports of processed pulses made out of pulses imported under the Duty Exemption Scheme or by EQU/EPZ units, for which export licences are not necessary, is estimated at 41074 MT valued at Rs.83.65 crores. 4857 MT of pulses represents about 0.03% of the production of pulses in the country. Export of a small quantity has been allowed in order to cater to markets where a large number of Indians and people of Indian origin live.

(d) To enhance production and productivity of pulses a centrally sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project is being implemented. Under this programme emphasis is laid on increasing the area through multiple and inter-cropping and increasing the yield per unit area. Assistance under this programme for key inputs among others is provided for :

- (1) Production and distribution of certified/quality seed.
- (2) Purchase of breeder seed and production of foundation seed.
- (3) Distribution of plant protection chemicals for seed treatment.
- (4) Distribution of improved farm implements.
- (5) Supply of micronutrients, and
- (6) Distribution of sprinkler sets.

Further, to augment domestic supply import of pulses have been placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and custom duty on imports have been reduced to 5%.

Export of Raw Cotton

*64. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN :
SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State:

(a) the total production and the opening stock of cotton during the year 1995-96;

(b) whether there is a glut in the raw cotton in the country resulting in the decline in the domestic prices of cotton recently;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to withdraw all restrictions from the export of raw cotton; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (e) The production and the opening stock of cotton during the year 1995-96, as estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board(CAB) in its meeting held on 5th February, 1996 is 136.50 lakh bales and 35.02 lakh bales, respectively.

Cotton prices have shown a downward trend for some varieties compared to last year's prices. However, it is to be noted that last year the prices were exceptionally high. Moreover, the current prices are above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and on 23.2.96 ranged from 39% to 124% above MSP, depending upon the variety. According to the CAB estimates, the domestic demand for 1995-96 is likely to be 138.80 lakh bales, and the availability, including estimated imports, will be 172.52 lakh bales, taking into account an opening balance of 35.02 lakh bales. In the current cotton year, Government have already released 9.15 lakh bales of cotton for export. Over two thirds of the crop is estimated to have already arrived in the market. Government is watching the situation. There is no proposal to withdraw restrictions on the export of cotton.

Value of Rupee

*65. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of Rupee vis-a-vis U.S. Dollar and other foreign currencies has suffered downward fluctuation recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the weekly details of the last four months;

(c) whether this has caused a lot of concern in the country especially in the business community;

(d) if so, the measures taken by Reserve Bank of India and Government to stabilise the Value of the rupee;

(e) whether the depreciation in the external value

of the rupee has also resulted in enlargement of trade deficit, depletion in reserves for meeting the Government's commitments, increasing defence expenditure and debt servicing obligation;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken and proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The exchange rate of the rupee which depreciated, especially against the US dollar, in January 1996 and until February 6, 1996, has recovered since then. The value of the rupee against the US dollar and other major currencies as on 29.2.1996 stands appreciated compared with the rates at the end of December 1995. The weekly average exchange rates of the rupee against the US dollar and against the other major currencies from October 1995 are given in the statement attached.

(c) to (g) The level of exchange rate of the rupee at present is realistic and will help ensure that export growth remains strong and import growth is contained. Both these factors will help to contain the trade deficit to manageable levels. The exchange rate developments are monitored continuously both by the Government and the RBI and appropriate measures are taken, as and when necessary, to counter excessive volatility in the exchange rate and to maintain orderly market conditions. Most recently, the Reserve Bank of India announced on 7.2.1996 some strong measures to counter speculation through leads and lags in foreign trade payments and receipts. These included; (i) termination of the scheme on Post-Shipment Export Credit denominated in US dollar, (ii) freeing of interest rate on Post-Shipment Export Rupee Credit for over 90 days, (iii) increase in interest surcharge on import finance from 15 per cent to 25 per cent and (iv) monitoring by the RBI of cancellation of forward contracts and intra-day trading transactions of authorised dealers. These measures came into effect from 8.2.1996. Since the announcement of these measures, there has been stability in the foreign exchange market.

STATEMENT

Exchange Rate of Rupee (Weekly Average)

(Rs. per foreign currency)

Week ended	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen @
1	2	3	4	5
Oct., 1995				
6	33.8817	53.6650	23.6583	33.6442
13	33.9180	53.5508	23.9253	33.7228
20	34.8920	54.9365	24.6340	34.7280
27	36.5200	56.0996	25.5300	35.2133
Nov., 1995				
3	34.5840	54.5803	24.4723	33.6685

1	2	3	4	5
10	34.6788	54.8131	24.4753	33.8747
17	34.6970	54.1698	24.6320	34.2343
24	34.8360	54.2168	24.6855	34.3435
Dec., 1995				
1	34.9200	54.0105	24.3808	34.4268
8	34.8650	53.6225	24.2313	34.3995
15	34.9180	53.6043	24.1640	34.4103
22	34.9850	53.8938	24.3163	34.3383
29	35.0900	54.4353	24.4606	34.1741
Jan., 1996				
5	35.2600	54.6618	24.5033	33.8653
12	35.7530	55.3053	24.8260	34.0378
19	35.8670	54.9483	24.5275	33.9480
25	35.8463	54.2463	24.2716	33.8231
Feb., 1996				
2	36.3300	54.8755	24.4330	33.9965
9	37.4030	57.4578	25.3590	35.2430
16	36.8020	56.4828	25.0285	34.5748
23	36.6038	56.5375	25.2284	34.7525
As on Feb., 28	35.2750	54.3138	24.2825	33.9075

@ For = 100

Modernisation of NTC Mills

*66. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have taken a decision to mobilize funds for the modernisation of NTC mills;
- if so, the details thereof and the total funds required for the modernisation of NTC mills;
- the steps taken by the Government to generate funds for the modernisation plan; and
- by when the modernisation plan is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) Government have approved a revised Turn Around Plan for NTC mills, involving modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs.2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills, rationalisation of surplus workforce by offering VRS to surplus workers etc. This plan is generally in line with the plan prepared by the Textile Research Associations and the recommendations of the Special Tripartite Committee of the Ministry of Labour on NTC. The modernisation plan will be financed out of the sale proceeds of the surplus lands and assets of the NTC mills.

The plan has been placed before the BIFR for its approval before implementation. The plan will be implemented after approval by the BIFR.

Shares of Multinational Companies

[Translation]

*67. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have granted permission to the multinational companies to increase their shares in the Indian Companies promoted by them;
- if so, the terms and conditions laid down in this regard and the procedure/criteria adopted to fix the prices of additional shares;
- whether such fixed price of the shares are lower than the market price in some cases;
- if so, the reasons therefor; and
- the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) to (e) Government have in several cases granted permission to Indian companies to increase the foreign equity contributions from the existing level of higher levels. Such approvals to raise foreign equity upto 51% are granted automatically by RBI for high priority industries given in Annexure-III to the Industrial Policy Statement of 24th July, 1991. All other cases require the prior approval of Government of India. Companies also require to pass a resolution under Section 81(1A) of the Companies Act

before making such allotments. The pricing of such issues is governed by the guidelines of SEBI and RBI. According to these guidelines, all preferential allotment of shares (other than allotment on rights basis) by listed companies to foreign investors shall be at market prices of these shares. For the purpose, the price shall not be less than the higher of the following :

The average of the weekly high and low of the closing prices of the related shares quoted on the stock exchange during the six months preceding the relevant date.

Or

The average of the weekly high and low of the closing prices of the related shares quoted on the stock exchange during the two weeks preceding the relevant date.

Relevant date for this purpose means the date 30 days prior to the date on which the meeting of the General Body of shareholders is convened in terms of Section 81(1A) of the Companies Act to consider the proposed issue.

Normally, prices fixed on the basis of the above formula will either be close to or above the market price.

[English]

Environment Friendly Technology for Textiles Industry

*68 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have made any estimate about the expenditure to be incurred on the adoption of environment friendly technology in textile industry including handloom and powerloom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for adoption of such technology during the Eighth Five Year Plan and funds earmarked therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Government have initiated steps for promoting adoption of environmental friendly technology in textile industry including handloom and powerloom. Till date around Rs.7 crores has been spent on upgradation of existing laboratories and on organising of workshops/seminars. During 1995-96 laboratory facilities for testing eco-parameters are being established at 11 locations. During 1996-97, it is proposed to further expand these activities. To facilitate this process a master plan has been prepared for upgradation and expansion of existing testing facilities in the country. In addition, through series of workshops and seminars, and with the assistance of Textile Research Associations the industry is being motivated to adopt environmental friendly technology.

[English]

Release of Indian Rupee In Market by F.I.I.s

*69 SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign Institutional Investors are releasing Indian rupee in the market in large volume;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are monitoring their activities on the forex sector; and

(d) if so, the details of such monitoring ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) to (d) There has been an uptrend in the cumulative net investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the Indian stock markets, particularly during the months January and February 1996. The cumulative net investments by FIIs in the Indian Stock markets at monthly exchange rates, which stood at US \$ 3166.6 million as on 31.3.95, increased to US \$ 4787.0 million as on 15.2.1996. In terms of the FII Regulations, 1995 announced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the domestic custodians of the FIIs are required to send details of all transactions entered into by the FIIs on a daily basis to SEBI. The amount of purchases and sales by FIIs are computed and the flow of funds monitored by SEBI and RBI.

Losses of IA

*70. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) has been incurring losses continuously since 1989-90;

(b) if so, the total accumulated losses as on September, 1995, year-wise.

(c) the reasons for these losses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The losses suffered from the year 1989-90 onwards are as under :-

Year	Rs. (in crores)
1	2
1989-90	15.24
1990-91	64.59
1991-92	198.85
1992-93	195.16

1	2
1993-94	258.46
1994-95	188.73
1995-96	
(Provisional from (1.4.1995 to 30.9.95)	113.20
Total losses	1034.23

- (c) The major for the losses of Indian Airlines are:-
- (i) Grounding of A-320 fleet.
 - (ii) Unrealistic pricing of ATF.
 - (iii) High interest and depreciation charges due to induction of 30 A-320 aircraft.
 - (iv) Increase in foreign exchange rates.
 - (v) Continuous operation on uneconomic routes for socio-economic reasons.
 - (vi) Inadequate utilization of aircraft due to shortage of pilots.
 - (vii) Reduction in market share with the emergence of private airline operators.
- (d) Various measures taken to make good losses of Indian Airlines and improve its performance include adoption of economy, better utilization of fleet, setting up of independent profit centres and incentive for boosting productivity.

Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995

*71. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation for making changes in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to make some changes in the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Government have received suggestions for making certain changes in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The suggestions inter-alia relate to removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widow and remarrying widower, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs. 5000/- per month, provision for commutation, reduction in discounting rate for early payment of pension, provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases,

application of the scheme to the subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of family pension related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption, coverage of piece-rated workers etc. These suggestions have been examined and it has been decided to accept them for implementation by making necessary amendments in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. Other suggestions like providing individual option, linking pension with the consumer's price index and giving pension as third benefit have not been found actuavally feasibly for acceptance.

CEIB Report

*72. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) has prepared a report on the non-repatriation of export earnings by Indian exporters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether business houses indulging in such activities have been identified;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against these business houses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau undertakes sample survey of exporters to study the problem of non-repatriation of export proceeds. The latest such study relates to the status of non-repatriation as on 31.12.94 of export proceeds which should have been realised by 31.12.93.

The study was based on the available data collected and collated from exporters and the regional offices of Reserve Bank of India of Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The objective of the study was primarily to see whether non-repatriation of export proceeds within the prescribed time limits is a growing or declining phenomenon.

(c) to (e) As only sample surveys are undertaken, a number of business houses who have not repatriated proceeds have been separately identified. RBI monitors the non-repatriation of export proceeds directly and sends the list of defaulting exporters to the Enforcement Directorate for necessary action.

[Translation]

Letter of Credit Agreement between India and Russia

*73. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any agreement has been signed between India and Russia for making available letter of credit for improving the export for import between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the value of trade between the two countries has increased during this year as compared to the last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of Letters of Exchange dated 28th January, 1993, a Banking Arrangement between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (BFEA) of the Russian Federation was signed on 6th September, 1993. According to the Arrangement, BFEA will open Letters of Credit (LCs) denominated in rupees in favour of Indian suppliers subject to an Annual ceiling released by the Reserve Bank of India as per the agreed Schedule of Repayment of the erstwhile USSR State Credits to India. These LCs will be advised through not more than 5 banks in India designated by BFEA. Details of LCs will be advised by BFEA to RBI as and when opened.

(c) The trade turnover with Russian Federation during the period April-December, 1995 has registered a growth rate of 78% over the corresponding period of last year as may be seen from the following table :-

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Export	Import	Total
1994-95	1727	987	2714
(April-Dec.)			
1995-96	2677	2153	4830
(April-Dec.)	(55)	(118)	(78)

(Figures in bracket show the percentage increase over the previous year)

[English]

Unclaimed EPE

*74. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge amount of provident fund is lying unclaimed with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation;

(b) if so, the details of unclaimed amount of provident fund during the last three years; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the disbursement of the unclaimed provident fund amount to its beneficiaries ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The amount of the unclaimed Employees Provident Fund lying

with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation during the last three years was as given below :-

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
31st March, 1993	72.79
31st March, 1994	72.49
31st March, 1995	72.38

The provident fund amount together with interest is paid as and when claims are made by the member/legal heir as per the scheme framed under the Act. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioners have been given instructions to give wide publicity including sending communications to the concerned establishments and trade unions asking them to trace and help the members/legal heirs in getting their P.F. Dues.

[Translation]

Price Rise

*75. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the inflation rate is constantly declining for the last two months;

(b) if so, the weekly details thereof during the above period;

(c) whether the prices of consumer articles are rising day by day inspite of decline in the rate of inflation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the price rise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The annual inflation rate based on the wholesale price index for each week during the last two months is listed below :-

weeks ending	Annual inflation rate (%)	Financial year changes (April-Feb.10) in wholesale prices of essential commodities (%)
1	2	3
02.12.95	7.10	8.4
09.12.95	6.50	8.1
16.12.95	6.39	6.5
23.12.95	6.28	5.5
30.12.95	6.02	5.3
06.01.96	5.60	5.8

1	2	3
13.01.96	5.08	5.4
20.01.96	5.00	5.4
27.01.96	5.04	5.4
03.02.96	4.71	4.8
10.02.96	4.42	4.5

The wholesale prices of 30 essential commodities which had risen by 8.4% as on 2.12.95 since March 1995 decelerated continuously and was higher by only 4.5% as on 10.2.96 compared to March 1995. Out of the group of 30 essential commodities, there was absolute decline in prices in the current financial year in gram, urad, jowar, groundnut oil, vanaspathi, fish and gur. Besides these, the prices of soft coke, kerosene and long cloth remained unchanged.

(e) The important steps taken on both demand side and supply side to control inflation are :

1. Continuation of open market sale by FCI of rice and wheat through 1995-96.
2. Continuing OGL import policy for sugar, edible oils and pulses at nil or reduced duty.
3. Import of sugar and edible oils on Government account for augmenting supply through PDS.
4. Adjustment in trade, tax and tariff policies in the Budget for current fiscal year to ensure that domestic prices of industrial products remain competitive.
5. Strengthening of public distribution system and its expansion in RPDS areas.
6. Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget for current financial year.
7. Containing monetary growth to less than 15.5 per cent in 1995-96 through a series of measures.

[English]

Hurdle in Export of Natural Rubber

*76. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request to stop the export of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rubber farmers are against such a move; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Federation of Rubber Footwear Manufacturers and Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association in their memoranda to the Government have stated

that in view of the gap between production and demand of Natural Rubber in the domestic market, the export of Natural Rubber may be banned.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since a very small quantity of rubber was exported in the last three years including 1995-96, Government do not see any reason to make a change in the present policy.

Pension Scheme for Employees of Regional Rural Banks

*77. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector banks have since introduced the new pension scheme; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said scheme is proposed to be introduced in Regional Rural Banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) A pension scheme has been recently introduced in respect of nationalised banks, with the approval of their Board of Directors, in lieu of employees' contribution to the provident fund.

(b) In respect of Regional Rural Banks, the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 framed under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 has become applicable with effect from 16.11.1995.

Hike in Lending Rates by H.F.D.C.

*78. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Housing Finance Development Corporation (H.F.D.C.) and other Housing Finance Companies operating in the country have hiked their lending rates;

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

(c) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has laid down any guidelines with regard to the lending rates;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the hike in lending rates by HFDC and other housing finance companies is likely to affect adversely the housing, activities in the country and defeat the very purpose for which those were created; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) Housing Development Finance Corporation (M.D.F.C.) had revised their lending rates with effect from November 20, 1995 in respect of loans where refinance was not taken from NHB. The revised rates of interest for such loans provided by HDFC are :

	Loan Slabs (Rs.)	Rate of Interest (%) Normal loans (inclusive of interest tax)
1. To individual (direct)	Upto Rs. 25,000/-	12.00
	Above Rs. 25,000/- & Upto Rs. 2,00,000/-	16.00
	Above Rs. 2,00,000/-	17.00
2. To individuals through Corpo- rate Bodies/ Institutions.	Upto and including Rs. 2,00,000/-	16.00
	Above Rs. 2,00,00/-	17.00

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Refinance rates and the rates of interest chargeable from ultimate beneficiaries for cases covered by NHB refinance as prescribed by National Housing Bank (NHB) at present i.e. effective from January 1 1996 are as under :-

Amount of Loan	Rates of Interest (%) per annum	
	On Refinance by NHB (%)	Lending Rate (%) by HFCs to ultimate beneficiaries (exclusive) of interest tax)
Upto Rs.25,000/-	10.00	12.00 (Maximum)
Above Rs.25,000/- & Upto Rs.1,00,000/-	13.75	15.00 (Maximum)
Above Rs.1,00,000/- and upto Rs.5,00,000/-	14.50	De-regulated

(e) No, Sir, Further the relative attractions of interest rates by HFCs compared to other interest rates is being maintained because of the refinancing mechanism of NHB.

(f) Does not arise.

Debt Liability

*79. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's debt liability has increased tremendously during the recent months;

(b) if so, the details of debt liability in respect of different types of loans and credits incurred by the country during September to December, 1995 and January, 1996; and

(c) what are the main factors responsible for this increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) After reaching a peak of USD 99.0 billion as on 31.3.95, the external debt has declined to USD 93.8 billion on 30.9.95.

(b) Provisional estimates of India's external debt are

available only upto end-September, 1995, breakup of which is indicated below :-

	(US Dollar Million)
1. Multilateral	28267
(i) Government	25686
(ii) Non-Government	2581
2. Bilateral	19112
(i) Government	15666
(ii) Non-Government	3446
3. IMF	3377
4. Export Credit	5902
5. Commercial Borrowing	12329
6. NRI and FC (B&O) deposits	12012
7. Rupee debt	8355
Total Long-term debt	89353
Short-term debt	4490
Grand Total	93843

(c) Recent changes in external debt denominated in US Dollars is mainly due to variation in US Dollar exchange rates vis-a-vis other major currencies.

Rupee Rouble Agreement

*80. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a pact between Russia and India in January, 1993 regarding Rupee-Rouble agreement, the Government have to bear a loss of crores of rupees;

(b) If so, the factors responsible for such losses;

(c) whether there was any Plan in the above mentioned agreement which was not found/noticed at the time of agreement; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to avoid any further loss due to such agreements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bank Deposits

441. SHRI PRAKESH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the deposit growth estimated for the Banking Sector during 1995-96;

(b) whether the above target is likely to fall short of the estimate;

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

(d) the banks deposits recorded up to September 30, 1995;

(e) whether despite the hike in interest rates, the deposits have not been picked up in the second half of the year and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the projects likely to be delayed due to shortage of funds as a results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that at the time of announcing the monetary policy for the first half of 1995-96; the working Estimates for the increase in the aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks was put at Rs.65,000/- crore. Between March, 17, 1995 and September 29, 1995 (first half of 1995-96) aggregate deposits increased by Rs.28,009/- crore. Aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks during the second half of 1995-96 so far, from September 29, 1995 to February 2, 1996 increased by Rs.15,851/- crore (3.9 per cent) as compared with Rs.10,019/- crore (2.8 per cent) in the comparable period of 1994-95. The extent of shortfall if any, in relation to the working Estimate of deposit growth would depend on whether the recent momentum in deposit growth slows down.

The increase in non-food credit between March 17, 1995 and February 2, 1996 has been Rs.40,726/- crore (21.5 per cent) as against increase in the corresponding period of the previous year of Rs.30,012/- crore (19.6 per cent). This is in continuation of a large credit expansion in 1994-95. It is not possible to identify the impact of inadequate deposits on the availability of funds for projects and consequent pace of implementation of individual projects.

Indian International leather Fair

442. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the eleventh Indian International Leather Fair organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation held from January 31 to February 4, 1996 in Madras proved to be a notable business success; and

(b) if so, the details of the achievements made and total business transacted in the said fair ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 475 companies including 190 overseas companies from 29 countries participated in the fair. 50,000 business visitors including overseas business parties and trade delegations visited the fair.

The participants of international trade fairs, normally do not reveal the information on the business transacted by them. However on the basis of the information made available by 45% of the participants of the recently

concluded India International Leather fair in Madras, the business transacted by them on the spot was Rs.125 crores. Further, trade enquiries worth Rs.220 crores were reported to have been received.

Fraudulent Claims in MXW India Assurance Co. LTd.

443. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI HARCHAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 6345 on May 19, 1995 and state :

(a) the number of letters received by the New India Assurance Company Ltd. and the G.I.C. from Members of Parliament during 1994-95 and in the current year till date regarding Payment of fraudulent claims and claims paid to persons having no insurance policy in force on the date of loss accident;

(b) the number of letters to which a final reply has not yet been sent; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible for various irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The New India Assurance Company Limited (NIA) have reported that only one such letter has been received by them for which a final reply has already been sent. As regards the case referred to in this letter, the company have reported that the matter was examined both from audit and vigilance angles which revealed that the payment of claim made to the insured could not be faulted and the finalisation of claim was bonafide. Therefore, no action has been taken against any employee in the matter.

Trade Barriers on India's Trade

444. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD. BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI) :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exports have been subjected to trade barriers and discrimination by India's trading partners in major thrust markets on grounds of religious sentiments, health, environment and child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have collected such tariff and non-tariff trade barriers in any document;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of repercussion of these barriers on India's trade specially in the context of CATT treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) An exercise was conducted by the Government recently for

preparing India's export strategy for the top 15 thrust markets. The average tariff rates in most of these markets range between 5% to 20%. Non-tariff restrictions in these markets include textiles quotas, anti-dumping and countervailing duties, strict standards relating to health and environment etc. In one of the markets some items are banned on religious grounds.

(e) India's exports during 1993-94, 1994-95 and April- December 1995-96 have grown by 20.0%, 18.4% and 24.2% respectively in dollar terms over the corresponding periods of the previous years. Most of the trade restrictions based on health and safety standards etc. are consistent with the relevant GATT/WTO Agreements. In case of any inconsistency or discrimination, India has a right to approach the WTO dispute settlement mechanism for redressal.

Income Tax Exemption to Nagas

445. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the scope, nature and limit of Income-tax exemption applicable to Nagas and scheduled tribes on income from business;

(b) whether Naga Businessmen carrying out business through their branches in other parts of the country are liable to pay income-tax though the principal place of their business remains in Nagaland and the activities of their branches outside Nagaland are only supplementing to the principal business carried out in Nagaland; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Under section 10(26) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, income of Scheduled Tribes as defined in clause 25 of Article 366 of the Constitution, residing in any area specified in Part-I or Part-II of the Table appended to paragraph-20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution or in the estates of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagal and Tripura or in the areas covered by Notification No TAD/R/35/50/109 dated the 23-02-1951, issued by the Governor of Assam under the Proviso to sub-clause (3) of the said paragraph-20 as it stood immediately before the commencement of the North-Eastern Area (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 (18 of 1971), is exempt if the source of such income is in these areas. This section does not prescribe any limit for exempting income.

(b) Business income attributable to the branches outside areas mentioned in Part (a) is not exempted u/s 10(26) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, even though the principal place of business may be Nagaland.

(c) Information relating to branches of Naga businessmen outside Nagaland is neither maintained nor is available.

Export of Textiles

446. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for export of textile during the year 1995-96 and achievement made as on date; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to increase the export of textiles during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) A target of US dollar 10,500 million has been fixed for exports of textiles (including Handicrafts, Jute and Coir) during 1995-96. The achievement from April '95 to December '95 has been US \$ 7724.06 million.

(b) in order to step up the exports of textiles and clothing, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. In addition, Government have also revamped the Garment Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for 1996-98. The revised policy is expected to boost clothing exports.

Vacant Posts of CMD in Banks/Insurance Companies

447. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of nationalised banks and insurance corporations which have no Chairmen/Managing Directors for the last more than six months;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to fill up such high ranking posts in anticipation of retirement or transfer of these personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The post of Chairman & Managing Director lying vacant in nationalised bank/insurance corporation for more than six months are given below :-

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank/Insurance Corporation
1.	Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Overseas Bank
2.	Chairman, General Insurance Corporation of India

Necessary steps for filling up these vacancies have been initiated.

Working Group on "Expenditure Policy"

448. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARADWAJ :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Working

Group on Expenditure Policy for the Ninth Five-Year Plan under the Chairman-Ship of Expenditure Secretary;

(b) if so, the details regarding composition and functions of this Group; and

(c) the time by which its report is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details regarding composition, functions and the time schedule for admission of the report of the Working Group are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

No.3/2/95-FR
Government of India
Planning Commission
(Financial Resources Division)

Yojana Bhavan,
Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001.
dated : the 2nd Jan, 1996

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Setting up of a Working Group on Expenditure Policy.

In continuation of this office Order of even number dated September 22, 1995 regarding the setting up of a Steering Group on Financial Resources for the Ninth Five Year Plan, it has been decided to constitute a Working Group on Expenditure Policy under it.

2. The composition of the Working Group is as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Secretary,
Department of Expenditure,
Ministry of Finance,
New Delhi. | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Amaresh Bagchee,
Professor Emeritus,
National Institute of
Public Finance & Policy,
New Delhi. | Member |
| 3. Dr. Arvind Virmani
Economic Adviser (PP)
Department of Economic
Affairs, New Delhi. | Member |
| 4. Dr. Pulin B. Nayak,
Economic Adviser (DP)
Planning Commission. | Member |
| 5. Dr. S. Guhan,
MIDS,
Madras-600020. | Member |

6. Dr. K.K.George,
Cochin University,
Cochin. Member

7. A representative from NIPFP,
(To be nominated by Director, NIPFP) Member

8. A representative from RBI,
(To be nominated by RBI) Member

9. Dr. D. Subba Rao,
Secretary,
Finance Department
Government of Andhra Pradesh
Hyderabad. Member

10. Shri Ashok Gupta,
Secretary,
Finance Department,
Government of West Bengal,
Calcutta. Member

11. Dr. (Mrs.) Renu S. Parmar, Deputy Adviser, Planning Commission.	} Co-Convenors
12. A representative from Deptt. of Expenditure. (to be nominated by the Chairman)	

3. The terms of Reference of the Working Group shall be as under :

To study the expected medium-term outcome on current and capital expenditures; to identify the principal determinants of expenditure on the larger spending programs over this period; and to classify by object code and by program and subprogram, the main longer-term policy, demand and cost variables which will determine future levels and patterns of expenditure. The following aspects should be reviewed in depth :

(1) Prospects over the Ninth Plan period in current and capital expenditures and Plan and non-Plan expenditures.

(2) Within these aggregates, the prospects by program (Ministry/Department) and by object code (including subsidies, expenditure on government employees, interest payments, etc.

(3) Planned capital expenditures by program already approved and committed Plan schemes.

(4) For the largest subprograms in each Department, the principal short-medium-term expenditure-volume, unit costs, policy variables, other charges, etc.; also categorize these by object code.

(5) For each of these subprograms, the long-term variables which will determine future levels of spending; this will include demand variables, average, and marginal costs, policy variables (including user charges), and assumptions about key economic factors-inflation, wages, exchange rate.

(6) Identify resource constraints which may prevent the achievement of desired program levels in aggregate.

(7) In the light of 3-5 above, the range of expenditure outcomes can be identified and the need, scope for and targeting of expenditure reductions by program reduction (in size or scope), by deferment (in time), by cancellations.

(8) Examine optional/alternate methods of achieving desired policy goals.

(9) Set priority levels for major programs (and components) particularly with regard to 7 above.

4. The expenses towards TA/DA of the official Members shall be made by their respective offices. The TA/DA of non-official Members, as admissible to Grade-I Officers to the Government of India will be paid by the Government. All non-official Members will be entitled to air journey as admissible to Senior Administrative Grade Officers of the Government of India. The Working Group may submit its interim Report by March, 1996 and final Report by June, 1996.

(G.S. Randhawa)

Deputy Secretary of the Govt. of India

To

The Chairman and all Members of the Working Group.

Copy to :

The Chairman and all Members of the Steering Group on Financial Resources for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Copy for information to :

1. P.M. Office, South Block, New Delhi.
2. OSD to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.
3. PS to MOS, Planning & Programme Implementation, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. PS to Member (FR), Planning Commission.
5. PPS to Member Secretary, Planning Commission.
6. PS to Adviser (PC), Planning Commission.
7. Director (Finance), Planning Commission.
8. Under Secretary, (Admn.III), Planning Commission.

NCAER Report on Fiscal deficit

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

(a) whether the National Council for Applied Economic Research (INCAER) on February 7, 1996 predicted that the infrastructural constraints, liquidity problem and pressure of fiscal deficit might affect the overall economic growth rate in the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

(c) whether any improvements suggested by NCAER in its review between July and September, 1995; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) These observations are reflected in the Quarterly Review of the Economy brought out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research which was released in February, 1996. The advance estimated for the year 1995-96 released by the Department of Statistics show that gross domestic product at factor cost (at 1980-81 prices) is expected to grow at 6.2 per cent compared with growth of 6.3 per cent in 1994-95.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of Reserve Fund of Banks

450. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount in the reserve fund created under Section 17(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as on March 31, 1994 and March 31, 1995, bank-wise;

(b) the reason as to why this reserve fund has not been utilised to cover the losses arising from doubtful and bad debts since 1992-93; and

(c) the total amount written-off as bad and doubtful debts since April 1, 1992 upto March 31, 1995 by the public sector banks, bank-wise and year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), information regarding bank-wise, amounts available in the reserve fund created under Section 17(1) of the Banking, Regulation Act, 1949 for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) RBI has reported that all the public sector banks have utilised the provision for bad and doubtful debts while writing off bad debts.

(c) The amounts of bad debts written off by public sector banks during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the enclosed statement-II

STATEMENT-I

Reserve Fund Created under Section 17(1) of BR Act, 1949 as on 31.3.94 and 31.3.1995

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Reserve Fund Created (As on 31.3.94)	Reserve Fund Created (As on 31.3.95)
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	20096	20012
2.	Andhra Bank	5520	5520
3.	Bank of Baroda	60165	84195
4.	Bank of India	48865	47407
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	6440	6190

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
6.	Canara Bank of India	97693	114424	18.	UCO Bank	1591	15547
7.	Central Bank Corporation	42179	41061	19.	Vijaya Bank	1656	17224
8.	Corporation	5274	12229	20.	State Bank of India	363779	425607
9.	Dena Bank	8570	8532	21.	State Bank of Patiala	23602	27222
10.	Indian Bank	25926	41211	22.	State Bank of Indore	2932	4174
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	23109	22624	23.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	4766	5258
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	11660	51694	24.	State Bank of Saurashtra	4676	6326
13.	Punjab National Bank	42546	90195	25.	State Bank of Hyderabad	11678	18413
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	6866	6618	26.	State Bank of Mysore	2314	2426
15.	Syndicate Bank	17569	17428	27.	State Bank of Travancore	5959	7630
16.	United Bank of India	11496	11229				
17.	Union Bank of India	15184	25432				

STATEMENT-II

Bad Debts written off during 1992-93 to 1994-95 of Public Sector Banks

(R. in lakhs)

Sr.No.	Name of the Bank	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	State Bank of India	69354.00	41599.00	16313.43
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	858.92	3241.57	1444.00
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	356.00	503.00	1388.90
4.	State Bank of Indore	86.15	636.00	624.00
5.	State Bank of Mysore	221.59	5063.10	5061.00
6.	State Bank of Patiala	60.00	1218.00	1974.11
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	34.81	54.08	1894.72
8.	State Bank of Travancore	838.57	1564.47	416.57
9.	Allahabad Bank	127.28	3584.00	5572.73
10.	Andhra Bank	80.51	1206.23	3886.00
11.	Bank of Baroda	12027.43	20638.67	5211.00
12.	Bank of India	17374.26	32846.78	7671.81
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	102.01	142.01	928.52
14.	Canara Bank	1492.37	3478.56	4289.00
15.	Central Bank of India	197.70	7950.45	14412.00
16.	Corporation Bank	56.36	254.53	249.00
17.	Dena Bank	1951.01	3707.01	2469.00
18.	Indian Bank	76.16	600.70	4247.62
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	419.25	461.09	503.34
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	165.00	176.00	212.64

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab National Bank	258.24	367.00	2976.00
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	0.09	104.84	170.06
23.	Syndicate Bank	118.55	857.70	2484.12
24.	Union Bank of India	4412.62	8236.90	2565.00
25.	United Bank of India	156.00	1182.00	6777.00
26.	UCO Bank	23.65	221.70	16506.78
27.	Vijaya Bank	304.23	541.26	410.00

Pending Labour Cases

451. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number and the details of labour courts and industrial tribunals both of Central level and State level functioning in Delhi as on date;

(b) the number of cases lying pending before each of them;

(c) the number of cases out of them which have been lying pending for the last two years, three years and five years separately; and

(d) the steps being taken by the labour courts and industrial tribunals for the speedy disposal of pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on date there are 3 Industrial Tribunals and 10 Labour Courts at State level and one Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal cum-Labour Court functioning in Delhi.

(b) and (c) A Statement is attached.

(d) While effecting procedural changes with a view to expediting disposal of cases is a continuous process, some of the more important steps taken recently in this regard are as follows :

- norms for disposal of cases by the presiding Officers have been fixed;
- review meetings are convened to discuss possible remedial measures for disposal of long pending cases;
- while old cases are accorded priority, fresh cases are being assigned to the courts having lesser pendency;
- parties to the dispute are discouraged to seek adjournments and where unavoidable, short duration adjournments are allowed. They are also impressed upon to complete all the connected formalities as expeditiously as possible; and
- additional labour courts are created keeping in view the overall pendency and subject to financial constraints.

STATEMENT

Number of Cases Pending before each of the Tribunal and Labour Courts Functioning at Central and State Level in Delhi

Name of the Tribunal/ Labour Court	Category of the cases	No. of cases pending	Pending for 2 years	Pending for 3 years	Pending for 5 years
1	2	3	4	5	6
CENTRAL LEVEL					
CGIT-cum-Labour Court	Disputes	713	211	127	49
	Applications	1168	330	206	121
	Total	1881	541	333	170
STATE LEVEL					
1. Industrial Tribunal-I	Disputes	1007	17	10	618
	Applications	106	14	16	32
2. Industrial Tribunal-II	Disputes	1525	163	109	557
	Applications	1329	427	379	107

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Industrial Tribunal-III	Disputes Applications	1084 100	262 17	151 10	108 10
4. Labour Court-I	Disputes Applications	1727 1771	153 171	319 307	425 413
5. Labour Court-II	Disputes Applications	1825 2222	335 293	304 300	343 638
6. Labour Court-III	Disputes Applications	1984 1605	177 164	220 157	94 67
7. Labour Court-IV	Disputes Applications	1996 1604	66 385	76 28	278 72
8. Labour Court-V	Disputes Applications	1345 1659	119 83	166 149	54 248
9. Labour Court-VI	Disputes Applications	497 1055	1 —	— —	23 31
10. Labour Court-VII	Disputes Applications	1124 1290	277 98	157 471	79 119
11. Labour Court-VIII	Disputes Applications	1338 1995	76 131	65 98	61 70
12. Labour Court-IX	Disputes Applications	1915 8	77 —	41 —	453 —
13. Labour Court-X	Disputes Applications	2421 901	336 65	368 108	553 511
Total	Disputes Applications	19788 15645	2059 1848	1986 2023	3646 2318

Loan Under P.M.R.Y. in Madhya Pradesh

452. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of youth given loans by the banks in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana;

(b) the number of loan applications received by the District Industries Centres and the number of applications forwarded by the said Centres to the banks during each of the last three years;

(c) whether applications approved by the district level committees are rejected by banks even though Banks representative are included in such district level committees;

(d) the percentage of applications rejected by the banks during each of the last three years;

(e) the locations of centres where the training facilities are available in the State for youths whose loan applications have been approved;

(f) whether assistance from the non-governmental organisation has been received for imparting the training in the State; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) and (b) As per the information made available by Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) in the Ministry of Industry, the target, number of applications received by District Industries Centres (DICs), number of applications sponsored to the banks by the DICs and the applications sanctioned by the banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto 31st January, 1996, latest available) are set out below :-

Year	Target	Applications Received in DICs	Applications sponsored to Banks by DICs	Applications sanctioned by Banks
1993-94	2710	16,803	7,079	2,992
1994-95	20,000	58,943	45,124	21,840
1995-96 (As on 31.1.1996)	27,050	79,814	64,615	23,083

(c) The sponsoring agencies like the Task Force under the DICs carry out only preliminary interview for selection of the applicants and sponsored the applications to the banks for disposal. The bank branches are required to take a decision on each application on the merits of each case after considering the viability and bankability of the project of each applicant, having regard to locational aspects, eligibility of the borrowers, etc.

(d) As per the information collected by the Office of the DC (SSI) from the Government of Madhya Pradesh the applications rejected by banks during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 upto 31st January, 1996 are as under:-

Year	Applications rejected by banks
1993-94	Not Available
1994-95	8,313
1995-96 (As on 31.1.1996)	1,027

(e) Office of the DC(SSI) has reported that the training courses under PMRY are normally being organised at the district level. In some cases, training courses are also organised at block level and tehsil level.

(f) and (g) The following Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have also been entrusted with the task of training programme under PMRY.

- (i) Society of Electronics and Computer Technology (SECT).
- (ii) Kothari Institute
- (iii) Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation of M.P. (ITCOM)
- (iv) Udyamita Kur Prabandhan Vikas Samitee.
- (v) Proficiency the Hi-Tech Consultant, Bhopal.
- (vi) Swarozgar Seva Sansthan, Raipur.

[English]

Air Ticket Fare

453. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints from Gulf passengers having high difference in Air India ticket fare in Trivandrum International Airport in comparison to other airports/airlines;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The alleged difference in fares is primarily due to comparison of promotional fares with normal fares and fares from Trivandrum with fares from Bombay, which is nearer to Gulf points.

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

Airport at Purnia

454. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the airport in Purnia was in use earlier;

(b) whether this airport is lying unused now causing difficulties to Air Passengers;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to resume air service at this airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. There have been no commercial operations.

(b) to (d) Purnia airstrip belongs to Government of Bihar. Operation of services to this airport depends on the traffic potential. At present, no carrier has shown interest in operating to Purnia.

International Flights at Calicut Airport

455. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights operating from/to Calicut Airport everyday;

(b) the names of places to which International flights are being operated by Indian Airlines and Air India from Calicut Airport;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect any more destinations abroad with Calicut airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Airlines operates 28 domestic flights and 42 international flights including 24 flights in joint venture with Air India, to/from Calicut airport per week. In addition private airlines also operate flights on domestic sectors to/from Calicut taking the number to over a hundred single flights per week.

(b) Indian Airlines operates international services to Sharjah, Rasal-khaimah, Fujairah and Kuwait from Calicut. In addition, joint venture flights of Air India/Indian Airlines are operated to Abu-Dhabi, Dubai and Muscat.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has plans to introduce a thrice weekly service from Calicut to Doha and Bahrain effective 6 March, 1996.

Gaslitand Coal Mine Accident

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

(a) whether the Government have conducted inquiry

into the coal mine accident which took place in Gaslitand mine in September, 1995;

- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
 (c) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Government have constituted a Court of Inquiry to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accidents which took place in the collieries of Gaslitand, Bera, Katras Choitudih and South Govindpur in District Dhanbad of Bihar State in September, 1995. The report of the Court of Inquiry is awaited.

Fraud in Banks

457. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the cases of issue of cheque books and encashment of cheques on forged signatures/requisition slips continue to take place in the banks;
 (b) if so, the reasons for not evolving any foolproof measures to detect the fraud on the spot;
 (c) the details of such cases that have taken place in the public and private sector banks in Delhi during September, October, November, December, 1995 and January and February, 1996; and

(d) the action taken on each of the cases, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities to Beedi Workers

458. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether medical facilities are provided to all the beedi workers;
 (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the percentage of beedi workers to whom medical facilities are provided ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) A chain of 154 dispensaries and 3 hospitals have been set up under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund all over the country exclusively for beedi workers to supplement the medical facilities available at the District Hospitals/Rural Hospitals/Public Health Centres/Sub-Centres etc. run by the State Governments.

- (c) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

State	% of beedi workers covered as per minimum norms.	% of beedi workers actually covered as reported by Welfare Commissioners.
Andhra Pradesh	7.3%	20.83%
Tamilnadu	7.3%	20.83%
Orissa	33.7%	40%
Madhya Pradesh	16.2%	60%
Rajasthan	30%	76.5%
Gujarat	50%	71.0%
West Bengal	11.3%	30%
Assam	65%	78%
Tripura	100%	92%
Maharashtra	27.8%	44%
Karnataka	21.7%	50%
Kerala	29.7%	50%
Bihar	17%	47%
Uttar Pradesh	12.2%	33%

Corruption in Banking System

459. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission have detected certain cases of corruption in the functioning of banking system;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the reactions of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission have reported that they normally advise on individual cases. Instances have been found by the commission where some individual officers of banks have indulged in corrupt practices. The irregularities noticed mainly relate to abuse of power of extending undue favour to individuals/institutions; exceeding the delegated authority to favour particular parties; etc.

The banks have already laid down various systems/rules/norms and procedures for sanction and disbursal of loans and advances which are also supplemented through various instructions, besides prescribing distinct and definite guidelines on lending powers and use of discretionary authority at various levels. There is also a system of regular and short inspection/audit of branches offices of the banks with a view to exercising effective supervision and control over the use of discretionary power of lending.

[English]

Black Money

460. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to a calculation by the RBI, the black money factor in the parallel economy of the country is at least one third of the total gross domestic product at around Rs.2 lakh crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hawala transactions is one of the main factors in the generation of black money; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to curb the hawala trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has not conducted any study on the quantum of black money in the Indian economy.

(c) and (d) Hawala transaction is one of the factors in generation of black money. Various enforcement agencies of the Government such as Enforcement Division, DRI, CBI and Income Tax Deptt. have been taking appropriate action as per provisions of the law to curb the hawala trade.

Impact of Devaluation of Rupee on Foreign Debt

461. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
DR. S.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign debt amount of the country is affected due to the devaluation of rupee in terms of the American dollar;

(b) if so, whether this devaluation also affects the decrease and increase of interest amount to be paid on foreign debt;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the percentage increase in the interest amount to be paid on the foreign debt due to the devaluation of rupee in terms of the American dollar in February, 1996; and

(e) the total interest amount to be paid by the country for the financial year 1995-96 on the foreign debt in the light of present circumstances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) External/ debt is incurred in various foreign currencies. The debt service payments namely, principal repayments and

interest payments, have to be made in the currency in which the debt is denominated. Therefore, the amount of debt and the cost of servicing debt in terms of various foreign currencies would remain unaffected by the movement in the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar.

(e) The estimate of total interest payments for the year 1995-96 on the external debt is not yet available.

Renovation of Bangalore Airport

462. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent so far on the renovation of Bangalore Airport :

(b) the amount released by the Government of Karnataka for the above work so far; and

(c) the details of renovation works taken up and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The amount spent by Airports Authority of India (AAI) so far on the renovation of Bangalore airport is Rs.3.14 crores. No amount has been released by Government of Karnataka for the renovation works. The details of renovation works taken up by AAI are:-

- Construction of new arrival Hall and International Block. The work is likely to be awarded in March, 1996 and is scheduled to be completed in 24 months from the date of award of work.
- Expansion and Modification of existing Terminal Complex - scheduled to be completed by March, 1996.
- Remodelling of Technical Block - Work completed.

[Translation]

Labour Courts

463. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Labour Courts/ Industrial Tribunals at present in the country particularly in the backward areas of the Gujarat and the locations thereof;

(b) whether in view of maximum labour force in Gujarat the Government propose to set up such courts in each district of the State; and

(c) if so, the time by which these courts are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission

464. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :
DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Fifth Pay Commission to submit its report expeditiously particularly regarding wage structure;

(b) if so, the time by which the said report is likely to be received by the Government;

(c) if not, whether the Government are considering over any proposal to grant third instalment of interim relief to its employees;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Pay Commission would submit its report to the Government; and

(e) the date from which the report would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) to (d) The Commission is required to make its recommendations as soon as feasible. In accordance with the terms of reference, it may consider, if necessary, sending reports on any of the matters as and when the recommendations are finalised. It is not customary for the Government to issue any directions to the Commission or to specify any time limit for submission of the Report.

The Government have already sanctioned two instalments of Interim Relief. There is no proposal at present to consider grant of 3rd instalment of interim Relief to the Central Government employees.

(e) The date of effect of the recommendations of the Commission will be considered only after the Commission submits its final Report.

[Translation]

Drug Traffickers

465. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the menace of narcotic drugs is increasing day-by-day in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of narcotic drug-traffickers arrested and prosecuted during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) Since sale and consumption of narcotic drugs is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing day-by-day in the country or otherwise.

(b) As per the information available, a Statement showing the State-wise number of persons arrested during the last three years is attached. All the arrested persons are liable to prosecution after due investigation.

STATEMENT

Statewise total number of Persons Arrested Under NDPS Act during the last three years.

States	1993	1994	1995 (Prov.)
	Persons Arrested	Persons Arrested	Persons Arrested
Andra Pradesh	218	404	681
A&N Island	1	3	2
Arunachal Pradesh	12	50	9
Assam	201	122	80
Bihar	126	198	31
Chandigarh	9	13	15
D.N. Haveli	—	—	—
Delhi	597	679	738
Goa	36	37	24
Gujarat	212	294	412
Haryana	154	143	59
Himachal Pradesh	72	93	49
J & K	37	43	51
Karnataka	217	137	1
Kerala	22	152	183
Lakshdweep	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	752	1110	128
Maharashtra	1404	694	545
Manipur	328	941	173
Meghalaya	40	92	10
Mizoram	122	104	211
Nagaland	116	79	85
Orissa	92	217	7
Pondicharry	4	1	5
Punjab	324	316	288
Rajasthan	203	424	234
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	2503	2850	2256
Tripura	16	32	1
Uttar Pradesh	5732	5969	6925
West Bengal	173	255	109
Daman & Diu	—	—	—
Total	13723	15452	13312

Income Tax dues against Indian Banks and Financial Institutions

466. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian banks and financial institutions figure prominently in a confidential dossier of the Income Tax department among the defaulters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to recover the above outstanding amount from the Indian banks and institutions; and

(d) the time limit fixed to recover the above outstanding amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :

(a) The Income Tax Department monitors the cases involving arrears of tax particularly in bigger cases. Indian banks and financial institutions also appear in such lists prepared by the Department.

(b) List of the Indian banks and financial institutions against whom income-tax demand of rupees one crore and above is pending as on 30.9.1995 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) High priority is given to the work of collection/reduction of arrear demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of cases. Wherever the recovery proceedings are stayed by the Courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures are also taken in suitable cases, for speedy recovery of demand. In bigger cases, the dossiers are maintained and the recovery position is reviewed regularly.

(d) No time limit for recovery of tax dues can be given as recovery of tax arrears is a continuous process.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian banks and financial institutions	Amount outstanding at on 30.9.1995 (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
INDIAN BANKS		
1.	M/s. State Bank of India	1395.22
2.	M/s. United Bank of India	135.90
3.	M/s. Bank of India	65.05
4.	M/s. Bank of Baroda	42.77
5.	M/s. Punjab National Bank	28.78
6.	M/s. J&K Bank Limited	14.97
7.	M/s. Bank of Karad	7.18

1	2	3
8.	M/s. State Bank of Travancore	5.88
9.	M/s. State Bank of Indore	4.45
10.	M/s. New Bank of India	2.44
11.	M/s. Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Limited	1.75
12.	M/s. The Karur Vysya Bank Limited	1.12
13.	M/s. Vijaya Bank	10.96
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS		
1.	M/s. I.D.B.I.	67.83
2.	M/s. I.C.I.C.I.	58.75
3.	M/s. Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation Limited	17.09
4.	M/s. Bihar State Credit and Investment Corporation Limited	7.20
5.	M/s. Bihar State Financial Corporation	4.91
6.	M/s. Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited	4.18
7.	M/s. L.I.C. of India	2.42
8.	M/s. H.D.F.C.	9.21
9.	M/s. Kerala Small Industries Development Corporation	1.01
10.	M/s. Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation	2.07

[English]

Construction of Terminals

467. SHRI TARA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government are aware of lack of infrastructure at airports to cope with increase in air traffic;

(b) if so, whether the projected passenger traffic is likely to increase manifold in the next few years;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to construct additional terminals at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta airports to meet the projected demand of passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Upgradation of airports and other infrastructural facilities is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon projected requirements and availability of resources.

Major projects of upgradation envisaged during 8th Five Year Plan by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are as follows:-

- (i) Modernisation of air traffic control services at Bombay and Delhi Airports.
- (ii) Procurement of Air Surveillance Radars and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars.
- (iii) Procurement of Instrument Landing Systems.
- (iv) Development of Model airports for limited international operations at Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Indore, Vadodara, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Calicut, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Imphal.
- (v) Construction of International passenger Terminal Complex (Phase-III) at Bombay airport.
- (vi) Construction of Domestic Terminal Complex (Phase-II) at Bombay airport.
- (vii) A new domestic terminal at Calcutta has been commissioned in January, 1996.

[Translation]

System to Check Fake Shares

468. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have developed any system for the valuation of the monitoring system to check the circulation of fake share certificates in the country and to make it more effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The circulation of fake share certificates is a criminal offence and law enforcing authorities and other concerned agencies are keeping a constant vigil for checking and preventing this problem. Accordingly; no separate system relating to monitoring has been developed.

[English]

Reconstitution of Indo-US Commercial Alliance

469. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Indo-US Commercial Alliance Board which was proposed to be constituted;

(b) which are the areas selected to focus;

(c) whether this alliance will effect Trade Association and small/large businesses particularly food processing, cotton yarn, iron-ore and other factors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board of Indo-US Commercial Alliance has already been constituted and the first Board Meeting was held on 19th June, 1995 at Santa Clara in USA.

(b) The sectors selected for focus initially are Informations technology, Transportation & Infrastructure, Agribusiness and Power.

(c) to (e) The Alliance encompasses trade associations as well as large & small businesses and provides a general frame work for increased interaction in various sectors between private sector enterprises of both the countries for expanding trade & commercial ties.

Safety Measures for the Construction Worker

470. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the International Labour Organisation Survey, most of the Construction Companies in India violate the prescribed safety measures for their workers;

(b) if so, the details of the safety measures prescribed by the ILO; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check violation of the prescribed norms in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recovery of Income-Tax from Tax Evaders

471. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HODDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No.3513 dated August 25, 1995 and state :

(a) Whether the information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

STATEMENT

On making enquiries it has been found that there is no "Punjabi Bagh Co-operative Society Ltd." in existence in Delhi. However, one "Punjabi Bagh Co-operative Housing Society Ltd." is registered with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies and is also an income-tax payer on the record of the Income Tax Department. It appears that the Hon'ble Member desired to have the information about "Punjabi Bagh Co-operative Housing Society Ltd." and accordingly, the information regarding "Punjabi Bagh Co-operative Housing Society Ltd." is being stated below :

2. As per income tax records the Society has shown mainly interest income from fixed deposits and saving Bank accounts and some small income from transfer/admission fee, service charges and miscellaneous income.

3. The income tax paid by the Society during the last three assessment years is as under :

Tax paid (In rupees lakhs)		
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.73	7.06	6.32

4. Certain complaints regarding violation of bye-laws of the Society, non-payment of income-tax, mismanagement of funds and excessive expenditure in celebrations and other activities by the Co-operative Society were received by the Income-tax Department. The allegations made in the complaints were investigated by the Income-tax Department. The information regarding violation of bye-laws of the Society has been passed on to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. As regards allegations of excessive expenditure in celebrations and other activities, the same were examined during the course of assessment proceedings for assessment year 1993-94. In the computation of income of the Society for assessment year 1993-94, the following expenses have been disallowed.

(a) Expenses on installation of iron gate	Rs. 4,44,924/-
(b) Holi Milan festival expenses	Rs. 2,07,867/-
(c) Expenses on clearance of back lane Malwa (Garbage)	Rs. 56,802/-
(d) Expenses on fogging operation	Rs. 51,394/-
(e) Salary to security guards	Rs. 1,18,521/-
(f) Expenses on guide map	Rs. 5,500/-
(g) Postage expenses	Rs. 10,000/-

5. The assessments for assessment year 1994-95, 1995-96 and subsequent years will be completed keeping in view the findings given in the assessment order for assessment year 1993-94 in respect of above mentioned items of expenditure.

Production of Clothes

472. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the cotton yarn prices between 1991-92 and 1994-95 in the country;

(b) If so, whether during the said period prices of synthetic yarn increased by lesser percentage;

(c) if so, whether in view of lower prices of synthetic yarn, production of synthetic cloth has increased;

(d) if so, the percentage increase in the production of such cloth between 1991-92 and 1994-95; and

(e) the percentage increase in the production of cotton cloth during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Besides other factors, the lower prices of synthetic yarn have helped in increasing the production of synthetic cloth. The production of cotton cloth, blended cloth and 100% Non-Cotton cloth have increased by 15.6% 31% and 43.2% respectively during the period 1991-92 and 1994-95.

Task Force to Evolve Standardised Documents for Tendering

473. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry in collaboration with World Bank has set up a task force to evolve standardised documents for tendering;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent up to which it is likely to enable Indian projects more competitive and in accordance with the internationally accepted norms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Task Force headed by Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, was constituted in May, 1993 in order to examine the Standard Bidding Documents of the World Bank with a view to their appropriate indigenisation for use in the World Bank (WB) aided projects. On the basis of its recommendations, Government made the mandatory use of the following Standard Bidding Documents for International Competitive Bidding for World Bank aided projects :-

- (i) Procurement of Civil Works;
- (ii) Procurement of Goods;
- (iii) Prequalification of contractors for Civil Works;
- (iv) Procurement of Pharmaceuticals and Vaccines; and
- (v) Selection of Consultants.

However, in view of the revised Procurement guide lines of World Bank with effect from January, 1995, the Task Force, Inter-alai, is currently examining these documents. Further, it is also in the process of standardising documents for National Competitive Bidding in respect of World Bank projects.

(c) The World Bank procurement rules/procedures, inter-alai, seek to allow all eligible bidders an opportunity to compete in providing all goods/works financed by the Bank, to encourage the development of domestic contracting and manufacturing industries in the borrowing countries, and to bring transparency in procurement procedures for World Bank aided projects. The present efforts of the Task Force in consultation with the World

Bank officials are to achieve the above objectives in the Indian context.

Japanese Investment

474. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry had visited India in January, 1996 and held discussions with the Union Ministers and other Officials;

(b) whether any Japanese investment are likely in pursuance of these discussions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

475. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public sector sugar mills running in U.P. and Bihar;

(b) the outstanding dues of farmers against these mills, mill wise;

(c) the outstanding dues against these mills under Government and non-Governmental head; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for revival of these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There is one Sugar Mills namely Ganesh Sugar Mills at Anandnagar under NTC (UP) Ltd. There are no Public Sector sugar mills in Bihar.

(b) No dues are outstanding to the farmers from Ganesh Sugar Mills.

(c) Ganesh Sugar Mills have dues to the extent of Rs. 5.73 crores to NTC (P) Ltd. Govt. of U.P. and IFCI.

(d) Being a sick unit their case has been referred to BIFR wherein the matter is presently pending. The next date of hearing of the BIFR has been fixed for 11.3.96.

Air Services for N.E. Region

476. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether daily air service is being made available for promoting tourism in Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the capitals of North-eastern States have been linked with the daily flights of Indian Airlines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Regular air services are being provided to Dimapur, Imphal, Agartala and Aizwal by Indian Airlines and other Private Operators.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines, at present, has no plans to link any new station in the North East due to crew constraint. However, private operators are encouraged to add new stations including places in North Eastern States.

[English]

Disbursement of loan under P.M.R.Y.

477. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target which was fixed for the disbursement of loan under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in Kerala particularly in Trivandrum during 1995;

(b) whether the target has since been achieved;

(c) if not, the details of the banks which have not achieved the targets and the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether certain banks are insisting on collateral security for payment of such loans and if so, the action taken by Government for implementing this scheme as per the guidelines laid down for purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), the progress under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for Kerala and Thiruvananthapuram during 1995-96, as on 31st January, 1996 (latest available) is as under :-

	Target	Number of Applications	
		Sanctioned	Disbursed
Kerala	15,000	7,998	4,870
Thiruvananthapuram	1,600	1,009	535

(c) Since the financial year 1995-96 is still underway and the final position would be known only sometime after the completion of the financial year, the details of the banks which have not achieved the targets alongwith the reasons, thereof, can not be indicated at this stage.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has stated that reports of insistence of collateral by banks in some cases were received. All banks have been advised time and again not to insist collateral and to adhere to the guidelines issued for the scheme. Having regard to the importance of this scheme in the context of increasing self-employment opportunities, the progress of implementation of the scheme is being monitored regularly. The Chief Executives of banks implementing the PMRY have been advised that the implementation of the scheme should be promptly attended to. They have also been advised that an Officer

of the level of the General manager should be given the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the scheme. This has been done to ensure that complaints that are received are attended to properly at a sufficiently senior level in the banks.

[Translation]

Cooperative Spinning Mills

478. SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cooperative spinning mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the policy of the Government regarding granting licences for setting up of new spinning mills; and

(c) the policy of the Government for providing funds for such spinning mills in the shape of share capital and loan ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There were 143 Cotton/man-made fibre spinning mills in the country as on 31.1.96. in the Cooperative Sector. A Statement-I showing the number of cooperative sector mills State-wise is attached.

(b) As per the liberalised industrial Policy notified on 25th July, 91, there is no restriction on the setting up of Cotton Textile Mills, except for certain textile locational restrictions, irrespective of whether the proposed mills public, private or coop. sector.

(c) The NCDC's assistance is provided in the form of loan assistance to State Governments for share capital participation in the establishment of new cooperative spinning mills subject to fulfilling of eligibility criteria prescribed for the purpose and firm tie up of term loan. Statement-II showing NCDC Pattern of assistance to State Governments is attached.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills under Cooperative Management as on 31.1.96.

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11
2.	Assam	0
3.	Bihar	3
4.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	—
5.	Daman & Diu	—
6.	Delhi	—
7.	Goa	—
8.	Gujarat	4
9.	Haryana	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
12.	Karnataka	12
13.	Kerala	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2
15.	Maharashtra	56
16.	Manipur	—
17.	Orissa	6
18.	Pondicherry	2
19.	Punjab	7
20.	Rajasthan	3
21.	Tamil Nadu	19
22.	Uttar Pradesh	11
23.	West Bengal	2
Total		143

STATEMENT-II

*Pattern of assistance
(% age of project cost)*

Developed State	H.loom Weavers Coop. Spinning Mills			Growers Coop. Spng. Mills		
	New mills	Expn.	Mod.	New mills	Expn.	Mod.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
EQUITY						
(i) Members contribution as share capital	5.00	5.00	—	10.00	10.00	5.00
(ii) State Govt's share capital						
(a) Own resources	22.50	17.50	10.00	20.00	15.00	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(b) With NCDC's loan assistance	22.50	17.50	10.00	20.00	15.00	7.50
Sub total (ii)	45.00	35.00	20.00	40.00	30.00	15.00
DEBT						
(iii) Term loans	50	60	80	50	60	80
	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cooperatively under-development states						
EQUITY						
(i) Members contribution as share Capital	5.00	5.00	—	7.50	7.50	5.00
(ii) State Govt's share capital						
(a) Own resources	11.25	8.75	10.00	12.50	9.75	7.50
(b) With NCDC's loan assistance	33.75	26.25	10.00	30.00	22.75	15.00
Sub total (ii)	45.00	35.00	20.00	42.50	32.50	15.00
DEBT						
(iii) Term loans	50	60	80	50	60	80
Total :	100	100	100	100	100	100

Expn : Expansion.

Mod : Modernisation

Welfare Schemes for the Workers

479. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers in organised sector of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government have agreed to finance the welfare measure initiated by the State Government during the year 1994-95 for the welfare of these workers;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes implemented and the assistance provided for this purpose;

(d) the details of those schemes to which Central assistance has not been extended so far ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) According to the quick Estimates of employment brought out by the Directorate General of Employment & Training] the total employment in the organised sector (all public sector establishments and all private non agricultural establishments with 10 or more workers) in the State of Uttar Pradesh as on 31.3.95 was 2.40 million.

(b) to (d) Welfare measures are being taken by the employers for the welfare of their workers in accordance with the provisions of various labour laws.

[English]

Productivity Linked Bonus

480. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the time by which the recommendations of the Central Board of Trustees for productivity Linked Bonus to the employees of Employees Provident Fund Organisations are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. VENKAT SWAMY) : The employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation are covered under the Productivity Linked Bonus Scheme. The Scheme was due for review in 1991-92. Pending final review and on the recommendation of the E.P.E. Organisation, the existing P.L.B. Scheme has been extended for the period upto 1994-95. The employees have since been paid Bonus as due and admissible under the existing scheme for the year upto 1994-95. The new P.L.B. Scheme suggested by the National Productivity Council and approved by the Central Board of Trustees, E.P.E. involves additional

expenditure. As such, a final decision in the matter can be taken only after obtaining necessary financial approvals for which necessary action has been initiated.

[Translation]

Bank Loan Defaulters

481. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of ten top defaulters in the context of the re-payment of loans and the amount of loan outstanding against each of them bank-wise;

(b) the efforts made by the Government for the recovery of the same;

(c) the difficulties being faced in the recovery of loan from the defaulters; and

(d) whether the Government propose to issue directives to the financial institutions to avoid the situation arising due to the non-recovery of the Government loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) As per the provisions of existing laws, governing disclosures, such details are not furnished.

(b) to (d) Debts Recovery Tribunals have been established by Government to speed up the recovery of dues owed to banks and financial institutions. Government and RBI have also been imprising upon the banks the need to strengthen the credit appraisal machinery and exercise close Supervision and control over advances. Targets & recovery/reduction of non-performing assets (NPA) have been fixed by RBI. Recovery Cells have been set up at the Headquarters of the public sector banks under the charge of a General Manager. Board of Directors are also requested to review the recovery position on a regular basis.

The RBI has also put in the position a system of circulating a list of large defaulting borrowers for the confidential of banks and financial institutions on a half-yearly basis.

A list containing the names of suitfiled deflating borrowers as on 31.3.94 has been published by the RBI.

[English]

National Policy for Repayment of Foreign Loans

482. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's estimated requirement for building a strong base for infrastructure projects in U.S. 5.5 billion external commercial borrowings during the next couple of years, 12 billion by 2002 and 30 billion during the decade after;

(b) if so, whether this addition of such huge foreign debts is likely to put India into external debt trap in view

of the fact that external debt was U.S. 99.04 billion as on December 31, 1995 as per white paper issued by the Government on December 22, 1995;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to come out with a well thought out national plan on repayment of all foreign loans in a reasonable time-frame; and

(d) the brief high-lights of such policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) by Indian firms for financing the infrastructure projects are permitted within annual ceilings consistent with prudent debt management. Within the total, provision is made for priority areas. Infrastructure is considered a priority area. The requirements for infrastructure are determined annually as part of the annual borrowing programme. The requirements for the next year have not yet been finalised. In order to keep the level of new borrowing commitments within prudent limits of debt management, Government have prescribed strict norms with respect to maturity, end-use and pricing, for approval of ECB proposals. To reduce the debt service ratio to comfortable levels, measures have been taken for sustained growth in exports, invisible receipts and direct foreign investment.

[Translation]

Construction of New Airports

483. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the States in which new airports have been constructed during the last three years and the cost incurred thereon;

(b) the States in which the development of old airports have been made and the amount spent thereon during the last three years and the locations thereof;

(c) whether Government have received the complaints regarding problems being faced by air passengers travelling to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No new airport has been constructed by Airports Authority of India during the last three years.

(b) An amount of Rs. 293 crores approximately has been spent to develop airports at Agartala in Tripura, Aurangabad, Mumbai, Nagpur in Maharashtra, Banaglore in Karnataka, Bhubaneshwar in Orissa, Calcutta in West Bengal, Calicut, Trivandrum in Kerala, Dimapur in Nagaland, Dibrugarh, Guwahati in Assam, Hyderabad, Tirubati in Andhra Pradesh, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Jaipur, Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Madras

in Tamil Nadu, Patna in Bihar, Vadodara in Gujarat, Delhi and Goa.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The complaints mainly relate to tout menace, delay in customs/immigration clearance, lack of transport facility at the airport, poor maintenance of passengers facilities etc. Airport Coordination Committee of each airport takes remedial action wherever necessary.

[English]

Demands of Insurance Sector

484. SHRI CHITTA BASU
SHRI PRAKESH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees, officers and workers of the insurance industry have been agitating on certain demands since sometime past;

(b) if so, the details of the demands put forth by them; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the demands and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) A section of the employees and officers of the insurance industry has been from time to time agitating on the issue of wage revision in the insurance industry. While a revised wage package for the Class-III and IV employees has been notified by the Government on 22.2.1996, wage revision proposals for Class-I and II Officers are being examined by the Government.

Linking of Tourist Spots by Air

485. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link all the places of the tourists interest by air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) A large number of tourist places are already connected by air. At present, Indian Airlines have no proposal to operate to any new stations due to crew constraints. However, private operators are encouraged to add more stations including places of tourist interest in their network.

Liquidity Position of Exporters

486. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the current financial crunch has adversely allotted the export tempo and exporters are worry about the escalating cost

of Fiance and lack of availability of credit even against the confirmed letter of credits.

(b) whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news item captioned "Exports reeling under credit Crunch: Survey" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated February 5, 1996; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the Liquidity position of exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The news-item referred to in Para (b) of the Question has been brought to the attention of the Government. As per the standing instructions of the RBI, the banks are required to achieve a minimum level of 10% of net bank credit to the export sector. The total export credit outstanding at the end of March 1992 was to the tune of Rs.10,695 crores which constituted 8.6% of the total net bank credit. At the end of March 1995, the total export credit outstanding is provisionally estimated at Rs. 27,301 crores forming 13% of the total net bank credit, which is much above the target of 10% fixed by the RBI. During the current financial year, there has been an increase of Rs. 5,000 crores in the outstanding export credit.

The RBI has, inter alia, announced the following on 8th of February, 1996 with regard to export credit;

(i) Scrapping of Post-Shipment Credit in Foreign Currency (PSCFC) Scheme.

(ii) Freeing interest rates on post shipment export rupee credit for over 90 days.

In order to monitor export credit, RBI has prescribed time limits for banks for sanction of fresh/enhanced/ad-hoc credit limits to finance exports and also for renewal of existing credit limits. All case of rejection of export credit are to be brought to the notice of the Chief Executives of the Banks with reasons for such rejection.

The Government is constantly interacting with the RBI to ensure adequate availability of credit of the exporters both in foreign currency and rupee term at international competitive rates.

Share Certificates

487. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has uncovered a fraud being perpetrated by some companies on investors by deliberate printing of excess share certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the companies found involved in such malpractices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Income from Gujarat Airports

488. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the income earned and expenditure made by various airports in Gujarat during the current financial year till date and also

during each of the last three years airport-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : A statement showing the income and expenditure relating to various airports in Gujarat is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Airports Authority of India

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Airport	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (R.E. upto December 1995)	
		Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
1.	Ahmedabad	230.15	197.10	407.16	227.28	565.41	317.28	526.60	482.70
2.	Baroda	56.13	46.82	105.84	53.84	140.75	263.59	105.23	119.72
3.	Rajkot	19.21	43.82	47.39	66.29	44.27	70.46	37.46	73.02
4.	Bhavnagar	14.43	32.73	34.05	40.72	58.00	60.17	30.87	85.61
5.	Jamnagar	7.06	14.75	7.13	11.78	11.18	10.93	10.14	11.87
6.	Porbandar	1.80	18.26	7.86	18.23	6.40	19.47	4.93	36.57
7.	Bhuj	8.55	11.14	15.14	10.12	19.31	11.77	12.05	16.72
8.	Kandla	3.67	12.59	3.75	12.75	3.66	16.25	0.28	19.30
9.	Keshod	3.90	15.15	5.53	19.05	1.06	21.59	2.11	47.03
10.	Surat	0.75	2.97	0.61	3.14	1.57	3.17	1.52	3.36

Landing Facilities to Foreign Air Service

489. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding landing of foreign air services on domestic routes is under consideration of the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to permit foreign airlines to operate on domestic routes.

Irregularities in Distribution of Loan under P.M.R.Y.

490. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities being committed by Banking Institutions and the problem in the recovery of advanced loans etc. in the

implementation of the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in U.P. Particularly in Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for its smooth implementation and execution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a few complaints regarding non-sanctioning of loans, delay in disposal of cases, etc. have been received. These complaints have been referred by Reserve Bank of India to the concerned banks/Regional Offices of RBI for investigation and appropriate remedial action.

Nationalisation of Private Sector Banks

491. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of banks working in the country in private sector at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to nationalise such of the banks which fulfil all those conditions under which the private sector banks were nationalised during earlier times; and

(c) If not, reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 37 banks are functioning in the private sector in the country.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present.

Supply of Ganja and Bhang of Herbal Medicines to Villagers

492. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people particularly the villagers are using cannabis [ganja] and its various forms for non-medical purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give licence for sale of ganja for non-medical and non-scientific uses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) No National Survey has been conducted but the limited studies available indicate the extensive use of cannabis.

Various studies indicate that abuse of Cannabis (ganja/marijuana, bhang, charas) is widespread in India.

Ninety per cent of dependent drug abusers, abuse cannabis according to a study in 1990 of 33 cities and neighbouring areas.

(c) to (e) The cultivation of cannabis (from which ganja is produced) except for medical and scientific purposes is prohibited under the NDPS Act. Power to permit and regulate cultivation of cannabis for medical and scientific purposes vests with State Governments.

Unemployment Allowance

493. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.6493 on May 19, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI. G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed .

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Proposed to be laid on the Table of Lok Sabha during the current session i.e. 8.3.96.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ U.Ts.	Educational Qualification	Rate of allowance	Number of estimated beneficiaries as on 1.4.1995.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Arunachal-I Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	Graduate & above	Rs.50/- per month	98,923
4.	Bihar	(a) Matriculation onwards and (b) I.T.I. passed	Rs. 100/- p.m.	1,88,727
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Haryana	(a) Matric (b) Hr. Sec. & above but below Graduate (c) Graduates/Post Graduates	Rs. 50/-p.m. Rs. 75/-p.m.	19,026 2,407
9.	Himachal pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	Kerala	S.S.L.C. Passed	Rs. 70/-P.m.	4,81,961

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Hr. Secondary Passed	Rs.200/-p.m. with effect from 2.10.95	—
14.	Maharashtra	(a) S.S.C. Passed (b) Graduate & above & Diploma holders	Rs.100/-p.m. Rs. 3,00/-p.m.	5,09,869 54,229
15.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	Nil
19.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil
20.	Punjab	(a) Matriculate & under Graduates (b) Graduates & above	Rs. 150/-p.m. Rs. 200/-p.m.	5,388
21.	Rajasthan	(a) SC/ST Graduates with IInd Divi. (b) SC/ST Post Graduates With IInd Division	Rs. 150/-p.m. Rs. 250/-p.m.	63 SC/ST (Scheme withdrawn w.e.f. June, 1995)
22.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
23.	Tamil Nadu	(a) Blind with Matric & above (b) Blind with P.U.C./+2 (c) Blind with Graduates/Post Graduates	Rs. 150/-p.m. Rs. 200/-p.m. Rs. 250/-p.m.	1164
24.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.	West Bengal	All unemployed persons, Educational Qualification is not required	Rs. 50/-p.m. (payable for two years)	8,32,737
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil

Proposal for Nehru Memorial Pavilion

494. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have submitted the revised proposal regarding the Nehru Memorial Pavilion in Alleppey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Agreement between India and Israel

495. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the India and Israel has signed any economic cooperation agreements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Israel Government has offered credit facilities to the Exim Bank of India for export of capital goods from Israel of India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the two Governments had detailed discussions to review economic relations; and
- (f) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (f) During the visit of H.E.Mr. Avraham B. Shochat, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Israel to India from 26-30th January, 1996 on the invitation of Finance Minister, various matters of bilateral importance were discussed and decisions taken. Among them besides agreeing to assist Joint Ventures in both countries in several areas and deliberating a Israeli offer of credit of US \$ 100 million to EXIM Bank and EXIM Bank's reciprocal credit of US \$ 25 million for promoting exports of capital goods by each other, the following three agreements were signed :

Agreement on Bilateral Investment Promotion to give fair and equitable treatment for full protection and security to investments from both countries.

Customs Cooperation Agreement to facilitate proper application of customs law and prevention, investigation and combating of customs offences between two countries.

Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation & the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on incomes and on capital.

Bungling in Export and Import

496. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that hawala racketeers are growing in this country;
- (b) whether the attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ek Hawala Aayat-Niryat Mein Bhi Jismein Karoroh Rupaye Ka Varan-Nyara" appeared in 'Jansatta' dated January 27, 1996; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) The Government are seized of the problem.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 99 cases of over-invoicing have been reported

during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto September, 1995). Declared value of export goods in these cases is Rs.3184 lakhs approximately as against accepted/estimated value of Rs. 940 lakhs (approx.).

[Translation]

AI and IA Passes

497. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Passes issued by Air India and Indian Airlines during the years 1993 to 1995 and the cost incurred thereon including the Passes issued for inaugural flights separately;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the hospitality during the above period; and

(c) the criteria laid down to issue such Passes ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The details of free passes and inaugural passes issued by Air India and Indian Airlines during the years 1993 to 1995 and the expenditure incurred on the hospitality for inaugural invitees is given in the statement attached.

No cost is incurred on the free passes as free pass holders are generally accommodated only after accommodating revenue paying passengers.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines issue free passes to various categories of persons, in the overall commercial and business interest. The powers to issue these passes are vested in the Managing Directors of both the companies. Managing Director, Air India has delegated these powers to certain Heads of Departments, including Commercial Director who has in turn sub-delegated the same through Regional Departmental Heads in the Headquarters and Regional Directors are authorised to grant free passes.

STATEMENT

Details of Free Passes issued by Air India and Indian Airline during the Year 1993 to 1995 including the Passes for Inaugural Flights

(1) FREE PASSES ISSUED BY AIR INDIA	
1992/93	529
1993/94	642
1994/95	938
April-November, 95	547

Air India has incurred the following costs on inaugural invitees :-

(i) Introduction of B747-400 Aircraft	Date	No. of invitees	Total Cost
BOM/DEL/BOM	13/14 Aug.93	162	2,52,208
(II) NEW SERVICES			
TRV/SIN/TRV			
BLR/SIN/BLR	Between 1 Jan. and 1 Feb., 1995	58	
MAA/LON/MAA	Between 17 Jan. and 12 Feb., 1995	54	
Total cost of all three new services			37,31,546

(2) FREE/ INAUGURAL PASSES ISSUED BY INDIAN AIRLINES

Year	For Inaugural Flight	Other Than Inaugural Flight	Cost on Free Passes on Inaugural Flight
1993	11	887	1,50,000
1994	32	1646	8,74,000
1995	22	1878	4,05,000
Total	65	4411	14,29,000

[English]

Tobacco Cultivation

498. PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance to the tobacco growers that Government will not curb or reduce the tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage tobacco farmers to continue their tobacco cultivation; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the traditional foreign exchange earning crops like tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government for curbing or reducing tobacco cultivation.

(c) and (d) With a view to help tobacco farmers to enhance quality and yield of tobacco, Tobacco Board implements developmental and extension schemes which include supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/Burley tobacco, training and exposure of farmers to the latest research findings, pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries, subsidising use of sprinkler irrigation system and improving curing and storing facilities.

Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of

tobacco and tobacco products include, re-orientation of production of tobacco to meet the changing international needs, monitoring and control of pesticide residues, aligning grading to international standards, permitting imports for product developments, sponsoring trade delegations and participation in International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.

[Translation]

Tourism Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

499. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourism industry in the Jammu and Kashmir has been totally paralysed due to disturbances in the State;

(b) if so, the income from the tourism industry during the last two years and the number of tourists visited the State; and

(c) the steps taken to improve this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. The disturbances in the State has affected the tourism industry in the Kashmir Valley only and not in other regions.

(b) According to the information available from the State Government, the number of tourists who visited different regions of Jammu and Kashmir during last two years were as given below :-

Year	Number of tourists			Total
	Vaishnodevi and Amarnath	Ladakh	Kashmir Valley	
1994	3742945	17288	9814	3770047
1995	4092127	17985	8498	4118610

There are no estimates available on the income generated from tourism industry in the State.

(c) The steps taken to develop tourism in the State include identification and development of new resorts in Jammu and Ladakh Divisions of the State and its wide publicity through media campaigns.

[English]

Stoppage of Import of Gold by MMTC

500. SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has requested his Ministry for the stoppage of import of gold under the baggage rules;

(b) if so, the basis on which this demand has been raised when the price of gold in the domestic market is soaring day by day;

(c) whether his Ministry has studied the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir, this Ministry has not received any such request from the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

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

International Airport at Bhubaneswar

501. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any new airport as international airport in India;

(b) if so, whether Bhubaneswar airport has recently been announced to be made an international airport.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to declare any new airport as international airport.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Bhubaneswar airport is being developed as a Model Airport at a cost of Rs.29.50 crores. Limited

International operations can also take place, whenever necessary.

Violation of Fera Law

502. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
DR. S.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of violation of FERA by Zee TV by entering into an agreement with the STC for promoting the goods of manufactures having potential to export in the export market besides advertising these on Zee TV; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries in the matter have been initiated.

Import Restrictions Under W.T.O.

503. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has asked the Union Government to furnish a list of products on which it maintains quantitative import restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the list is likely to be provided to W.T.O. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) According to the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods of the World Trade Organization on December 1, 1995, all Members are required to make complete notifications of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain by January 31, 1996 and at two yearly intervals thereafter, and to notify changes to their quantitative restrictions as and when these changes occur. In parallel, the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organization adopted in its Report on the Consultations with India on 6th and 8th December 1995 that consultations will be resumed with India in October, 1996, and that India would notify to the W.T.O. all remaining restrictions maintained for balance of payments purposes soon after the announcement of 1996-97 Export-Import Policy. These notification obligations are proposed to be met with by India soon after the announcement of any changes during 1996-97 in the Export Import Policy (1992-97).

Sick Textile Mills

504. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick textile mills, the number of

mills which are on the verge of closure and the number of mills which have already been closed down in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of workers working these mills; and

(c) the steps taken by the Govt. to remove the problems of closure and sickness being faced by the workers and the mill owners of this Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on 30.6.95 there were 278 textile mills registered with Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as Sick. As on 31.12.95, no Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mill is closed under I.D. Act. 128 mills are temporarily closed due to financial difficulties lockouts and strikes and 36 mills are closed under Official Liquidation.

Statement-I showing mills registered with BIFR is attached and Statement-II showing number of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills closed is also attached.

(b) No. of workers affected due to closure of these 164 mills is 216566 as on 31.12.95.

(c) Govt. has set up BIFR to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction as appropriate, Schemes for revival of mills.

STATEMENT-I

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstd. Qus. No.504 for 1.3.96

There were 278 mills registered with BIFR as on 30.6.95. The State-wise figures are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of mills
1.	Bihar	3
2.	West Bengal	12
3.	Orissa	4
4.	Uttar Pradesh	33
5.	Delhi	2
6.	Punjab	5
7.	Haryana	9
8.	Chandigarh	1
9.	Rajasthan	14
10.	Gujarat	57
11.	Maharashtra	53
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14
13.	Andhra Pradesh	14
14.	Karnataka	15
15.	Tamil Nadu	32
16.	Kerala	5
17.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
18.	Assam	3
Total		278

STATEMENT-II

Cotton-Man-made Fibre Textile Mills closed under ID Act/Under Liquidation etc. as on 31.12.95

Sl. No.	State	Under I.D.Act	Under Liquid	Otherwise closed	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	10	10
2.	Assam	0	0	1	1
3.	Bihar	0	0	1	1
4.	Gujarat	0	23	23	46
5.	Haryana	0	0	3	3
6.	Karnataka	0	2	8	10
7.	Kerala	0	0	1	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	8	8
9.	Maharashtra	0	7	11	18
10.	Orissa	0	0	1	1
11.	Rajasthan	0	1	3	4
12.	Tamil Nadu	0	3	38	41
13.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	13	13
14.	West Bengal	0	0	7	7
Total		0	36	128	164

Position of Balance of Payment

505. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

The present position of the balance of payment in comparison to the corresponding figure of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : Balance of Payments data for 1995-96 are not yet available. Information available on leading indicators points to a widening of the trade deficit, according to the provisional data of the DGCI&S, from US \$ 2, 011 million in April-December 1994 to US \$ 3,535 million in April-December 1995. Exports rose by 24.1 per cent in US dollar terms during the first nine months of 1995-96, while imports increased by 29.3 per cent during the same period. Nevertheless, with the continuing support from invisibles, the current account deficit for the year 1995-96 as a whole is expected to be around 1.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is sustainable.

India's foreign exchange reserves comprising foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank of India, gold and SDR balances declined from US \$ 25,186 million at the end of March 1995 to US \$ 20,634 million on February 16, 1996. During the corresponding period of 1994-95, the foreign exchange reserves had increased by US \$ 3,163 million.

Child Labour

506. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to take any step for the welfare of the child labourers working in cracker industry with a view to save them from working in this hazardous industry;

(b) the number of the cracker factories in which blasts took place in the country during the last year and the number of persons specifically the child labourers died in these blasts; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to check such serious accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As per the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in the manufacture of matches, explosives and fireworks and work relating to selling of crackers and fireworks in shops with temporary licences. Employers found violating the provisions of the Act are liable for prosecution.

National Child Labour Projects for rehabilitating child labour working in hazardous occupations also cover fireworks industry. One such project for child labour working in the match and fireworks industry has been running at Sivakasi covering a total of 5,000 children through 89 special schools. Under this project, children working in the match and fireworks industry are taken out of work and diverted to special schools where they are provided with non-formal primary level education, vocational training, nutrition, stipends etc.

(b) and (c) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Raids Conducted by Income Tax Department, Pune

507. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which Income Tax Department conducts searches;

(b) whether probable correctness of informant's information is verified before conducting searches;

(c) the details of searches conducted by Income Tax Department in Pune during the last two years; and

(d) the total cash, jewellery and assets seized during these raids ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The search operation is carried out when the Department has reason to believe that any person who is in possession of any money, bullion, jewellery or other valuable article or thing which represent either wholly or partly income or property which has not been or would

not be disclosed or to whom a summon or notice has been or might be issued and will not produce any books of account or documents relevant for proceedings under the Income Tax Act.

(b) Whenever any information is received by the Income Tax Department indicating evasion of tax in any case, an independent inquiry is carried out to verify the correctness of the information.

(c) and (d) The details of searches conducted by the Income Tax Department in Pune during the last two years is as under :

Financial Year	No. of warrants executed	Seizure (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	64	455.49
1994-95	79	530.08

Release of Funds under P.M.R.Y.

508. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total funds allocated for loans under P.M.R.Y. has since been released by Banking sector for the year 1995-96;

(b) the loan target fixed for 1995-96 under the scheme;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding indifferent attitude of Banking Authorities towards P.M.R.Y. loan; and

(d) if so, action taken thereon and the details of latest directions issued to Banking institutions in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) There is no specific allocation of funds by the banking sector under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). The physical target in terms of the number of beneficiaries for the year 1995-96 is 319360.

(c) and (d) There have been some complaints regarding the indifferent attitude of Bank Managers. Some complaints have been received regarding the non-sanctioning of viable proposals, the insistence on collateral security and delayed disbursements of sanctioned cases. Having regard to the importance of this scheme in the context of increasing self-employment opportunities, the progress of implementation of the scheme is being monitored regularly. The Chief Executives of banks implementing the PMRY have been advised that the implementation of the scheme should be promptly attended to. They have also been advised that an Officer of the level of General Manager should be given the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the scheme. This has been done to ensure that complaints that are received are attended to properly at a sufficiently senior level in the banks.

Export of Gram Dal

509. SHRI GOPINATH GOJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to export gram dal; and

(b) if so, the total quantum of gram dal proposed to be exported, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 20,000 M.T. of gram/gram dal has so far been approved for export during 1995-96. In addition, M/o. Agriculture have further agreed to allow exports of 14,000 M.T. of gram/gram dal through NAFED and STC.

IMF/ADB Loan

510. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge portion of World Bank aid to India is lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the aid/loan commitments made by IMF and ADB for the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and the actual disbursements and utilisation thereof;

(c) the details of the sectors where utilisation of aid/loans has been lower during these years;

(d) the reasons for slow utilisation of such aid/loans; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper and speedy utilisation of foreign aid/loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The total undisbursed balance under the World Bank line of assistance was US \$ 8.77 billion as on January 31, 1996. The total figure of undrawn balance does not represent the backlog. It only indicates the total amount that can be drawn over a period of time, and is dependent on the time profile of various projects.

(b) The aid/loan commitments and the actual utilisation (disbursements) for the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows :-

	Commitment		Utilisation	
	IMF (SDR m)	ADB (US\$ m)	IMF (SDR m)	ADB (US\$ m)
1992-93	—	1060	1155	367.45
1993-94	—	447	231	194.34
1994-95	—	505	—	505.60

(c) In general utilisation of aid/loan has been lower in Power and Social Sector in Comparison to the other sectors. However, in the last few years utilisations has picked up in all sectors including Power and Social sectors.

(d) Some of the main reasons for slower than expected utilisation of external aid are inadequate provisioning and counterpart funding, procurement and contracting delays, start-up and other procedural delays.

(e) Ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediating on flow of external aid to Central PSUs, Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs are some of the steps taken by the Govt. to improve aid utilisation.

Air Passes

511. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the categories of person to whom Air Passes are issued;

(b) the number of senior citizens, widows, handicapped, family members of staff of Indian Airlines to whom Free Air Passes have been issued during 1994-95 and 1996 till date and the class in which they are entitled to travel;

(c) the total cost which the Indian Airlines had to bear on this account during the last three Years, year-wise;

(d) whether it is proposed to extend this facility to freedom fighters and ex-Defence Personnel also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Airlines issues free air passages to their employees and dependent family members travelling on leave, certain eminent persons and organisations, officials of other airlines as per Interline agreements and various other categories in the overall Commercial interest of the Company.

(b) Indian Airlines does not provide free air passages to Senior Citizens, Widows and Handicapped persons. The number of free air passages issued to employees of Indian Airlines are as follows :-

1994-95	:	35205
1995-96 (Upto 31.1.96)	:	8990

Employees and their family members are entitled to travel Economy Class on 'Subject to Load Basis'. However, employees drawing a basic pay of Rs. 2900/- and above are entitled to travel in 'J' Class on 'Subject to Load Basis'.

(c) The employees of Indian Airlines are issued tickets on 'Subject to Load Basis' and are accepted for

travel in the aircraft only after accommodating revenue paying passengers. Records are, however not being maintained for other categories of persons to whom free air passes are issued.

(d) and (e) There is at present, no proposal to give any free ticketson Indian Airlines flights to freedom fighters and ex-defence personnel.

Pakistan Lifted Restrictions on Trade with India

512. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has come out in favour of lifting restrictions on trade with India that have been linked mainly to political tensions with the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details of items likely to be exported to Pakistan;

(c) whether Pakistan is trading with India through a third country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has been importing Indian goods through third countries. However, no reliable assessment of such indirect trade is possible.

[Translation]

Air Link In States

513. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to airlink some of the places in each State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) At present, Indian Airlines have no plans to airlink any new station on the domestic network due to operating crew constraints. However, private operators are encouraged to add more stations in their network. Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh are already airlinked by Scheduled Operators.

[English]

India Brand Promotion Fund

514. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the idea behind the setting up India Brand Promotion Fund; and

(b) the details regarding constitution of Fund and its management and its scope and nature of activities to be covered under the Fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The basic objective of the proposed India Brand Equity Fund is to project the strengths of the Indian economy in overseas markets. The Fund will assist Indian industries/companies to access new markets and to promote Indian industry, products and brands. The details regarding constitution of the Fund its scope, and nature of activities are under finalisation.

Inspection of Mutual Funds by SEBI

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

(a) whether the inspection of mutual funds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revealed several disturbing features;

(b) if so, the precise revelations made by the SEBI prove into the various unfair practices by mutual funds; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Saving Schemes

516. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of saving schemes with details offered by the Govt. to small investors during 1994-95;

(b) the response of investors to those schemes;

(c) whether some proposals offering incentive scheme are under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with objectives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The information is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) the response of the investors towards the schemes has been very enthusiastic Small Savings collections during 1994-95 have shown an increase of 37.4% over the collections during 1993-94;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Small Savings Schemes offered by the Govt. to small investors during 1994-95

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Rate of Interest per annum
1. @	Post Office Savings Account	5.5% simple (Individual Account)
2. *	Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 years)	12.5% compounded quarterly (Maturity value is Rs.833.40 for Rs.10 denomination).
3. *	Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (6 years)	13% payable monthly plus bonus at 10% of deposit at the end of 6 years.
4. *	Post Office Time Deposit	Interest compounded quarterly and payable annually
	(a) 1 year Deposit 10.5%	
	(b) 2 year Deposit 11.00%	
	(c) 3 year Deposit 12.00%	
	(d) 5 year Deposit 12.5%	
5. **	National Savings Certificate, VIII Issue (6-year)	12% compounded half yearly (maturity value is Rs.201.50 for Rs. 100 denomination)
6. **	National Savings Scheme 1992	11%
7. @	Deposit Scheme for Retiring Govt. Employees,	10% payable half-yearly
8. @	Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Companies	10% payable half-yearly
9.	Indira Vikas Patra (5½ years)	Amount doubles in five years and six months.
10.	Kisan Vikas Patra (5½ years)	-do-
11. @	Public Provident Fund Scheme (15-years)	12%

* Benefit under Section 80L available.

** Benefit under Section 88 & 80L available.

@ Interest completely tax free.

Fire Insurance Claims

517. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Hut fire insurance claims received by various subsidiaries of the GIC, State-wise and company-wise, during 1995;

(b) the number of such claims pending on

December 31, 1994, company-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of claims rejected during 1995, company-wise and State-wise;

(d) the number of claims paid during 1995, company-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the number of claims pending on December 31, 1995, company-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) to (e) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

State/U.T. & Company	No. of Claims Outstanding as on 31.3.1994	No. of Claims intimated during 1994-95	No. of Claims repudiated during 1994-95	No. of Claims settled during 1994-95	No. of Claims Outstanding as on 31.3.1995
1	2	3	4	5	6
NATIONAL					
Arunachal Pradesh	—	6	4	—	2
Assam	850	1335	1335	3	347

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	6997	12364	2230	11367	5764
Manipur	369	688	683	374	0
Meghalaya	22	13	15	—	20
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	22	—	—	—	22
Orissa	608	3048	195	2917	544
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	225	316	450	71	20
West Bengal	817	3894	21	4278	412
NEW INDIA					
Goa	16	—	—	—	16
Gujarat	16	28	3	9	32
Madhya Pradesh	87	27	1	14	99
Maharashtra	599	568	195	500	472
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshdweep	—	—	—	—	—
ORIENTAL					
Haryana	114	1	—	1	114
Himachal Pradesh	28	—	—	—	28
Jammu & Kashmir	54	—	—	—	54
Punjab	8	—	—	—	8
Rajasthan	326	523	17	481	351
Uttar Pradesh	2644	1388	273	1409	2350
Chandigarh	42	—	—	—	42
Delhi	—	3	—	3	—
UNITED INDIA					
Andhra Pradesh	3390	17873	845	15810	4608
Karnataka	155	3046	153	2910	138
Kerala	245	1003	18	1070	160
Tamil Nadu	1258	3359	199	2958	1460
Pondicherry	5	173	—	173	5

[Translation]

Filling Reserved Posts in AI and IA

518. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have taken any step to fill up the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes in Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, whether any special recruitment campaign has been launched in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Special recruitment drives have been conducted to fill the backlog of reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candi-

dates in Air India and Indian Airlines. Reservation for OBC candidates has been introduced recently and therefore, no special recruitment drive has been conducted.

(c) As a result of the special recruitment drive, the number of SCs/STs candidates appointed/issued offer of appointment, in various categories, are as under:-

Group	AI		IA	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	6	3	1	—
B	2	1	15	18
C	2	1	15	22
D	178	12	13	11

[English]

Tourists in Kashmir

519. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to kidnapping of foreign tourists in the Kashmir Valley during 1995, there has been a decline in the visit of foreigners as well as Indian tourists to the valley;

(b) if so, the details of the tourists visited during the last six months; and

(c) how many five and lesser star-hotels are located in the valley and the occupancy ratio in these hotels during the year 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) There was a decline in foreign tourist arrivals in the Kashmir Valley for only three months after the kidnapping of a group of foreign tourists in July, 1995. The details of month-wise foreign tourist arrivals during July to December 1995 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year are as given below :-

Month	Foreign Tourist Arrival in the Valley	
	1994	1995
July	1721	1477
August	1415	1067
September	1296	555
October	578	593
November	324	455
December	322	673
Total	5656	4820

No domestic tourist visited the Kashmir Valley during July to December either in 1995 or in 1994.

(c) There are three 5-star and six 2-star hotels located in the Valley and the tourist occupancy in these hotels during 1994-95 has been negligible.

Satellite-based Net-work system for Airports

520. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a satellite-based national network for airports throughout the country on build-and-transfer basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter alia the number of airports to be covered, the financial implications and the funding thereof etc;

(c) whether the Government have finalised the methodology to be adopted for selection of the company-domestic or multinational-to be entrusted with the job for installation of the proposed network system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Airports Authority of India Plans to set up a dedicated satellite based communication network to meet its requirements.

(b) All operational airports will be covered by this network. A sum of Rs.50 crores is likely to be spent on this project and the funds will be generated from internal resources.

(c) and (d) Hardware and software for this communication network will be procured by means of 'Open tenders'.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

521. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCs) in the country;

(b) the details of VRCs which are set up exclusively for evaluation of the Handicapped persons and which are the Centres which have been set up for the providing inplant training as well;

(c) when the inplant training was started in these Centres; and

(d) the steps being taken to attract more handicapped persons to avail facilities in such Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Currently 17 VRCs are functioning in the country for evaluating the residual capacity of handicapped persons and providing rehabilitation services to them. All these VRCs conduct evaluation and impart inplant training to the handicapped persons.

(c) and (d) Inplant training is arranged under the scheme of "Award of Scholarship to the Physically Handicapped" of the Ministry of Welfare in vogue from 1979-80. The scheme stands transferred from the Central to the State Sector from the financial year 1992-93 in pursuance of the decision of the National Development Council (NDC). The VRCs give wide publicity to their activities through Newspapers, Radio & T.V. and by organising camps both in rural and urban areas.

Traffic at Calicut Airport

522. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether traffic on international flights from Calicut Airport has come down considerably since the levying of 'Users Charge' on Passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) It is too early to come to any conclusion on the traffic trends since the levy of "User Charges" at Calicut Airport was done recently.

Smuggling of Weapons and Narcotics

523. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trans-border smuggling of weapons and narcotics has increased along the Jammu and Kashmir border;

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

(c) the concrete measures the Government propose to take to check smuggling at Jammu and Kashmir borders ?

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

[Translation]

Concessions to SRRAC Countries on Custom Duty

524. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give concessions to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Countries in Custom Duty;

(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 (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement

(SAPTA) become operational on 7th December, 1995, with member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) giving effect to the concessions in basic customs duty agreed during the First Round of SAPTA negotiations. India has extended concessions in basic Customs Duty on 106 six-digit tariff lines vide notification No. 165/95-Customs dated the 7th December, 1995, copy of which was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 1995.

Policy on Export of Various Items

525. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced a new short-term policy to encourage the export of various items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of increase in the export and foreign exchange likely to be registered as a result of the implementation of this policy and names of the countries to which the export is likely to be increased and the extent thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Commerce Ministry has identified the existing top 15 products/groups and 15 countries, as also 10 emerging markets and products and has decided to focus export efforts on them for medium term export strategy. The Government is striving to achieve an annual export growth of at least 20%, in US dollar terms in the next five years so as to reach a goal of US \$ 75 billion exports by 2000 A.D. As regards export-import policy, Government have announced a five year EXIM Policy (1992-97) which is annually updated to accelerate export growth on a sustained basis and provide enhanced opportunities to the domestic sector to participate and benefit from such growth.

[English]

Badli Kamgars

526. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a large number of workers working as Badli Kamgars in NTC-run textile mills and other textile mills in Mumbai (Maharashtra) :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since how long these workers have been working as Badli Kamgars;

(d) whether the Government propose to make these Badli Kamgars as regular workers there;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF

TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (f) In textile industry the size of Badli Kamgars is estimated to be between 20 to 30 percent of the permanent complement of workers. As far as NTC is concern, about 3800 badli workers are employed in the mills under NTC located in Mumbai. The badli workers have been on the rolls in textile industry practically right from inception. The badli workers are made permanent as and when the permanent posts fall vacant due to natural separation or resignation on the basis of seniority and other factors. Presently NTC in not regularising any permanent workers keeping in view of the fact that there is already excess man-power and NTC is implementing voluntary retirement scheme. Besides, a ban has been imposed against fresh recruitment in NTC mills.

Air Service between Delhi and Beijing

527. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide air-service between Delhi and Beijing in view of the increase in trade and passenger traffic between India and China during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The direct traffic between India and China is presently not adequate to support an end-to-end service. There is, therefore, no plan at present for a direct airlink.

Expansion of Vijayawada Airport

528. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India propose to expand Vijayawada Airport and asked RITES to prepare an estimate for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have re-confirmed the offer of providing 50% interest free loan for the development of the airport;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in starting the work; and

(e) the time by which tenders are likely to be called to start the work ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The estimates are being prepared by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to undertake the following on a phased manner :-

(i) Strengthening of existing runway for Being operations.

(ii) Widening and strengthening of apron and taxi track.

(iii) Construction of new Terminal Building.

(iv) Provision of very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR).

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has re-confirmed the offer of Rs.8 crores for the development of this airport.

(d) and (e) Due to low density of traffic and consequent reluctance on the part of airlines to operate to this airport, the work was shelved in 1994. The proposal has since been revived and Tenders for the work are expected to be called by December, 1996.

Trade Agreement on Audio-Visuals

529. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently signed any agreement with any country on Audio-Visuals Under World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Expenditure of Tourism Offices

530. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIAMTI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of maintenance expenditure incurred on Tourism Offices functioning abroad during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to shift a few of these offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) Location of offices is reviewed from time to time.

STATEMENT

*Expenditure incurred on Establishment of Overseas Tourist Offices under
Department of Tourism during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of Operation	Name of Country	Location	Expenditure incurred during the period		
			1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Revised)
America	U.S.A.	New York	164.18	158.69	153.46
		Los Angeles	37.38	33.68	38.69
		Toronto	31.64	29.68	33.19
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	London	94.98	95.96	100.89
Europe	Switzerland	Geneva	48.72	47.11	52.73
		France	102.35	122.50	131.89
		Germany	102.47	148.83	164.79
		Sweden	42.04	34.13	49.51
		Spain	16.07	16.44	17.61
		Italy	35.83	37.17	42.64
Australasia	Netherland	Amsterdam	68.95	63.62	68.21
		Australia	73.55	77.56	70.05
East Asia	Singapore	Singapore	44.29	54.06	73.49
		Malayasia	20.25	17.64	21.05
		Japan	77.92	95.37	104.23
west Asia	U.A.E.	Dubai	39.80	53.93	65.51
		Behrain	7.84	9.74	11.59

Complaints Cell for Tourists

531. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government from the tourists who fell victim to the misbehaviour of the travel agents, travel operators, hotel owners and businessmen during the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the progress made in regard to redressal of such complaints;

(c) whether in view of increase in number of such complaints, the Government propose to set up a cell to deal with such complaints; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the last year 117 complaints have been received by the Department of Tourism. Most of them are from overseas tourists and cannot be assigned State-wise.

(b) Redressal of complaints is an ongoing process and all of them are acknowledged and enquires into the same are undertaken, directly or through the concerned Departments.

(c) and (d) A small Cell has been set up in the Department of Tourism to deal with such complaints.

Bank Loan to Chemical Manufacturing Companies

532. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide loan to chemical manufacturing companies;

(b) if so, the number of such companies in the country particularly in Bihar to whom bank loans were provided during the last three years;

(c) whether RBI's guidelines to assist these companies by providing working capital to them within a period of three months are being followed;

(d) if so, the number of companies to whom working capital has been provided with the stipulated time during the above period;

(e) whether any monitoring mechanism has been evolved to ensure capital/financial assistance to these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) Commercial banks provide loans and working capital advances to industrial units including those manufacturing chemicals and chemical products. The data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. Based on the quarterly data available with RBI, the limits sanctioned and outstanding thereof in respect of borrowers enjoying aggregate credit limits of Rs. 5 crore and above from the entire banking system to industrial units manufacturing chemicals and chemical products as on September 1992, 1993 and 1994 (latest available) were as under :

	No. of borrowers (Rs. crores)	Limits sanctioned (Rs. crores)	Limits Outstanding (Rs. crores)
September 1992	189	5,566	4,040
September 1993	213	7,453	4,451
September 1994	238	9,117	4,764

(c) RBI has reported that guidelines issued by it stipulate maximum time-frames for processing of loan applications/proposals. RBI has not received any complaint from units manufacturing chemicals and chemical products regarding delay in processing of their loan applications/proposals.

(d) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate such information.

(e) and (f) RBI has reported that its existing monitoring system reviews flow of credit of macro level for the entire industry sector.

[English]

International Airport at Devanahalli

533. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have since taken over the IAF Airport at Yelahanka to set up an International Airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction of the proposed airport has been given to Consortium of Tatas; and

(d) if so, the details of Government control over the proposed international Airport ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has given its no objection for construction of airport of International standards at Bangalore in Karnataka with the help of private parties. Karnataka Government have selected a consortium led by TATA Industries to undertake

construction of the project on build-own-operate basis. The regulatory functions including that of Air Traffic Management will be exercised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI)/Director General of Civil Aviation. AAI will also provide technical assistance.

Price of Gold

534. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been spurt in the price of Gold recently;

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

(c) whether the Government propose of check the rise in prices of Gold; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) There has been a rise in the domestic price of Gold in recent months. The monthly average price of Gold in the Bombay market during the last six months, as reported by reserve Bank of India, was as follows :-

Monthly average price of Gold (Rs. per 10 gm.)

Month/Year	Bombay
September, 1995	4777
October, 1995	4956
November, 1995	5039
December, 1995	5058
January, 1996	5301
February, 1996*	5541

*(Average up to 15th February, 1996)

Gold prices in India are influenced by international prices since the domestic production of Gold is negligible as compared to the demand. The current rise in Gold prices in India is mainly due to rise in international prices, depreciation in the exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis US dollar and higher demand due to marriage season.

(c) and (d) Measures taken to keep the domestic price of Gold under check include permission to import gold upto 5kg by Indian passengers returning to India on payment of custom duty under the liberalised scheme of gold import and permitting gold import under special import licences.

[Translation]

Assessment on Bidi Tobacco Production by Tobacco Board

535. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Tobacco Board regarding the quantity of bidi tobacco being produced in various States especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual production of bidi tobacco in the country especially in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to information obtained from the Directorate of Tobacco Development, Madras, about 184.5 Million Kgs. of bidi tobacco was produced during 1994-95 in India. out of which about 148 million kgs. were produced in the State of Gujarat.

[English]

Duplicate Share Certificates

536. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
DR. S.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have completed investigation into the printing of duplicate share certificates by Reliance Industries and some other companies;

(b) if so, the findings of the inspection/investigation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India assisted by officials from the Department of Company Affairs has been conducting an inspection of the books, records and other related documents of M/s Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. (RCS) in connection with issue of duplicate share certificates of Reliance Industries Ltd. The Interim Report on this inspection has been submitted on 12.1.1996. This inspection is still continuing.

(b) The main findings of the inspection as contained in the Interim Report are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Securities and Exchange Board of India has recently appointed an Enquiry Officer under the Regulations on Registrar to an Issue and Share Transfer Agents for the purpose of issuing a show cause notice to Reliance Consultancy Services Ltd. It is also examining the desirability of making amendments to these Regulations in order to provide for an arms-length relationship between a company and its Registrar. Department of Company Affairs has also initiated appropriate follow-up action on the findings contained in the Interim Report.

STATEMENT

(i) The Interim inspection report has revealed that some duplicate share certificates had been issued

while the original share certificates were in existence which fact was very much in the knowledge of RCS.

(ii) The inspection report also reveals that the provisions of Section 113 of the Companies Act may have been violated.

(iii) The interim inspection report also reveals that the company has carried out reversal of the entries whereby there has been rectification of the register of members. It appears that the provisions of section 111 (4) (a) of the Companies Act have been violated.

Rates of Custom Duty

[Translation]

537. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rates of custom duty have been modified recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) since when these modified rates would be effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Rates of customs duty are sometimes modified through exemption notifications, which are issued having regard to facts, circumstances, and the public interest involved in each case. However, modification of duty rates is effected within the tariff rates and copies of notifications, along with Explanatory Memoranda, are placed on the Table of both the Houses.

[English]

Employment Exchanges

538. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps recently to ensure effective working of employment exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines to State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The Employment Exchanges function under the direct control of the respective State Govts./U.T. Administrations. The main activities of these offices are registration and placement of job-seekers. Common policies and standard procedures for the functioning of the Employment Exchanges are laid down in the national Employment Service Manual (NESM). In order to ensure that the laid down common policies and standard procedures are followed by the Employment Exchanges, their joint evaluations, on sample basis, are conducted by the officers

of the Central and respective State Governments.

Full Convertibility of Rupee

539. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the definition of full convertibility of rupee;
- (b) whether there has been a constant demand to make rupee fully convertible; and
- (c) the policy of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The rupee is fully convertible if both residents and non-residents have unlimited freedom to use and exchange it for foreign currencies for any purpose whatsoever, at some definite rate of exchange which may be either fixed or flexible.

(b) There has been enquiries from several quarters about the Government's intention and the time of making rupee fully convertible.

(c) The rupee has been made convertible on the current account of balance of payments. Some constituent items of the capital account notably foreign and Non-Resident Indian investments have been freed from repatriation restrictions.

Outstanding Air Travel Tax

540. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of inland air travel tax outstanding against each private airlines/air taxi operator as on January 31, 1996;
- (b) whether the Government have taken or propose to take stringent action against such defaulters and also to recover the outstanding dues;
- (c) is so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Stringent action such as imposition of penalty, detention of aircraft etc. is taken under the provisions of the Inland Air Travel Tax Rules, 1989.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of Carrier	Outstanding amount of Inland Air Travel Tax as on 31st January, 1996	Remarks
1.	M/s. Raj Aviation (P) Ltd.	46.64	The Airline is not in operations.
2.	M/s. City Link Airways	60.15	The Airline is not in operation.
3.	M/s. Air Asiatic Ltd.	57.58	The Airline is not in operation.
4.	M/s. Continental Aviation (P) Ltd.	74.88	The Airline is not in operation.
5.	M/s. Goa Airways Aviation	05.30	
6.	M/s. Jagson Airlines	26.58	An amount of Rs.22.95 lakhs has since been deposited.
7.	M/s. Damania Airways	625.17	The full amount has since been deposited.
8.	M/s. U.P. Airways Ltd.	26.08	The full amount has since been deposited.
9.	M/s; Span Aviation (!) Pvt. Ltd.	18.53	The carrier has since been deposited Rs.7.02 lakhs.
10.	M/s. NEPC Airlines	241.59	The full amount has since been deposited
11.	M/s. Modiluft	1221.62	The full amount has since been deposited
12.	M/s. East West Airlines	282.64	The full amount has since been deposited
13.	M/s. VIF Airways Ltd.	08.00	
14.	M/s. KCV Airways		Amount being ascertained as the Carrier has not filed the return for the period June, 1995 to December, 1995.
15.	M/s. Mesco Airlines Ltd.	01.77	The full amount has since been deposited.
16.	M/s. Gujrat Airways	05.20	The full amount has since been deposited.

Investment by NRIs

541. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

- (a) whether the rate of foreign investment in the country through non-resident Indians is on constant

decline; and

- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) does not arise.

Concession Tickets by IA

542. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines provide air tickets at concessional rates;
- (b) if so, the criteria laid down for the same; and
- (c) the year-wise amount of concession provided

during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of special fares given at present have been shown in the enclosed statement.

(c) The value of various concessions given is not quantified by Indian Airlines.

STATEMENT**Special Fares - Domestic**

1. Armed Forces Discount	50% Discount on fare.
2. Personnel of General Reserved Engineering Force	50% Discount on fare.
3. War Disabled Persons	50% Discount on fare.
4. Ex-Armed Forces Personnel who are recipient of Bravery Award (Level I & II)	50% Discount on fare.
5. Discount to War Widows	50% Discount on fare.
6. Student Discount (Domestic)	50% Discount on fare.
7. Teacher's Discount	50% Discount on fare, while accompanying group of ten students.
8. Youth Discount	25% Discount on Domestic Dollar Tariff.
9. Blind Persons Discount	50% Discount on fare.
10. Cancer Patient Discount	50% Discount on fare.
11. Invalid Passengers on Stretcher	50% to 60% concession depending upon the type of aircraft and the number of seats (between 6 to 9) removed to accommodate the stretcher.
12. Family Discount on sectors to Port Blair	Discount of Rs. 50/- each for two members of a family.
13. Tour Conductor's Discount	50% discount for a group of 10 to 14 passengers and 100% discount for a group of 15 passengers or more.
14. Senior Citizens Discount	50% Discount on fare.
15. Concession to Sports Persons	25% discount on fare to sports persons hailing from the States in the North Eastern Region.
16. South India Excursion Fare	30% discount on domestic Dollar tariff.
17. Ship Crew Discount (Individual)	25% discount on domestic Dollar tariff.
18. Airlines/IATA Employees discount	50% discount on domestic Dollar tariff.
19. India Wonder Fare	Fare : US\$ 200 each for travel within any of the four groups of Stations in Northern/Western/Southern/Eastern Regions. Fare : US\$ 300 for travel in the group of Stations in Southern and Eastern Region with an itinerary including Port Blair.

Special Fares - International

1. Student Concession (International)	25% concession on fare on International sectors within South Asian Sub-continent.
2. Special fare for staff of Indian Missions	40% concession on normal International fare.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3. Special fare for Gorkha Defence Personnel on Indo Nepal sectors. | 40% concession on normal Rupee fare. |
| 4. Common Interest Group Concession | 10% concession on normal Economy Class fare on International sectors and connecting domestic services. |
| 5. Ship Crew Discount (Group) | 44-45% Concession on normal International fare and in conjunction with domestic US Dollar fares. (Depending upon country of travel). |
| 6. Excursion fare within SAARC countries. | |
| (i) Individual | 20% concession on normal International sector fare. |
| (ii) Group | 30% concession on normal International sector fare. |
| 7. Group Excursion fares within SAARC countries for selling outside the region. | 30% concession on normal International sector fare. |
| 8. Free/Reduced fare for GSA employees. | Two free and two 90% concessional ticket per year to Indian Airlines General Sales Agents at International Stations. |

Shortage of Aircrafts

543. SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of aircraft in the fleet of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether these airlines are unable to carry passengers due to the shortage of aircraft;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered to purchase new aircraft;

(d) if so, the names of the countries from which the aircraft are proposed to be purchased and the price of the new aircraft alongwith the time by which these new aircraft are likely to be purchased;

(e) the total allocations made for the purchase of aircraft; and

(f) how the Government propose to mop up funds for the purchase of new aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (f) Air India and Indian Airlines have adequate number of aircraft at present to carry out the existing scheduled operations.

Child Labour

544. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since formulated any welfare scheme for the child labour;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the implementation machinery thereof; and

(c) the details of the funding arrangements for the implementation of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) are under implementation in child labour endemic States. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc., to children withdrawn from employment. The programme for elimination of child labour has received further attention after the announcement made on 15.8.94 by the Prime Minister for elimination of child labour from hazardous employments by 2000 A.D.

As on date, funds have been released to 70 National Child Labour Projects to cover 1.36 lakh children under more than 2,200 special schools. The National Child Labour Projects are fully funded by the Government of India and are implemented through district level project societies headed by the District Collectors. These special schools are run mostly by the non-governmental and voluntary organisations.

[Translation]

Group Insurances Scheme for Beedi Worker

545. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether its Government propose to propolarise the concept of group insurance scheme amongst the beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether with a view to facilitating extention of Group Insurance Scheme to beedi industry a workshop organised by his Ministry and the Life Insurance Corporation jointly was held in New Delhi sometime ago;

(d) if so, the details of the participants in the workshop and the important suggestions made thereat;

(e) the reaction of the Government to the suggestions made at the workshop; and

(f) the time by which the Group Insurance Scheme is likely to be introduced amongst the beedi workers in the beedi manufacturing states ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (b) Efforts are being made to popularise the concept of Group Insurance Scheme amongst the beedi workers through various fora. A Workshop, was held in New Delhi on the 16th May, 1995 to review the working of the Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers, which is in operation since 1-4-1992 and also to devise appropriate measures to popularise the scheme so that its benefits could reach the workers who are widely dispersed. The workshop was attended by the officers of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare Commissioners, Life Insurance Corporation and representatives from concerned Ministries, State Governments and other organisations. The Workshop recommended various steps for stepping up publicity efforts and other measures to bring about requisite degree of awareness about the scheme and also to widen its coverage including involvement of State Labour Departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, Trade Unions, employers/contractors, Mahila Mandals, Workers' Cooperatives and other Social Organisations. The Workshop also suggested enhancement in the quantum of benefit under the scheme from Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- in the case of natural death and from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- in the case of death due to accident. As the recommendations/suggestions made at the workshop are mainly to be implemented of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Welfare Commissioners and the State Governments, these have been forwarded to them for taking necessary follow up action.

[English]

Investments by Regional Rural Banks

546. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has approved the securities etc. for disinvestment of non-SLR fund of Regional Rural Banks as suggested by NABARD; and

(b) the details of possible areas where Regional Rural Banks can invest their surplus funds and the rate of interest proposed to be charged by the RRB from the respective agency thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Regional rural Banks (RRBs) to invest their Non-SLR Surplus Funds in certain investment avenues as under :

- (i) Approved scheme of Unit Trust of India (UTI) Scheme;
- (ii) fixed deposits in profit making term-lending financial institution like Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Credit and Investment

Corporation of India (ICICI) and small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI); (iii) bonds of nationalised banks and profit earning public sector institution with top category rating by credit rating agencies which are on the approved list of sponsor banks; (iv) non-convertible debentures of reputed blue chip companies. The return on investments of surplus non-SLR funds will depend on the composition of the investment portfolio and the rates offered on the various instruments.

Closer Interaction between AI and IA

547. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage closer interaction between Indian Airlines and Air India for optimum utilisation of their resources and to avoid duplication in some operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) To ensure that the resources available to the two airlines can be put to optimum use and opportunities can be fully exploited by the combined effort by the two companies, the Board of Directors of both companies constituted Sub-Committees for synergistic cooperation between Air India and Indian Airlines.

The two member Sub-Committee of the Boards identified the following areas for cooperation between both the airlines :

(i) Code sharing arrangement.

(ii) Optimum utilisation of maintenance and overhaul facilities with both the airlines.

[Translation]

Barter Trade

548. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries with which barter trade system took place during each of the last three years;

(b) the break-up of the items exported and imported separately during the above period;

(c) whether such a system of trade has helped and encouraged the domestic industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to start barter trade discussions with those countries which have export potentiality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) India has not entered into any barter trade with any country during the last three years.

(e) No such proposal is under contemplation.

[English]

Textile Mills in Gujarat

549. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills each under NTC, State Textiles Corporation and Private Sector in Gujarat alongwith their production capacity as on October, 1991 and October, 1995; and

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Government for these mills during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Statement is attached.

(b) During the period from October, 1991 upto October, 1995 Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 152.95 crs. (Rs. 94.47 crs. for working capital and Rs. 58.48 crs. for Voluntary Retirement Scheme) to NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.. The Central Govt. has not given any financial assistance, to the private sector or the State Textile Corpn. for running of the mills during the period. However, the mills do obtain finance from Banks and Financial Institutions. As of 31.10.95, the Govt. of India, has released assistance amounting to Rs. 61.86 crs. to mills in Gujarat under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme, since enforcement of the scheme in 1986.

STATEMENT

Number of Textile mills under NTC, STC and Private Sector in Gujarat alongwith their production capacity as on Oct.'91 and Oct.'95 are given below :

Position as on 31.10.91

Sector	No. of Mills	Production capacity		
		Spindles Nos.	Rotors Nos.	Looms Nos.
Pvt. sector	86	29,96,195	7480	41,061
NTC	12	3,67,384	-	7,269
STC	17	5,90,280	-	10,874

Position as on 31.10.95

Pvt. Sector	97	30,82,134	17400	32,067
NTC	12	3,07,650	-	5,895
STC	16	5,36,656	-	9,643

Export from Rajasthan

550. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any policy to increase export from Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The active support of all State Governments, including Rajasthan, has been sought for expanding export and export production from the States through adequate infrastructural and input support. The Centre has introduced a scheme for establishment of Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIPs) in the States as enclaves of predominantly export production. Under this Scheme, an Export Promotion Industrial Park is being established at Sitapur, District Jaipur in Rajasthan. The Centre is also consistently improving the infrastructure and facilitation for clearance and conveyance of export cargo from the States. These efforts include approvals for the establishment of air cargo complexes, inland container depots and container freight stations etc.

Export of Cotton

551. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to export over 4 lakh bales of cotton this year;

(b) the quantity of cotton produced and exported during the last year and how does it compare with the corresponding figures of last year; and

(c) the reaction of the cotton lobby and Apparel Export Promotion Council to the proposed export of cotton and cotton yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on 29.2.96, the Government have during the 1995-96 cotton year, released export quota for 9.15 lakh bales of cotton.

(b) Figures in respect of the quantity of cotton produced, as per estimate of the cotton Advisory Board, and cotton exports during the last year, and the corresponding figures for the previous year, are as under:

(Quantity in lakh bales of 170 Kg. each)

	1994-95	1993-94
Production	138.50	121.50
Exports	1.08	3.89

(c) Cotton interests are reported to have welcomed the release of export quotas. There have been mixed reaction from the Textile Industry and Trade. However, Government takes a balanced view, before taking a decision on exports taking into account the interest of all concerned segments.

Bank Loans in North-Eastern Region

552. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that the commercial Banks in the North-Eastern Region have been refusing to advance loans to various applicants on fake grounds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of the loans advanced by the various commercial Banks in the region, during each of the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India and United Bank of India, the Convenor Banks for States in the North Eastern Region have reported that they have not received any report regarding Commercial Banks refusing to advance loans on fake grounds.

(c) The State-wise details of Bank credit of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in North Eastern Region as at the end of March 1993, 1994 and 1995 are given below :-

	(Rs. in lakh)		
	March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
Arunachal Pradesh	2758	2960	3646
Assam	130058	131103	149487
Manipur	8865	9097	9865
Meghalaya	7717	8395	10302
Mizoram	2359	2411	2765
Nagaland	9761	9762	10567
Tripura	19665	19719	22383

Tasar Research Centre

553. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Tasar Research Centre in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) At present, the Government has no proposal to set up a Tasar Research Centre in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shares on Premium

554. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
.KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Companies, both in the private & Public sector, who had issued equity shares on a premium during the last three years;

(b) the amount of "premium fixed" and the total amount of premium collected in each case;

(c) whether the value of shares of these companies has depreciated sharp by resulting in heavy losses to the investors;

(d) whether there are any norms for fixing the premium by any regulatory authority and to monitor the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which is the statutory regulatory body for capital market, has issued guidelines for disclosure and investor protection governing capital issues. As per these guidelines, only companies which are listed on stock exchanges and unlisted companies with a track record of profitability for 3 years or those promoted by companies having a track record of profitability for 5 years are permitted to make a capital issues with a premium.

Investigations into Stock-Invest Scheme

555. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Stock Exchange (DSE) has started investigations into cases of the stockinvest scheme being misused to rig up share prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the investigation;

(c) whether DSE has also urged the securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to conduct detailed investigations into the alleged rigging of shares by non-banking financial companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by SEBI thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Limited has informed that it has found certain irregularities in the use of stock-invests, while examining at random some of the large applications for allotment of shares in the public issue of shares made by M/s. Bharat Fuel Company Limited and M/s. Super Compact Disc Limited. The Stock Exchange has brought these irregularities to the notice of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Department of Company Affairs and the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Pension to Labourers

556. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently introduced the Pension Scheme for the EPF Subscribers of non-Government sector;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some employers in private factories are maintaining duplicate registers of labourers, which deprives the pension to the workers; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the employers for cheating the labourers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the employees' Pension Scheme has started operating only with effect from 16.11.1995 there is no information relating to employers maintaining duplicate registers resulting in deprivation of pension to the workers. As such the question of taking action in this regard by the Government at this stage does not arise.

Recruitment and Service Conditions for Pilots

557. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria such as qualifications and age, etc. fixed for selection of trainee pilots in Air India and Indian Airlines and their service conditions;

(b) the duration of their training and expenditure incurred on providing training to a pilot;

(c) the salaries and allowances offered to pilots by IA & AI, separately;

(d) the number of times the pilots of AI & IA resorted to strikes during each of the last three years; and

(e) the loss suffered by the said airlines during the above period, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Necessary details are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(b) Depending on the size of the batch, the period of training of trainee pilot to Co-pilot ranges from 8 to 12 months in Indian Airlines and 8 to 16 months in case of Air India. Additional training period is however involved in conversion of pilots from one type of aircraft to another and from Co-pilot to Commander. Average expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines and Air India for imparting training to Trainee pilots is Rs. 15.40 lakhs and Rs. 14 lakhs respectively.

(c) Necessary details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Pilots of Indian Airlines resorted to strike twice in 1993, twice in 1994 and four times in 1995. During the last 3 years, pilots of Air India went on strike once in September, 1993.

(e) Indian Airlines suffered a loss of Rs. 195.16 crores in 1992-93, Rs. 258.45 crores in 1993-94 and Rs. 188.73 crores in 1994-95. Air India earned profits during each of the last 3 years.

STATEMENT

	INDIAN AIRLINES	AIR INDIA
Educational Qualifications	Matriculation or its equivalent. Graduation with Physics and Mathematics preferred.	Higher Secondary (10-2) or equivalent examination from a recognised University/Board from India. Preference given to Science Graduates and those having additional flying experience with computer background.
Technical Qualifications	(i) Current Commercial Pilot's Licence. (ii) Current Flight Radio Telephone Operator's Licence. (iii) Current Certificate of Proficiency/Radio Telephone Restricted. (iv) Instrument Rating Certificate or 20 hours of actual instrument flying experience on an aircraft, with Morse Test (8 w.p.m.) for issue of Instrument Rating Certificate.	(i) Current Indian Commercial Pilot's Licence with an endorsement on a twin engine type of aircraft. (ii) Current Flight Radio Telephone Operator's Licence. (iii) Current Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Wireless Advisor, Government, of India. (iv) Current Instrument Rating Certificate.
Upper Age Limit	(i) 30 years (35 years in case of SC/ST). (ii) Upper age limit relaxable by one year for every completed 300 hours of flying experience, over and above the minimum requirement of 250 hours of flying experience for Commercial Pilot's Licence. This relaxation is subject to a maximum of two years.	30 Years for General and OBC Candidates. Relaxable by 5 years for SC/ST candidates. Ex-Serviceman relaxation will be as per the Government Rules.

Service Conditions of Trainee Pilots of Indian Airlines

1. The Trainee is required to undergo training and assessment as trainee Pilot at Central Training Establishment, Hyderabad and at the station of posting.
2. On completion of training at C.T.E. Hyderabad, he may be posted at any of the four regions viz. Northern/Eastern/Western/Southern, where he will have to undergo further flying training.
3. His appointment is subject to his being declared fit by Medical Officer in E.E.G. Test.
4. During the training period, he will be eligible to receive stipend of Rs. 6000/- per month.
5. On successful completion of training and obtaining necessary endorsement and Instrument Rating from the DGCA, he will be appointed as Second Officer on a fixed pay of Rs. 770/- per month plus variable Dearness Allowance, as applicable.
6. His release as Second Officer and appointment as First Officer will be on the basis of performance during training period.
7. He will maintain strict discipline, integrity and good behaviour during the course of training and shall be governed by the applicable Rules and Regulations of the Corporation as framed and amended from time to time in this regard.
8. He will be required to execute an agreement/Indemnity Bond for Rs. 10 lakhs on non-judicial stamp paper of appropriate value to successfully complete the training and to serve Indian Airlines as a Pilot for a minimum period of ten years after completion of training and appointment as Second Officer and for a period of ten years after each subsequent endorsement by DGCA. In the event of non-fulfilment of this stipulation, he will be liable to pay the liquidated damages in the amount specified hereinabove to Indian Airlines.
9. (a) The training and appointment programme may be terminated forthwith without any notice or at any time by Indian Airlines for reasons including his unsatisfactory progress or behaviour or due to any act of omission or commission on his part which in the estimation of Indian Airlines, amounts to a misconduct.
(b) In such an event the trainees will be required to reimburse to Indian Airlines the amount in the agreement and the Indemnity Bond.

Service Conditions of Trainee Pilots of Air India

1. Selected candidates will be appointed as Trainee Pilots and will have to undergo extensive ground, simulator and other training. During the training period they will be paid a stipend of Rs. 3700/- per month. The selected Trainee Pilots will have to execute an

agreement on appointment and performance bond after completion of each subsequent training as stated in the agreement which the Trainee Pilot executes on appointment.

2. On successful completion of their training and on obtaining endorsement on their licence on the specific aircraft on which they are earmarked, they will be placed on probation as Co-Pilot. On successful completion of their probationary period and if their progress is found satisfactory, they will be confirmed as a Co-Pilot. However, they will be required to obtain ALTP licence within 5 years from the date they have been appointed as a Co-Pilot in the Company failing which this contract of employment will lapse automatically.
3. A confirmed Pilot will be eligible for benefits like provident fund, gratuity, medical assistance and air passage concession as per Company rules.

STATEMENT-II

Indian Airlines	Gross emoluments at minimum of scale
1. First Officer	Rs. 48,000/-
2. Captain (Co-Pilot)	Rs. 76,400/-
3. Commander	Rs. 1,69,175/-
Air India	Gross emoluments at minimum of scale
1. Co-Pilot	Rs. 11,662.55
2. Senior Captain	Rs. 14,433.55
3. Dy. Operations Manager	Rs. 14,855.55
4. Operations Manager	Rs. 14,946.55
5. Dy. Director Operations	Rs. 16,232.75
6. Director of Operations	Rs. 17,732.75
In addition to salary, pilots are entitled for hourly payment for their flight duties. The agreed rates of hourly payment are as follows :	
Commander	USD per hour
Year 1-3	87.00
Year 4-6	93.00
Year 7-9	100.00
Year 10 and above	107.00
Co-Pilot	USD per hour
Probation	53.00
CPL on confirmation	61.00
ALTP on confirmation	65.00
Year 1-3	65.00
Year 4-6	69.00
Year 7 and above	75.00

Independent Regulatory Commission for Trusts

558. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint an independent regulatory commission to oversee the activities of trusts and other charitable organisations getting exemptions from income tax for donation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to ensure better expansion and monitoring of such trusts to prevent misuse and diversion of funds to non-sanctioned use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :

(a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The recognition in the case of Trusts or Charitable Organisations under Section 80-G is granted for a maximum of 5 Assessment Years at one stretch. At the time of renewal for the recognition under Section 80-G, Commissioner of Income-tax/Director of Income-tax (Exemptions) satisfies himself whether the activities of such charitable institutions are in accordance with the provisions of 80-G or not. This is an on-going exercise.

[Translation]

Salaries of Pilots

559. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether salaries of pilots and co-pilots of Air India and Indian Airlines have been raised :

(b) if so, the extent thereof and whether it is still less as compared to the salaries of their counterparts in private airlines; and

(c) the likely annual financial burden on the Government exchequer as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Basic salaries of pilots and co-pilots of Air India have not been raised since 31st August, 1990 but the allowances payable were revised with effect from October 1994 and converted into payment on hourly basis. The details are in given in the enclosed statement.

In case of Indian Airlines, a Productivity Settlement was entered into between the management and Indian Commercial Pilots' Association on 26.1.96, revising the emoluments of pilots and co-pilots; details are in the Statement. The annual financial burden of this increase will be approximately Rs. 30 crores.

Comparison with the salaries of pilots and co-pilots in private airlines is not possible as private airlines are not required to submit to the Government the details of

their staff salaries.

STATEMENT

Air India	Gross salary at minimum of scale
1. Co-Pilot	Rs. 11,662.55
2. Senior Captain	Rs. 14,433.55
3. Dy. Operations Manager	Rs. 14,855.55
4. Operations Manager	Rs. 14,946.55
5. Dy. Director Operations	Rs. 16,232.75
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In addition to salary, pilots are entitled for hourly payment for their flight duties. The agreed rates of hourly payment are as follows :

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Year 1-3	87.00
Year 4-6	93.00
Year 7-9	100.00
Year 10 and above	107.00

Co-Pilot	USD per hour
Probation	53.00
CPL on confirmation	61.00
ALTP on confirmation	
Year 1-3	65.00
Year 4-6	69.00
Year 7 and above	75.00

Indian Airlines

	Commander			Co-Pilot		
	B-737	A-320	A-300	B-737	A-320	A-300
Present*	49023	71450	57495	21147	33952	41778
Revised	1,00,000 to 1,25,000			33,000 to 64,000		

Welfare Scheme for Agricultural Labourer

560. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes approved by the Union Government particularly for the agricultural labourers of the backward areas in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the number of agricultural labourers benefited from these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) There are no schemes approved by the Union Government specially for the backward areas of U.P. as such. However,

some of the major schemes undertaken for the welfare of the rural workers including agricultural workers in the said state as a whole include :-

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for acquiring income generating assets, comprising of a varying mix of subsidies and term credit at differential rates for small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans with special provision for SC/STs and women. The number of families assisted during 1994-95 under this scheme are 3,69,725.

(ii) Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) -

The Scheme aims at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. Employment generation during the year 1994-95 under this scheme is 977.14 lakh mandays. This Scheme has been intensified in 120 backward districts of the country where there is concentration of unemployment and under employment. An additional 113.47 lakh mandays employment was generated under Intensive Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (IRJY) during 1994-95.

(iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) -

On 2nd October, 1993 a new scheme 'Employment Assurance Scheme' has been launched in 1752 identified backward blocks and presently stands extended to 2448 identified backward blocks. It seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in lean agricultural season. The Scheme will mainly benefit agricultural workers. Employment generated under this scheme during 1994-95 is 188.89 lakh mandays.

(iv) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) -

This scheme was launched in 1982-83 for bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women belonging to families below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skills and aptitude. The Scheme operates in conjunction with TRYSEM and IRDP. Number of women benefited during 1994-95 under this scheme are 39,868.

(v) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).

The scheme aims at skill upgradation of rural youth for self employment.

(vi) Group Insurance Scheme and Old Age Pension-

In addition to the above, the Central and the various State Governments have taken up several insurance and Social Security Scheme like Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers in 1987 under the Social Security Fund of LIC for providing insurance cover to all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18 to 60 years and the Insurance Scheme for IRDP beneficiaries in 1988.

(vii) National Social Assistance Scheme -

The Government of India have announced a NSA Scheme for the poor. This contemplates old age pension @ Rs. 75/- p.m. to destitute persons over 65 years of age, lump-sum family benefit of Rs. 5,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- respectively to the families for natural death and accidental death of the primary bread winner and maternity benefit of Rs. 300/- per pregnancy for two live births. The scheme is expected to benefit 5.3 million 3.5 lakh beneficiaries and 4.5 lakh women workers respectively in the country.

Development of Tourism in Rajasthan

561. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the Minister for CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Rajasthan for Development of Tourism in the State during the last three years;

(b) whether the financial assistance has been sanctioned for each of these proposals; and

* (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (b) The details of the proposals received and central financial assistance sanctioned for development of tourism in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Projects/schemes sanctioned in Rajasthan during the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95

Sl. No.	Name of project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Tourist Complex at Barmar	12.90	7.50
2.	Tourist Reception Centre at Jaisalmer	8.46	7.46
3.	Tourist Reception Centre at Jodhpur	10.70	9.70

1	2-	3	4
4.	Tourist Reception Centre at Bikaner	7.18	6.50
5.	Fast Food Centre at Bikaner	6.00	9.00
6.	Wayside amenities at Sikar	4.74	2.30
7.	Pilgrim sheds at Vishram Sthali, Ajmer,		
	(i) Raen Basera	10.28	6.00
	(i) Pucca Structure	24.38	23.38
8.	Public conveniences at Vishram Sthali, Ajmer	8.48	4.00
9.	Public conveniences at two palaces in Jaisalmer	7.36	3.68
10.	Camping site at Jhalwar	10.55	5.27
11.	Camping site at Gajner	10.55	5.00
12.	Camping site at Kumbalgarh	10.55	5.32
13.	Floodlighting of Chittorgarh (Phase-II)	6.87	3.00
14.	Jhalwar Festival	5.18	4.00
15.	Shilpgram Crafts Mela	1.00	0.50
16.	Publicity Support	8.13	8.13
Total 1992-93		153.31	108.74

1993-94

1.	Conservation of Jaisalmer Fort (50%) of the total cost limited to Rs. 40 lakhs of DOT share	39.88	39.88
2.	Tourist Bungalow at Jaisalmer (Phase-II)	11.24	5.75
3.	Tourist Bungalow at Pokharan (Phase-II)	7.83	4.00
4.	Fast Food centre at Jodhpur	7.11	3.50
5.	Wayside facility at D-chu	4.74	2.50
6.	Tourist Bungalow at Bikaner (Phase-II)	12.00	6.00
7.	Tourist Complex at Barr	10.35	5.00
8.	Tourist Lodge at Ratanagarh	10.06	5.00
9.	Tourist Complex at Ganganagar	16.54	8.00
10.	Tourist Bungalow at Udaipur (Phase-II)	18.60	9.30
11.	Tourist Bungalow at Sariska (Phase-II)	12.54	6.00
12.	Wayside facility at Salasar	4.74	2.50
13.	Tourist Lodge at Beawar	9.09	5.50
14.	Sound and Light show at Moti Magri, Udaipur	24.25	10.00
15.	Upgradation of Rambagh Golf Club, Jaipur	38.22	10.00
16.	Floodlighting of Jaisalmer Fort	38.24	10.00
Total, 1993-94		260.43	132.93

1994-95

1.	Tourist Bungalow at Hanuman Garh	18.76	9.00
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1	2	3	4
2.	Tourist Bungalow at Bhilwara	18.76	9.00
3.	Wayside amenities at Sanchore	10.80	5.00
4.	Wayside amenities at Bapp	10.92	5.00
5.	Assistance for Shilpgram Utsav	4.05	4.05
6.	Yatrika At Mahandipur-ke-Balaji	15.38	5.00
7.	Yatrika At Kailadevi	20.24	5.00
8.	Financial Assistance for camping site at Jhalwar in Rajasthan	10.50	4.25
9.	Palace-on-wheels	500.00	250.00
Total 1994-95		609.41	296.30

[English]

Pension for Bankmen

562. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have principally agreed for giving pension to bank employees with effect from January 1, 1996;

(b) whether it was decided to pay this pension from November 1, 1993 in bilateral agreement between the RBI and the Bank employees Union;

(c) if so, the time-bound programme for bringing this agreement in practice; and

(d) the main reasons for delaying the implementation of this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of a settlement signed on 29.10.1993 by Indian Banks Association and four of the unions representing workmen in the banking industry, pension regulations have been notified in the Gazette of India by all the nationalised banks on 29.9.95. The Pension Scheme has been introduced as a second retiral benefit in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund (CPF). As per provisions contained in the pension regulations, employees in service as on the notified date have to exercise option either for pension in lieu of CPF or continue with the CPF Scheme. Employees who joined the bank's service on or after the notified date shall be governed by the Bank (Employees') Pension Regulations only. By way of special dispensation employees who retired on or after 1.1.86 are also eligible for pension subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and upon exercising their option as aforesaid.

After notification of the pension regulations, banks have initiated steps for getting necessary clearance from the income-tax authorities as also to set up trusts for payment of pensionary benefits. Pending finalisation of all the procedural/legal formalities some banks have already

started making ad-hoc payment equivalent to pension to eligible retired/retiring employees.

Hawala Transactions by Exporters

563. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mumbai customs have discovered large number of cases of fraudulent exports amounting to crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of such bogus exports and exporters that have come to light in the last three years;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against them;

(e) the number of exporters involved in over-invoicing the shipments, supplying of sub-standard goods to foreign countries in the last three years and the action taken against each one of them; and

(f) how many of the exporters have been found resorting to 'hawala' business and the action taken against them, exporters-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir the customs department have detected at Mumbai 263 cases involving, inter-alia, misdeclaration of description of export goods, manipulation and enhancement of weight, misdeclaration of composition of exports goods and few instances of bogus exports, by 74 exporters, with a view to claim higher or otherwise inadmissible import entitlements or higher amounts of drawback during the period 1993, 1994, 1995 and January, 1996.

(d) Action against the exporters, indulging in fraudulent or bogus exports or who resort to wrong declaration is taken as provided for in the law. In connection with the above referred cases, 39 persons, including 2 customs officers and 2 custom house agents, have been arrested under the Customs Act, 1962, and out of these, 6 persons, including a custom house agent,

have been detained under the Cofeposa. Besides, action has been initiated so as to get the relevant tainted advance licences issued to these exporters cancelled by the Ministry of Commerce.

(e) 48 exporters were found to be involved in over-invoicing of export consignments and/or attempting to export sub-standard goods between 1993 and January, 1996. In respect of such exporters also action is taken in accordance with the law.

(f) Three exporters are reported to have been found involved in Hawala transactions against whom action is being taken as provided for in the law.

[Translation]

Registration in Employment Exchange

564. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates having B.T.C. Certificates registered with the Employment Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh have not been provided employment so far;

(b) the year up to which the candidates registered have been provided employment;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide employment immediately to those remaining candidates who are between the age group of 35 to 40 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Jute Mills

565. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any more jute mills in Bihar particularly in Purnea;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it likely to be set up; and

(d) If not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There are no such plans.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Inter State Air Services

566. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to introduce Inter State

air services in the country; and

(b) if so, the States where steps have been taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is permitting private airline operators to provide Regional air transport services in the country.

System of Share Transfer

567. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of companies are reluctant to honour their commitment under the Companies Act, 1956 and the rules and bye-laws laid down in relation to transfer of shares;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set up any working group in November 1987 and thereafter to suggest, inter-alia, measures for simplification of the existing system of share transfer in respect of companies listed on various regional stock exchanges;

(d) if so, the details of problems faced by the investors at that time on which the said groups were set up, separately;

(e) whether the Government have received the recommendations from these groups so far;

(f) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to implement these recommendations made by the said groups ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fare Hike by Indian Airlines

568. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have hiked the fare by about 20% with effect from October 1, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how it has or is likely to effect the fare structure of other airlines operating in India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has increased its domestic rupee fare by an average of 20% with effect from 1st October, 1995 to offset the impact of increase in cost of inputs, since last fare revision.

(c) Private operators are free to charge fares on commercial considerations.

Export of Cotton

569. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the major cotton growing countries which are popular for export of cotton in the world;
- (b) the names of the countries which are main buyers of Indian cotton; and
- (c) the average of foreign exchange earned by the country through export of cotton during the last three years along with the names of the countries to whom cotton was exported ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The major cotton growing and exporting countries include :

USA	CHINA
PARAGUAY	AUSTRALIA
TADZHIKISTAN	PAKISTAN
TURKMENIA	TURKEY
AZERBAIJAN	INDIA
UZBEKISTAN	

(b) and (c) Indian cotton is exported to several countries, including :

INDONESIA	HONGKONG
JAPAN	THAILAND
TAIWAN	BANGLADESH
BRAZIL	ROMANIA
PHILLIPINES	SRILANKA
SWITZERLAND	MALAYSIA
U.K.	NEPAL

The details of foreign exchange earned by the country through export of cotton during the three years are as follows :

Year	In Lakh Rupees
1992-93	72537.20
1993-94	23823.58
1994-95	8338.70

Central Direct Tax Advisory Committee

570. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Direct Taxes Advisory Committee has been reconstituted;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the reconstituted Committee will submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has been reconstituted for two years keeping in view the following main objectives :-

- (i) to advise the Government on measures for developing and encouraging mutual understanding and cooperation between tax payers and the Income Tax Department; and
- (ii) to advise the Government on measures for removing administrative and procedural difficulties of a general nature.

(c) The Committee is an advisory body and does not submit any report as such. The new reconstituted Committee is yet to meet. However, suitable action is taken on the suggestions/decisions of the Committee.

[Translation]

Rural Banks

571. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of rural banks in the country as on December 31, 1994 and 1995, separately;
- (b) the break-up of the rural banks between Gramin Banks and scheduled commercial Banks;
- (c) the number of old rural branches closed and of new rural branches opened during 1994-1995 and State-wise;
- (d) the average rural population, according to 1991 Census, served by each rural branch, as on December 31, 1994 and 1995, State-wise; and
- (e) the corresponding figure of such population for urban areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The total number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in the country as on December, 1994 and 1995 is 196.

(b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India there were 12988 rural branches of RRBs and 21958 rural branches of other scheduled commercial banks as on 30th June, 1995.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Textile Mills in M.P.

572. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Textile Mills in M.P. at present and the number of mills closed in the State during the last three years;

(b) the number of mills taken over by NTC or Madhya Pradesh Textiles Corporation;

(c) the number of textile mills revived in the State during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on 31.12.95, there were 49 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills in Madhya Pradesh. As per available information, one mill is reported to have closed in M.P. during the last three years.

(b) The NTC(MP) Ltd., has 7 units, while the Madhya Pradesh Textiles Corporation has 1 unit.

(c) According to available information 14 cases in M.P. stand referred to BIFR.

Modifications in Passbook Schemes

573. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the objectives that were expected to be achieved by the introduction of the Passbook scheme for exporters in April, 1995;

(b) whether the scheme has failed to achieve those objectives;

(c) whether the Government have recently made certain changes in the aforesaid Passbook scheme on the representations received from the exporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) the new Passbook Scheme is intended to allow certain categories of exporters to avail the facilities of Value based Advance Licence with greater flexibility and without actually going through all the procedural formalities of obtaining a licence. The Passbook scheme has been put into operation recently with some modifications.

(c) and (d) The Passbook scheme has been further liberalised to enable the exporters to import all items except those included in the Negative List of Imports.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

574. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority had allotted land for construction of a buildings for the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped (VRC) Delhi;

(b) whether the Ministry has failed to start construction on the land so far;

(c) the estimated cost of the construction of the building in the year of the allotment and the present estimated cost;

(d) the steps being taken to ensure early completion

of the building in Delhi; and

(e) the steps taken to construct its own buildings for all the VRCs ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has allotted 4,272 acres of land at Karkardooma for construction of the building of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped (VRC) Delhi. The boundary wall has already been constructed and the building will be constructed after issue of 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) by the DDA. The matter is being vigorously pursued with D.D.A.

(c) and (d) The estimated cost of construction of the building would be worked out by the CPWD authorities after issue of NOC by DDA.

(e) Out of the 17 VRCs two centres already have their own buildings. For the remaining VRCs which suffer on account of paucity of space, suitable buildings will be constructed in a phased manner after acquiring land from the respective State Governments.

Export and Domestic Consumption of Coffee

575. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of coffee exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1995-96, till-date, country-wise;

(b) whether any quota has been earmarked by the Board for domestic sale of coffee;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Coffee Board to increase the domestic consumption and production of coffee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quantity of coffee exported, foreign exchange earned country-wise during 1995-96 till 15.2.96 are as follows :-

Name of country	Qty. (Tonnes)	Value (US \$ Million)
1	2	3
1. Russia	26730	94.86 *
2. Italy	17695	43.72
3. USA	14363	31.63
4. Japan	8097	21.43
5. Poland	7618	18.01
6. Germany	7115	17.50
7. Czech Rep.	3510	8.42
8. Libya	2733	7.34
9. Australia	2367	6.13

1	2	3
10. Canada	1980	4.04
11. Greece	1944	4.50
12. Kuwait	1693	5.18
13. Belgium	1671	3.91
14. Slovenia	1656	4.10
15. Egypt	1558	3.40
16. Spain	1470	3.49
17. Jordan	1460	3.58
18. Dubai	1271	3.69
19. Saudi Arabia	1230	3.72
20. Portugal	1053	2.56
21. Slovakia	1026	2.65
22. Singapore	958	2.37
23. Netherlands	777	2.17
24. France	752	1.91
25. Switzerland	716	1.94
26. Israil	612	1.46
27. Oman	542	1.42
28. Hungary	526	0.81
29. Norway	201	0.53
30. Finland	158	0.40
31. UK	157	0.40
32. Malaysia	120	0.33
33. Ukraine	80	0.28 *
34. Others	1934	5.39 @
Grand Total	115777	313.15

*RPA (Rupee payment area)

@Includes RPA Countries

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Coffee Board has taken the following steps to increase the domestic consumption and production of coffee :-

(i) Coffee Board has come out with a scheme to sell through its outlets all over the country pure coffee powder (blends) at an affordable price of Rs. 215/Kg. for Plantation 'C' blend and Rs. 120/ K.g. for commercial blend.

(ii) In order to boost the production of coffee, the Board has undertaken the following developmen-

tal activities during the period 1992-93 to 1996-97.

Expansion of coffee area by 15,000 ha.

Intensive cultivation in 25,000 ha.

Replanting programme covering 30,000 ha.

Water Augmentation Programme 61,000 ha.

for .

Quality Improvement Programme 750 Pulping Units.

for

[Translation]

Reservation of Backward Classes in ITIs

576. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the candidates belonging to backward classes are being given admission in I.T.I.s as per reservation policy of the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the reservation is proposed to be given to backward classes in I.T.I.s ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) The Central Government have not yet announced any reservation policy for backward classes for admission to educational institutions including ITIs.

[English]

Outstanding amount of ITDC Bills

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

(a) whether his Ministry has any outstanding amount due to the India Tourism Development Corporation for bills of ITDC-run hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these outstandings are due;

(d) the reasons for non-payment of hotel bills by his Ministry; and

(e) the time by which these bills are likely to be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) All the bills raised by ITDC run hotels in Delhi and received in the Deptt. of Commerce till 31st January, 96 and which were found in order in all respects have been processed & cleared for payment. Bills amounting to Rs. 23171/- received after 31.1.96 are being processed and if found in order payments will be made before the close of the current financial year.

(c) to (e) Seven bills amounting to Rs. 13394/-

pertaining to the period January, 90 to October, 92 were not found in order and the concerned hotels have been asked to remove deficiencies. These bills will be paid as soon as deficiencies are removed.

[Translation]

Air Service for Buddhist Pilgrims

578. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :
SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start direct air service to countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Taiwan, Vietnam etc. to enable the people of the countries to visit Buddhist spots in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Direct services are already being operated by Air India Indian Airlines to Japan, Thailand and Myanmar. Although Air Services Agreements have been signed with China and Vietnam, there is no plan at present for airlink with these countries due to low traffic potential. Airlink between India and Korea is provided by Korean Airlines. There is at present no Air Services Agreement between India and Cambodia, Laos and Taiwan.

[English]

External Debt

579. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
DR. MUMRAZ ANSARI :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MANJAY LAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding external debt against the country as on date and the amount to be paid annually as interest thereon;

(b) the percentage of interest amount to the G.D.P.;

(c) whether the country's external debt is increasing and there are possibilities of debt trap; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures the Government propose to take to remain out from the debt trap ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) The external

debt as on 31.3.95 is estimated to be USD 99.0 billion. The interest payment during 1994-95 was USD 4.1 billion.

(b) The interest payment as a proportion of G.D.P in 1994-95 was 1.37%.

(c) No Sir. The debt outstanding between 31.3.95 and 30.9.95 declined by USD 5.2 billion and was estimated at USD 93.8 billion on 30.9.95.

(d) Government has been following a debt management strategy aimed at reducing the debt service ratio to comfortable levels. This includes measures to promote the growth of exports and other current receipts, reduce the growth of total debt, reduce the growth of expensive and short-term components of debt and to encourage non-debt creating inflows such as foreign investment.

Trade Deficit

580. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) :
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
SHRI MANJAY LAL :
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of rupee has come down considerably as against foreign currencies mainly US dollar in January and February, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of its impacts on the exportable and importable items;

(c) the details of trade deficit at the end of 1995 as compared to last three years;

(d) the increase registered in the trade deficit during January and February, 1996 due to decline in the value of Indian currency;

(e) the details of its likely impacts on Indian Economy;

(f) whether the exporters are discouraged due to rise in the value of foreign exchange as a result of which the export of the country has declined;

(g) whether the Government have formulated any short term/long term strategy to bridge the trade deficit in 1996; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) The exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar depreciated during January 1996 until February 6, 1996. Since then, the rate recovered to Rs. 35.28 per US dollar on 28.2.1996, which

was the level on January 4, 1996.

(b) The level of Exchange rate of the rupee at present is more realistic and will help ensure that export growth remains strong and import growth is contained. Both these factors will help to contain the trade deficit to manageable levels.

(c) and (d) India's foreign trade data are compiled on financial year (April-March) basis. Trade deficit as at the end of 1994-95 and those for the previous two years as also during April-December 1995 the latest period for which such data are available, are as follows :

	Rs. crores	Million
1992-93	9687	3345
1993-94	3350	1069
1994-95	7297	2324
April-Dec., 1995	11571	3535

(e) Recent changes in the exchange rate has corrected the erosion in competitiveness and will help ensure that export growth remains strong and import growth is contained.

(f) India's exports registered an increase of 24.2% in US \$ terms during April-December 1995 which is higher than the 16.9% growth during the corresponding period last year.

(g) and (h) The objective of the Exim Policy 1992-97 which is updated annually is to accelerate export growth on a sustained basis, to encourage imports substitution and provide enhanced opportunities in the domestic sector to participate and benefit from such growth.

[Translation]

Sub-regional office of ESI in Karnataká

581. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for the opening of a Sub-Regional Office of the E.S.I. Corporation at Hubli in Karnataka for the convenience of the industrial workers of Northern region of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of a Sub-Regional Office at Hubli in Karnataka was sent by the State Government to the ESI Corporation on 19.9.95. The matter has been examined in the light of the guidelines approved by the Standing Committee of the ESI Corporation. As number of the Insured Persons at Hubli falls short of the minimum norm of one lakh, it has not been found possible to open

a Sub-Regional Office of ESI Corporation at Hubli for the present.

Textile Mills in Gujarat

582. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cotton spinning and weaving mills in Gujarat as on date and the number of mills out of them taken over by the National Textile Corporation and the Gujarat State Textiles Corporation;

(b) the number of mills referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for winding up;

(c) the number of mills in regard to which decision has been taken for modernisation thereof; and

(d) the amount allocated for modernisation of the said mills particularly in tribal and backward areas ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There were 133 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Units and 34 exclusive weaving units in Gujarat as on 31.1.96. As per available information, 17 mills have been taken over by Gujarat State Textiles Corporation. The number of mills under the NTC in Gujarat is 12.

(b) The cases of 45 Sick Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile mills including exclusive weaving units in Gujarat, have been referred to BIFR as on 30.9.95. Out of these, BIFR has recommended winding up in respect of 20 cases. The case of NTC (Gujarat) Ltd., is among those referred to the BIFR.

(c) and (d) BIFR draws up rehabilitation packages through Operating Agencies appointed by it for revival of the viable sick mills. Modernisation may form a part of rehabilitation package. Out of 45 cases, BIFR has sanctioned rehabilitation scheme under Sec. 18(4) in 6 cases and AAIFR has sanctioned rehabilitation scheme in 2 cases. Separate data for mills in tribal areas, is not maintained.

[English]

Revenue Loss Due to Hawala

583. SHRI CHITTA BASU :

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual loss in rupees which the country have to incur due to illegal transaction of foreign exchanges (Hawala);

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to plug this leak;

(c) whether the Government propose to make a thorough probe into working of the Hawala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) It is not possible to quantify the annual loss because of the clandestine nature of transactions. However, the amounts involved in cases of such transactions detected during the last three years are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount involved (approx.)
1992-93	7686
1993-94	20034
1994-95	38367

(b) to (d) The Government (through the Enforcement Directorate) keeps a strict vigil on the activities of the hawala racketeers. Action as envisaged under the law is taken as and when any information pertaining to such activities is received.

Export of Isabgol

584. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Isabgol has tremendous potential for export;

(b) if so, the total quantity of Isabgol exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of last three years;

(c) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority has taken any initiative to promote the export and increase the production of Isabgol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) It has good potential.

(b) The total quantity of Isabgol exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as under :-

Value In Rs. Crores		
Year	Qty.	Value
1992-93	15348	77.41
1993-94	15576	75.47
1994-95	20890	113.72

(c) and (d) Basic Chemicals, pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Export Promotion Council (Chemexcil) and not Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is concerned with the export promotion of Isabgol. The steps taken by Chemexcil to boost the export of this item include exchange of trade delegation, participation in specialised trade fairs abroad and exchange and dissemination of relevant information.

Textile Export

585. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up Indo-Israel task force for promoting textile export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the task force in this direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closure of Textile Mills

586. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a result of closure of textile mills in Ahmedabad, about 40,000 workers have been rendered jobless;

(b) if so, whether steps have since been taken for payment of statutory dues to them;

(c) whether the Govt. of Gujarat have sent any proposal of Union Govt. to take over the assets of these sick textile mills and rejuvenate them by pooling their resources and granting loans for payment of statutory dues to the workers; and

(d) if so, the Govt.'s decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) According to Ministry of Industry the Govt. of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to Ministry of Industry for grant of assistance from National Renewal Fund for Area Regeneration Scheme for 19 closed textile mills under liquidation. The proposal envisages, "inter-alia", takeover of assets of these mills by State Govt., payment of legal dues to 30,150 employees, incentive for Area Regeneration and utilisation of assets of closed mills etc.,

According to Ministry of Industry, the proposal of State Govt. would be taken up after necessary approval to the operation modalities for grant of assistance from the National Renewal Fund has been obtained.

Air Fields in Arunachal Pradesh

587. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh to construct air strip in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A site at Naharlagun near Itanagar has been identified for construction of an airport which may be suitable for operation of 50 seater aircraft. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has been advised to carry out a feasibility study, including environmental aspect. No allocation of funds has been made during VIIIth Five Year Plan.

Beedi Workers

588. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of workers engaged in the Beedi Industry in certain States particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat till date;

(b) the number of identity card holders and non identity card holders among them as on March, 1995, separately;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to liberate them from the harassment/oppression of contract system;

(d) the rate on which Tendu (ebony) leaf is made available to the Beedi workers in the country particularly in the tribal areas of the State and the rate of daily wages to be paid to them;

(e) whether the Government are aware of irregularities being committed by major industrialists to escape from cess on Beedi; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Due to peculiar conditions prevailing in the beedi industry, it has not been considered feasible to abolish contract labour system. The State Governments have been requested to ensure strict implementation of the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and setting up Tripartite Committees to standardise issue of raw material etc. to prevent exploitation of beedi workers.

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

(e) and (f) Stringent anti-evasion measures and frequent surprise checks are conducted by the Central Board of Excise and Customs and penalty is imposed wherever considered necessary after issue of show cause notice. .

Loan applications under P.M.R.Y.

589. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of loan applications received from

unemployed youths in Delhi under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana since the inception of the scheme by the private sector banks, bank-wise;

(b) the number of loan applications sanctioned, rejected and pending with the reasons for rejection and pendency;

(c) whether the private sector banks are not giving loans for purchase of vehicles, commercial or private, neither these are giving loans for purchase of modern gadgets, nor extending overdraft facility to the small and medium traders, industrialists etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the private banks in Delhi that extend the said facilities and to how many people have they extended such facilities in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Beedi and Cigar Workers

590. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance to trade union for improving the conditions of Beedi and Cigar workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether periodic review of the various welfare scheme for them is being done;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response for delay in establishment of Expert Committee on various problems affecting Beedi and Tobacco sector ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However the Government stand committed for improving the conditions of beedi and cigar workers.

(c) and (d) The tripartite Central Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of Labour and the Advisory Committees constituted by the State Governments under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, inter-alia, review the various welfare scheme for beedi workers.

(e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have constituted an Expert Committee, in view of the proposed legislation on use of tobacco and tobacco products, to go into different aspects of tobacco use.

World Economic Forum

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

(a) whether he led a delegation to the World Economic Forum's 1996 annual meeting at Davos during

the last month;

(b) if so, the composition of the Indian delegation; and

(c) the details of achievements thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (b) The 1996 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos during 1-6 February 1996 was attended amongst others by the Finance Minister, Minister of State for Commerce, the Chief Minister of Gujarat accompanied by the Industry Minister and 36 representatives of the business and industry from India.

(c) The World Economic Forum is a non-governmental organisation integrating leaders from business, Governments and academia into a partnership committed to improving the state of the world. Indian participation was to utilise the platform provided by the World Economic Forum for global interaction.

[Translation]

Sick NTC/BIC Units

592. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick NTC/BIC units which are on the verge of closure;

(b) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has taken any final decision in regard to these units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Eight subsidiary corporation of NTC, British India Corporation, Elgin Mills Company Ltd. and Cawnpore Textile Ltd. have been referred to and declared to be sick industrial companies by the BIFR. Out of these 11 sick industrial

companies, the BIFR has decided to issue show cause notices for winding up of NTC(MP), NTC(Guj.), NTC(UP) and NTC(WBAB&O). In respect of BIC, Elgin Mills and Cawnpore Textile Ltd., the BIFR ordered their winding up and the appeals of these companies are pending before the AAIFR. There are no formal closure of any of these companies under the provision of the Industrial Disputes Act. Government are giving funds for wages and salaries and bonus pending a final decision.

Income Tax received from States

593. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The State-wise total amount on account of income-tax received from various States of the country during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the State-wise number of cases of defaulters in various States of the country during the above period and the amount involved therein; and

(c) the effective measures being adopted by the Government for the recovery of the aforesaid amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The desired information given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) State-wise details of the total number and the value of cases of defaulters are not available. However, the details in respect of cases where the outstanding demand is over Rs. one crore as on 31.3.94 and 31.3.95 are given in the enclosed statement-II

(c) Various measures, as provided under the Income-Tax Act are being taken to effect recovery of demand e.g. attachment of movable and immovable properties of defaulters, prosecution, imposition of penalties, detention in prison, appointment of receiver for management of defaulter's properties.

STATEMENT-I

Sl. State No.	1993-94		1994-95		
	Corporation tax	Income tax	Corporation tax	Income tax	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	223.82	340.61	295.96	479.63	
2. Arunachal Pradesh		1.72		2.58	
3. Assam	38.39	68.61	114.74	88.04	
4. Bihar	15.73	207.80	33.34	232.61	
5. Goa	57.85	44.45	50.32	55.78	
6. Gujarat	227.57	793.00	314.85	910.44	
7. Haryana	40.50	103.66	49.41	130.50	
8. Himchal Pradesh	3.73	24.76	0.57	26.88	

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.33	40.62	13.91	37.48
10.	Karnataka	261.74	491.52	291.67	631.35
11.	Kerala	142.62	243.54	95.72	301.81
12.	Madhya Pradesh	55.09	252.35	86.31	278.24
13.	Maharashtra	4389.56	2847.81	6603.97	3954.13
14.	Manipur	0.05	6.72	0.09	5.32
15.	Meghalaya	1.61	9.98	1.13	8.10
16.	Mizoram	-	0.03	-	0.08
17.	Nagaland	0.05	4.75	0.03	7.00
18.	Delhi	1308.68	1048.59	1854.29	1608.10
19.	Orissa	15.52	93.66	24.14	101.35
20.	Punjab	116.14	241.37	126.63	317.24
21.	Rajasthan	59.29	181.77	50.65	226.84
22.	Sikkim	-	0.16	0.01	0.26
23.	Tamil Nadu	549.98	723.53	617.76	962.32
24.	Tripura	0.05	5.36	0.07	7.08
25.	Uttar Pradesh	184.93	493.69	282.24	600.18
26.	West Bengal	1040.52	535.06	1099.53	644.97
UNION TERRITORY					
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	2.86	0.78	3.20	0.56
28.	Chandigarh	52.93	26.77	59.44	67.43
29.	Daman	0.04	0.35	0.03	0.44
30.	Diu	-	0.04	0.22	-
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	4.04	9.05	2.97	9.12
33.	Laxadweep	-	-	-	-
34.	Silvasa	0.05	0.38	0.59	-
35.	CTDS	1263.62	276.62	1147.17	334.24

STATEMENT-II

Dossier Cases over Rs. 1 crore (State-wise) as on 31.3.1994 and 31.3.1995

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total Number of Cases		Demand Outstanding (Rs. in crores)	
		31.3.94	31.3.95	31.3.94	31.3.95
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Maharashtra	422	454	5685.71	13086.42
2.	West Bengal	118	134	707.04	1210.96
3.	Delhi	125	175	482.70	1147.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Punjab	11	14	25.40	100.79
5.	Haryana	1	5	2.77	18.01
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	4	3.44	12.15
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5	13	17.56	50.04
8.	Gujarat	77	78	169.13	245.37
9.	Rajasthan	9	15	19.21	104.86
10.	Kerala	10	13	38.64	63.08
11.	Andhra Pradesh	21	22	94.57	44.99
12.	Bihar	6	8	10.57	208.67
13.	Orissa	2	8	4.09	30.49
14.	N.E.R.	6	10	9.25	21.71
15.	Karnataka	46	45	198.09	311.07
16.	Tamil Nadu	54	111	173.61	471.52
17.	Uttar Pradesh	28	30	131.00	139.34

[English]

Loss-Incurring Banks

594. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the banks which have been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of loss incurred by each of these banks during each of the last three years; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to find out the reasons of losses and to plug the loopholes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The bank-wise quantum of losses incurred by nationalised banks during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has impressed upon the banks the need to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances. Banks have also been advised by RBI to prepare action plans on Key areas of their working. Emphasis has also been laid on reduction of expenses.

STATEMENT

Quantum of loss incurred by banks during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	(Rs. in Crores)		
		1993	1994	1995
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	-105.89	-367.72	-76.36

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Bank	-141.08	-162.25	-43.57
3.	Bank of India	-331.12	-1089.15	50.35
4.	Bank of Maharashtra	-196.51	-296.93	-40.80
5.	Central Bank of India	-383.31	-711.93	-84.24
6.	Dena Bank	-90.46	-69.84	30.02
7.	Indian Bank	6.51	-390.65	14.26
				(Provisional)
8.	Indian Overseas Bank	-752.74	-351.18	10.38
				(Provisional)
9.	New Bank of India	-75.79	(X)	(X)
10.	Punjab & Sind Bank	-195.19	-175.99	-7.42
11.	Syndicate Bank	-670.08	-299.40	-91.79
12.	United Bank of India	-279.36	-618.06	-197.23
13.	UCO Bank	-444.19	-546.45	-83.81
14.	Vijaya Bank	-97.88	4.10	31.70

Note :

(X) Merged with Punjab National Bank.

Commercial Space in ITDC Hotels

595. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are norms, rules and regulations for allotment of space for restaurants, shops etc. in ITDC hotels in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of applications pending for vacant

places alongwith the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While shops in ITDC hotels are allotted through public auction, the business premises/restaurants are leased out by calling public tenders through press advertisements.

(c) As on 27.2.1996, a total number of nineteen applications are under consideration for allotment of five shops in three hotels and two office spaces in one hotel.

Problem faced by Small Investors

596. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing system of share transfer is creating many problems to the various regional stock exchanges of the country as well as small investors and their stock brokers as the number of bad deliveries are increasing year by Year due to one reasons or the others;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the share transfer system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The problem of bad deliveries in the Stock Exchanges has been causing difficulties to investors, particularly small investors. The reasons for this problem relate to, inter-alia, differences in signatures of the transferors, use of out-dated Transfer Forms and submission of transfer Forms without filling up all the particulars in a complete and accurate manner.

(c) The Depositories Ordinance 1996 provides for the regulation of depositories in securities and related matters. A Depository system, as and when established, would enable an electronic book entry transfer of ownership of securities of companies and thereby streamline the system of share transfer.

Credit Deposit Ratio in Banks

597. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the national average Credit/Deposit ratio in respect of the aggregate deposits and credit of all scheduled commercial banks as on December 31, 1994 and December 31, 1995;

(b) the corresponding figures of the highest and the lowest credit deposit ratio among the banks, with the names of the bank separately;

(c) the credit Deposit ratio of banks operating in Bihar, as on December, 1995 and the corresponding average of all banks; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the credit-deposit ratio in case of Bihar specially in respect of the banks whose ratio are lower than the overall average for Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The Credit Deposit Ratio(CDR) of all Scheduled Commercial Banks for Bihar and All India are indicated below :

(In per Cent) (Latest available)

	December 1994 CD Ratio	As on last Friday of September, 1995 CD Ratio
Bihar	33.5	31.3
All India	57.9	60.0

The Highest and lowest CD Ratio amongst all scheduled Commercial banks is as under :

All Scheduled Commercial Bank	CD Ratio Ranks	CD Ratio Percentage
	(1)	(2)

(Last Friday of December, 1994)

1. ICICI Banking Corp. Ltd.	Highest	1751.7
2. Sonali Bank	Lowest	12.1

(Last Friday of September, 1995)

Latest available

1. Nova Scotia Bank	Highest	479.5
2. Sonali Bank	Lowest	10.0

The highest and lowest CD Ratio amongst public sector banks is as under :

(Last Friday of December, 1994)

1. State Bank of India	Highest	78.7
2. Corporation Bank	Lowest	41.0

(Last Friday of September, 1995)

1. State Bank of India	Highest	78.9
2. Syndicate Bank	Lowest	43.6

(d) The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) depends not only on the efforts made by the banks but also on various other factors such as credit absorptive capacity of the region, infrastructural support and the overall policy framework in the region. With a view to ascertaining the reasons for low CDR in Bihar, a Task Force has been constituted. The Task Force has already submitted its Report which was discussed in the State Level Bankers' Committee Meeting for implementation of the recommendations.

Stipend paid to Handicaped

598. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the evaluation stipend being paid by the Ministry of Labour was fixed long ago;

(b) if so, when it was fixed and what were the basic ingredients for arriving at that amount;

(c) the corresponding increase in monetary value of that amount as on 1st January, 1996 with reference to Consumer Price Index prevailing at the time of fixation of that amount; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to revise that amount commensurate to the rise in the monetary value of that amount as on 1st January, 1996.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The current rate of evaluation stipend of Rs. 100/- for a period of 30 days was fixed in 1984. The stipend is paid to Handicapped applicants admitted to Vocational Rehabilitation Centres during the period of their vocational evaluation to enable them to meet contingent expenses and encourage their continuous involvement during the evaluation.

(c) and (d) Evaluation stipend is not linked to the Consumer Price Index.

Quality Control Checks on Export of Rice

599. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity and value of the rice (both basmati and non-basmati) exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether European union countries extend any special duty concessions on import of basmati rice from India and other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there have been complaints that the quality of basmati rice exported by India has been deteriorating and that it does not deserve the same level of duty concessions as extended for high quality basmati rice imported from other countries;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to tighten the quality control checks on rice especially the basmati rice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The details of exports of Basmati and Non-Basmati rice during the last three years are as under :-

Commodity	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (April- Dec. 95)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Basmati Rice	324790	800.64	536534	1030.95	468696	857.76	271706	578.21
Non-Basmati Rice	255619	174.96	268908	249.14	422727	323.45	3498967	2428.07
Total	580409	975.60	805442	1280.09	891423	1181.21	3770673	3006.28

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Country-wise details of exports are available in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c) The European Commission has introduced a new regulation for import duties on rice with effect from 1.7.1995. Under this regulation inter-alia, a Reference Price System has been adopted which provides import tariff concession of 250 ECU per tonne for Indian origin husked basmati rice and 50 ECU per tonne for Pakistan origin husked basmati rice.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Grade designation and definition of quality of Basmati Rice Raw milled/unpolished/dehusked/brown (for Export only) has been laid down vide order dated 14.9.1990 under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. Further, the export of Basmati Rice

is also subject to Registration of Contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA), New Delhi with effect from 1.12.1995.

Flouting of Safety Norm

600. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that private airline carriers are flouting safety regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to impose financial penalties on defaulting carriers;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) by when such a legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) During the period from November, 1995 to February 1996 (till date) incidents of violation of safety regulations by 4 private airlines viz modiluft, East West Airlines, Elbee Airlines and Mesco Airlines have been reported, Appropriate action has been taken against the crew members/officials responsible for the violations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 to provide for penalties to be imposed on defaulting carriers is under consideration of the Government.

(e) No date/time limit can be specified at this stage.

Third International Handicrafts and Gift Fair

601. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was substantial business generation from abroad and within the country at the Third International Handicrafts and Gift Fair organised at Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, details thereof country-wise and item-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 3rd Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair held in New Delhi recently generated substantial business to the tune of Rs. 600/- crores approximately.

(b) Country-wise and item-wise details for a particular fair is not available.

Uniform Procedure and Documentation in Custom Houses

602. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisation has urged the Government to ensure that custom houses all over the country follow uniform procedures and documentation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export houses are facing problems due to various settlements of duty drawback claims; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir, this Ministry has not received any such suggestion from the FIED. However, Customs Houses are required to adopt the prescribed procedures and documentation except where local exigencies warrant some modification.

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

(c) and (d) Export Houses have not reported any general difficulty in regard to payment of drawback claims. However, review and simplification of customs procedures is an on-going exercise.

[Translation]

Aircraft Involved in Purulia Incident

603. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the date-wise details and names of the airports where the aircraft involved in the Purulia incident landed alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the pilot of the aforesaid aircraft took prior permission in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the shortcomings in the system that came to light in the above incident and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The aircraft landed at Varanasi and Calcutta on 17.12.95 and at Madras on 21.12.95 for refuelling. It was made to force land at Bombay on 22.12.1995.

(b) and (c) The pilot had taken prior permission of DGCA to operate the flight from Karachi to Yangon with a technical landing to refuel the aircraft at Varanasi and on return from Phuket (Thailand) to Karachi via Calcutta and Varanasi.

(d) Government have appointed a Committee headed by Shri V.K. Jain, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to suggest measures for preventing misutilisation of the permits for chartered flights. The recommendations of the Committee, as approved by the Government, are being strictly followed.

[English]

DA to Central Government Employees

604. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total instalments of DA due for payment to the Central Government employees w.e.f. January 1996;

(b) the details of the payment proposed to be made to different category of employees; and

(c) the steps taken to release the payment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :

(a) to (c) As per the existing formula relating to the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, additional instalments of dearness allowance become due from 1st January and 1st July every year on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960-100) over the base index of 608 to which the existing scales of pay effective from 01-01-86 are relate. The instalment due from 1st January normally become payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April.

Child Labour

605. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :
SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the latest figures about the population of child labour in the country and how many of them are working in hazardous jobs, State-wise;

(b) the number of children who are below 19 year of age;

(c) the target fixed for the elimination of child labour for the year 1995-96;

(d) whether the target has been fulfilled;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to redefine the term "hazardous jobs" to effectively implement the Prime Minister's Plan of Action to eliminate child labour in hazardous jobs; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Authentic data on child labour are generated from the decennial census. As per the 1981 census, the child labour population in the country was 13,640,972. State-wise distribution is given in the enclosed Statement. It is estimated that at present there are about 20 lakh child workers engaged in hazardous occupations/processes. The data on child labour as per the 1991 census is yet to be made available by the Registrar General of Census. Separate data for the child workers below 10 years is not maintained.

(c) to (e) During the year 1995-96, it is proposed to rehabilitate 2 lakh child workers employed in hazardous occupations and processes. As on date, funds have been released for 70 National Child Labour Projects covering 1.36 lakh children. The objective of the Government is to eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations/processes in a phased manner, by the year 2000.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal to redefine the term "hazardous jobs". Parts A & B of the Schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 contain 7 occupations and 18 processes where children cannot be engaged. Additions to the Schedule is made from time to time based on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

STATEMENT

Statement showing state-wise Distribution of Child Workers (0-14) age Group According to 1981 Census

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Workers in the age group 0-14 1981 Census
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,951,312
2.	Assam	...
3.	Bihar	1,101,764
4.	Gujarat	616,913
5.	Haryana	194,189
6.	Himachal Pradesh	99,624
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	258,437
8.	Karnataka	1,131,530
9.	Kerala	92,854
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,698,597
11.	Maharashtra	1,557,756
12.	Manipur	20,217
13.	Meghalaya	44,916
14.	Nagaland	16,235
15.	Orissa	702,293
16.	Punjab	216,939
17.	Rajasthan	819,605
18.	Sikkim	8,561
19.	Tamil Nadu	975,055
20.	Tripura	24,204
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1,434,675
22.	West Bengal	605,263
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,309
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	17,950
25.	Chandigarh	1,986

1	2	3
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3,615
27.	Delhi	26,717
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	9,378
29.	Lakshadweep	56
30.	Mizoram	6,314
31.	Pondicherry	3,606
Total		13,640,872

*** 1981 Census could not be conducted in Assam due to distributed conditions prevailing there then.

Mine Accidents in Gujarat

606. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mine accidents occurred in Gujarat especially in tribal districts during each of the last three years upto September 1995, mine-wise;

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the modern technology is being applied in mines to check accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The number of Mine accidents which occurred in the entire Gujarat State (including tribal areas) during the last three years (upto Sep. 95) are given below :

Name of Mine & Owner	District	No. of Accidents
1	2	3
1993		
Panandhro Lignite Mine, Gujarat Mineral Development Corpn.	Kachehh	4
Shibrajpur Manganese Mine, C.K. Thacker & Sons.	Panchmahal	1
Ankleshwar Project Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Bharuch	8
Mehsana Project (Drilling) Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Mehsana	1
Mehsana (TBG) Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Mehsana	1
Ahmedabad Oil Project, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Ahmedabad	2
Chorbedi Limestone Mine, Shree Digvijoy Cement Co. Ltd.	Jamnagar	1
Porbandar Limestone Mine, HMP Cements Limited	Junagarh	1
1994		
Ahmedabad Oil Project, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Ahmedabad	2
Mehsana Project (Drilling) Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Mehsana	2
Panandhro Lignite Mine, Gujarat Mineral Development Corpn.	Kachchh	1
Ankleshwar Project Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Bharuch	4
Chorbedi Limestone Mine, Shree Digvijoy Cements Co. Ltd.	Jamnagar	1

1	2	3
1995 (Upto Sept.)		
Panandhro Lignite Mine, Gujarat Mineral Development Corpn.	Kachchh	1
Ahmedabad Oil Project, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Ahmedabad	1
Adityana Limestone Mine, Sourashtra Cement & Chemical Industries Limited	Junagarh	1
Mehsana Project (Drilling) Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Mehsana	2
Ankleshwar Project Oil Mine, Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd.	Bharuch	1
Narmada Limestone Mine, Narmada Cement Co. Ltd.	Amreli	1

Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines and contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, The safety laws are constantly reviewed and amended from time to time. During 1990, the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 were comprehensively amended. The Directorate-General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the managements for improving safety measures. These provisions of laws are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate-General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952 in case of default. Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as

- (i) Conference on Safety in Mines;
- (ii) Self-regulation by management;
- (iii) Workers' participation in safety management;
- (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels;
- (v) Training of work persons;
- (vi) Observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns;
- (vii) National Safety Awards.

In the mines under Public Sector and organised private sector, modern technology is used in extraction of minerals which reduces exposure of work persons to risk of injuries. However, the mines in unorganised private sector are mainly worked by manual means.

Modification in Banking Recruitment Boards

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to modify the existing system of Banking Recruitment Boards, set up in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether individual banks are proposed to be permitted to recruit the officers directly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration of Govt. at present either to modify the existing system of Banking Service Recruitment Boards or to permit recruitment of officers directly by the banks. However, a committee has been set up by Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri D.R. Mehta to look into the various aspects related to recruitment methods and practices in the public sector banks. The Committee has not yet submitted its final report.

Voluntary Retirement Schemes

608. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the voluntary retirement schemes are in force in various public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes;

(c) the number of employees who accepted the voluntary retirement schemes in each public sector undertakings during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government propose to implement these schemes in other Government offices and other sectors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTR OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) A model scheme of voluntary retirement was formulated by the Bureau of public enterprises on 5.10.1988 for the Central public sector undertakings with the object of rationalising surplus manpower. According to the scheme,

an employee opting for voluntary retirement scheme would receive ex-gratia payment of 45 days emoluments (Pay+DA) for each completed year of service or the balance of service remaining at the time of his separation multiplied by his monthly emoluments, whichever is less. This would be in addition to the various terminal benefits and statutory dues like provident fund, gratuity, encashment of Earned leave, one months/three months notice pay (as per the conditions of service applicable to him) etc. payable to him.

(c) According to available information during 1994-95, 29082 employees opted for voluntary retirement schemes in 159 Central public sector undertakings.

(d) and (e) As already mentioned above the scheme was specially designed for the Central public sector undertakings.

Misuse of NRE Accounts

609. SHRI V. SREENIVASH PRASAD :
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-resident external accounts are being misused for currency smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to check such cases and to plug all loopholes in the rules and regulations that tend to give scope for such smuggling; and

(d) the number of currency smuggling cases that have come to light during each of the last three years and the action taken on each such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d) The Enforcement Directorate has not come across any case of misuse of non-resident external (NRE) accounts for currency smuggling. However, during the last 2-3 years, the Directorate has detected some cases involving alleged misuse of NRE accounts for depositing foreign exchange acquired/purchased in India and for issue of cheques/drafts to Indian residents purportedly as gifts.

[Translation]

Turnover of I.T.D.C. Duty Shops

610. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the turnover of the I.T.D.C. duty shops during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to enhance the turnover of the said shops during the ensuing years; and

(c) the expected increase in the turnover on account of the said steps taken ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The information is given as under :

Year	Turnover (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	40.67
1993-94	46.55
1994-95	61.47

(b) and (c) The measures taken/being taken to enhance turnover of duty free shops inter alia include enlargement of assortments of various merchandising, promotional activities/advertisement and participation in travel fairs, aggressive marketing & sales strategies, appointment of foreign consultant and expansion of duty free shops at existing and new international airports. The business turnover of duty free shops is expected to increase 20% every year.

I.T. Camp Offices in premises of Large Employers

611. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has recently mooted any proposal to offer large employers, Corporation, Public Sector Undertakings large, private sector companies the facility of having Income Tax premises on an experimental basis;

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

(c) whether to start with the large employers have been identified in Delhi region for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has not mooted any such proposal. However, the field authorities keep examining various proposals for providing better services to the tax payers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) in view of (c) above, does not arise.

Cash Reserve Ratio of Banks

612. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to relieve the cash-crunch and curb the call-money rates, the Government have decided to cut the Cash Reserve Ratio in the banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the precise circumstances, necessitating the cut in the Cash Reserve Ratio ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The Average Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was reduced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in stages from 15.0 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (DTL) of scheduled commercial banks to 14.0 per cent of net DTL with effect from the fortnight beginning December 9, 1995. The average CRR on Non-Resident (External) (NRE) Rupee deposits was reduced from 14.0 per cent to 10.0 per cent from the fortnight beginning January 6, 1996. The Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) (FCNR(B)) deposits and the Non-Resident Non-Repatriable (NRNR) deposits were fully exempted from CRR stipulations from the fortnight beginning January 6, 1996.

The reduction in the CRR was undertaken in the context of monetary and credit developments and the need to augment the resources of banks. The relaxation of reserve requirements on non-resident deposits was undertaken taking into account the cost of raising these resources and the return on the deployment of these funds as well as to make these deposits more attractive to banks and enable banks to better market these deposits.

Branches of Syndicate Bank

613. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise branches of Syndicate Bank of Gujarat and the category-wise number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employed in these branches;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branches of this bank in the State during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the proposed locations thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken to fill up the vacant posts reserved for scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Syndicate Bank has furnished the details of their branches in Gujarat and the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in those branches as indicated below :

District	No. of Branches	No. of employees belonging to:	
		Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1	2	3	4
Ahmedabad	13	103	27
Bhavnagar	1	5	-
Broach	1	3	2
Bulsar	2	5	17
Gandhinagar	1	7	3

1	2	3	4
Jamnagar	2	6	1
Junagad	2	4	5
Kheda	4	12	5
Kutch	2	6	4
Mehsana	4	19	2
Rajkot	4	9	7
Surat	7	14	50
Surendranagar	1	4	2
Vadodara	3	12	3
Total	47	209	128

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in terms of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Syndicate Bank, it is allowed to open branches with prior approval of RBI in cases where the proposed branch is expected to earn net profit in the first year of operation itself. The bank has not submitted any proposal to RBI recently for opening of a branch in Gujarat.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to fill up the reserved vacancies for SCs and STs public sector banks and Financial Institutions have been as under :-

1. Special recruitment drives have been carried out during the years 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993-94 and 1995 and a substantial backlog has been cleared;
2. The recruitment and representation position of SCs and STs in the Public Sector Banks is being reviewed through a comprehensive proforma by the Boards of Directors of each of the public sector bank every six months and the position is being reported to the Government;
3. Pre-recruitment training is being imparted by all banks to the candidates appearing for the BSRB examinations;
4. Establishment of Centres for examination nearest to the areas of concentration of the ST population; and
5. Banks have been advised to hold training workshops for the personnel working in their SC/ST cells to make them fully aware of the need for implementation of the reservation policy.

Price Index

614. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the CPI and WPI as on the first relevant date in the first week of April, 1991 and the corresponding

figures for the corresponding date in 1995 and in the first week of January, 1996;

(b) the overall inflation over the intervening period of four years 1991-95 and estimated for the 5 years period 1991-96, both in terms of CPI and WPI;

(c) the purchasing power of the rupee with 1981 as the base on each of these three dates, with percentage rise or decline during 1991-95 and estimated for 1991-96;

(d) whether the Government have any abstantive steps under consideration to reduce the rate of inflation to zero in the future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) is constructed and announced on monthly basis, whereas Wholesale Price Index is announced on weekly basis. Consumer Price Index as on April 1991 and 1995 and first week of January 1996, are listed below :

Year	Month	Index	
		CPI	WPI
1991	April	202	192.3
1995	April	295	286.8
1996	January	N.A.	207.9

(b) and (c) The annual inflation rate (point-to-point) both in terms of CPI-IW and WPI from 1991-92 to 1995-96 and the purchasing power of rupee as measured in terms of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with base 1982 for these years is shown below :

	Annual inflation rate (%)		Purchasing power of rupee (Paise)
	CPI-IW	WPI	
1991-92	13.9	13.6	45.66
1992-93	6.1	7.0	41.67
1993-94	9.9	10.8	38.76
1994-95	9.7	10.4	35.84
1995-96	9.7 *	4.4 **	31.55 *

* December 1995; **as on 10.2.96.

(d) and (e) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to contain the inflationary pressures in the economy, and the latest inflation rate of 4.4% recorded as on 10 February, 1996 is indicative of the success achieved in the current fiscal year.

Single Window Payment of Airport Taxes

615. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a "Single Window Payment of Airport Taxes" system for overseas air passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Passengers embarking from India have to pay Foreign travel tax which is collected at a Single point of at the departing airports.

11.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Wednesday, March 6, 1996/
Phalgun 16, 1917 (Saka)*