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Friday, May 26, 1995
Jyaistha 5, 1917(Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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* The Sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 26, 1995/ Jyaishta 5, 1917 (Saka)
(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Unutilised Foreign Loan

+
*721. DR. K.D. JESWANI :

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loans sanctioned to India by foreign countries, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and its affiliates and Asian Development Bank, as on 31st March, 1995; and

(b) the total amount of unutilised foreign loans as on 31st March, 1995 heads-wise, project-wise and State-wise?

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

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

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very sorry to say that I had given the question well in time and it is a matter of running importance. Even then my Starred Question which has come after my efforts continuously for two years has not been replied to. Moreover, the hon. Finance Minister has been vouching a lot for the Government's economic policy. But unfortunately he does not have the latest information to feed the Parliament. The whole machinery was engaged in working on the budget and the finance. Even then the information is not available.

MR. SPEAKER : The problem which was explained to me is that they have the figures of the amount which is given to the States. But it is for the States to utilise that amount and they have not supplied that information to the Central Government. They are waiting for the information to come to them. That is their difficulty and I have said: "Well, I can understand this difficulty; you collect it and give it." It is because they are not spending it, the State Government are spending it.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, please bear with me. Earlier also I got the information.

MR. SPEAKER : Please let us not discuss that thing. We do not discuss in that way. They have explained the difficulty and you understand their difficulty. You come to other points.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, earlier also I got the information two years before about the unutilised amount of the loans lying with the States. Upto 1993 it was ready. I do not know whether it is ready after that. Anyway, I will not go much into the controversy.

Sir, I have been showing my deep concern over this subject for the last four years and I have a long list of my letters, totalling 33, from 20th December, 1991 to till date which are written to the Finance Ministry. I have been, particularly, working on both the aspects of external debt and the unutilization of the loans. But I am sorry to say that even after writing so many letters, I have not been given a pertinent information which could have satisfied me.

Anyway what I want to say is that the bulk of external debt has risen from Rs. 8,000 crore in 50s to more than around rupees three lakh crore by now. The debt service cost has also risen tremendously and as per the Economic Survey, it is going to rise up to 14.5 billion dollars by 1997. The country is under a very bad debt trap. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the time frame programme of the Government to make the country debt free and whether the present network of the policies is sufficient to bring the desired results or some necessary bold steps are thought of by the Government? Part (b) of my question is, whether for this purpose - since this has been a tremendously important problem concerning every Indian - the Government is likely to come out with a White Paper on this issue as the demand for this has been rising all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Good question.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, the difficulty is that the information sought by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, he is not on that point. He says that very big amount of money has been taken by us as loan. So, how we are going to pay it back. When are we able to make the country debt free? Are there any plans?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, when we look to the main question, it does not come under the main question because the information sought by the hon. Member relates to all loans since independence and also unutilized loans in all the States- State-wise, project-wise and aid-wise. We have to collect the information.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. He is not asking for the information about the utilization of the loans given to the State Governments. He is wanting to understand whether it would be possible for the country to become a loan-free country.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, this is also a part of the external debt. That is my point.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, I am really sorry to say that all my efforts are going in vain. This is totally negation of my question.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, I would only submit that this is a wise ranging information that we have to collect.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have policy to see that you are in a position to pay back the money.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Predominantly, the information is of statistical nature and the Ministry is collecting it.

MR. SPEAKER : He is not asking for the facts. He is asking for the policy

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : If the hon. Speaker decides, I am prepared for the postponement of the question

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not going to postpone it. That is not a good policy.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, please bear with me. I am seriously concerned about this part of the question. Since 1991 I have been writing to the Finance Ministry and I have got a list of my 33 letters with my captions. Since the Finance Ministry did not give me the reply, I had to approach the hon. Rashtrapati for this and he has passed on the directive to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. Even then I have not been given the reply.

MR. SPEAKER : You give me a notice, I will keep it for Half an Hour Discussion later on. Maybe the Minister will discuss the matter with the senior Minister. The senior Minister has probably gone out to receive some guest who is coming from outside. We will do that. Now, you get whatever information can be given to you and I will fix it for Half-an-Hour Discussion.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, may I put the second question?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, please.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Well, since your Honour has given me sufficient protection, I would not...

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is a big policy matter and the senior Minister should also reply. He would not like to take that responsibility.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Anyway, Sir, I can understand the menace. I have got the Report of the Estimates Committee formulated in 1968-69 about the level of utilization of aid of the external assistance.

Now, according to the reports — I do not know whether the Government has it, but I have the literature — the level of utilisation of external aid has been falling from 70 per cent in mid-Seventies to 43 per cent today. There is a very serious concern about the service charges which we have to bear on the unutilised loans. In 1993 loans worth Rs. 61,000 crore were utilised. I have got the Government reports obtained through questions. Then, in another year it was Rs. 65,000 crore. As per my reading, the total amount of unutilised loans goes beyond Rs. 83,000 crore as on today. It also

implies wastage of unproductive service charges too. I have got the reports of the Committee on Utilisation of External Assistance appointed by the same Ministry of Finance in 1963. They have also showed serious concern and they have passed on some directives to the Government that apart from whatever external aid they are getting, unless they have plans to utilise it, they should not ask for further assistance. These reports are there. This external aid was mainly meant for the speedy and meaningful utilisation.

Sir, I have two questions to ask. One is, whether the Government would think seriously in the direction of proper utilisation of the aid as per the recommendations made by them and secondly, whether a special thrust would be given to the agricultural sector which can fully utilise the aid given to it because the private sector does not seem ready to step into this area.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, according to whatever information I am having, the unutilised balance loan on Government and non-Government account excluding the former USSR's assistance, in March 1991, it was Rs. 35,442.12 crore, in March 1992, it had risen to Rs. 52,012.78 crore; in March 1993, it was Rs. 55,677.65 crore, in March 1994, it was Rs. 51,889.73 crore; and in March 1995, it is a provisional figure, it was about Rs. 47,448.62 crore. And I have got the figures pertaining the commitment charges paid from 1984-85 until 1993-94. In 1992-93, we have paid nearly about Rs. 68.37 crore as commitment charges and in 1993-94, we have paid.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, it is absolutely a deviated information that he is giving. I have got all the Government figures.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if it is possible, you can give the reply, otherwise you can reply later.

DR. K.D. JESWANI : Sir, he is totally ruining my question.

MR. SPEAKER : You will have a better chance later.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Whatever, information is available with me, I am giving it to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not this information which he wants to know. He wants to know as to what you are going to do to utilise the loan in a better fashion; the percentage of utilisation of the loan given to you should go up.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, the details of utilisation are being collected. Otherwise, we would have given it in the reply to the main question.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, you give me the notice. I will fix it up within two or three days' time. Mr. Minister, you collect the information by sending special messages to the State Government and then reply to it. I think there is no point in discussing this now.

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Sir, my question has not been replied to my name stands second in the question.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, you may ask later on.

[English]

Indo-Bhutan Trade Relations

722. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Indo-Bhutan trade relations;

(b) if so, the details of areas identified thereof;

(c) whether the Government have signed any new trade agreement with Bhutan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). There is traditional free trade and commerce between India and Bhutan, aimed at unhindered expansion of bilateral trade

(c) In order to provide further continuity to the Agreement on Trade and Commerce between India and Bhutan upon its expiry on 1 March 1995, the two Governments have signed its slightly modified version valid for a period of 10 years starting from 2 March 1995.

(d) As before, the Agreement provides for free trade and commerce between the two countries - barring certain restrictions such as for the protection of industries in Bhutan, or on entry of goods of third country origin; Bhutan's trade with third countries in transit through Indian territory; bilateral trade to be transacted in local currencies; annual refund in respect of excise duties on goods exported to each other; and mutual consultations.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Sir, India has a special relationship with Bhutan. They have always been very friendly with regard to cementing our trade relations. I wanted to inquire whether any collaboration in a joint venture has been sought with Bhutan in the North-East for making food products, cement manufacturing, timber products, garments and mineral exploration and for employment generation in education.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The hon. Member is asking about joint ventures in Bhutan.

MR. SPEAKER : It does not come out of that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It really does not come out of it. But let me just tell him that we have major projects with Bhutan which have been financed, the Chukha Hydel Project, Penden Cement Plant and some road construction and irrigation projects. If the hon. Member wants to know about any specific joint venture or any commodity, I would gather the information from either the Industry Ministry or from BoA and place the information in the House.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : The SAARC nations must show their strength and ability to take advantage of the existing global scenario wherein we find that the EEC countries and the two Germanys have combined, USSR disintegrated and scattered. I would like to know whether Government will pay particular attention to highlight some of the achievements on future planning internally in the atmosphere of global SAARC nations.

MR. SPEAKER : This does not come out of it.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the shape of agreement for lift irrigation programmes in both the countries. What is the inter-exchange of monetary assistance and the techniques which they have adopted in this agreement?

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to know the shape and colour of the agreement?

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : I want to know what is the type of monetary assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : What is meant by 'shape'? Please explain, so that it can be replied.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Has any lift irrigation scheme been taken up with Bhutan?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not lift irrigation. It is trade.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : The hon. Minister has said about this.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us understand that trade is something different from establishing factories. The question is disallowed.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : The hon. Minister has replied that there was slight modification in the agreement done with Bhutan. I would like to know what were those slight modifications.

Another query I would like to make is about the efforts made by the two Governments to avoid smuggling on the border.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The modifications were very slight and, in fact, were mainly verbal. For example, in the Preamble to the Agreement, we added the words "expansion of bilateral trade." In Article 6, we added "safeguarding national treasures". In Article 11, against the earlier period of five years, this Agreement is now in force for ten years.

In the protocol, we made a specific reference to the Bhutan Lottery tickets which are sold in India and then

in the List of Entry Points, we added a couple of Entry Points and in export procedure, in one sub-paragraph, we substituted 60 days for 90 days. It is a slight change, as I said. As far as smuggling is concerned, strictly speaking, there is no concept of smuggling between India and Bhutan because it is free trade. Anything can go from India to Bhutan and anything can come from Bhutan to India and it is all in Indian currency as well as Bhutanese currency. There is no smuggling between India and Bhutan.

You are talking about third country goods. There is no way. They can come into Bhutan and then into India. We are trying to be vigilant. Bhutan also has a certain amount of vigilance of the border to ensure that third country's goods do not come into India and then go into Bhutan. I do not think smuggling on this border is of that great significance. But I think Bhutan Government is quite conscious.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : We are getting a large quantity of electricity from Chukha.

Keeping in mind there is a large scope to set up new projects in Bhutan with Indo-Bhutan collaboration, whether the Government has any proposal to set up any new hydro-electric project and the like Chukha in Bhutan with the collaboration of Bhutan Government. Is there any new project?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, in obedience to your suggestion, I gave a short list of other projects. Really, the question concerns trade. But if he wishes to ask about any specific irrigation projects or water resources project, I would not be able to answer. But I am told that there are some more hydro projects coming up including expansion of the Chukha hydel project. Really, this question should be put to the Minister for Water Resources.

Coffee Board

723. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coffee Board has implemented a Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the number of employees who have opted for the scheme; and

(c) whether the scheme would adversely affect the normal functioning of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme being implemented by Coffee Board are as under :

1. The Scheme is restricted only to the employees working in the Directorate of

Marketing whose pay and allowances wholly or partially are met from out of the Pool Fund

2. The Scheme is applicable to all the Non-interchangeable staff of Directorate of Marketing.

3. Employees who have completed 10 years of service or 55 years of age are eligible to seek Voluntary Retirement.

4. Ex-gratia pay equivalent to three months (Pay + DA) for each completed year of service or monthly emoluments at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

5. A five year additional service weightage, as permissible in the case of Voluntary Retirement, is reckoned for the purpose of computation of benefits.

6. All other normal benefits like pension, gratuity, commutation etc. are also paid as per the prevailing rules.

1493 employees in the Directorate of Marketing have opted for Voluntary Retirement under this Scheme

(c) A reduction in manpower is envisaged only in the Directorate of Marketing commensurate with the reduction of marketing activity of the Coffee Board after liberalisation of the Coffee Marketing system. It is not proposed to reduce the staff who are involved in research, extension, development, projects etc. and as such the other activities of the Board will not be affected.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, I understand that a total number of about 3000 employees are working in the Coffee Board. As per the information given, 1493 employees have opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). That means, roughly about 50 per cent of the employees working in the Coffee Board have opted for the VRS. I also understand that most of the employees who have opted for the VRS are from Group 'D' category. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it will not affect the normal working of the Coffee Board like the propaganda activity. The statement says that a majority of the employees who have sought Voluntary Retirement are from the Directorate of Marketing. The propaganda activity of the Coffee Board also comes within the Directorate of Marketing. Under this propaganda activity, the Coffee Shops which are being run by the Coffee Board like the one which we have in the Central Hall, also in the South Block and Udyog Bhawan etc. are affected to a great extent. We find it very difficult to get good coffee after this VRS is being introduced. I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister. How would the Coffee Board ensure the continuity of the propaganda activity and make available good coffee for the consumers?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am grateful to the hon. Member for raising this issue. The VRS, which announced in early 1994, was only in respect of the Non-interchangeable staff of the Directorate of Marketing. That means that 1705 employees were eligible to avail of the benefit under the VRS. Out of the 1705, a large number of them have applied for the VRS. The total number of applications were 1493. But some of them were not eligible. A decision has been taken to accept the applications for the VRS in the case of 1318 people and 525 have been relieved in Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' put together. Now, it has been brought to my notice that as a result of this VRS, some categories of employees particularly in the Coffee Board's retail outlets including the one we have in the Parliament House may be affected. Many of them, who had opted for the VRS had volunteered for the Scheme. I have, therefore, issued instructions that they should go slow about relieving them until I have had an opportunity to review it. It has been brought to my notice by several Members. I will ensure that the sale of coffee in these outlets is not affected as a result of the VRS. I will ensure that not only good coffee is served but it is served in a proper manner.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : With reference to part (c) of my question, the answer given is that due to the liberalised marketing system, the working of the Coffee Board will not be affected on account of the VRS.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in India on an average we grow about 2.5 lakh tonnes of coffee per year and the internal consumption is about 60,000 tonnes. Almost two-thirds of the coffee produced will have to be sold in the international market. How would the hon. Minister ensure the sale of coffee in the international market under the liberalised marketing system, so that the growers will get a better price and also the consumers system, so that the growers will get a better price and also the consumers would get the coffee at a fair price?

I have in my mind specially the small growers whose number is very large. Out of a total of 1.3 lakh growers, we have almost 1.1 lakh small growers. So, how would the Government ensure better prices for the small growers under these liberalised marketing system?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, in response to repeated pleas made by the Coffee Industry as well as many hon. Members including the hon. Member who has put this question, we have completely liberalised the sale of coffee by the small growers. As far as people who hold 10 hectares or less are concerned, it is now one hundred per cent FSQ. In fact, the problem is not any more of not getting remunerative prices. The problem is the very high prices in export market is having its full effect on the domestic prices. In the last few days, of course, international market has started declining and the decline will be felt in the domestic market.

The hon. Member knows that I have reviewed the whole matter. I was in Bangalore. I made a comprehensive statement setting out our policy changes and the industry has welcomed it. I have appealed to the large growers to cooperate in pooling 30 per cent of the coffee. That is all that we require to be effective market interveners and I am confident, Sir, given a little time, the strategy that I have announced will bear fruits. The export prices are very high, very good; never before have coffee growers got these prices and the impact on the domestic prices will be felt once the international prices decline, which has its impact on domestic prices also. I am watching the prices every day. There is a decline over the last week and we expect a decline in the domestic prices also.

I think it is possible to reconcile the two objectives. One is our farmers and growers should get good prices in the export market. The other is sufficient quantity of coffee must be made available for the domestic requirement. It is available. But available is not the issue, the price is the issue and the selective intervention by the Coffee Board according to the new Policy changes which have been made, I think, will stabilise the coffee prices and will have a moderating influence on coffee prices this year. I am confident that this strategy will succeed. But I am keeping a close watch over the matter.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, the so-called Voluntary Retirement Scheme actually is not a Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The Coffee Board actually has forcibly retrenched them. In effect they will say that it is a voluntary retirement. I can cite their Circular, in that it is said;

"It may please be noted by all the staff and officers of the Directorate of Marketing working in the non interchangeable cadre that if they do not avail this opportunity, the Board may have to resort to redeployment of such of those staff through the Central Government (Surplus Staff Cell) or retrenchment as a last resort."

Another Circular which is sent recently says, that the staff will have to be either redeployed through the Central Government (Surplus Staff Cell) or retrenched in a chain. Now, after retrenching them and giving an amount of Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. two lakh is not of any use. How will they live? They have put in 15 or 20 years of service. But they are needed here. After utilising their services, they are deployed as workers on 'daily wages'.

What is the need for it? I do not know what has gone wrong with this Government as a result of this new Economic Policy. Actually what I feel is the human values are lost. What is the necessity of retrenching these people when coffee houses are there? Now they are being redeployed as daily-wage workers. What is the use of it when Coffee Board itself has got some plantations through which they get coffee? What is the necessity of it? Actually it is not voluntary retirement. You can ascertain this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a question.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : I approached the Minister and said that they should either be regularised here or let them be organised in cooperatives elsewhere wherever it is necessary. There is no place for their children to stay. I cannot speak like a professor ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mrs. Gopalan, if you make a long speech, you will get nothing out of it. Please crystallize your question.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : I can speak only as an ordinary person who is working among the people. I can understand their feelings.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good question. Crystallize it.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Formerly, some retrenchment was done but they were organised in cooperative...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying that if you do not come to the question, nothing will go on record henceforth and I will not allow you.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : I would like to know whether the Government will regularise them in these coffee houses, wherever it is possible. Otherwise, the Government should help them to get themselves organised in the cooperatives. There are certain areas...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I deeply appreciate the concern expressed by the the hon. Members. She met and she was kind enough to give me a representation. And I assured her that I would look into that. I have looked into the matter. That is why, in my answer to the first supplementary to the hon. Member I said, "I have issued instructions that no retail outlet shall be closed." In fact, no retail outlet is being closed.

As far as those who may have opted for the VRS in the retail outlets are concerned, it will be difficult for me to second guess their intentions. If they have opted for the VRS, I would have to accept that option. But I have asked the Coffee Board to go slow.

MR. SPEAKER : The Member says that it is not really a Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am coming to that. I have looked into the circular. In fact, the circular is an appeal to the workers, giving this Scheme...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me. The circular, in fact, says that this is an appeal to them - this Scheme for this Directorate of Marketing that if the jobs are not available to the non-interchangeable staff, as a last resort, they may be retrenched. But they have even offered that they will deploy them under the Central Staffing Scheme. There

are a large number of them who have not accepted the VRS. The figures show a large number of people have been given who have not opted for the VRS. If there is a hard case, if there is anyone who comes and says that he was misled or he felt that he had to opt for the VRS, I tell the hon. Member that I will look into the individual cases.

About the cases of people who are in the outlets, I have asked the Coffee Board to go slow in relieving them because we need to continue the outlets. If the outlets are being continued, if these people have to be continued, we will find a way to continue them. I have offered this to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the question is really very good. First of all, it is not a Voluntary Retirement Scheme if you say that they will be retrenched. And secondly, the lady Member was saying that some of them were in employment on daily-wages...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : I would like to know whether the same persons are working on daily-wage basis...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you may please look into it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If a person has opted for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and if he is being continued on daily-wages, I would need information as to who is being continued on daily-wages. I have asked for the information. I have also asked the Coffee Board to go slow in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : We can rely upon you. You can look into it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If anyone is continued after having opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme, I must know who that person is.

MR. SPEAKER : On daily-wages.
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I think, as a sample case, kindly investigate this in the Parliament Canteen itself...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please allow me to clarify. I have understood your question. Please allow me. No case of anyone who has accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, who has been relieved and who has been continuing, has been brought to my notice by any hon. Member so far. But I have asked the Coffee Board to give me the information about any such person who has been relieved and who has been redeployed.

MR. SPEAKER : The spirit of the question is completely different. Otherwise, something different will have

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The spirit of the question is that they are forced to retire and then they are employed on daily wages.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I would have to say on information received by me that nobody was forced to retire, nobody was forced to opt for voluntary retirement. If there is any case of a person ..(Interruptions) Please allow, Ram Vilas ji, if there is any person whose voluntary retirement is ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, after reading the circular, we do not come to the conclusion that there is no force applied to see that they are retired.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I would request you not...

MR. SPEAKER : No, this Parliament is exactly for this kind of things.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I would humbly submit that this circular was issued in August, 1994...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : In 1993 also.

MR. SPEAKER . You can look into it. If there is something wrong, you can correct it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This circular was issued in August, 1994. I have told the hon. Member and I am submitting to you and I am submitting to this House that if there is any case of a person who feels he was misled or persuaded ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are fully satisfied with that. You can look into it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will look into that case. But, no case has been brought to my notice...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE He has made a very dangerous statement.

MR. SPEAKER : What?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE . He says that he will enquire, if somebody who has accepted V.R.S. is still being engaged as a daily labourer (Interruptions) Now, they will dismiss this person...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Nobody will be dismissed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE . This enquiry will lead to that.

MR. SPEAKER : You are right. Nirmal Kantiji, you can put it in the form of Supplementary and get the answer. I am allowing your Supplementary and afterwards Mr. Nalk. Have you a Supplementary?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yes, will the hon. Minister assure that in respect of a person who is engaged as a daily labourer because of his enquiry he will not be retired once again or would he change his status? Which do you want to guarantee?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My statement, I thought, was as much as I can make today without knowing

what is the concrete case. But, let me assure for the sake of argument that there is a case of a person who was misled into offering for voluntary retirement and who is being continued on daily wages...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Make an enquiry.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have assured the hon. Member privately, and I am assuring this House that in such a case, nobody will be allowed to go out, he will be retained. I told you that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Nirmal Kantiji, he wants to be sympathetic - that is all - and correct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that such people who have been engaged on daily wages should not be retrenched. The hon. Minister has said that he will look into the matter. The hon. Minister should at least give this much assurance that in future if people are to be engaged on daily wages, preference will be given to the persons who have retired compulsorily.

HON. SPEAKER : No-not at all, this is a board's affair. Please do not ask all the ministries They also have some case...

.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : I am really glad to know that the Minister is sympathetic. But, there are complaints that some of those employees had been compelled to offer voluntary retirement. In view of this, I would like to know whether the Minister will also review the cases of those who had been retired voluntarily and whether it was a real voluntary retirement or there is any force. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If somebody brings it to my notice, I will look into it.

SHRI E. AHAMED : That is a general complaint, because...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : After this scheme was formulated and after many had to retire, now there is another off-shoot that many of the marketing depots are being closed. I do not know whether this has been brought to the notice of the Minister, but even in Delhi people who are purchasing coffee at a normal price are not in a position for such purchase because such depots are getting closed. I would like to ask the Minister whether this could be investigated and if some closure has been made on the basis of probably lack of workers or lack of staff, something would be done in this respect and whether the Minister will see that enough number of depots are opened for the people to get coffee at a normal consumer price.

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied to Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar's question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : About depots, he has not replied, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that he will see that Coffee is provided to the people.

Forward Contract Rule

724. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the R.B.I. has relaxed the Forward Contract Rule for exporters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely impacts on the exporters?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From December, 1994 the exporters as well as importers are allowed to take forward cover in the currency of their choice, irrespective of the currency of the exposure. The rationale behind the above change is to help them to manage their foreign exchange exposure more dynamically by taking a view on currency movements. This will facilitate the exporters to move into a currency expected to strengthen and importers to move into a weakening currency irrespective of the currency of invoicing thereby increasing their competitiveness.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in reply to my question that from December, 1994 the RBI has given its permission to exporters and importers to make advanced trade agreement in their currency of their choice, irrespective of the currency of the exposure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the impact of this permission on export and import and the extent to which Indian exporters and importers have utilised this facility in the international trade.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : With this change of rule, the exporters and importers are now allowed to take forward cover in the currency of their choice irrespective of the currency of the exposure. This will facilitate the exporters to move into a currency expected to strengthen and importers to move into a weakening currency irrespective of the currency of

invoicing thereby increasing their competitiveness. It will help exporters and importers to increase their earnings and reduce the cost.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the question is simple.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : The rule has been relaxed recently by the RBI and it is too early to assess the impact on the imports and exports.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has not given a proper reply about the impact.

MR. SPEAKER : This has begun just recently.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : I will like to urge upon the Hon. Minister that he should send a written reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Only few days have passed when it has started.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : This has started five to six months back.

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to next question

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker my second question that I want to know from what is the impact of Advanced trade agreement on Balance of Payment situation in the context of Indian foreign trade and what is the prospect thereof?

MR. SPEAKER : This too will have the same reply

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Sir, now it is going to be the sixth month.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Unless we know the impact of the relaxed rule, it is very difficult to assess things.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I do not want to embarrass the hon. Minister. Would he be able to state that this means free convertibility of currency but only in forward contracts? Is it a step towards free convertibility of all currencies in all forward trades?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : It is only for the exporters to have their choice of currency.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is only for them. It is only for forward contracts of exporters and importers. It is not just for all exporters and importers. That is what your reply is. It is free convertibility.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him fully formulate the question and then you can reply.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : My question is very simple. The hon. Commerce Minister may also

be of help. The statement that he has given is that you take forward cover in the currency of your choice. That means there is free convertibility as a forward cover. Therefore, the question is; is it only for forward cover or is the convertibility extended for all foreign exchange?

MR. SPEAKER : Now you sit down, please. He will reply.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY . I can tell the hon. Member that there is no link between this convertibility and the Forward Contract Rules.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am withdrawing my question.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY Sir, I have already said that there is no link between the Forward Contract Rules and the convertibility of foreign exchange.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 725, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta - absent.

Question No. 726, Shri Harin Pathak - absent,
Shri S.M. Laljan Basha - absent

Question No. 727, Shri N.J. Rathva - not present

Question No. 728, Dr. Vasant Pawar - not present.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it is all right if one or two members are absent but .

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some comment or some observation from you would help very much. Otherwise, so much money which is being spent on this information will go waste.

MR. SPEAKER : You have said enough. I need not comment.

Question No. 729, Shri Lali Babu Rai

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has stated in reply to my question that the Income Tax Department had demanded Rupees Eight and half thousand crore out of which only Rs. thirteen crore have been recovered. Such a big scam has taken place, which has never happened in the history of the world. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that what are the reasons that only Rs. 13 crore have been recovered out of Rs. Eight and half thousand crores to be recovered by the Income Tax Department.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, the persons and the companies found involved in this scam are very large, which include brokers, companies, banks employees of banks and employees of brokers. We have two categories; one is notified persons and the other is non-notified persons. The notified persons are those who have been identified or notified by the custodians appointed by the Special Court. The Special Court custodian has identified 41 persons as notified persons. All the properties - movable and immovable - of these persons stand attached. The total demand raised in respect of these notified persons is about Rs. 8468.27 crore. Against this, only Rs. 13.07 crore has been recovered. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Special Court has refused to release the moneys to meet the income-tax dues in the case of Harshad Mehta, Deepika A. Mehta, Sudhir Mehta, Messrs Growmore group and other companies, because the Special Court has to look into the justifiability and the reasonableness of the claims made by the the Income-tax Department. I would also like to inform that this Department has filed two civil appeals before the Supreme Court on 17.4.1995 and on 30.4.1995 respectively. They are before the Supreme Court. This is the main reason for the non-recovery of the arrears

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI Mr Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is that what action have been taken against the person involved in the scam? Apart from this what action is proposed to be taken by the Government for non-recovery of the amount of income tax?

[Translation]

Recovery of Income-Tax from Accused of Securities Scam

+

*729. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the details of those persons, firms and companies found involved in the securities scam against whom action for recovery of income-tax has been initiated by the Income-tax Department; and

(b) the total tax demand raised and the amount recovered so far from each of the accused?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The details of notified persons alongwith the total tax demand raised and the amount recovered are contained in Annexure 'A'.

ANNEXURE - A

S. No.	Name	Status	Asst. Yr.	Demand	Recovery (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
HSM GROUP					
1.	Harshad S. Mehta	Indl	88-89	275.09	
			89-90	1110.64	
			90-91	15126.57	
			91-92	89774.56	
			92-93	258506.42	
			Sub total	364793.28	0.00
2.	Sudhir S. Mehta	Indl	87-88	4.34	
			88-89	4.85	
			89-90	7.30	
			90-91	36.36	
			91-92	1135.21	
			92-93	6965.13	
			Sub total	8153.19	0.00
3.	Ashwin S. Mehta	Indl	87-88	2.45	1 15
			88-89	0 60	0 02
			89-90	2.97	
			90-91	14 81	6.04
			91-92	3842 65	
			92-93	56953.42	
			Sub total	60816.90	7.21
4	Hitesh S. Mehta	Indl	87-88	0 21	0.09
			88-89	0 37	
			89-90	0 75	
			90-91	13.85	
			91-92	600.12	2.38
			92-93	2512.13	
			Sub total	3127.43	2.47
5	Ms. Pratima H. Mehta	Indl	88-89	0.33	
			89-90	5.57	
			90-91	6.51	1.66
			91-92	703.30	
			92-93	4583.62	
			Sub total	5299.33	1 66
6	Ms. Deepika A. Mehta	Indl.	87-88	2.37	
			88-89	13.31	
			89-90	30.57	
			90-91	39.64	
			91-92	754.40	
			92-93	3429.67	
			Sub total	4259.96	0.00
7.	Ms. Jyoti H. Mehta	Indl	88-89	14.72	2.86
			89-90	6.03	
			90-91	11.87	4.07
			91-92	502.27	
			92-93	51978.78	
			Sub total	52513.67	6.93

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Harshad S. Mehta HUF	HUF	90-91	0.25	
			91-92	0.60	
			92-93	-0.02	
			Sub total	0.83	0.00
9.	Ashwin S. Mehta HUF	HUF	90-91	0.27	
			91-92	0.83	
			92-93	0.00	
			Sub total	1.10	0.00
10.	Hitesh S. Mehta HUF	HUF	90-91	0.38	
			91-92	0.87	
			92-93	0.00	
			Sub total	1.25	0.00
11	Growmore Research and Asset Management Ltd.	Co	89-90	27.56	
			90-91	262.84	
			91-92	7650.15	
			92-93	21139.75	
			Sub total	29080.30	0.00
12.	Growmore Leasing and Investment Pvt. Ltd.	Co.	90-91	286.90	
			91-92	3315.21	
			92-93	8473.01	
			Sub total	12075.12	0.00
13	Growmore Exports P. Ltd.	Co.	90-91	1.00	
			91-92	34.51	
			92-93	914.59	
			Sub total	950.10	0.00
14.	Aatur Holdings P. Ltd.	Co.	89-90	0.50	
			90-91	1.00	
			91-92	66.21	
			92-93	186.29	
			Sub total	254.00	0.00
15.	Orion Travels P. Ltd.	Co.	90-91	5.12	0.25
			91-92	77.01	
			92-93	205.01	
			Sub total	287.14	0.25
16.	Harsh Estates P. Ltd.	Co.	89-90	0.50	
			90-91	1.00	
			91-92	9.64	
			92-93	159.31	
			Sub total	170.45	0.00
17.	Cascade Holdings Pvt. Ltd.	Co.	91-92	155.68	
			92-93	15301.85	
			Sub total	15457.53	0.00
18.	Fortune Holdings P. Ltd.	Co.	91-92	196.56	
			92-93	339.41	
			Sub total	535.97	0.00
19.	Sunrise Enterprises	RF	92-93	4.88	
			93-94	6.59	
			Sub total	11.27	0.00
			Group Total	557798.81	18.52

1	2	3	4	5	6
BHUPEN DALAL GROUP					
1.	Bhupen C. Dalal	Indl.	88-89	168.74	
			89-90	1558.66	
			90-91	8897.85	58.38
	Bhupen C. Dalal		91-92	10621.42	
			92-93	51802.30	
			Sub total	73046.97	58.38
2.	Hiten P. Dalal	Indl.	88-89	2.79	
			89-90	2531.64	
			90-91	3307.99	
			91-92	39445.04	
			92-93	82019.34	
			Sub total	127306.80	0.00
3.	J.P. Gandhi	Indl.	88-89	48.74	
			89-90	1233.08	
			90-91	2429.47	
			91-92	3338.22	
			92-93	1323.62	
			Sub total	8373.13	0.00
4.	Abhay D. Narottam	Indl.	88-89	203.23	
			89-90	143.28	
			90-91	2156.39	
			91-92	16071.90	
			92-93	29901.52	
			Sub total	48476.32	0.00
5.	T.B. Rula	Indl.	88-89	2.52	
			89-90	7.84	
			90-91	1.19	
			91-92	0.96	
			92-93	2.70	
			Sub total	15.21	0.00
6.	Dhanraj Mills P. Ltd.	Co	87-88	578.99	
			88-89	50.54	
			89-90	2808.19	
			90-91	523.72	
			91-92	18310.97	
			92-93	3108.15	
	Dhanraj Mills P. Ltd		93-94	536.59	
			Sub total	25917.15	0.00
			Group Total	283135.58	58.38
OTHERS					
1.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.		91-92	313.25	
			92-93	5552.65	1228.73
			Sub total	5865.90	1228.73
2.	R. Ganesh	Indl.	91-92	0.60	
			92-93	0.51	0.44
			Sub total	1.11	0.44
3.	C.L. Khemani	Indl.	92-93	0.98	0.98
4.	A.N. Bavadekar	Indl.	92-93	5.66	
5.	R. Sitaraman	Indl.	92-93	19.14	
			Group Total	5892.79	1230.15
			Grand Total	846927.18	1307.05

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, we have taken all possible action to collect the money. We have filed appeals before the Supreme Court. We have also filed one Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court. We have filed 43 prosecution complaints against the notified persons. Unless the Special Court clears the matter, it is very difficult because in most of the cases, they held that the priorities will be given only to tax dues and not to the interest or to the penalty of the concerned person. That is why we have taken up the case with the Supreme Court and nearly about 226 appeals are pending especially in the case of two major groups, that is, Harshad Mehta group and Bupen Dalal group regarding income tax and wealth tax.

[Translation]

SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the cases are pending in the court of law. I would like to know as to whether the Government has moved the court to get the permission for recovery immediately?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER . The courts have not permitted. Have you moved the courts to get the permission?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY . That is why, we went in appeal before the Supreme Court against them.

MR. SPEAKER : To get the expeditious decision from the court?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY Yes, we have done this because if the vacation is there, it is very difficult.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : It has been stated in the reply that the total outstanding amount of income tax was Rs. 8468 and out of that only Rs. 13 crore have been recovered. My question is when Rupees 8468 crore were outstanding then now the Government must have come to know that how many thousand crores are involved in the scam; if so, then what steps are being taken by the Government to expedite the recovery of its, then what the Government is doing to recover the amount because so far attempts have been made to recover Rs. 13 crore only.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, the total demand raised in respect of 41 notified persons is Rs. 8468.27 crore. We have taken action against the bank and we have also recovered some amount. We have taken action against those persons who are not notified also and we have recovered some amount...

(Interruptions) But these are pending in appeals before the CIT, Bombay and some appeals are pending before the Supreme Court.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, that was not my question. I wanted to know whether the Government has arrived at the total amount involved in the scam.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : The main question is related to the recovery of income tax from the persons involved in the scam.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : According to the Minister's reply, the amount involved in cases which are pending before the Supreme Court is to the tune of Rs. 5577 crore whereas the total amount that is to be recovered is Rs. 8468 crore. That leaves a balance of Rs. 3000 crore which is to be recovered by the Government. What steps have the Government taken in those cases? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : I have already told that about 226 appeals are pending before the CIT, Bombay.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hon. Minister has said that in cases where the interest which has accrued and the penalties which have also become due, the courts are reluctant to pass orders in favour of recovery of these two items.

The principal item which is there before the courts is compounded by this interest and special penalty. The courts, according to him, are not favourably inclined to it up to now. But they have not rejected it also. There is a column given here about the assessment years to which these figures apply. We find that in many cases, the assessment years are 1988-89, 1987-88 and so on. So many years have passed. This is a very sad commentary not only on the legal processes in our system but the way that the Government is conducting these cases. There is apparently an apprehension whatsoever on the basis of these people who have managed to take away all this public money from the banks. There is no apprehension at all in their minds that they would ever be forced to give this money, I want to know whether the properties of those people have been seized or confiscated or acquired and whether it has been calculated as to how much they can get out of those properties, even if they leave out penalties and interest dues, which are due to the Government or to the Income Tax Department. Nothing is to be recovered - What is the meaning of this?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, in respect of notified persons, both movable and immovable properties have been seized and they are with the custodian. Unless the special court clears, it is very difficult to do it. About many of the decisions, I have already replied. In respect of major groups like Harshad Mehtas, they have not been convinced that there is justification for the demands by the Income Tax

Department and on this, we went on appeal before the Supreme Court; we are making all efforts to recover the income tax arrears.

SHRI A. CHARLES : In the main reply, the assessment years are given from 1988-89 and the total is given for every group. Now, let us see the assessment year 1992-93. May I know from the hon. Minister the specific reasons as to why, even for earlier cases of 1988-89 and 1989-90, etc., separate action cannot be taken for this recovery? Why all these are grouped together and action is taken together?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : We have already clubbed these groups and we are taking action, as I have already explained.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Rs. ten thousand or five thousand is outstanding against any farmer he is put behind the bars and his property is attached whereas they have made a bungling of Rs. eight and half thousand crore I would like to know as to whether the Government will bring any such motion on the floor of the House whereby legal complexity could be resolved and the Government could be able to recover taxes from these people who have done such a big scam.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, as already mentioned, the issue is before the special court for this purpose... (Interruptions)... At present, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We are also saying that the legal complexity should not be there. Whether the Government is considering it? You may understand it either in Hindi or its translation. My simple question is whether the Government is incapable because of Court only. Whether the Government is considering to bring a legislation whereby appropriate action could be taken against defaulters and the legal complexity could be also resolved.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Sir, at present, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after Independence

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday also this had happened, today also this is happening. It will take a lot of time.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : It is a very important question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come directly to the question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : There who indulge in corruptions resort to the filing of cases in the court of law. So many scandals have taken place from Mundra case to share scam. We are sitting in the biggest Panchayat of the country. Whether hon. Minister will bring such a legislation in the House which could punish the culprits.

MR. SPEAKER : He has also asked the same.

[English]

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Performance of ITDC Hotels

*725. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the net profit earned by India Tourism Development Corporation during the last financial year and the contribution of hotels in profit earning;

(b) whether the performance of hotels in terms of profit is upto the mark; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of hotel industry under ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). During 1994-95, ITDC earned provisional net profit (before tax) of Rs. 42.25 crores. Hotel Division's contribution therein was Rs. 20.21 crores, which represents 48% of the total profit. The Hotel Division's profit of Rs. 20.21 crores (provisional) is 143.8% higher than last year's profit of Rs. 8.29 crores.

(c) Improvement in performance is a continuous process. The steps being taken in this direction include signing of MOU with Government, aggressive marketing, upgradation/improvement/restructuring of hotels, control of operating costs, development of human resource by imparting training etc.

Traffic Rights

*726. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK :**
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

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

(a) the destinations for which Air India has the traffic rights but does not operate flights; and

(b) the steps being taken to operate Air flights to these destinations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Flights to new destinations would depend on traffic demand and availability of aircraft capacity.

STATEMENT

Countries to which Indian Carriers have Effective Traffic Rights but do not Operate

1. Austria
2. Bhutan
3. Bulgaria
4. Burma (Myanmar)
5. Brunei
6. Czechoslovakia
7. Egypt
8. Ethiopia
9. Fiji
10. Finland
11. Ghana
12. Hungary
13. Iran
14. Iraq
15. Israel
16. Jordan
17. Kazakhstan
18. Labanon
19. Lesotho
20. Netherland
21. Nigeria
22. Poland
23. Romania
24. Seychelles
25. South Korea
26. Spain
27. Syria
28. Tajikistan
29. Turkey
30. Turkmenistan
31. Ukrain
32. Uzbekistan
33. Yemen
34. Yugoslavia
35. Zambia
36. Zimbabwe

(Operation of Air India to Mauritius is under a Joint Venture Agreement with Air Mauritius).

Export of Finished Products

*727 SHRI N J RATHVA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the export of finished products to Western countries;

(b) if so, the details of the items being exported at present to these countries;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of finished products to Western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Exports including exports of manufactured products to Western Countries comprising Western Europe and North America during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 (April - January) and comparable period in 1993-94 are as under :

US \$ Million					
1992-93	1993-94	% Incr- ease	1993-94 (Apr.- Jan.)	1994-95* (Apr.- Jan.)	% Increase
9568	10649	11.3	8501	10276	20.9

* : Provisional

Principal manufactured commodities exported comprise leather manufactures, gems and jewellery, sports goods, chemical and allied products, engineering goods, electronic goods, project goods, textiles, handicrafts and carpets. Data on country-wise exports of these products is voluminous. However, this data is published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta in their monthly publication entitled "Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries)". The publication is made available to the Lok Sabha Library.

It is Government's endeavour to promote exports of all items including finished products to all countries including Western Countries. With this aim in view, measure like holding Joint Commission meetings, exchange of trade and industry delegations, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars, training programme and Buyers-Sellers meet are taken.

Production of Cotton

*728. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total raw cotton produced in the country during past two years;

(b) whether there was a fall in cotton production in the country during the last year;

(c) If so, whether there are plans to import raw cotton to meet the domestic demand, and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The total raw cotton produced in the country during the past two cotton years is as under :

Cotton Season	Qty. in lakh bales (170 kgs)
1992-93	135
1993-94 (CAB estimates)	121 50

(b) there was a fall in production during 1993-94 as compared to the year 1992-93.

(c) and (d). Import of cotton was allowed under OGL, by the user mills since April, 1994 as one of the measures to meet the domestic demand

[Translation]

Closure of Textile Mills

*730. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills closed during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for closure of each of these mills and the number of workers rendered unemployed due to closure,

(c) the loss of revenue suffered by the various State Governments as a result thereof, State-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for rehabilitating the workers rendered unemployed due to closure?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) and (b) 35 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were temporarily closed during last three years mainly because of financial difficulties, labour problems, lockouts, disconnection of power supply etc 4 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were closed under Official Liquidation and no mill was closed under I.D Act during the last three years (1 4 92 to 31.3.95). A statement indicating number of closed mills, State-wise, reasons for closure and workers affected is attached

(c) The various levies imposed by State Government i.e. sales tax, octroi, mandi tax, turn-over tax etc differ from State to State and also from item to item. Therefore, the figure of loss of revenue suffered by various State Governments as a result of closure of textile mills is not maintained

(d) Government has established a Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered unemployed due to permanent/partial closure of a mill.

STATEMENT

Statement Showing State-wise number of Closed Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textiles Mills, the Reasons for Closure and the Affected Workers during the last three years.

S.No.	Name of the mill	Date of closure	Workers on roll	Reasons for closure
1	2	3	4	5
ANDHRA PRADESH				
1	Sathavahana Cotton Growers Co-op. Spg. Mills Ltd.	18.10.94	719	Mill has been sealed by High Court.
2	Annavaram Spg. Mills Ltd	10.7.93	116	Power supply.
GUJARAT :				
3.	Shri Arbuda Mills Ltd.	14.11.94	2178	Financial.
4.	New Rajpur Mills Co. Ltd.	4.3.94	1106	Financial. (Official Liquidator)
5	Rustom Mills and Industries Ltd.	26.6.93	1397	-do-
6.	Y.S. Synthetics Projects Ltd.	24.10.94	1000	—
7	Rajprakash Spg Mills Ltd.	17.12.93	390	—
8	Suketu Textiles.	1.1.94	84	Labour Problems.
9	Navsari Cotton and Silk Mills Ltd	8.7.94	1552	Financial.

1	2	3	4	5
HARYANA :				
10.	Shree Saraswati Spg Mills	18.4.93	30	Financial.
KARNATAKA :				
11	Bagalkot Co-op. Spg. Mills Ltd.	15.3.93	356	Workers strike.
12.	Nandi Hasbi Textiles Mills Ltd.	30 10.94	562	Power Supply
13.	Binny and Co. Ltd.	6.11.93	3114	—
KERALA :				
14	Madura Coats Ltd., Trichur.	14.2.93	2178	Lock out.
MADHYA PRADESH :				
15.	Nimar Textiles Ltd	1 4 94	550	—
16	Jiyajeerao Cotton Mills Ltd	28.4.92	6746	Power Supply.
MAHARASHTRA :				
17	The Nanded Utpadak Sah Soot Girni Ltd.	1 6.92	459	Financial.
18.	Shrimpur Tal Kapus Utadak Sahoot Girni Maryadit	1.10 94	735	Official Liquidation
19.	Jalgaon Kapas Utpadak Sah Girni Ltd	21.7.92	391	Financial.
20	Nasik Dist. Co-op. Spg. Mills.	1.11.94	1039	Official Liquidation
21.	Raja Bahadue Motilal Poona Mills Ltd.	1.3.94	1113	Financial
ORISSA :				
22.	Lingaraj Textiles Pvt. Ltd.	1.10 93	N A.	—
TAMIL NADU :				
23.	Sivananda Mills Ltd.	18.12.93	510	Go-slow work by workers
24.	Chandra Textile Ltd.	14.1.95	410	High cost of raw material
25.	Shri Geetha Laxmi Textiles.	1.9.93	75	Management Dispute
26	Shri Algulakshmi Mills (P) Ltd.	1.6.94	88	Financial.
27	Kaleshwarar Mills, Unit No.1.	2.9 92	1028	Workers strike
28.	Sri Seetha Venketesa Mills.	22.8.93	328	Financial.
29	Palani Sri Murugan Textiles.	1.7.92	135	Financial.
30.	Aruppukottal Sri Vijaylakshmi Textile Mills Ltd. (A unit)	30.3 94	N.A.	-do-
31.	Sri Senthuram Spg. Mills.	20.3.94	33	Closed by TIIC for recovery of arrears.
32.	Shri Basaveswar Mills.	1 7.93	74	—
33.	Sree Yogalakshmi Mills (P) Ltd.	17.1.95	135	Financial.
34.	Devi Spg. Mills Ltd.	1.11.94	35	Dispute between Directors.
35	Madaleyandan Spg. Mills (P) Ltd	15.11.93	130	Financial.
36.	Mettur Textile Industries Ltd.	2.7.92	2852	Workers strike.
UTTAR PRADESH :				
37.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills.	17.5.92	1029	Workers Dispute.
38.	Modi Spg. and Wvg. Mills Co. Ltd	8.4.94	1404	Financial.
39.	Sant Kabir Sah Mills Ltd.	29.9.94	1200	-do-

[English]

Trade Agreement with China

*731. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chinese delegations, including the one that visited along with the Chinese Defence Minister, which visited India recently have laid stress on steps to improve Sino-Indian Cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology and manpower development including formation of a trade bloc between both these countries;

(b) if so, the details of the issue discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any trade agreement/joint-venture has been signed by both these countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps by the Government to boost exports to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. However there was no discussion on formation of a bilateral trade bloc.

(b) In the last 6 months two delegations from China have visited India. In the coal sector, the two sides reviewed their bilateral cooperation, constituted an experts Task Force, and identified a number of areas like new projects for construction, briquetting of Indian coal with Chinese technology, and development of green field project by Coal India, etc. The other delegation was in the sector of iron and steel, during whose visit arrangements were concluded for long term supply of iron-ore fines by MMTC.

(c) and (d). The Trade Agreement between India and China was signed on 15th August 1984. Its salient features are promotion of bilateral trade relations, mutual Most-Favoured-Nation treatment, transactions to be in freely convertible currencies, facilitating mutual participation in trade fairs and other similar events, identification of items of mutual trade interest, and regular mutual consultations.

Indian companies are setting up 3 joint ventures in China in the field of pharmaceuticals, automotive 2-wheelers, and refractories. Over 29 technical/financial Chinese collaboration proposals have been approved since 1988 in the fields of engineering, iron and steel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fishing and aquaculture, coal, etc.

(e) The steps taken to boost exports to China include, mutual identification of items of India's export interest whose import the Chinese side would facilitate, promotion of exchange of delegations and business

visits, extension of the border trade, fostering and expansion of economic cooperation especially in setting up joint ventures, and regular consultations in different fora, including a Joint Business Council as a business sector initiative.

Closure of Certain Companies by BIFR

*732. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the updated number and names of the companies considered by the BIFR for final closure both in the public and private sectors;

(b) the present status of each of the companies;

(c) whether the BIFR has sent those cases to respective High Courts for further action;

(d) whether the Government propose to safeguard the public sector units in the larger interest of the State by arranging funds for their proper modernisation, rehabilitation and future progress; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 30.04.1995, it had recommended under Section (20 (1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 195 (SICA), winding up of 377 sick industrial companies including 11 public sector undertakings (PSUs) to the concerned High Courts. Of these, the assets of two private sector companies were sold and the sale proceeds forwarded to the concerned High Court. The remaining cases are before different High Courts for further action under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. The time and labour involved in preparing the list of names of these 377 companies may not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(d) and (e). The PSUs were brought under the purview of SICA in December 1991 whereby it is mandatory for sick PSUs to make a reference to BIFR under section 15 (1) of SICA. The references received are dealt with by the BIFR under the provisions of the said Act. The BIFR formulates a revival scheme incorporating reliefs/concessions/sacrifices, provision of additional funds, etc. by the administrative ministry or the State Government, banks/financial institutions, workers etc., wherever feasible and sanctions a revival scheme under SICA with the consent of all concerned. The sanctioned scheme takes into account modernisation, rehabilitation and long term viability of the concerned PSU.

Export of Tea and Agro Products to Russia

*733. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have reached an agreement to step up exports of tea and other agricultural products to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the breaking of the erstwhile Soviet Union was a major setback for Indian tea exports;

(d) if so, to what extent the new agreement has helped in export of tea and agricultural products to that country; and

(e) the total quantity of tea and agricultural products that will be exported to Russia during 1995?

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

(b) An agreement on long term purchases of certain commodities from the Debt Repayment Fund was signed on December 23, 1994 during the visit of Russian Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Chernomyrdin. According to the agreement, the Russian side is to take necessary measures for effecting annual purchases of the following commodities including pharmaceuticals, as per approximate volumes/values shown below for 1995-97:

1.	Tobacco	20000 MTs.
2.	Tea	30000 MTs.
3.	Soyabean meal	100000 MTs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Russian Government have since made allocations of funds to various Russian organisations for the above commodities to be imported against the Debt Repayment Account during 1995. Once the concerned organisations enter into purchase contracts, the export of these commodities should be facilitated.

(e) As envisaged in the aforesaid agreement, tea and other commodities as shown below are expected to be exported to Russia during 1995 :

1.	Tobacco	20000 MTs.
2.	Tea	30000 MTs.
3.	Soyabean meal	100000 MTs.

ESI Exemption

*734. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facilities provided by the ESI hospitals and dispensaries to the employees covered by the ESI Scheme are not upto the mark;

(b) if so, whether some trade unions have requested the Government for exempting them from the ESI Scheme;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). The facilities provided in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries are generally satisfactory. However, there have been sporadic complaints about improper medical care, shortage of drugs, medicines, equipment, medical and para-medical staff in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries. Except in Delhi and Noida, the responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments. Therefore, such complaints, as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking suitable remedial action.

2. Representations received for exemption from ESI Scheme are considered on merits as per the provision of the ESI Act, 1948 and exemptions are granted in favour of establishments where employees are in receipt of benefits substantially similar or superior to those provided under the ESI Scheme. Representations of some employees' Unions operating particularly in Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Hindustan Insecticides Ltd, Hindustan Organics Chemical Ltd., Indian Telephone Industries, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd (Kerala) and Super Bazar, (Delhi) are under consideration of the Government.

3. Under the ESI Act, State Governments are also empowered to grant exemption. So details of the requests received by the State Governments in this regard are not maintained.

Steps to improve Conditions of Airports

*735. PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the condition of the airports in the country by expanding them and improving landing facilities;

(b) if so, whether the airports in Himachal Pradesh i.e. Bhuntar (Kullu), Shimla, Gaggal (Kangra) are also to be improved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). Upgradation of airports is a continuing process and is taken up in phased manner depending upon projected requirements and availability of resources.

Airports Authority of India has plans to undertake following works at Bhuntar (Kullu), Shimla and Gaggal (Kangra) in Himachal Pradesh :

BHUNTAR (KULLU)

- (i) Resurfacing of runway
- (ii) Construction of new Apron and Taxiway

SHIMLA

- (i) Extension of runway from 3800 ft to 4100 ft with over-run area of 200 ft
- (ii) Drainage and afforestation to check land slide.

GAGGAL (KANGRA)

- (i) Extension of runway from 3900 ft. to 4500 ft subject to availability of land and road diversion.
- (ii) Construction of New Terminal Building
- (iii) Construction of New Apron and Taxiway and provision of drainage system

Coffee Board

*736 SHRI LAETA UMBREY . Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Coffee Board propose to play a direct market intervention role;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the market intervention by the Coffee Board is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b). In order to facilitate domestic availability of coffee in the country at reasonable prices it has been decided by Government that the Coffee Board should use pooled and purchased coffee for selective market intervention through its outlets

(c) The Coffee Board has already commenced market intervention by marketing a blend of coffee seeds at Rs. 120 /- per kg through its outlets from 1st may, 1995.

ILO Report

*737. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

- (a) whether the ILO World Labour report for 1995 has been made public;
- (b) the main observations made in the report about India;
- (c) whether the Government have examined the report,
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (e) whether over 70,000 workers in India have opted

for voluntary retirement schemes while a similar number of workers are in the process of taking voluntary retirement, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA). (a) to (f). In the World Labour Report 1995, recently released by the ILO, inter alia, the following observations about India have been made :

- (1) As a consequence of a decline in the effectiveness of tripartite arrangements since the 1970s, bipartite consultations between the Government and the Trade Unions have become an important mechanism for dealing with the problem of job security in declining industries.
- (2) Although the formal tripartite consultation machinery in India involving the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee, seems to have largely fallen into disuse, tripartite negotiations on issues related to particular industries still appear to be held periodically.
- (3) The effective operation of the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee has always been hampered by lack of agreement on workers' representation in these bodies, because of the multiplicity of trade unions and inter-union rivalries.

Tripartism in industrial relations still continues to be the most accepted form of industrial dispute resolution in the country. There are several tripartite Industrial Committees and one Special Tripartite Committee at the National level which meet periodically to deal with labour related matters. Consultations at the Government level are, in any case, not in the place of tripartite consultations at the industrial enterprise level, but in addition to them Government level consultations with the Unions are also conducted only tripartitely and not on bipartite basis. The Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee continue to be quite important and effective tripartite machinery at the apex level to advise the Government on labour related issues. These apex bodies are constituted on the basis of an established and accepted procedure giving representation based on verified and notified strength of the trade unions. Therefore, the observations made in the World Labour Report do not accurately reflect the actual position obtaining in India.

The World Labour Report 1995 does not refer to the implementation of voluntary retirement scheme in India. Since 1992-93 about 76,000 workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings have availed benefits of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme funded from the National Renewal Fund. Details of workers who are in the process of availing the benefits of the scheme are not maintained.

World Bank Loan

*738. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has further cleared the proposals seeking loans and assistance required for various projects recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the World Bank has advised the manner in which the loans are to be utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Loan/Credit agreements have been signed with World Bank for (i) Agriculture Human Resources Development Project for US \$ 59.5 million (ii) Financial Sector Development loan for US \$ 700 million and (ii) Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project for US\$ 580 million since January, 1995.

(c) and (d). The proposals for assistance are negotiated on mutually agreeable terms and conditions, specific to individual Project proposals and utilisation of these amounts depend upon the project cycle implementation schedule, which is normally 5 to 7 years

[Translation]

Modernisation of NTC

*739. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :
DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to NTC modernisation plan;

(b) if so, the details of modernisation works likely to be undertaken under the plan; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). Government have approved a revised Turn Around Plan for the modernisation of the NTC mills involving modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills, 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 plan has to be put up before the BIFR for its concurrence before implementation. The details of the plan will be laid on the Table of the House soon.

Ban on Import of Indian Drugs by Foreign Countries

*740. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some countries have imposed ban on import of Indian drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of such drugs;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the drug manufacturers as a result thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

In January 1994, UAE authorities invoked certain registration criteria for import of drugs, which threatened the export of Indian drugs to that country on account of Indian exporters finding it difficult to meet the new criteria. This was brought to the notice of the UAE Government at a high level, and followed up actively. Consequently, a mutual understanding was evolved on short-term and long-term measures aimed at ensuring and facilitating continued export of Indian drugs to the UAE.

[English]

Shares of S.B.I.

7289. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government and or the State Bank of India had ordered an inquiry into the complaints made by investors with regard to Rs. 2,500 crore shares and bonds issue of SBI;

(b) whether the inquiry has since been completed, and

(c) if so, the points of enquiry and the findings thereof together with the action taken thereon?

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

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

Car Laden Ship

7290. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGMAN THORAT
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether of the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "A fire signed, Car-

laden ship in the dock" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated March 10, 1995;

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

(c) the action taken by the customs authorities for clearance of the consignment of 3100 cars from abroad?

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

(a) and (b). Government are aware of the news-item referred to in the Question. A ship called 'Magnolia Ace' carryign a cargo of approximately 3900 motor vehicles while on voyage from Japan to Europe caught fire off the coast of Sri Lanka and was brought to Alang Ship breaking yard, Bhavnagar. Since importation of motor vehicles and parts thereof without a proper import licence is an offence under the Customs Act, 1962, the ship alongwith its cargo was seized on 14.3.95. Further investigation in the case are under progress.

(c) Since the vessel and cars have been seized by the Department for violation of provisions of Customs Act, 1962 the question of clearance of the cargo does not arise.

Financial/Technical Collaboration

7291. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Reserve Bank of India for financial/technical collaborations during 1994-95;

(b) the details of the proposals cleared during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Details of the number of Financial/Technical Collaboration proposals recieved and approved by Reserve Bank of India during the period 1994-95 are as under :

Technical	Financial	Total	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment. (Rs in crores)
577	211	788	584.63

Expenditure on Management of Banks

7292. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI or the Government have fixed any norms for the expenditure by banks on establishment, management and administration as a proportion of its equity or working capital, or the deposits business turnover;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the performance of the public sector banks during the last three years, specially of those which have reported losses, been examined from this angle; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Although no specific study has been made by Government of India on the performance of the public sector banks with reference to expenditure by banks on establishment, management and administration, Reserve Bank of India have reported that in connection with the release of additional capital contribution to the nationalised banks by Government of India, the concerned loss making banks have signed documents containing performance obligations and commitments to the following effect :

(i) No recruitment of staff excepting in specialist category;

(ii) No capital expenditure shall be incurred without prior approval of RBI;

(iii) No branches to be opened;

(iv) Banks would identify chronic loss making branches for closure/merger; and

(v) The staff working in the branches which are closed/merged or proposed to be closed/merged will be gainfully redeployed elsewhere.

Rubber Plantation

7293. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that North Eastern States are the most suitable for rubber plantation;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the development of rubber plantation in the region; and

(c) the time by which the self-sufficiency in rubber production is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Some areas suitable for commercial plantation of rubber in North-East have been identified by the Rubber Board.

(b) In order to promote rubber plantation in the North-Eastern region, Government had approved in 1984 a scheme for accelerated development of rubber plantation for North-East. The area under rubber in this region was 9,250 hec. in 1984-85 which has expanded to 35,000 hec. now. Rubber Board has reoriented some

of its schemes to suit to the special needs of the North-East and also has introduced special schemes for resettlement of shifting cultivators. In the year 1993-94, a World Bank assisted Rubber Project has also been taken up in this region to develop 6,000 hecs. of additional area for plantation under rubber and 13,050 hecs. for replantation by 1997-98.

(c) The Rubber Board has been adopting various strategies to augment domestic production with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in availability of natural rubber. Given the recent steep rise in domestic demand, it is not possible to predict a specific time frame for achieving absolute self-sufficiency.

Demands of Bankmen

7294. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank Employees Organisations have submitted any memorandum of demands, recently;

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

(c) the action taken and proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The Charter of Demands with regard to improvement in pay, allowances and other service conditions submitted by the workmen unions/Officers Associations were discussed by the Indian Banks' Association (representing the Bank Managements) and representatives of employees/officers unions/Associations and an industry level settlement, called 6th Bipartite settlement, was signed for workmen employees on 14.2.1995.

The negotiations on the demands made by the Officers' Organisations are in progress. The main demands of the officer employees are briefly as under.

- (i) One additional increment on account of computerisation as given to the workmen employees.
- (ii) Improvements in basic pay and allowances at all levels in keeping with the developments with regard to salary structure in the private sector.
- (iii) Improvements in other allowances, medical aid, hospitalisation, etc.

Deposits of NRIs in Banks

7295. SHRI A VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount deposited by the non-resident Indians in various public sector banks in Karnataka during 1994-95 till date, bank-wise?

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

Committee on Reforms in Insurance Sector

7296. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Committee for improvements in the Insurance Field" appointed by the Government has received any suggestions from commercial organisation and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the main suggestions received so far; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) to (c). The "Committee on Reforms in the Insurance Sector" appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Malhotra, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India, already submitted its report to the Government on the 7th January, 1994. It interacted with representatives of different organisations and associations which, inter alia, included commercial and financial institutions also. Their suggestions were taken into account by the Committee while finalising the report

Employment Exchanges

7297. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employment exchanges in Delhi, trade-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to make these exchanges result oriented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of unemployed persons provided with clerical jobs through these exchanges in Delhi during the year 1994?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) As per the information furnished by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, there are 24 Employment Exchanges in Delhi. Location of these Exchanges and the type of Registration carried out by each Exchange is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c). The role of Employment Exchanges is limited to make submission against vacancies notified by employers in accordance with the instructions contained in the National Employment Service Manual.

(d) As per information received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 500 persons have been provided clerical jobs during the year 1994.

STATEMENT

*Work Distribution Amongst
Employment Exchanges in Delhi*

S. No.	Name of the Employment Exchange	Type of Registration carried out
1	2	3
1.	Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, 14-Darya Ganj, New Delhi.	Clerical, Ministerial and Sales workers such as experienced clerk, Accts. Clerk, Cashiers, Typists, Stenographer, Machine Operator, Key Punch Operator, Sales Man, Sales Asstt., Checker, Tester, Sorter and other related workers within occupational Divisions 1,2,3,9 and freshers including IIIrd Division graduates in Arts, Science and Commerce from Delhi University and IInd and IIIrd Division Graduates from other university, Computer.
2.	Professional and Executive Employment Exchange, R.K. Puram Sector VII, New Delhi.	T.G.T. and P.G.T. Teachers, B.Sc. (Agri), M.Sc (Agri), P.T.Is., Paramedical Personnel, Lady Health Visitors, X-Ray Techs. Physiotherapist, Occupational therapist, Pharmists, Chemists and Scientific Medical, Technical persons and others.
3.	Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Pusa (T) New Delhi - 12.	Certificate (All ITI Trades) Degree, Diploma and Post Graduates, Degree holders in Engg., All Technical Persons possessing experience including occupation in printing, Tracer Trade, Hotel Industry, Duplicating Machine Operator, Lab. Asstt., (Engg) Cameraman and Surveyers, Drivers and Conductors.

1	2	3
4.	Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.	Physically Handicapped Persons i.e. Blind, Deaf, Dump, Orthopaedic Mildneurology, Paraplegia and Hemaplegio in all the trades.
5.	Sub-Regional Employment Exchange (Ex-Servicemen) R.K. Puram Sector-IV.	All Categories of Ex-Serviceman including security workers and security guards and Bandmen, Firemen, Civil Security Guards and other Technical, Clerical Trades.
6.	Sub-Regional Employment Exchange K.G. Marg, New Delhi.	Unskilled workers, Middle Pass and above in the following occupation peons, Daftari, balaifs (Domestic) Masalchi, bearer, waiter, Ayas, Chowkidars, mid-wives, sweepers, waterman, Dhobi, Malies, Khalasies Sorters, labourers, etc.
7.	Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Zhil Mil Ciny. Shahdara (Delhi).	Registration, placement, Submission for clerical categories for residents of trans-Yamuna area (Data given against S.No. 1).
8.	(a) University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau, Delhi	I and II Class Graduates and all post Graduates of Delhi University, University 1st Class Graduates, System Analysisist Delhi. Programme and all Post-Graduates of other universities residing within jurisdiction i.e. postal zones other than 3,11,13,14,16,17,19,20, 22,25,29,30,38,44,48,49,66 and 67.
	(b) University Employment Information and Guidance (Part-Time Cell) Delhi, Delhi Univer.	Part-Time employment assistance to the students is given.
9.	University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau, J.M.I.	Ist and IInd Class graduates and all post-graduate of other University, system analysis programmer residing

1	2	3
	Jamia Nagar, Okhala, New Delhi.	in postal zones 3,11,13,14,16, 17,20,22,25,29,30,38,44, 48, 49, 66, and 67.
10.	University Employment Information and guidance Bureau J.N. University, New Delhi.	Registration and Vocational Guidance to the alumni of JNU and registration of Medical doctors etc.
11.	Zonal Employment Exchange Zhil Mill Colony, Shahdara.	All unskilled workers with or without experience but below middle in the following occupations, Animal Attendant, Nursing Attendant, Mid-wife, Frash, Messengers, porters, Cook (Domestic), Chowkidar, Domestic servant Severman, sweepers (Experienced), Dhobi, Barbers Khalasis, Mali, packers, shop attendant, Labourers (illiterate/literate), Waterman etc, residing in Trans Jamuna colonies.
12.	Zonal Employment Exchange, Pusa,	-do- residing within the postal zones 5,8,12,15,27, and 55.
13.	Zonal Emp. Exchange Subzi Mandi, III Building, New Delhi.	-do- residing within the postal zones 2,6,7,9,26,35,52, and 54.
14.	Zonal Employment Exchange, R.K. Puram New Delhi.	All unskilled workers with or without experience but below middle in the following occupations, Mid-wives, Frash messengers, porters, cook (Domestic), Chowkidar, domestic servant, severman, Sweepers (Experienced), Dhobi, Barbars, Khalasis, Mali, packers, shop attendant, labour (literate/illiterate) waterman etc. residing within the postal zones 16,22,23,29,57.
15.	Zonal Employment Exchange	All unskilled workers with or without experience but below middle in the following occupations. Midwives, Frash, Messengers, poters, Cooks (Domestic),

1	2	3
		chowkidar, Domestic Servants, serverman, sweepers (Exp.) Dhobi, Barbers, Khalasis, Mali, Pakers, Shop-attendant, Labour (Literate/Illiterate) Waterman etc. residing in its neighbourhood and Allpur Block, Postal Zone 36.
16.	Zonal Employment Exchange, Badli	-do- Residing within the zones 42,33, and 39.
17.	Zonal Employment Exchange Delhi Cantt. Sect. - VII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi.	-do- Residing within the postal zones 10,18,28, 46,58,64,45, and 37.
18.	Zonal Employment Exchange, Okhla, New Delhi.	-do- Residing within the postal zones, 13,14,17,19,20,24,25,44, 48,62, and 65.
19.	Employment Information and Assistance Bureau, BDO Office, Mehrauli, New Delhi.	Registration and Employment Assistance to workers in Mehrauli Block.
20.	Employment Information and Assistance Bureau, Nangloi, New Delhi.	-do- Nangloi Block including postal Zones 34,41,83 and 92.
21.	Employment Information and Assistance Bureau, Najafgarh, New Delhi.	-do- Najafgarh Block
22.	Musteroil Employment Exchange, Kamla Market, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi.	Muster Roll Employment Assistance to All Persons residing in Delhi.
23.	Mobile Unit-I	Registration and Employment assistance to the Resettlement Colonies of Trans-Yamuna.
24.	Mobile Unit-II	Registration and Employment assistance to the Resettlement Colonies of the West Delhi.

Industrial Disputes Pending in Courts

7298. SHRI SHIV SHARN VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the details of industrial disputes between India Tourism Development Corporation and its workers and Unions pending in Courts and Tribunals for settlement during the last three years;

(b) the number of awards implemented by the management during the last three years; and

(c) the number of appeals filed in High Courts/Supreme Court during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The details of industrial disputes between ITDC and its workers and unions pending in Courts and tribunals for settlement during the last 3 years are given below .

Year	No. of Industrial disputes pending between the management and		
	Workers	Union	Total
31.3.93	274	25	299
31 3 94	265	25	290
31 3.95	247	23	270

(b) During the last three years (1992-93 to 1994-95) 09 awards were implemented by the Management

(c) During the last three years (1992-93 to 1994-95) 04 appeals were filed in High Courts/Supreme Court

Joint Venture Financial Services

7299. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has asked Bankers Trust, one of the largest US banks, to submit the name of its domestic joint venture partner;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) the role envisaged for the joint venture financial services company being set in India with seventy five per cent stake by the Bankers Trust; and

(d) the likely impact of the non-banking finance company (NBFC) proposed to be set up as a joint venture on the existing comprehensive range of financial techniques and advice to Government, financial institutions, corporation and individuals likely to be provided by this Bankers Trust?

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

(b) The company have not furnished the requisite

information so far.

(c) Bankers Trust Company had made a proposal to establish a joint venture financial services company in India with a 75% equity stake, for undertaking merchant banking and related activities.

(d) It is anticipated that foreign investment in general in the area of financial services will lead to transfer of technology and upgradation of skills in the financial services industry in India.

Short Supply of Stamp Paper

7300. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) when the prevailing rates of commission of sale of stamps and stamp papers of different denominations fixed;

(b) the effect of liberalised policy on the production of stamps and stamp papers,

(c) whether in view of abundant availability of non-power resources the Government propose to increase the production and supply of stamps and stamp papers throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Exports of Agro Products

7301. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state .

(a) the present agro-product export earnings as at present and projections for the next three years, State-wise;

(b) the order of investment in creating and strengthening infrastructural network in Goa for promotion of agro exports; and

(c) the details of incentives proposed to be offered for exports of agro-products, particularly cashewnuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Export of agricultural products in 1994-95 (April'94 to Feb.'95) was Rs. 8091.24 crores. (Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta).

No Stage-wise exports targets are fixed nor is export data compiled in that manner.

(b) Creation and improvement of infrastructure is an ongoing effort of both the Government and the private sector. State-wise details of investment in creating and strengthening infrastructural network for promotion of agro exports are not maintained.

(c) Steps taken to enhance the export of agro-products are the simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and Quantity restrictions of selected items, provision of concessional export credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Export Processing Zones (EPZs) to the agriculture and allied sectors and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

Besides the above general measures, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of cashewnuts include permitting import of raw cashewnuts without import duty for exports and dissemination of trade information through monthly and quarterly publications.

Value of Rupee

7302. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the actual value of rupee during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures have been 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) The value of rupee (measured as a reciprocal to the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, CPI-IW, with base 1982=100) dropped to 35.21 paise in 1994-95 from 38.76 paise in 1993-94 and 41.67 paise in 1992-93.

(b) and (c). The value of Rupee which represents its purchasing power depends on the movement of the general price level. The Government therefore remains vigilant about the need to arrest the rise in prices. A number of steps have been taken to ensure that inflationary pressures are contained. Some of the steps taken since 1994-95 are :

- (i) Release of foodgrains from public stocks through open market sale by Food Corporation of India.
- (ii) Placing import of sugar on OGL at zero duty.
- (iii) Ensuring sugar availability for PDS by importing at zero duty.
- (iv) Importing palmolein oil for supply to Consumers through PDS.
- (v) With effect from March, 1995 allowing import of major edible oils under OGL at reduced duty of 30 per cent.

(vi) Allowing cotton import under OGL at zero duty.

(vii) Placing a cap on Central Government's borrowings from the RBI through the issue of ad-hoc Treasury Bills and containing monetary growth through a series of measures including raising of CRR and sale of Government securities by the RBI.

(viii) Reducing excise and customs duties in 1995-96 budget in a manner designed to reduce inflation.

Export of Sport Items

7303 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the countries which are competitors to India in the international sports goods market and the share of India in the said market in terms of percentage at present and the manner in which this share is proposed to be increased in the coming years;

(b) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council to include the names of non-member new export firms in its mailing list on a nominal charge in order to encourage such firms for making a dent in the international market;

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

(d) whether modernisation of sports goods industry's manufacturing facilities can prove helpful in boosting exports;

(e) whether the SGEPC or any other agency has identified equipments for this purpose and the sources from where these can be imported; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) India has a miniscule share of around 0.1% in the international sport's goods market which is dominated by Hongkong, USA, China, Japan, Germany, Korea etc. The major competitors of India in the sports goods being exported by us are Pakistan, Taiwan, Korea, China, Thailand, Singapore etc. India's share in the international sports goods market is proposed to be increased by export promotion measures like participation in major international fairs, sponsoring trade delegations, motivating Indian manufacturers to upgrade their technology and enter into joint ventures ; diversifying their product ranges etc.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. There is no proposal to include the names of non-member new export firms in Sports Goods Export Promotion Councils mailing list at nominal charge as the Council would like new export firms to become its members before such facilities are extended to them.

(d) to (f). Yes, Sir. The Manufacturers are being encouraged to modernise their manufacturing facilities by entering into joint ventures/foreign collaborations.

Export of Hand Tools and Engineering Items

7304. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of growth in exports of hand-tools from India during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of major importing countries of hand-tools from India and the details of exports of the same to them in terms of rupees during each of the last three years;

(c) the assessment about the export potential of this engineering goods items and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost its exports;

(d) whether any incentives including the rate of drawback are given to the exporters of the said items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) During the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April - Feb.) exports of Hand Tools including small and cutting tools from India have shown the rate of growth over the corresponding period of the previous year as 41.67%, 28.09% and 11.11% respectively.

(b) Some of the major importing countries of Hand tools including Small and Cutting tools from India and the value of exports to them in rupee terms are as under .

(Value in Crores Rs.)

Name of the Country	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
USA	19.60	32.29	53.95
Germany	27.32	31.21	30.18
UK	13.60	17.01	26.26
UAE	4.72	7.59	13.96
France	9.49	8.22	11.49
Netherland	4.35	7.29	10.96
Singapore	3.82	6.18	9.15

(c) to (e). A growth rate of about 16% has been envisaged during 1995-96 for engineering exports which include Hand Tools also

Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods include various incentives

such as Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licences etc., rate of drawback as applicable from time to time, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, assistance from Market Development Fund and making available deferred credit and line of credit to facilities exports. In addition, a new scheme called Engineering Products Export (Replenishment of Iron and Steel Intermediates) Scheme has been notified by the Government on 13 1995.

Tariff Rate Quota System

7305 DR R MALLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that US is negotiating a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) System for imports of tobacco into the USA with major exporting countries under article 28 of the GATT;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from Tobacco Board to take the matter with the appropriate authorities in USA to try and secure a TRQ for India,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). USA is negotiating a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for import of tobacco under Article XXVIII of GATT. Under this provision, such negotiations are required to be conducted with countries having Principal Supply Interest in the commodity. The request of the Tobacco Board to secure such a quota is being dealt with under the relevant provisions of GATT.

S.T.C.

7306. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has achieved a record turnover in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-annual turnover in 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 and the reasons for record turnover in 1994-95;

(c) whether the corporation propose to expand its spheres both in exports and imports during 1995-96;

(d) if so, the details thereof and estimated turnover and the targets for 1995-96;

(e) whether STC has recently signed a Memoranda of Understanding with a number of companies in foreign countries in various fields of trading; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The STC's turnover in 1994-95 was the highest in recent years. The turnover in each of the years 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given below :

	Rs/Crore			
	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95 (Provisional)
-Exports	625	551	798	790
-Imports	610	324	239	959
-Domestic	80	138	80	90
-Total	1315	1013	1117	1839

STC's turnover during 1994-95 has registered an increase mainly because of import of sugar amounting to Rs. 590 crore.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. STC proposes to expand its operations both in exports and imports in order to achieve a turnover of about Rs. 2000 crores in 1995-96 by :

- Expanding direct trade in rice, wheat, coffee and chemicals etc.
- entering into a number of new areas of business like import of fertilizers, non-ferrous metals and kerosene oil;
- expanding domestic trading in the areas of rice, wheat and cashew.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. STC has recently signed an MOU with a company of international repute in Singapore for expanding its operations primarily in CIS countries.

Sick Units of Tamil Nadu

7307. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick industrial units in Tamil Nadu as on March 31, 1995;

(b) the number of sick industrial units in the State which were referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the number of cases relating to industrial units in the State which have been decided by the BIFR since its inception; and the number out of them in which the BIFR has ordered for revival; and

(d) the number of industrial units, out of the above which have been revived so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that since its

inception, 137 references in respect of sick industrial companies of Tamil Nadu have been registered with it as on 31.03.1995, including 40 references during the period January 1992 - March 1995.

(c) and (d). BIFR has reported that out of the reference registered, 104 have been disposed of as on 30.4.1995, including 51 cases where revival scheme were sanctioned. Of these, 10 sick industrial companies have turned around.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Jaggery

7308. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether jaggery is being smuggled at large scale to Nepal via Uttar Pradesh border;

(b) if so, the quantity of jaggery smuggled to Nepal during the last six months;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to check the smuggling thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity it is not possible to estimate the quantity of jaggery smuggled into Nepal during last six months. However, during 1994-95 only 2 cases of smuggling of jaggery from U.P. to Nepal have been detected. The details of the seizures are as follows :

Quantity	Value
150 Kgs.	Rs. 450.00
2000 Kgs.	Rs. 16000.00

(c) and (d). Anti-Smuggling on Indo-Nepal Border are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of jaggery. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

[English]

Money Policy

7309. SHRI R. ANBARASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tight money policy will bring down monetary expansion and also contain inflation; and

(b) if so, the policy changes being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India on April 17, 1995 for the first half of the current financial year seeks to contain the expansion of the money supply (M3) within 15.5 per cent in the current financial year as against 18.2 per cent in 1993-94 and 21.4 per cent (provisional) in 1994-95. The growth of money supply (M3) has been projected at 15.5 per cent keeping in view the likely real growth of 5.5 per cent in Gross Domestic Product and the objective of limiting the inflation rate of around 8 per cent during 1995-96.

Among the measures introduced in this policy by RBI are (i) upward revision in the ceiling interest rate on domestic term deposits of scheduled commercial banks from 11 per cent to 12 per cent (ii) increase in the interest rate on post shipment export credit in U.S. dollar from 6.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent and the interest rate on refinance against such credit from 5.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent (iii) banning of bridge loan by banks and financial institutions and (iv) reduction in the limit of borrowings by different categories of non-bank financial companies from the banks. The prime lending rate of several commercial banks have also since been revised upward following the upward revision in the interest rate on deposit rates. The Government also has programmed to reduce fiscal deficit from 6.7 per cent of GDP in 1994-95 (RE) to 5.5 per cent of GDP in 1995-96 (BE).

There has been a decelerating trend in the annual rate of inflation (based on the Wholesale Price Index) from the beginning of the current financial year and it now stands at 8.5 per cent as on May 6, 1995.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges in Iraq

7310 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the bridge construction work in Iraq was undertaken through Exim Bank,

(b) if so, the name of the State Bridge Corporation which has undertaken this work indicating the amount involved therein;

(c) whether the payment of the amount spent thereon has been made to the concerned Corporation,

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Yes, Sir. 5 bridge construction projects were undertaken in Iraq through Exim Bank,

(b) UP State Bridge Corporation; the amount, as receivable on 17.11.93, was US \$ 4603,236.07 (Rs 144,541,612.60).

(c) and (d). Payment of Rs. 139,608,307.60 has been made, as below :

RBI bonds	Rs. 120,236,771.60
ECGC bonds	Rs. 3,304,216.00
ECGC-in cash	Rs. 21,000,625.00

(e) and (f). The balance amount could not be paid earlier by ECGC due to technical reasons, but now ECGC has decided to release it.

Writing Off of Loans

7311 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI · DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR ·

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government contemplate to make it obligatory for the public sector banks to refer all cases of loan to the Special Recovery Tribunal prior to writing them off or signing any agreement in regard thereto in respect of which the loan limit or outstanding loan has been more than ten lakh rupees,

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

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to inquire into the irregular writing off/signing agreement in respect of the accounts having huge amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (c) There is no proposal regarding making it obligatory on public sector banks to seek approval of Special Recovery Tribunals before writing off or entering into a compromise in respect of loans exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs. Reserve Bank of India has, however, issued guidelines to the banks regarding write off and compromise proposals

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

7312. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state .

(a) whether several intercom telephone lines have been installed recently in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Pusa, New Delhi;

(b) whether there was any requirement for installing such telephone system in the aforesaid centre,

(c) whether the expenditure incurred in this regard was as per the norms; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Twelve intercom telephone lines have been purchased from M/s Uptron India Ltd., a Government of

Uttar Pradesh Enterprise and installed in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Delhi after old system was found to be unserviceable. It was considered necessary to have such system for introducing proper and effective communication system amongst the various wings of the Organisation and monitoring their work. The expenditure incurred in this regard was keeping in with the requirements of the office.

Purchasing of Unwanted Machines

7313 : SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether several machines such as spray paint machine, leather sewing machine and pipe winding have been purchased in Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for handicapped persons, particularly in the centres situated in Delhi which are not related to the Vocational training being imparted in these centres;

(b) if so, whether audit objections were also raised after each machine were purchased and a suggestion was made to send them to some other centre or institute for proper utilisation of these machines; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir, Machines such as spray paint machine, leather sewing machine and pipe bending machines were purchased by most of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres including the one located at Delhi for assessing the residual capacities of the handicapped persons and for imparting training to them facilitating their economic rehabilitation.

(b) and (c). The audit report on the accounts of Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped, Delhi inter-alia contains that these machines may be transferred to the other institutions as there is less utility of the same at this Centre. These machines could not be transferred in view of the heavy amount of expenditure involved on their transportation. This centre has proposed to reuse the machines for imparting vocational training to the handicapped job-seekers.

Turn Around Scheme of HEC with IDBI

7314. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has received Turn-Around Scheme from H.E.C., Ranchi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (c). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), appointed as Operating Agency (OA) by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), has reported that it has received a revised turn-around plan from the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC). The case of HEC was last heard by BIFR on 7th March 1995 when the OA inter alia observed that the company has not tied up required finances for meeting cost of rehabilitation. BIFR granted time upto 7th April, 1995 to the Ministry of Industry for submission of a modified revival proposal to the Board/OA failing which OA would advertise for locating an alternate party.

[English]

Retrain The Workers

7315. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report of International Labour Organisation that the Government have failed to retrain the workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the I.L.O. has highlighted the need for a massive thrust on retraining to deal with problems of unemployment; and

(d) the steps the Government has taken to retrain the workers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) (a) to (d). The ILO's World Labour Report 1995 inter alia, has a chapter on 'Retraining and returning to work: An issue that concerns us all' which is devoted to the issue of retraining and redeployment drawing largely on examples from the industrialised countries. The Chapter concludes that "the best policy should be to offer skill retraining only to carefully targetted and selected groups, in close collaboration with employers, as part of an integrated package of active measures, and only for well specified purposes". However, there is not specific observation on India in the Chapter.

S.T.C.

7316. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the profitability and sales turn-over of the State Trading Corporation has declined after the liberalisation of economic policy of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of posts at Director level are lying vacant; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not filling up such posts within the department and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM_) (a) and (b) After the liberalisation of economic policy by the Government in 1991, the turnover of STC declined from Rs 1756 crore in 1990-91 to Rs 1117 crore in 1993-94 due to decanalisation. Consequently, profit before tax also declined from Rs. 35 crore in 1990-91 to Rs 30 crore in 1993-94.

However, the (provisional) sales turnover during the year 1994-95 of STC has increased to Rs 1839 crores, resulting in a higher (provisional) profit before tax of Rs 36 crore during 1994-95

(c) and (d) Recruitment for the Board level posts in PSUs including that of STC is made by Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) There is presently a vacant post each of Director (Marketing) and Director (Personnel) in STC For filling up the post of Director (Marketing), panel has already been received and the selection of a suitable incumbent is in process. A panel for the post of Director (Personnel), STC is awaited from PESB.

Committee on Lending System

7317 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Rashid Jilani Committee appointed to suggest an alternative to existing system of lending has since presented its report,

(b) if so, the details of the findings contained therein, and

(c) the reaction of the Government on each of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Rashid Jilani to suggest revised method of lending in place of Cash Credit System had submitted its Report in October, 1993 Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a "Loan System" for delivery of bank credit with effect from 17 April, 1995 with a view to bringing about discipline in the utilisation of bank credit and gain better control over credit flow. For borrowers with assessed Maximum Permissible Bank Finance (MPBF) of Rs.20 crores or above, it will henceforth be mandatory for banks/ consortia/syndicates to restrict the cash credit component to 75 per cent of MPBF. The balance of 25 per cent of the MPBF, or any part thereof, may be sanctioned by way of a short term loan for working capital purposes by the banks/consortia/syndicates in conformity with the existing lending discipline/guidelines for appraisal and monitoring, availability of security/drawing power, etc. Banks will have the freedom to charge interest rate on the "Cash Credit Component" and the "Loan Component" subject to the observance of the prime lending rate fixed by the banks

SAARC Trade Fair

7318. DR K.V.R CHOWDARY
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to hold SAARC Trade Fair in all the seven member countries to mark the first ten years of the existence of the regional economic grouping,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the response of other member countries of SAARC to the said proposal?

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

(b) At the 5th meeting of the SAARC Committee on Economic Cooperation, held at Dhaka from April 8-9-1995, on an Indian proposal it was agreed to consider holding of SAARC Trade Fairs at venues in different Member States during the course of the anniversary year. Further details are left to each host country to decide itself

(c) Like all SAARC decisions, the above decision was also taken with the agreement of all member countries.

[Translation]

Export of Skimmed Milk Powder

7319 SHRI NITISH KUMAR Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of skimmed milk powder exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, till-date;

(b) whether there is any shortage of milk in the country due to the export of this powder;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to impose a ban on the export of skimmed milk powder;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) Quantity and value of skimmed milk powder (SMP) Exported during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April to Nov.'94) are as under :-

Year	Qty. in MTs	
	Qty	Value In Rs. Crores
1992-93	50	0.34
1993-94	559	2.22
1994-95 (April-Nov '94)	3641	12.61

(b) EXIM Policy in 1994-95 permitted export of SMP within a quantitative ceiling of 25000 MT, while, this product could at the same time also imported against a licence. It is unlikely that export of a relatively small quantity of skimmed milk powder in 1994-95 would have contributed materially to shortage of milk in the country. Furthermore, with a view to ensuring easy domestic availability, Policy has been further liberalised in April, 1995 and now SMP is permitted to be freely imported.

(c) to (e). Trade Policy review is an ongoing exercise. As and when Government takes a decision with respect to any item, it will be notified to the public.

[English]

Demand of Rubber

7320. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRIM RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there is a possibility of heavy increase in demand for rubber in domestic market by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the estimated demand by the turn of the century and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to invite multinational companies for cooperation in the cultivation of rubber;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have approved any proposal in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). According to the projection of the Rubber Board, the demand for natural rubber is increasing and by the year 2000 will be 7 Lac tonnes. Various measures are under implementation with a view to enhance rubber production. These include :

(i) Making available financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting under Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.

(ii) Production and distribution of high yielding planting materials to rubber growers.

(iii) Rendering advisory, extension and training services.

(iv) Encouraging group processing and marketing among small holders.

(v) Undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber.

(vi) World Bank Assisted Project is also under implementation from 1993-94 to enhance rubber production which envisages replanting of old and uneconomic rubber in 40,000 ha in traditional areas, new planting in 30 000 ha., productivity enhancement in 60,000 ha. of mature areas of small holdings in traditional areas through adoption of improved agro-management and exploitation and institutional strengthening of Rubber Board for research, extension, trading and technical assistance etc

(c) No Sir.

(d) to (f). Do not arise.

(g) Since India has adequate knowhow, resources and managerial capabilities to develop rubber plantations, no foreign collaboration is needed in this field.

Seminar of Child Labour

7321. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seminar on 'child labour' was held in New Delhi in the month of April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in the seminar; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) The Government has not organised any seminar on child labour in New Delhi in the month of April, 1995.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Fodder Machines

7322. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the imported fodder machines named 'Fomonta' are in use at present;

(b) if so, the places where these machines have been installed;

(c) the details of the works being performed by these machines; and

(d) if not, the reasons for keeping these machines under detention for such a long time?

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

[English]

Shares Rackets

7323. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL .
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have detected major rackets involved in the fake share certificates business in Bombay, Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the number of persons arrested and the details of action taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to stop such activities in future?

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

New Class of Income Tax Authorities

7324 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Finance Act, 1994 a new class of income tax authorities was created with specific designations,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any notification to give effect to the provisions creating the new class of income tax authorities;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in implementation of the provisions, and

(e) the time by which this decision is likely to be notified and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. New income tax authorities with designations of Additional Directors of Income-tax or Additional Commissioners of Income-tax or Additional Commissioners of Income-tax (Appeals) were created under the Finance Act, 1994.

(c) to (e) The question of re-designating Deputy Commissioners of Income-tax/Deputy Directors of Income-tax as Additional Commissioners of Income-Tax/ Additional Directors of Income-tax is under consideration of Government

Action Plan to Encourage Tourism

7325. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated the action plan to encourage tourism in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government contemplate to develop and promote tourism in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Central Government have formulated a National Action Plan for Tourism, which was presented in the Parliament during May, 1992 with the objective of promotion and development of tourism. The entire country including the State of Gujarat has been covered in this Action Plan.

(d) On the basis of the proposals, received from the State Government of Gujarat, the Central Government sanctioned 12 projects/schemes amounting to Rs.107 85 lakhs for development of tourism in Gujarat during the last three years. In order to promote tourism in Gujarat, a tourist train, known as the Royal Orient Express has been introduced

Training Centre for Air Hostesses and Pilots

7326. DR. G.L. KANAUIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India, A potential aviation giant" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of points raised therein and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the steps being taken to encourage development of aviation and infrastructural facilities; and

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage private sector to start centres for imparting training for preparing air hostesses and pilots to meet the prospective demand?

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

(b) and (c). The views expressed in the news item, are of a general nature. Necessary steps are being taken on a continuous basis for development of additional infrastructural facilities and monitoring-of safety and security aspects.

(d) Four flying Schools' in the private sector are imparting flying training to meet the future demand of pilots. so far no proposal has been received from the private sector for training air hostesses.

[Translation]

Motels and Yatri Niwases in Gujarat

7327. SHR KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state .

(a) the assistance provided during the year 1994-95 by the Union Government to the State Government of Gujarat for construction of motels and yatri niwases; and

(b) the details of motels and yatri niwases constructed in Gujarat with the financial assistance provided during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) No assistance has been provided during 1994-95 by the Government of India, Department of Tourism to the State Government of Gujarat for construction of motels and yatri niwases as no proposal was received from the State Government of Gujarat. Further there is no scheme for release of Central financial assistance for construction of Motels. The Following projects have been sanctioned based on the proposals received from the State Government .-

	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs in lakhs)
1	Tourist Lodge at Kuda (Bhavnagar Dist.)	14.50
2	Assistance for Brochures for Royal Orient Express	05.00
3	Tarnetar Festival	01.69

[English]

Air Taxi Operation in Karnataka

7328. SHRI K H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have identified any city in Karnataka other than Bangalore, Hubli and Mangalore for commissioning air taxi services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Mysore and Belgaum have also been approved for scheduled/non-scheduled services in Karnataka

[Translation]

In use of Hindi in Banks

7329. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to encourage the use of Hindi in banks for official purposes and in computers as well;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) There are various schemes to encourage the use of Hindi in banks for official purposes. Reserve Bank of India has already issued instructions to banks to install computers which can be used for work in Hindi also.

(b) and (c). As per information received from Reserve Bank of India, the following All India Competitions are organised annually :-

1. Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Shield for banks The Shield is given by Deptt. of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs for outstanding achievement in promoting the Official Language Policy of the Government.

2. Reserve Bank of India Rajbhash Shield for banks for Regions 'A', 'B' and 'C' separately Shields are given for the outstanding work in promoting Official Language Policy within their Organisations

3. Indira Gandhi Awards for writing original books in Hindi. Besides, Reserve Bank of India has also introduced the scheme for writing original books in Hindi on banking subjects. Some banks have also prepared their own schemes to encourage their staff members to write the books and/or article on various banking subjects. Banks' staff members are given cash incentives/citation on passing Hindi, Hindi Stenography and Hindi Typewriting tests conducted by Deptt of Official Language.

Apart from this, the Stenographers and Typists of banks who do their official work in Hindi in addition to English are also given special allowances.

These schmes are already under implementation

Export of Cotton Yarn

7330. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government had decided to remove the certain restrictions on the export of cotton yarn in the first quarter of 1995;

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

(c) whether the export of the cotton yarn from the country has increased as a result of this decision; and

(d) if so, th value and quantity of the cotton yarn exported during the first four months of 1995 in comparison to the corresponding period of 1994

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government has in fact decided to reduce the ceiling for cotton yarn exports for the year 1995. Against a final ceiling of 130 million

kgs, for all counts, released during 1994, the ceiling for 1995 has been reduced to 75 million kgs. The reduced ceiling of 75 million kgs. would, however, be applicable only for exports of cotton yarn in the count group 1.40s. It has further been decided that out of the ceiling of 75 million kgs, a quantity of 23 million kgs shall be set apart for exports to quota countries and the balance ceiling of 52 million kgs. shall be distributed bi-annually in two instalments of 26 million kgs each. These measures have been taken inter-alia to improve the availability of cotton yarn, particularly for the decentralized handloom sector

(c) and (d) The exports of cotton yarn during the period January - April, 94 amounted to 73.72 million kgs valued at Rs. 715.9 crores. As against this, exports during the period 1.95 to 25.4.95 have amounted to 71.89 million kgs valued at Rs. 908.8 crores.

[English]

Export of Brass Materials

7331 SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA Will the Minister of of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of brass materials exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of brass materials?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) (a) The quantity-wise export figures of brass art materials are not maintained. However the export figures in respect of Artmetalwares including brassware for the last three years are as under . -

Year	Rs. in crores	US million \$
1992-93 (Actual)	560.60	196.40
1993-94 (Provl)	680.20	216.87
1994-95 (Provl)	1022.25	325.82

(b) The steps taken to boost the export of handicrafts including brass artwares include . organisation of buyer-seller meets, sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues, conducting of workshop and seminars and organisation of International Handicrafts and Gifts Fair annually

A Metal Handicrafts Service Centre is functioning at Moradabad with assistance from U.N.D.P. The centre renders services in metal finishing like electroplating, powder coating and lacquering to the manufacturers and exporters of brass art materials.

Loans to Handloom Sector by Banks

7332. DR P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The amount of loans provided to the workers by the scheduled commercial banks in handloom sector during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of loan recovered from them during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b). The scheduled commercial banks extend advances under the priority sector lending to artisans, village and cottage industries which include handloom sector also, the outstanding advances of banks to artisans, village and cottage industries as at the end of March, 1991-1992 and 1993 (latest available) were as under .

As at the end of March	No. of accounts	Amount outstanding (Rs. in crores)
1991	510406	375.88
1992	591396	450.24
1993	617646	481.81

The data collecting system does not generate the information about the amount of advances extended by banks and recovery thereunder separately under handloom sector.

[Translation]

Handloom Export Promotion Council

7333. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether Handloom Export Promotion Council has requested the Government that all weavers engaged in export business should be provided the subsidy benefits;

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

(c) whether the above council has also made a request to make increase in hank yarn obligation on mills up to 60 percent; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) Keeping in view the fact that the budgetary allocation for implementing the Hank Yarn price Subsidy Scheme was drawn out of the allocations made for

Janata Cloth Scheme meant for catering to need to poorer section of the weavers and in the light of availability of limited funds the Government of India could not accede to the request of Handloom Export Promotion Council.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the fact that there is no shortage at present in availability of hank yarn to the handloom sector it has not been considered essential to raise the percentage of hank yarn obligation from the present level.

Concessional Tickets of Indian Airlines

7334. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines provides tickets on concessional rate;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down in this regard; and

(c) the value of such concessions given during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The details of special and route promotional fares are given in the Statement attached.

(c) The quantification of the value of various concessions given is not maintained by Indian Airlines.

STATEMENT

Special Fares—Domestic

(A) CONCESSIONS

1. Armed Forces Discount	50% Discount on fare
2. Personnel of Reserve 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's Discount	50% Discount on fare
11. Family Discount on Sectors Port Blair	Discount of Rs.50/- each for two members of a family.
12. Tour Conductors Discount	50% discount for a group of 10 to 14 and 100% discount for a group of 15 passengers or more.
13. South India Excursion Fare	30% Discount on Domestic dollar tariff.
14. Ships Crew Discount (Individual)	25% discount on domestic Dollar Tariff.
15. Airline/IATA Employees Discount	50% discount on domestic dollar Tariff.
16. Package Tour Concession for Promotion of Domestic Tourism	20% Discount on fare to groups of minimum eight and maximum thirty two passengers (valid upto 30th June, 1995)
17. Concession to Sports Persons	25% Discount on fare to Sports persons hailing from the States in the North-Eastern Region.
18. Leave Travel Concession to Employees of State/ Centra/ Public Sector.	30% Discount on fare (Valid upto 30th June, 1995)
19. Senior Citizens Discount	50% Discount on fare.
20. Common Interest Group Concession	10% Discount on normal fare to group of 10 Passengers (Valid upto 30th June, 1995).

(B) LUMPSUM FARES

1. Discover India Fare	Fare :- US \$ 400 Fare revised to US \$ 500 w.e.f. 15th June, 1995.
2. 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

1	2	3
(C) ROUTE PROMOTIONAL FARES		
1.	Discount on Bombay-Calicut sector and vice versa	15% Discount on fare. (Discount valid upto 30th June, 1995)
2.	Return Fare on Bombay-Calcutta-Bombay sectors and vice versa	25% Discount on the fare on return sector (Discount valid upto 31st May, 1995).
3.	Return fare on Delhi-Duwahati-Delhi and vice versa	25% Discount on the fare on return sector (Discount valid upto 7th July, 1995)
4.	Return Fare on Delhi-Bagdogra-Delhi and vice versa	25% Discount on the fare on return sector. (Discount valid upto 7th July, 1995).
SPECIAL FARES - INTERNATIONAL		
1	Students Concession (International)	25% Concession on fare on International Sectors within South Asian Sub-Continent.
2	Special Fare for staff of Indian Mission	40% Concession on normal International Fare.
3	Special fare for Gorkha Defence Personnel on Indo Nepal Sectors	40% Concession on normal Rupees 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 conjunct 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

1	2	3
8.	Free/Reduced fare for GSA employees	Two free and two 90% Concessional ticket per year to Indian Airlines Central Sales Agents at International Stations.

[English]

Private Airlines recognised as Scheduled Airline

7335. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL . Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the private airlines which have been recognised as scheduled airlines after the repealing of the Air Corporations Act, 1953;

(b) the names of all such airlines, their working capital, number of aircraft they are having and the areas operated by them;

(c) whether some of the private airlines are not flying in certain sectors and violating the instructions of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The names of private scheduled airlines the number of aircraft with them and the places to which they operate is given in the statement attached. Information on the working capital of these scheduled airlines is not available

(c) and (d). On certain occasions some operators are not able to strictly meet the requirement of minimum deployment of services on different categories due to operational constraints and non-availability of aircraft on account of technical reasons etc.

STATEMENT

Name of Airlines	Fleet Strength		Stations to which operate
	Type	No. of Aircraft	
1	2	3	4
1. Archana Airways	L-410	3	Allahabad, Bhopal, Bombay Chandigarh, Delhi, Dharmashala, Jabalpur, Jammu, Kanpur, Kullu, Leh, Ludhiana, Raipur, Shimla, Varanasi
	Dash-8	2	

1	2	3	4
2	Damania Airways B-737-400	4	Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Coimbatore, Delhi, Dibrugarh, Goa, Guwahati, Indore, Madras, Pune
3	East West Travels & Trade Links Ltd B-737-200 F-27-500	7 3	Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Bombay, Calcutta, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Diu, Dibrugarh, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Madras, Madurai, Mangalore, Nagpur, Porbandar, Pune, Rajkot, Srinagar, Trivandrum, Vadodara, Vizag
4	Jet Airways (P) Ltd B-737-300 B-737-400	4 2	Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Madras, Mangalore
5	Modiluft Ltd B-737-200	4	Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Jaipur, Jammu, Srinagar, Varanasi
6	NEPC Micon Ltd F-27-500	5	Agatti, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Cochin, Coimbatore, Goa, Hubli, Hyderabad, Jamnagar, Kandla, Keshod, Kolhapur, Madras, Madurai, Mangalore, Pune, Porbandar, Surat, Trichy, Vadodara, Vijayawada, Vizag

[Translation]

Delay in Payments by ESIC

7336 SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation makes considerable delay in making the payment to its beneficiary members,

(b) if so the State-wise details of the erring officers against whom action has been taken, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the prompt payment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA SANGMA) (a) and (b) The payment claims found complete in all respects are being settled in due course. As such the question of taking action on this account has not been considered necessary.

(c) The Employees Insurance Courts and Medical Appeal Tribunals have been set up for expeditious redressal of disputes. Complaint officers have also been designated to monitor/redress complaints in this regard.

World Bank Loan

7337 SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the World Bank loan to India is likely to be reduced

(b) if so the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (c) In line with the India's redefined borrowing strategy and the World Bank recommendation for commitment need of high quality long term development assistance the members of India Development Forum pledged long term assistance package of \$ 6 billion including \$ 2.4 billion by the World Bank for 1994-95. This amount is somewhat higher than the commitment levels actually realised in the recent years and is in line with the Government decision to out back on "Fast Disbursing Assistance".

Allahabad-Delhi Flight

7338 SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the flights between Allahabad-Delhi has since been cancelled by Indian Airlines,

(b) if so the reasons therefor,

(c) whether Indian airlines propose to resume the cancelled flights, and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) Due to shortage of operating crew and aircraft capacity, Delhi-Allahabad service was withdrawn by Indian Airlines.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

[English]

Equity Shares

7339. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a continuous decline and fluctuation in the prices of equity shares in the stock market;

(b) if so, whether the Government have studied the reasons for such fluctuation and the impact on internal and external investors of share market,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such fluctuations and to develop confidence in investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The BSE Sensitive Index which measures movement of share prices has shown a decline since September, 1994. During the period between 28th September, 1994 to 4th May, 1995, the BSE Sensex fell from 4528.17 to 3104.23

(b) and (c). Prices of Securities in the stock market and their indices are liable to fluctuate on account of the interplay of various factors such as expectations of investors relating to the overall economic environment, the performance of the corporate sector, transactions by large institutional investors capital market trends overseas, including the secondary market prices of global depository receipts issued by Indian companies and of expectations of changes of policy. Stock prices are also affected by speculative forces and the intensity of this element varies in different circumstances. Movement in share prices and their indices cannot be attributable to any single factor or set of factors. Investors, in general, base their investment decisions on a variety of factors including their perception about the future. Therefore, it would not be possible to assess the impact of movement in share prices on internal and external investors.

(d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been set up, inter alia, for effectively regulating the stock market and for protecting the interests of investors. It is keeping a constant watch on the securities market and taking necessary steps from time to time to ensure fair transactions, safety and transparency of the securities market. Through its activities SEBI has been trying to maintain investors' confidence in the securities market

Jardine Fleming Report

7340. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item relating to observations made in Jardine Fleming report appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated April 9, 1995;

(b) if so, the main observations made in the report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The News items referred to recapitulates some observations made in a report title South Asian Euro Issues dated 21 March, 1995 prepared by the Jardine Fleming Securities Ltd. The report indicates that the economic growth is expected to accelerate to between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent and industrial growth to above 10 per cent during 1995-96. The report also state that inflation and high fiscal deficit remain the real area of concern.

(c) The observations made by different individuals and organisations are kept in view by the Government while formulating appropriate policies.

[Translation]

Proposal to Revamp Fleet of Planes

7341. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme to revamp the fleet of planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of planes to be removed from the fleet by the year 2000 and the time by which new planes are likely to be inducted in the fleet;

(c) whether as the planes have become old and technical snags are developing in them often which become a cause of accidents; and

(d) if so, the action being taking by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). A tentative medium term fleet plan of Air India covering the period 1994-95 to 2001/02 has been drawn up which envisages increase of fleet strength from the existing 26 aircraft to 54 aircraft by the year 2001/2002.

Air India has recently signed an agreement with Boeing Airplane company for acquisition of Two B747-400 aircraft to be delivered in July and August, 1996. With this induction, Air India plans to retire one-old B747-200. The Plan also envisages the induction of the MCLR aircraft from 1997/98 onwards; with this induction, Air India proposes to phase out its entire fleet of B747-200s and 300s Combies.

Indian Airlines has plans for induction of ten aircraft (150 seater) in 1996-97 for augmenting the fleet.

(c) and (d). All the existing aircraft operating scheduled services in the fleet of Air India and Indian Airlines are safe and airworthy. Aircraft maintenance is a continuous process.

[English]

Bank Loans in West Bengal Under PMRY

7342 SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO
DR ASIM BALA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of entrepreneurs in West Bengal provided with bank loans under Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana during 1993-94,

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons whose name had been recommended by the District Industrial Centre but have not sanctioned loan so far together with the reasons therefor and

(c) the steps being taken to avoid delay in granting of such loans by the nationalised banks?

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

(a) to (c) The Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana (PRMY), which was launched on 2nd October, 1993 is aimed at providing employment to the educated unemployed youth. As per the data obtained from the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) Ministry of Industry during the year 1993-94 the number of applications recommended by the District Industries Centres in the State of West Bengal under PMRY to banks was 544 out of which 899 applications were sanctioned loans by the banks during the same year.

Banks are under instructions to dispose of applications upto a credit limit of Rs 25 000/- within a fortnight and those for over Rs 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks. Reserve Bank of India, Government have advised the banks to dispose of the applications within the prescribed time limits.

Loan to Farmers in Madhya Pradesh

7343 SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of marginal farmers provided with loans by cooperative commercial banks and regional rural banks for installing tube wells during the last three years in Madhya Pradesh,

(b) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregularities in giving the above loans during the said period, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Government to check these irregularities?

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

(a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the details of loans provided to marginal farmers in Madhya Pradesh by the cooperative, commercial and regional rural banks

separately for installation of tube wells during the last three years are not available. However the number of tube wells installed under the subsidy scheme out of own resources and with bank loan in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is indicated below

Year	Number
1992-93	2879
1993-94	2626
1994-95	3633

(b) and (c) NABARD has reported that no complaint was received by the State Government regarding irregularities in providing loans during the above period. Complaints against banks regarding irregularities in the grant of financial assistance as and when received are taken up with the concerned banks for remedial action.

[Translation]

Foreign Loan

7344 SHRI KUNJEE LAL
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of outstanding foreign loan against India till 1993-94,

(b) the amount from whom it was taken, country wise,

(c) out of these the amount repaid by India so far

(d) the amount of annual interest being paid on this loan, and

(e) time by which the loan taken from each country is proposed to be repaid?

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

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

[English]

Foreign Currency Rules

7345 SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government had set up a committee to examine the issue of foreign currency rules,

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by this committee, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). An Expert Group on Foreign Exchange Markets in India was set up by the Reserve Bank of India on November 22, 1994 to examine issues relating to products available for hedging foreign exchange risks, scope for further development of foreign exchange markets in India and the introduction of new derivative products. The Expert Group is chaired by Shri O.P. Sodhani, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India. The Expert Group has submitted its interim recommendations to the Reserve Bank of India. No decision has been taken by the Reserve Bank of India on the interim recommendations so far. The final report of the Expert Group is yet to be submitted.

[Translation]

Airport at Dwarka

7346. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state .

(a) whether various institutions, M.Ps and Government of Gujarat has demanded for setting up of an airport at Dwarka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). No specific proposal has been received by the Government for setting up of an airport at Dwarka.

[English]

Restructuring of RRBs

7347. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether a Committee to go into restructuring of some R R.Bs has been constituted; and

(b) if so, the composition of the committee and its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Government advised National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to constitute a Committee for identifying another batch of 50 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and to work-out the details regarding the losses and bad debts of such RRBs with a view to include them in the next phase of restructuring on the lines of 49 RRBs taken up for restructuring during the year 1994-95

(B) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF :

- | | | |
|--|---------|-------------------|
| 1. Shri K. Basu, General Manager - Chairman | NABARD. | |
| 2. Shri C.B. Prasad, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Banking Division. | | - Member, |
| 3. Shri G.M. Deshpande, Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India | | - Member |
| 4. Shri Nath Mali, Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India. | | - Member |
| 5. Shri K.K. Verma, Deputy General Manager, Bank of Baroda. | | - Member |
| 6. Shri J.L. Kapoor, Assistant General Manager, Bank of India. | | - Member |
| 7. Shri P.S.S.R. Sarma, Manager, NABARD | | -Member Secretary |

The terms of reference of the Committee will be as under

- (i) Evolving parameters for selection of 50 RRBs for comprehensive restructuring under phase-II (1995-96) and preparing the list of RRBs to be recommended to Government of India for such Comprehensive restructuring.
- (ii) Suggesting suitable norms for assessment of bad debts of the RRBs.
- (iii) Matters relating to cleansing of balance sheets of the selected RRBs under phase-II
- (iv) Any other matter incidental to restructuring of RRBs.

Janata Cloth

7348. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that Janta Cloth which is mainly produced for weaker sections of the society do not reach them; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such cloth actually reach to the poor people for whom it is being produced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The State Governments that are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring delivery of Janata cloth to the target group have been directed by Government of India to take effective steps for ensuring distribution of Janata Cloth to people living below the poverty line. Care is also taken to identify such agencies which also have distribution outlets in Grama

Panchayats and rural areas. Besides, the State Level Janata Cloth Scheme Implementation Committee constituted in each implementing State under the Chairmanship of Secretary-in-charge of Handlooms is also responsible for monitoring, production, distribution and ensuring timely payment of wages to the weavers etc Under the present guidelines the implementing agencies are not permitted wholesale sale of Janata cloth. The sale of Janata cloth is therefore limited to 50 square metre to one person. The sale by the implementing agency is also further restricted to retail sales to consumers and supply to State Governments/ Central Government agencies.

[Translation]

Non-payment of Rent by Customs Department

7349 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA · Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Customs Department have taken on rent the air cargo complex and Inland Container Depot at Sanganer Airport in Jaipur,

(b) if so, from whom and the amount of rent alongwith the terms and conditions of the rent agreement;

(c) whether the Customs department have not paid the rent for both the above mentioned buildings;

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor, and

(e) the time by which the rent is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) · (a) to (e). Air Cargo Complex and inland container Depot at Jaipur airport belong to Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd., a State Government Undertaking. Therefore, the question of payment of rent by Customs for hiring Accommodation in these premises to the Airports Authority of India does not arise.

ADB Loan

7350. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA ·
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount of loan advanced by Asian Development Bank during 1994 has declined in comparison to that of the previous year,

(b) if so, the amount of loan advanced during the years 1993 and 1994;

(c) the name of the projects for which it was utilised in regard to their expansion and development and the amount utilised for each project;

(d) whether the Government have identified the reasons for curtailment in the amount of loan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the amount of loan sought by the Government during each of the said years?

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

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). The Asian Development Bank approved an assistance of \$ 817.70 million during 1993 and \$ 150 million in 1994 in respect of projects as per the details given below :

Year	Loan/Project	Amount (In million \$)
1993	1222-IND Flaring Reduction Project.	300.00
	1274-IND National Highways Project	.245.00
	1279-IND Bombay Vadodara Express Way Project.	12 70
	1285-IND Gas Rehabilitation and Expansion Project	260 00 817 70
1994	1343-IND Industrial Energy Efficiency Project	150 00 150 00

(d) There has been general decline in the lending levels of the ADB to its members According to the Bank's Annual Report 1994, the lending in the Public sector during 1994 declined in both volume and number of loans from the previous year, largely due to the Bank's efforts to consolidate its lending programme and to further improve the quality of projects The decline also resulted from the Bank's effort to introduce new conditionalities in ADB lending portfolio.

(e) At the India Development Forum, ADB had pledged an assistance of \$ 1171 million in 1993 and \$ 700 million in 1994 India's concern at the declining level of lending was expressed during the 28th Annual Meeting of ADB recently held in Auckland, New Zealand

[English]

Thane People's Coop. Bank

7351. SHRI RAM KAPSE · Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposals for amalgamation of Thane People's Co-operative Bank with some other bank,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the proposal for merger of Thane People Co-operative Bank Ltd., Thane with Rupees Co-operative Bank Ltd., Pune was received from Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS), Maharashtra, Pune. Approval of RBI for the above merger was conveyed to RCS, Maharashtra. The RCS, Maharashtra issued draft amalgamation order calling for suggestions/objections etc. from Members/depositors/creditors etc. of both the transferee and transferor banks. In the meantime, the Bank Karamchari Sangh, Pune, filed a writ petition in the High Court at Bombay.

Market Development Assistance

7352. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the rates of Market Development Assistance in respect of Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the date from which the revised rate has come into effect?

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

(b) The revised rates of Market Development Assistance in respect of Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies are as follows :

Turnover	MDA Rates Slabs
(i) Rs. 01 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs	10% of turnover
(ii) Above Rs. 100 lakhs and upto 200 lakhs	10% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 9% of the balance
(iii) Above Rs. 200 lakhs and upto 300 lakhs	10% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 9% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 8% of the balance above Rs. 200 lakhs
(iv) Above Rs. 300 lakhs and upto Rs. 400 lakhs	10% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 9% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 8% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 7% of the balance
(v) Above Rs. 400 lakhs and balance	10% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 9% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 8% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 7% of Rs. 100 lakhs + 6% of the balance

(c) The revised rates have come into force with effect from 01-04-1995.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Banks

7353. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of banks in the country wherein computer service has since been introduced; and

(b) the reasons for not introducing computer service in all the banks, and the time by which it is likely to be introduced there?

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that computerisation programme is under implementation in all 27 public sector banks in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Housing Scheme for E.P.F. Subscribers

7354. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any housing scheme has been taken up for the benefit of employees provident fund subscribers in Karnataka,

(b) if so, the places where these houses have been constructed under the above scheme;

(c) the number of E.P.F. subscribers in Karnataka who are not having their own houses;

(d) the number of houses to be constructed under the scheme, and

(e) the mode of selection of beneficiaries under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Banking And Customs Facilities At Moreh Trade Centre In Manipur

7355. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided banking facilities for currency conversion and other essential transactions at the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Centre at Moreh in Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide concession in customs and transit facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM) . (a) to (c) The Government has made necessary arrangements pertaining to banking facilities, immigration procedures, customs formalities and other related matters, to facilitate border trade with Myanmar. The United Bank of India branch at Moreh is the designated bank for facilitating border trade with Myanmar, while immigration and customs check posts have been established at Moreh to provide the requisite facilities for the purpose. Import duties on certain goods produced in the Union of Myanmar have been reduced to 5% ad valorem. Arrangements have been made to provide travel passes to traders to travel to Myanmar and back.

Ban on Import of Indian Processed Products

7356. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

- (a) whether the German Government have banned on import of processed Indian products,
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the loss incurred to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b). The German Government has in 1994 enacted legislation banning the manufacture and import of products using certain dyes and chemicals. The ban which would be applicable to all countries, including India, is yet to come into force

- (c) Does not arise

Child Labour Projects

7357. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce National Policy on the child labour projects in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the centres identified for these projects; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):(a) and (b). Under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, a National Child Labour Project is currently under implementation in Mandasaur, Madhya Pradesh. The Project covers 900 children which provides for education with additional inputs like nutrition, stipend and health checks. However, no proposal to start new project in Madhya Pradesh has been received.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Cochin International Airport Ltd.

7358. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

- (a) whether Air India proposes to acquire equity stake in Cochin International Airport Ltd.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other specific operations Air India proposes to take up in the Cochin International Airport Ltd ?

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

(b) In the first phase of development, the management of Air India has proposed to invest Rs.20 crores in the equity capital of Cochin International Airport Ltd

(c) On completion of Cochin International Airport, Air India is interested in commencing direct international flights

[Translation]

Air Crashes

7359 SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

- (a) the number of air accidents inquired into by the Government during the last two years,
- (b) whether the findings of the inquiries have been acted upon, and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) During the last two years, there have been 24 accidents to civil registered aircraft in India, all of which were inquired into

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Implementation of the recommendations involve action against the erring personnel/operators, issue of fresh guidelines/instructions, imparting corrective training etc

[English]

Car-Laden Ship

7360. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

- (a) whether a Russian ship carrying some 15 new imported motorcars arrived at Port Alang in South Gujarat in April; 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these cars were declared by the ship's crew as their personal baggage,

(d) whether as per existing rules, motorcars do not fall under the purview of 'personal baggage',

(e) whether it was an attempt at 'back-door smuggling', and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken in the matter ?

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

(a) to (c) Yes Sir A Russian ship with 13 imported cars had arrived at Alang Ship-breaking Yard in April, 1995 On scrutiny of the documents it was noticed that these cars were declared in the personal property list of the crew members along with the Import General Manifest

(d) Yes, Sir Motorcars do not fall under the purview of 'Baggage' as defined in section 2(3) of the Customs Act, 1962

(e) and (f) It was an attempt to illegally import the cars Orders for seizure of the cars as well as the vessel have been issued and the case is under investigation

Job Opportunities

7361 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the impact of the new economic reforms in relation to creation of job opportunities, and

(b) if so, the number of new jobs created as a result of these reforms, State-wise, during the current and the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA SANGMA)

(a) and (b) No survey has been conducted by the Government specifically to find out the impact of new economic reforms on creation of job opportunities The Planning Commission has made overall estimates of additional employment opportunities created in the economy According to the estimate additional employment opportunities of the order of 18.78 million have been created during the period 1992-95 This implies an average annual increase of 6.26 million or a rate of growth of 2.03% per annum These figures are higher than what was achieved during the period 1985-90 (growth rate of employment at 1.89% per annum or an average annual increase in employment of 5.2 million) and during the period 1990-92 (growth rate of employment at 1.5% per annum an average annual increase of 4.4 million) No State-wise estimates of these figures have been made

Direct Financing of Projects By NABARD

7362 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has sought for direct financing to the projects appraised by it;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The proposal of direct financing of projects by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are being examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

ILO Observation

7363 SHRIMATI DIPIKA H TOPIWALA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether International Labour Organisation recently observed that when many workers are opting for voluntary retirement, little is being done to retain them, and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA SANGMA)

(a) and (b) The International Labour Organisation has observed that, so far over 75,000 workers have opted for voluntary retirement in India with assistance from the National Renewal Fund (NRF).

The NRF is also meant for retraining and re-employment of employees affected by restructuring of the industrial units or rationalisation of the workforce

Growth Rate of I.F.C.I

7364 PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether IFCI has registered a growth rate of 57% in 1994-95 in the total sanctions,

(b) whether disbursements of IFCI sanctions for 1994-95 did not register similar increase,

(c) the details of the disparity in growth rate in 1994-95 between sanctions and disbursements of IFCI, and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce the disparity?

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

(a) and (b) Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) has reported that during the year 1994-95 (April-March), it registered a growth of 54.3% on annualised basis in sanctions over the previous accounting year 1993-94 and a growth of 48.7% in disbursements during the period.

(c) and (d). IFCI has reported that disbursements against sanctioned loans are made in stages depending on the implementation schedules of individual projects, compliance of terms and conditions of sanction, particularly in regard to pre-disbursement conditions as also promoters bringing in their matching contribution. As such, the growth rate in disbursements may not necessarily match with that of sanctions

[Translation]

Tobacco And Beedi Workers

7365. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tobacco and beedi workers in Bihar;

(b) the rate of minimum wages fixed for these workers; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper implementation of minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) As per the information available there are estimated 3,91,500 beedi workers and 1,800 workers employed in Tobacco related products (excluding beedi making) in the State of Bihar.

(b) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Government of Bihar is the appropriate Government for the fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages for the employment in tobacco and Beedi making. As per the information available, the Government of Bihar has fixed minimum piece rate wages at Rs .21.50 to Rs. 26.00 per 1000 beedis for workers employed in Tobacco (including beedi manufacturing).

(c) The Central Government from time to time has been impressing upon the State Governments to the need for effective implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As a result the State Governments have taken various measures for improving the effectiveness of the Act. These includes the strengthening of enforcement machinery, increasing the awareness of workers giving wide publicity to the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, to seek cooperation of other departments like Revenue, Cooperation etc. in the enforcement of Act, etc.

[English]

Use of Funds by Companies

7366. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is working on a mechanism to monitor the end use of funds by companies;

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

(c) whether the mechanism has been worked out, and

(d) if so, the time by which this is likely to come in action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it is necessary for every bank to ensure that credit extended by it to a borrower is utilised for the purpose for which the credit facility is sanctioned. With the objective of ensuring that banks follow the lending discipline and lending guidelines issued to them by RBI, RBI has been scrutinising report submitted by banks at post-sanction stage under its Credit Monitoring Arrangement.

Joint Venture of UTI with US Bank

7367. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UTI is negotiating with a United States Bank for setting up a joint venture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) UTI has stated that it is negotiating with United States based "State Street Bank (SSB)" to set up a joint venture called UTI Fund Services Ltd. (UTIFSL) for Fund Accounting. The initial capital of UTIFSL will be Rs 25 crores. UTI will have 80% stake and SSB 20% in UTIFSL initially. UTIFSL will initially take up activities like portfolio maintenance, corporate Actions, Income Accruals, Expense Accounting, Portfolio Valuation and Reporting like cash forecast.

Corporate Tax

7368. SHRI P.P KALIAPERUMAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Indian Corporate giants whose tax liability has zero during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the reasons for their no tax liability during this period;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to restrain corporate giants to show zero tax liability; and

(d) the demand, collection and balance of corporate tax in the last three years ?

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

(a) and (b). Though there is no standard classification of companies as Corporate giants, the following are the top 10 companies which had booked profits and had

also declared dividends but who did not pay any Corporation Tax due to deductions and exemptions available under the Income Tax Act

- 1 Steel Authority of India Limited
- 2 Reliance Industries Ltd
- 3 Essar Gujarat
- 4 Tata Iron and Steel Co Ltd
- 5 Nagarjuna Fertilisers Ltd
- 6 Shipping Corporation of India Ltd
- 7 Indo Gulf Fertilisers
- 8 Great Eastern Shipping Co Ltd
- 9 Indian Petro-Chemicals Ltd
- 10 Tata Engineering and Locomotives Ltd

These companies did not pay Corporation tax mainly due to deductions on account of depreciation, unabsorbed investment allowance, special reserve for shipping business, deduction for industries in backward areas, deduction for export business, deduction for inter-corporate dividends, deduction for royalties from foreign enterprises, deduction in respect of projects outside India etc

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present

(d) The desired information is given below

(Rupees in crores)

Years	Demand	Collection/ Reduction	Outstanding demand at the end of the year
1991-92	9199	4214	4985
1992-93	10343	4653	5690
1993-94 (Provl)	20734	11008	9726

Indo Swiss Trade Agreements

7369 SHRI TARA SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "High tariff's hampering Swiss investment in India" appeared in the *Statesman* of February 6, 1995

(b) whether the President of the Swiss Federation of Commerce and Industry has pointed out several discrepancies and hurdles coming in the way of implementing Indo-Swiss trade agreements,

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) whether the Government have taken any serious efforts to boost Indo-Swiss Agreements in full spirit, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir It has been reported in the Press that the President of the Swiss Federation for Commerce and Industry touched upon certain difficulties in the export from Switzerland of textiles, watches and some items of food processing industries on account of India's Import Policy and high tariffs

(d) and (e) It is Government's constant endeavour to expand bilateral economic ties with all its partners including Switzerland Government has been effecting a gradual reduction in tariffs Trade Policy changes are part of an on-going exercise

[Translation]

C.D. Ratio of Banks in U.P.

7370 DR SAKSHIJI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the credit deposit ratio of the schedules commercial banks located in Uttar Pradesh as on March 31 1994

(b) whether it is much lesser than the national average,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to do away with this imbalance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b) The Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of schedules commercial banks as on 31st March, 1994 in Uttar Pradesh is 37.2% as against the All India average of 56.6%

(c) The reasons for low C D Ratio can be attributed mainly to low credit absorption capacity, lack of adequate infrastructural facilities tendency on the part of major industries like sugar to opt for alternate sources of credit rather than from banks

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed a High Power Committee to look into the causes of low CDR in Uttar Pradesh and to suggest measures to improve the same On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, meetings were held in the State and definite time bound programmes for credit disbursal in identified areas were chalked out RBI had also advised the banks to show improvement in this regard and the banks have responded well with definite action plans to improve lending operations which will lead to boosting the C D Ratio in the State

[English]

Outstanding Bridge Loans

7371. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked the banks to furnish details on all bridge loans outstanding for more than three months;

(b) if so, whether some banks have protested against this move;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has advised the banks to furnish the quantum of bridge loans sanctioned by them and which are outstanding in their books beyond six months.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise

Natural Calamities

7372 SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme for providing funds to State Governments for natural calamities and also decided the pattern of investments of funds from 1991-92 to 1994-95;

(b) if so, the amounts released to the State so far, State-wise;

(c) whether all the State Governments have invested the funds according to the norms prescribed;

(d) if not, the States that have invested the funds against the norms; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such States ?

THE MINISTER OF THE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) In accordance with the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission (NFC) and after consultation with the RBI and the C&AG, a 'Scheme for Constitution and Administration of the Calamity Relief Fund and Investments therefrom' was formulated and made effective for the period 1990-91 to 1994-95. Under this scheme, an annual corpus of fund for each State, as per the amount recommended by the NFC, was prescribed for the purpose of financing natural calamity relief assistance. The Government of India was to contribute 75% of the yearly allocation in the form of non plan grant and the balance 25% of the corpus was to be contributed by the State Government concerned. As per the scheme, the accretions to the fund together with the income earned on the investment of the fund was to be invested in accordance with the prescribed pattern which is as under :

- (i) 15 per cent in Government of India Securities;
- (ii) 25 per cent in 182 days Treasury Bills;
- (iii) 10 per cent in State Government Securities;
- (iv) 10 per cent in Public Sector Bonds/Units;
- (v) 25 per cent to be maintained as deposits with Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and
- (vi) 15 per cent to be maintained as deposits with State Co-operative Banks (SCB).

(b) A statement indicating the Centre's contribution to States' Calamity Relief Funds released during the period 1990-91 to 1994-95 is enclosed

(c) to (e) The scheme provides for a State level committee, headed by its Chief Secretary, to be constituted by each State Government to administer the Calamity Relief Fund. It is the State Level Committee that was to administer the Fund and to invest the accretions to the Fund as per the pattern of investment prescribed in the Scheme. The Central Government does not have information about the investment made by various State Level Committees from time to time and as such the Central Government has not taken any action in case a particular Committee has not invested the funds as per norms. The Central Government has, however, received the reports on the utilization of CRF from the State Governments.

STATEMENT

Amounts of Centre's contribution to the States Calamity Relief Funds released during 1990-91 to 1994-95.

(Rs. in crores)

States	Amounts of Centre's contribution released during				
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1 2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh. -	125.6564	49.21	49.21	49.21	49.2136
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
3. Assam	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50
4. Bihar	26.25	26.25	39.3750	26.25	13.1250

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	Goa	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
6.	Gujarat	63.75	63.75	63.75	63.75	63.75
7.	Haryana	12.75	12.75	12.75	19.1250	6.3750
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13.50	13.50	13.50	16.8750	10.1250
9.	J & K	9.00	9.00	13.50	4.50	9.00
10	Karnataka	20.25	20.25	30.3750	20.25	10.1250
11.	Kerala	23.25	23.25	34.8750	11.6250	23.25
12	Madhya Pradesh	27.75	27.75	27.75	27.75	27.75
13.	Maharashtra	33.00	33.00	33.00	66.00	-
14	Manipur	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
15.	Meghalaya	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
16.	Mizoram	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.1250	0.3750
17.	Nagaland	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
18.	Orissa	57.13	29.78	29.78	29.78	29.78
19	Punjab	21.00	21.00	21.00	31.50	10.50
20.	Rajasthan	93.00	93.00	93.00	93.00	93.00
21	Sikkim	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
22.	Tamil Nadu	29.25	29.25	43.8750	29.25	14.6250
23.	Tripura	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.8125	1.6875
24.	Uttar Pradesh	67.50	67.50	122.58	39.96	39.96
25	West Bengal	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Total		686.0364	582.24	691.32	592.7625	462.6411

Women Workers

7373. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey regarding the conditions of women workers in the country particularly those engaged in farms sector,

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

(c) the steps taken to improve their working condition?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Government have not conducted any survey so far regarding the conditions of women workers in the country particularly those engaged in farms sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A separate Cell for Women Labour is functioning in the Ministry of Labour to pay special attention to their problems. The Cell is responsible for the formulation of policies that seek to remove the handicaps under which they work, to strengthen their bargaining position, to improve their wages and working conditions, to enhance their skills and open up better employment opportunities for them.

Statutory provisions have been made in certain labour laws, for organising child care centres for the benefit of women workers. The Ministry of Labour has launched a scheme to provide grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations to encourage employers to establish

creche facilities for women industrial workers. The objective is to ensure that employers do not minimise employment of women on considerations of cost involved in providing creches. The scheme also enable employers/establishments who are not statutorily required to provide the creches to avail of the facilities under the Scheme.

In addition to improve the working conditions and increase the employment potential of women, financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations to take up action oriented projects.

[Translation]

IMF/WB Suggestions regarding Banking System

7374. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have made suggestions to make certain basic/fundamental changes in the banking system of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have fully agreed to make such changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The areas of Financial Sector Reforms including changes in the banking sector are analysed in the report of the high powered Narasimhan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms, which was set up in the month of August, 1991. The recommendations of this Committee are being implemented in a phased manner.

[English]

Assistance for Drought Relief Programme

7375. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received external financial assistance for the drought relief programme;

(b) if so, the nature of the assistance provided during the last three years; and

(c) the names of the international agencies which provided such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) A Drought Assistance Project was signed with the World Bank on 25-11-87 for IDA credit of US \$ 200 m and IBRD loan of US \$ 150 m. This project closed on 31-3-89. No external financial assistance for drought relief programme has been received during the last three years.

Utilised External Debt

7376. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a significant portion of the country's external debt stocks was lying unutilised but the country has to pay commitment charge on these amounts without actually utilising them;

(b) whether the external debt has gone up from Rs. 3,723 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 4,300 crores in 1995-96;

(c) if so, the reasons for taking external debt when the same was not to be utilised; and

(d) the total amount of external debt that is not being utilised as on date and how does it compare in the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (d). The external loans contracted become part of country's external debt stocks only after they are utilised. As such there is no question of external debt remaining unutilised. However, country has to pay commitment charge to some of the donor on loans contracted but unutilised.

(b) The overall external debt including NRI deposits and defence debt was US \$ 90723 million as at the end of March, 1994. It has gone down to US \$ 90452 million at the end of Sept. 1994. The figures for 1995-96 will become available only after the close of financial year.

(c) Government do not regard external borrowings as a substitute for domestic resource mobilisation. However, to meet the financing gap in investment requirements for development projects, external borrowings are resorted to mobilise non-inflationary resources. External loan contributes to the country's external debt only after it is utilised. Since most of the external loans are project-tied, their utilisation is spread over a number of years depending on the project period. Government is conscious about its external debt burden and ensures that the debt-servicing liability does not exceed the country's capacity to service this debt.

Revival of Flights between Hyderabad-Tirupathi

7377. SHRI A INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to revive its flights between Hyderabad and Tirupathi, and

(b) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. Due to shortage of operating crew, Indian Airlines is not in a position to resume service between Hyderabad and Tirupathi.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Air-Strips in Gujarat

7378. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

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

(a) whether the Government contemplate to construct new airstrips in Gujarat in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade the existing airports in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Upgradation of airport is a continuing process and is taken up in phased manner depending upon projected requirement and availability of resources. Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade the airports at Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Porbandar, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Vadodara in Gujarat.

Gold, Brown Sugar and Drugs

7379 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

a) the details of gold, brown sugar and other drugs seized at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during each of the last two years

b) the reasons for the increasing incidents of gold and drug smuggling into the country, and

c) the preventive steps taken in this regard?

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

(a) Following are the details of gold, brown sugar and other drugs seized by Customs Officers at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during each of the last two years

Year	No of Cases	Quantity (Kgs)
(i) Gold		
1993-94	51	64 459
1994-95	21	54 619
(ii) Drugs		
1993-94		
Brown Sugar	Nil	Nil
Hashih	03	3 770
Heroin	01	27 000
1994-95		
Brown Sugar	Nil	Nil
Hashih	14	164 421
Heroin	08	28 094
Opium	01	0 040

(b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity it is not possible to state with certainty if number of such incidents have increased or decreased. However it has been estimated that smuggling of gold into the country has declined after liberalisation of gold imports in 1992.

(c) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of gold and drugs. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

NTC Cloth

7380 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state

a) whether the Government propose to stock the cut pieces of NTC cloth at showrooms of NTC particularly at Madhubani and Darbhanga in Bihar to facilitate the self-employed manufacturers of readmade garments and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Internal Debt

7381 SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total internal debt of the country as on March 31, 1994 and March 31, 1995,

(b) the proportion it formed of the GDP on these dates,

(c) the break-up of internal liabilities by small savings provident fund, market borrowing and other major sources,

(d) whether increase in internal debt has created inflationary pressures on the economy, and

(e) the total payments on account of interest and principal during the last two financial years year-wise?

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

(a) to (c) the details are as under -

	(Rs in crores)	
	1993-94	1994-95
	(RE)	
Internal debt including market loans etc	245712	274568
OTHER LIABILITIES		
Small Savings	67285	79055
Provident Funds	20592	24698
Special Deposits of Non-Govt PFs, etc	53306	61306
Reserve Funds and deposits	24556	26285
OTHERS		
Total internal debt & other liabilities	430323	490700
% to GDP	55%	54%

(d) Inflation depends on a number of supply and demand factors such as monetary expansion, fiscal deficit, and supply constraints for individual items.

(e) The repayment of internal debt and other liabilities (excluding discharge of 91 day Treasury Bills, Reserve funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions) amounted to Rs 58 482 crore and Rs 56 778 crore in 1993-94 and 1994-95 (RE) respectively. The interest thereon was Rs 32,971 crore and Rs 39,890 crore in 1993-94 and 1994-95 (RE) respectively.

[Translation]**Air Link between Gujarat and Gulf Countries**

7382. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights being operated from Gujarat for Gulf and other countries, separately as on March, 1995;

(b) whether any demand for operating more flights from Gujarat has been made; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Indian Airlines is operating twice a week service on Bombay-Ahmedabad-Sharjah route and three time a week service on Delhi-Ahmedabad-Muscat route. Air India is operating two connecting feeder flights from Ahmedabad to New York and London via Delhi and Bombay.

(b) and (c). Proposals have been received from the Government of Gujarat for starting direct flights from Ahmedabad to Nairobi and Johannesburg. Due to inadequate traffic potential, the proposed services are not considered viable at present.

[English]**Income Tax Returns**

7383. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a drastic overhaul of the system of scrutinization of income tax returns;

(b) if so, whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has finalised the new system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The norms for selection of cases for scrutiny are laid down every year based on certain criteria like availability of information of tax evasion, the level of income returned, etc. This is a continuing process and no fundamental or drastic changes are under consideration.

Labour Courts

7384. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labour courts in the country;

(b) the number of labour courts in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government propose to open such courts in every district; and

(d) if so, by when these courts are to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) There are 312 Courts/Industrial Tribunals set up by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as on 30.6.1994. In addition, there are 11 Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts as on date.

(b) There are 26 Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals in Uttar Pradesh, including one Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court.

(c) At present the Central Government has no such proposal under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Management of Air India

7385. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any irregularities in the account of Air India for the period 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure a fool-proof accounting system in Air India?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The accounts of Air India Ltd have been examined by the two firms of Chartered Accountants namely M/s. S.B. Billimoria and Co. and M/s. N.M. Raiji and Co. as examiners and also by Principal Director of Commercial Audit and Ex-officio member, Audit Board-II, Bombay as statutory auditor who has certified these accounts.

Profit earned by Air India

7386. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had a record profit during the year 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not maintaining the same rate of profit during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Air India had earned a profit of Rs. 333.14 crores during the year 1992-93.

(c) The decline in profitability in 1993-94 and 1994-95 as compared to 1992-93 is due to :

(i) Impact of depreciation and interest of the B747-400 aircraft acquired during 1993-94;

(ii) decline in yields by around 10%, and

(iii) impact of cancellation of several flights in the wake of plague outbreak.

Investment by Private/Foreign Investor

7387. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced a new policy on investment by private/foreign investors in Civil Aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas identified for foreign investment or joint ventures, domestic private investment;

(c) the details of the major proposals received by the Government in this regard and redeeming features thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon proposal-wise and particularly for proposals concerning development of airport and other facilities at Goa?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). To meet the increasing demand of funds in the Civil Aviation Sector, mainly for infrastructural development, Government has conveyed its "no objection" to proposals for construction of airports of international standards at Bangalore and Cochin with the help of private investors.

Goa airport belongs to the Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India is maintaining a Civil Enclave. A new Terminal Building is under construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.22 crores with modern facilities. An amount of Rs 81 lakhs has been provided for upgrading the runway lights to match ICAO standards.

Export of Sports Items

7388 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government to boost the exports from labour intensive sports goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of main items of sports goods being exported and the names of five major countries currently importing each of these items from India alongwith the value of exports to these countries in terms of rupees during each of the last three years and the projected exports during 1995-96;

(d) the maximum and minimum per unit f.o.b. as well as c.i.f. by air and sea export realisation in terms of rupees for different qualities of footballs leather-wise as monitored by the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council during each of the last three years; and

(e) the rate of duty drawback and other export incentives paid and allowed on exports of sports goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Some of the steps being taken to boost exports of sports goods include grant to the Sports Goods EPC for participating in fairs; sponsoring of trade delegations; allowing import of raw materials used in the manufacture of sports goods for export purposes at concessional rates of duty etc.

(c) The main items of sports goods exported from India are inflatable balls, protective equipment for cricket cricket bats, indoor games and boxing equipment. These items are mainly exported to UK, Australia, Germany, USA and France. Value of sports goods exported to these countries during the last three years for which figures are available, are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)			
Countries	91-92	92-93	93-94
UK	22.95	29.22	41.73
Australia	11.69	16.45	19.60
Germany	6.19	9.47	14.44
USA	5.36	7.29	11.19
France	4.45	5.74	5.75

(Source Sports Goods EPC)

The total projected exports of sports goods to all countries during 1995-96 as estimated by the Council is around Rs 200 Crores.

(d) The minimum and maximum per unit f.o.b. as well as c.i.f. value by sea and air as monitored by the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council in terms of Rupees per football is as follows :

	BY SHIP			
	Minimum		Maximum	
	f.o.b.	c.i.f.	fob	c.i.f.
Leather	35	38	70	75
PVC	45	48	55	59
PU leather	125	135	140	150
By AIR				
Leather	38	42	77	83
PVC	50	53	61	65
PU leather	138	148	154	165

(e) The All Industry rates of duty drawback rates for sports goods range from 4% to 13%.

Border Trade with Bangladesh

7389. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Central team visited Tripura recently to probe the possibility of border trade with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Tripura was informed in the matter; and

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

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Primary Dealership in Government Securities

7390. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the guidelines laid down by the Reserve Bank of India for awarding dealership in the Government securities;

(b) whether in pursuance of those guidelines the RBI has invited applications from financial institutions and banks in regard thereto;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the particulars of the commercial banks who have applied for the dealership;

(d) whether any specific criteria has been laid down with regard to the award of dealership to the banks and setting up subsidiaries by them for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the dealership are likely to be awarded to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a), (d) and (e). The main objectives of the Primary Dealers System (PDS) in Government Securities are to:

(i) strengthen the infrastructure in order to encourage voluntary holding of Government securities amongst a wide investor base;

(ii) to develop underwriting and market making capabilities for issue of Government securities outside the Reserve Bank of India so that the latter could gradually shed these functions; and

(iii) to make the Primary Dealers System an effective conduit for conducting open market operations.

Subsidiaries of banks or financial institutions and companies predominantly doing business in Government Securities market and having net owned funds of minimum of Rs. 50 crore are eligible to apply for Primary Dealership.

(b) and (c). In terms of the guidelines, commercial banks and financial institutions are not eligible to apply for Primary Dealership.

(f) On the basis of the scrutiny of applications received and, on being satisfied, the Reserve Bank of India will accord approval in principle. It is expected that the exercise will be completed within a specified time frame.

Assistance to Tamil Nadu

7391. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released to the Government of Tamil Nadu during 1994-95;

(b) whether the State Government had sought additional financial assistance during the year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the request of the State Government was acceded to; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The financial assistance sanctioned/allocated and released by this Ministry to the Government of Tamil Nadu under various heads during 1994-95 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Items	Sanctioned/allocated	Released
1. Normal Central assistance (Gross)	654.14	644.97
2. Assistance for Externally Aided Projects.	764.87	671.69
3. Share in Central taxes including grant in lieu of Railway passenger fare tax.	1745.74 (RE)	1745.74
4. Small savings loans	375.00	569.91
5. Revenue Deficit Grant	12.26	12.26
6. Centre's contribution to CRF	14.625	14.62
7. Special Central assistance for Hill Area/Western Ghat Development Programme	25.01	25.01
8. Central assistance for Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Transferred)	9.83	

(b) No, Sir. This Ministry has not received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu for additional financial assistance for the year 1994-95.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Payment of Stipend to Inplant Trainees of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

7392 SHRI BALRAJ PASSI Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether several lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned during 1990-91 and every year after 1990-91 for providing stipend to the handicapped persons in the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres,

(b) whether as per rules the said amount has to be utilised fully in three months or before the end of financial year, whichever is earlier, otherwise the same should be deposited in the Government treasury,

(c) whether such amount has not been utilised in many centres, particularly in Guwahati, and

(d) if so, the amount of stipend which could not be utilised in Guwahati after 1990-91 and the dates on which the amount was spend?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA SANGMA)

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Welfare had released Rs 32 00 lakhs Rs 31 23 lakhs and Rs 31 23 lakhs in 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped for payment of stipend to the inplant trainees under-went training in those years. No provision of funds for implementing this scheme is being made in the budget of the Ministry of Welfare since the year 1993-94

The funds so released to the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres were required to be utilised in the relevant financial year and the balance remitted back to the Pay and Accounts Officer concerned on the closure of the financial year

(c) and (d) Most of the Vocational Rehabilitation Centres except Vocational Rehabilitation Centre Guwahati, generally followed the procedure as laid down by the Min of Welfare in matters of utilising and surrendering of un-utilised funds. The information about the funds released to the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre Guwahati, funds utilised and the un-utilised funds carried forward for utilisation in the subsequent years during the last three years is given as under

Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Utilised	Amount Carried forward
1	2	3	4
1990-91	Rs 1,35,340	Rs 1,13,618	Rs 21,722*
1991-92	Rs 1,10,000	Rs 1 31 722**	Nil
1992-93	Rs 2 23 000	Rs 2 14,648	Rs 08 352

* This includes un-utilised amount of Rs 340/- of 1989-90

** This includes un-utilised amount of Rs 21 722/- of 1990-91

[English]

Assistance to Fight Terrorism

7393 SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA)

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government provide assistance to the States to meet the expenses involved in fighting terrorism,

(b) if so, the loan/assistance given for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise,

(c) whether the Government have decided to write off the loans of the States taken for this purpose and to bear with all such expenses to be incurred for this purpose in future,

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) the amount outstanding against each State under this head and in lieu of deployment of Central Security Forces in the States, and

(f) the decision taken by the Government regarding repayment of loan by the State Governments in these matters?

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

(a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be furnished

Assistance by World Bank

7394 SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE
SHRI TARA SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the item captioned 'World Bank to fund welfare programmes' as reported in the *Statesman* dated April 24, 1995,

(b) if so, the details of the welfare programme launched/proposed to be launched for which the World Bank has agreed to give assistance,

(c) the total assistance the World Bank has agreed to give and whether the Union Government propose to share in these welfare programmes, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Yes Sir The proposed Ecodevelopment Project is likely to be implemented in 7 wild life protection areas of India including 6 Project Tiger Reserves. This proposal aims to improve management of these project areas, involve local people in the Ecodevelopment to improve their living standards, and to develop research and build up institutions

(c) and (d). The proposed project is likely to be co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Development Association (IDA), with the balance cost to be borne by Government of India. The project is still in the preparatory stage and details will be known after appraisal is completed.

[Translation]

Income Tax Raids

7395. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Income-Tax raids conducted in Gujarat between January, 1993 and October 31, 1993;

(b) the unaccounted black money and other unaccounted property recovered during these raids;

(c) the city-wise valuation thereof and the present position of the cases in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government against these persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Income-Tax Department executed 403 search warrants in Gujarat during the period January 1993 to 31st October, 1993 resulting in seizure of unaccounted assets worth Rs. 3011.25 lakh.

(c) The details are given in the Statement attached.

(d) The necessary action as per provisions of Direct Tax laws has been taken.

STATEMENT

DDIT (Inv.)	No. of Warrants	Seizure (Rs. in lakh)			Total
		Cash	Jewellery	Others	
Ahmedabad	143	237.17	411.19	721.51	1369.87
Baroda	42	60.52	64.05	263.30	387.87
Surat	104	92.77	156.15	354.91	603.83
Rajkot	114	227.28	225.48	196.92	649.68

[English]

Price Rise

7396. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Housewives Federation have appealed to the Government to contain/lower the prices of at least the LPG Cylinder, baby food, cereals including pulses, edible oils and other essential medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Memorandum presented by the Indian Housewives Federation draw the attention of the Government to the hardships caused to the housewives on account of sharp escalation in prices. It emphasised the need to resist any further price increase particularly in LPG cylinders, baby foods, cereals and pulses, edible oils, medicines for pregnant mothers and infants, stationary for school and college students, school uniforms, milk and low price toiletries. It also wanted withdrawal of tax on telephone services.

(c) Government is deeply concerned about the Uptrend in the prices especially of those items which affect the low income families. Government is determined to see that the price of wheat, rice, sugar and edible oils remains stable during the current year. In view of the comfortable foreign exchange reserves position, the Government will not hesitate to augment domestic supplies through imports. Steps have already been initiated to persuade industry to pass on some of the benefits of excise and customs duty reduction announced in 1995-96 Budget to the consumers

Payment of Taxes by Private Airlines

7397. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

DR LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

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

(a) the details of the charges/taxes payable by the private airlines to Government and the Airports Authority of India;

(b) the details of such charges/taxes paid by each private airlines during each of the last three years and the amount outstanding against each airlines as on March 31, 1994; and

(c) the steps being taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Charges/taxes payable by the private airlines to Government and Airports Authority of India are as follows :

- Route Navigation Facility charges;
- Terminal Navigation Landing charges;
- Landing, Parking, Housing charges;
- Licence fee for space and land at Airports;
- X-Ray Baggage Charges
- Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT)

(b) The requisite information is furnished in attached Statement-I to Statement-VI.

(c) The dues are normally adjusted against security deposit wherever available. When the dues exceed the security deposit, these are recovered through legal

proceedings. Further flights of defaulting airlines are allowed only on payment of charges of charges in advance.

STATEMENT-I

Charges Collected from Private Airlines by the Airports Authority of India (National Airports Division)

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Name of the Airlines	Route Navigation Facility Charges			Terminal Navigation Lending Charges			Others			Total		
	91-92	92-93	93-94	91-92	92-93	93-94	91-92	92-93	93-94	91-92	92-93	93-94
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Delhi	0.001	0.15	0.16	0.003	0.30	-	-	0.060	0.210	0.04	0.510	0.370
Gulf Airways												
India, Inter-national airways	0.24	0.32	0.05	0.28	0.33	0.03	-	0.07	0.01	0.520	0.720	0.090
UB Air	0.20	-	-	-	0.13	-	-	-	-	0.330	-	-
Trans Bharat Aviation	0.05	0.31	0.07	0.10	0.69	0.14	-	0.10	0.08	0.150	1.100	0.290
Air Asiatic Airways	0.46	-	-	0.40	-	-	-	-	-	0.860	-	-
Continental Aviation	3.47	16.76	1.16	8.88	14.63	1.52	-	4.45	1.48	12.350	35.840	4.460
Jagson Airlines	0.40	2.52	1.13	0.29	1.87	0.75	-	0.57	0.67	0.690	4.960	2.550
East West Airlines	-	159.73	412.69	-	133.26	413.08	-	38.70	91.62	-	331.690	917.390
City Link Airways	-	15.87	9.48	-	11.79	8.10	-	1.29	0.43	-	28.950	18.010
Damania Airways	-	1.96	126.28	-	1.20	89.69	-	0.50	20.23	-	3.660	236.200
Archana Airways	-	-	5.05	-	-	3.55	-	-	1.68	-	-	10.280
Aerial Airlines	-	-	0.53	-	-	0.40	-	-	0.01	-	-	0.940
Jet Air	-	-	407.15	-	-	229.04	-	-	48.12	-	-	684.310
Magapode Airlines	-	-	0.10	-	-	0.29	-	-	-	-	-	0.390
M Express	-	-	105.31	-	-	81.13	-	-	27.84	-	-	214.280

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Raj Air	-	-	7.91	-	-	8.39	-	-	2.27	-	-	18.570
Sahara Airlines	-	-	23.43	-	-	17.50	-	-	0.92	-	-	41.850
Total	4.821	197.621	100.80	10.083	164.07	853.61	-	45.74	195.57	14.904	407.430	2149.980

- Note : 1. Others include Housing & Housing & Parking, Exension of Watch, X-ray, Baggage, Counter Fee etc.
 2. City Link Airways have suspended its operation in July 93.
 3. Continental Aviation have suspended its operation in June 93.
 4. Jet Airways have started its operation in May 93.
 5. M Express have started its operation in July, 93.

STATEMENT -II

Statement of Revenue External from Air Taxi Operators since beginning to March '94

(Rs.. in lakhs)

S No	Airlines	Landing & Parking			Rent & Space			Others			Total		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Continental Aviation	0.63	12.83	4.30	0.44	0.28	0.44	0.08	0.35	0.91	1.15	13.46	5.65
2.	India International	1.29	1.98	4.54	0.25	0.99	1.08	0.08	0.09	0.02	1.62	3.06	5.64
3.	Trans Bharat	0.25	0.53	0.41	0.29	1.19	1.30	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.63	1.81	1.82
4.	Jagson All lines	0.24	1.44	1.09	0.02	1.59	1.39	0.00	0.08	0.09	0.26	3.11	2.57
5.	City Link	0.00	16.59	10.47	0.00	1.17	2.02	0.00	3.78	3.36	0.00	21.54	21.54
6.	East West	2.48	264.37	497.04	0.20	3.34	11.39	0.22	6.81	101.31	2.90	274.52	609.74
7.	Saraya Aviation	0.00	0.14	0.15	0.00	1.25	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	1.39	0.36
8.	Jet Airways	0.00	0.00	312.19	0.00	0.05	5.95	0.00	0.00	61.38	0.00	0.05	379.52
9.	Modiluft	0.00	0.00	139.76	0.00	0.00	4.54	0.00	0.00	16.69	0.00	0.00	160.99
10.	Archana	0.00	0.00	2.21	0.00	0.00	1.65	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	4.67
11.	Cosmos Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.35
12.	Damania Airlines	0.00	9.16	191.79	0.00	1.97	4.46	0.00	0.05	40.06	0.00	11.18	236.33
13.	Baron Air	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.31
14.	Delhi Gulf	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84
15.	Oriental Airlines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.41
16.	Sahara India	0.00	0.00	39.05	0.00	0.00	5.27	0.00	0.00	5.29	0.00	0.00	49.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	Raj Air	0.00	0 00	3.35	0 00	0.00	3 70	0.00.	0.00	0 90	0 00	0.00	7.95
18	NEPC Airlines	0 00	0 00	0 15	0 00	0 00	0 70	0.00	0 00	0.00	0 00	0.00	0 85
19	Aerial Services	0 00	0 12	0 82	0 00	0.00	0.00	0 00	0 00	0.00	0.00	0 12	0 82
Total		4.89	307.16	1207.33	1 20	11.83	45.96	0 47	11.25	231.02	6.56	330.24	1484.31

STATEMENT -III

IATT paid By Private Airlines Since 1991-92

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the private Airlines	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. India international Airways	21.55	12.85	5.50
2. UB Air (P) Ltd	8.68	-	-
3. Delhi Gulf Airways	-	2.97	1.59
4. Air Asiatie	-	-	-
5. Trans Bharat Aviation	2.40	8.01	2.62
6. Jagson Airlines	2.78	12.14	-
7. Continental Aviation	-	-	-
8. East West Airlines	Not in operation	-	163.20
9. City Lind Airways	-do-	-	-
10. Damania Airways	-do-	-	386.67
11. Udan Research & Flying Institute	-do-	-	0.35
12. Goaways Aviation	-do-	-	-
13. Pawan Hans	-do-	Not in operation	2.11
14. Aerial Services (P) Ltd.	-do-	-do-	2.44
15. Sahara India	-do-	-do-	46.69
16. Modiluft Ltd.	-do-	-do-	209.96
17. Jet Airways	-do-	-do-	985.82
18. Archana Airways	-do-	-do-	22.38
19. NEPC Airlines	-do-	-do-	-
20. Saraya Aviation	-do-	-do-	0.52
21. Raj Aviation	-do-	-do-	-
22. Megapoda Airlines	-do-	-do-	2.03

These figures have been obtained largely on the basis of information furnished by the airlines.

STATEMENT - IV

*Outstanding Dues Against Private Airlines as on
31st March, 1994*

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1. East West Airlines	140.21
2. Damania Airlines	29.11
3. Jet Airways	48.49
4. Sahara Airlines	5.31
5. Megapode	0.02
6. Raj Air	0.94
7. Modiluft	0.19
8. Continental Aviation	14.13
Total	238.39

STATEMENT - V

Statement of dues as on 31-3-94

Airlines	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	Landing	Rent & Others	Total	
	Parking	Space		
1. Continental Aviation	5.63	2.86	0.64	9.13
2. India International	0.75	0.11	0.01	0.87
3. Trans Bharat	0.22	0.15	0.02	0.39
4. Jagson Airlines	0.57	1.70	0.05	2.32
5. City Link	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6. East West	28.95	4.02	10.27	43.24
7. Saraya Aviation	0.17	0.06	0.01	0.24
8. Jet Airways	12.93	5.20	0.56	18.69
9. Modiluft	0.57	0.53	2.68	3.78
10. Archana	0.00	0.28	0.68	0.96
11. Cosmos Airways	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.21
12. Damania Airlines	8.92	5.99	1.56	16.47
13. Baron Air	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.05
14. Delhi Gulf	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.27
15. Oriental Airlinee	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.10
16. Sahara India	9.96	1.28	1.69	12.93
17. Raj Air	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15
18. N.E.P.C. Airlinee	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
19. Aerial Service	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.06
Total	68.73	22.79	18.35	109.87

STATEMENT - VI

*Amount of IATT Outstanding Against Each Private
Airlines as on 31st March, 1994*

Name of the private airline	(Rs. in lakhs) Amount of IATT outstanding
1. M/s. Air Asiatic	57.58
2. M/s Jagson Airlines	13.68
3. M/s. Continental Aviation	74.85
4. M/s. East West Airlines	600.74
5. M/s. City Link Airways	60.15
6. M/s. Damania Airways	632.76
7. M/s. Goaways Aviation	15.85
8. M/s. Raj Aviation	37.34

These Figures have been obtained largely on the basis of information furnished by the airlines

Basic Requirements for UP Exporters

7398. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to provide any incentive to exporters from U.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). An Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) has already been approved at Surajpur in U.P. An export Intensive Areas Sub-plan Scheme is under formulation in Ministry of Commerce, under which Moradabad in U.P. has tentatively been identified as one of the Centres where central assistance is to be provided for infrastructure development.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Dormitory in Patna

7399. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Bihar for the construction of Dormitory accommodation in Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken on the proposal received and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) to (c) During 1993-94, based on a proposal of the State Government of Bihar, sanction of Rs 21 93 lakhs was issued for the construction of a Yatrika at Patna-Sahib Against the sanctioned amount an advance of Rs 10 00 lakhs has been released to start the construction work of the Yatrika

[English]

Fleet of Private Airlines

7400 SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Airports Authority has evolved programmes for private air carriers in the country

(b) whether the private airlines have inducted more planes in its fleet, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) No Sir

(b) and (c) Details regarding permission granted to private air carriers for import of aircraft/helicopter since September 29, 1994 are given in the Statement attached

STATEMENT

Name of Operator	No of aircraft/ helicopter
1 M/s Archana Airways	4 aircraft
2 M/s Damania Airways	1 aircraft
3 M/s Eastern Airways	1 aircraft
4 M/s East India Hotel	1 aircraft
5 M/s Gujarat Airways	2 aircraft
6 M/s India International	3 aircraft & 3 helicopters
7 M/s Jagson Airlines	1 aircraft
8 M/s Jet Airways	3 aircraft
9 M/s K C V Airlines	4 aircraft
10 M/s Mesco Airlines	6 helicopters
11 M/s Modiluft	2 aircraft
12 M/s NEPC Airlines	3 aircraft
13 M/s Raj Air	3 aircraft
14 M/s Raymond woollens	1 aircraft
15 M/s Sahara India Airlines	2 aircraft
16 M/s Saraya Aviation	1 aircraft
17 M/s U P Airways	3 aircraft

[Translation]

Women ITIe

7401 SHRI KASHIRAM RANA
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the World Bank is providing assistance for opening up Industrial Training Institutes for women in Gujarat,

(b) if so, the amount provided by the World Bank for the proposed scheme during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95, and

(c) the details of the places where these institutes are to be established?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA SANGMA) (a) to (c) A World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour in which the Central Government and 28 State Governments/UT Administrations including Gujarat are participating. The project schemes for the States/UTs are being implemented on the pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The States/UTs do not get the World Bank assistance. It is the Central Government which receives the credit amount from the World Bank. The Budget is provided by the State/UT Governments for implementation of the schemes. Fifty percent of the expenditure incurred is borne by the Central Government.

Four new women's Industrial Training Institutes at Bhavanagar Uttarsanda and Billimora and covered under the project. The budget provided by the State of Gujarat during 1993-94 was Rs 36 62 lakhs and during 1994-95, Rs 45 43 lakhs.

[English]

Committee on BOP

7402 SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the report of high level Committee on Balance of Payments was submitted to the Government in April, 1993,

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof

(c) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations of the Committee,

(d) if so the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

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

(b) The recommendations mainly pertain to measures for evolving a medium-term balance of payments strategy. These include exchange rate policy, foreign currency reserves management, utilisation of external assistance, approach towards commercial borrowings, policy shift with regard to NRI deposits, management of short-term debt, policy and procedural changes for the structure of external debt, promotion of foreign direct investment and export promotion measures.

(c) to (e). A number of recommendations of the Committee have already been implemented. The major ones relate to unification of the exchange rate of the rupee, imposition of cap on external commercial borrowings, reduction of costly and volatile components of NRI-deposits, monitoring of the short-term debt and simplification of export-import policy. The recommendations relating to statistical issues of registering defence debt as commercial debt and treatment of related debt service payments in the balance of payments statistics have also been implemented. Some of the recommendations are in the nature of suggestions to be kept in view while framing relevant policies.

Posting of AI and IA Staff Abroad

7403. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for foreign posting of Air India and Indian Airlines staff; and

(b) the number of SC/ST officers and other staff posted abroad by AI and IA since 1990?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Criteria adopted for foreign postings of officers of Air India is given below:-

- (1) Existence of vacancy.
- (2) Seniority
- (3) Suitability in terms of good record of service, effective communication skills and adaptability to the living condition in the country of posting.
- (4) Priority is given to persons who have not been posted abroad followed by persons who have been longest in India since their last posting.
- (5) There is no reservation of posts for foreign postings.

The criteria followed for posting of staff to foreign stations in Indian Airlines is as under :—

- (1) The officer should not have done any foreign posting earlier, in his existing or previous grade.
- (2) Due weightage to seniority merit.

(3) No vigilance case pending/contemplated against the officer.

(4) The officer must have done at least one posting within India.

(5) The officer should have a minimum of 3 years of service due to his credit at the time of his posting.

(6) The posting abroad should be for a maximum period of two years.

(b) The number of SC/ST officers and other staff posted abroad by IA and AI since 1980 is given below:-

Indian Airlines	-	16 (including officers and other staff)
Air India	-	71

Prices of Yarns

7404. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched investigations into the recent price hike by both nylon filament yarn and polyester filament yarn producers;

(b) if so, whether the investigations have been completed;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome of the investigations; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the yarn producers for resorting to price hike?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d). No investigation has been launched into the recent price hike of both nylon filament yarn and polyester filament yarn. The Government has, however, taken a decision to have the present structure of the industry studied by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. The study would also cover factors relating to costs and prices.

Malhotra Committee

7405. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the United States has recently expressed its unhappiness over the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee on reforms in Insurance Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir. During the visit of the US Treasury Secretary

to India from 17th to 20th April, 1995, the focus of discussions related to strengthening of economic and commercial relations between India and USA.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Import/Export of Cotton

7406. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cotton exported during 1994-95 and the value thereof;

(b) the countries to which the Export was made;

(c) the quantity of cotton imported during above period and the value thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned by export of cotton during above period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES" (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). 68,700 bales of cotton valued at about Rs. 50.10 crores have been exported to Germany, Belgium and Japan during 1994-95 cotton season, so far.

(c) 1,59,800 bales of raw cotton valued at about Rs. 176 crores was imported during the 1994-95 cotton season.

(d) The foreign exchange earned by exporting cotton during 1994-95 amounted to about \$ 16.21 million.

Bank Loans to Unemployed Persons

7407. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed persons to whom banks have provided loans during the last year, State-wise;

(b) the number of such persons in Uttar Pradesh who had submitted their forms to the Department of Industry to get loan and the number of persons out of them to whom loan was sanctioned; and

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the loan to all the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) State/Union Territory-wise position of the number of unemployed persons who have been sanctioned loans by the banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the year 1994-95, as furnished by the office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of Industry, is set out in the Statement attached.

(b) The physical target under the PMRY scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1994-95 was

fixed at 27,400. The number of applications received by the District Industries Centres (DICs), applications recommended by the DICs to the banks for sanctioning of loans and applications sanctioned under PMRY during the year 1994-95 in the State of Uttar Pradesh as furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) are as under

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Received by the DICs	Recommended by the DICs	Sanctioned loans by the banks
82318	53752	22826

(c) The reasons for rejection of applications sponsored by the DICs Inter-alia include, non-viability of the projects and the applications not fulfilling the criteria laid down under the PMRY Scheme

STATEMENT

State/Union Territory-wise number of Unemployed persons who have been provided with bank loans under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1994-95

S. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	No of applications sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19484
2.	Assam	6404
3.	Bihar	10532
4.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	702
5.	Goa	192
6.	Gujarat	5715
7.	Haryana	4588
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2202
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1880
10.	Karnataka	13727
11.	Kerala	10240
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21840
13.	Maharashtra	23230
14.	Manipur	2004
15.	Mizoram	80
16.	Orissa	5474
17.	Punjab	5357
18.	Rajasthan	7646
19.	Tamil Nadu	14537
20.	Tripura	733
21.	Uttar Pradesh	22826
22.	West Bengal	6624

1	2	3
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	59
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	168
25.	Chandigarh	165
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	100
27.	Daman & Diu	52
28.	Nagaland	191
29.	Lakshadweep	12
30.	Meghalaya	312
31.	Pondicherry	476
32.	Sikkim	75
Total :		187625

Production Cost of Cloths

7408. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of cloths in the country is more in comparison to other textile exporting countries of the world;

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

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to production cost right from cotton yarn, spinning to cloth weaving at different levels in the textiles industry in the country;

(d) if so, the average rate of production at the national level in regard to production of yarn, cloth weaving and to card cotton, separately; and

(e) the extent by which this production cost is more than that of in other countries like China, Pakistan and America?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (e). The production cost of cloth depends on various factors such as the cost of raw materials, wages, power, and cost of manufacturing machinery, level of technology, interest rate fiscal levies etc. Reliable data pertaining to other countries on the cost of various items required for the manufacture of cloth is not available. However, the Government keeps a close watch on the developments in the textile industry to make the cloth prices competitive in the world market. As and when there is a crisis in any segment of the textile industry appropriate measures are taken through policy intervention.

[English]

Employment

7409. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed the goal of total employment by the year 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to augment self-employment opportunities and reframing the skilled workers to suit the demand of labour markets?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). The employment strategy of the 8th Five Year Plan envisages faster growth of employment intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. The Plan envisages an employment growth of around 2.6% to 2.8% per annum or an average of about 8 to 9 million additional employment opportunities per year, on an average, corresponding to a growth rate of 5.6% in the economy. A continuation of this rate of growth in the Ninth Plan implying an average of 9.5 million additional employment opportunities per annum is expected to bring about a situation of near full employment by 2002 A.D.

2. In order to augment self-employment opportunities and reframing the skilled workers to suit the demand of labour markets the following specific steps have been taken :

- (i) The 5 important schemes namely : (a) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (b) Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), (c) Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas, (DW CRA) (d) Supply of improved tool kits to Rural Artisans, and (e) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are being implemented.
- (ii) Modernisation and expansion of vocational Training infrastructure in the country by acquisition of modern equipment, introduction of employment relevant vocational training Courses, revision of teaching learning materials etc. So that the employability of the Job-seekers is improved.
- (iii) Promotion of training and retraining of workers under National Renewal Fund (NRF) to impart new skills so that they could get redeployed when industries modernise by taking recourse to new technologies.

Poor Customer Service by L.I.C.

7410. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the LIC is giving more attention and importance to its investments in equity rather than to policy holders; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to re-orient the LIC to serve the policy holders better?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Investments made by the LIC are aimed at maximising the returns to the policyholders on the

premium income generated. This is an essential constituent of the service rendered to the policyholders. There is no conflict between the investment function and the interests of the policyholders. While the entire organisation of LIC at Branch, Division and Zonal levels strives to improve the customer service to the policyholders, the investment function which is highly technical is being handled centrally at the corporate office of the LIC.

(b) The LIC have reported that all the policyholders' services have been decentralised to Branches to render prompt and personalised services to policyholders at the nearest point. The LIC have set up Claims Review Committees at the Branch Office, Zonal Office and Central Office level to review the repudiated claims from time to time. Customers' Meets and consumers' Education Programmes have been organised to educate the policyholders about the role of LIC and to know the expectations of the policyholders.

Damania Airlines

7411. DR. LAL BHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Damania Airways has asked for subsidy for operating its flights to far flung regions and on less remunerative sectors; and

(b) If so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The question of subsidy for operation on unremunerative sectors was mentioned by some of the private operators in a meeting held in the Ministry on 12.2.94

(b) In the matter of grant of subsidy for the period after 1.3.94, all scheduled carriers will be treated at par with Indian Airlines and no discrimination shall be made.

Export and Import of Tea

7412. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import cheaper varieties of tea to meet the shortage of tea in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the total quantity of tea likely to be imported during 1995-96;

(c) whether there is any proposal to export the best and import poor varieties of tea;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard particularly to curb the import of poor quality of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) There being no shortage of tea in the domestic market, it is not proposed to import tea for sale within the country. However, import of tea is allowed for re-exports after blending with Indian tea, only by Export Oriented Units, units in Export Processing zones and under duty exemption scheme of the Export and Import policy.

Imports of tea for reexports by the Indian companies would depend upon the commercial judgement of individual units which import such teas. It is therefore not possible to quantify such imports during 1995-96 and the quality of tea to be imported by such units

Endeavour of the Govt. is to maximise foreign exchange earnings from exports of tea. Export Oriented Units and units in the Export Processing Zones which are allowed imports of tea for re-exports, have to achieve a minimum value addition of 40%.

[Translation]

Flight of AI for Qatar

7413 SHRI VILASRAO
NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR .
SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD :

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

(a) whether the Air India flight to Qatar had been banned for two days recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Qatar Airways were operating their services to India under an ad-hoc entitlement which was bilaterally agreed for a limited period. When this ad-hoc entitlement was not extended, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Qatar refused permission to Air India to operate their services to Doha with effect from 20th April, 1995. The matter was taken up at diplomatic level and the permission for Air India's operation to Doha was restored on 23.4.1995. During the period between 20th and 23rd April, 1995 only one scheduled flight of Air India was disrupted.

[English]

UTI in Stock Market

7414. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated April 30, 1995 to the effect that the UTI has been a continuous seller in the stock market during the last several months;

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

(c) the steps taken to restore confidence of a large number of investors in various schemes of UTI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, UTI has stated that it has not been a continuous net seller in the market. During the current phase of steady decline in the stock prices from Sep. 94, UTI made net purchases aggregating to over Rs.1100 crores.

(c) UTI follows prudential norms to maximise return to investors. Most of UTI equity funds have outperformed market indices. Besides, UTI has also toned up the level of investor services. As a result, it could mobilise about Rs.15000 Crores during the first ten months of 1994-95 under various schemes.

Growth of Air Traffic

7415. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's domestic transport witnessed a sharp growth in air traffic during the year 1994;

(b) if so, the total air traffic carried by Indian Airlines and private airlines during the above period, separately;

(c) the reasons for sharp growth in air traffic and to what extent air traffic carried was increased in comparison to previous year; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the growth of air traffic during the year 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). The details of domestic passengers carriage during 1993 and 1994 are as follows :-

Year	Indian Airlines	Private Operators	Total
1993	67.4	20.9	88.3
1994	68.9	36.1	105.0

Increased opportunities and facilities made available to airlines and air passengers and general growth in economy due to liberalised economic policy etc. are some of the factors which have led to growth in domestic air traffic.

(d) Depending upon traffic requirements, domestic airlines are permitted to introduce/increase services to meet the traffic demands. Augmentation of infrastructural facilities at airports has also been planned to cope with growth in traffic.

[Translation]

Indian Investment Abroad

7416. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have laid down new guidelines for Indian investment in joint ventures in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for the implementation thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to simplify the procedure of investment in foreign countries?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The present guidelines on Indian Direct Investment in Overseas ventures already provide for a fast track approval procedure for investments upto US \$ 2 Million of which cash remittance does not exceed US \$ 0.5 million. For amounts in excess of these limits, cases are considered by the Inter-Ministerial committee and a decision normally communicated within 90 days.

[English]

C.D. Ratio of Banks in West Bengal

7417. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total average amount of deposits collected annually from West Bengal by all the nationalised banks;

(b) the total average amount of credit advanced annually; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to augment the lending operation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Aggregate deposits and gross banks credit of nationalised banks in West Bengal as on last Friday of March 1992, 1993 and 1994 are indicated below :

	(Amount in Rs. lakhs)		
	1992	1993	1994
Deposits	11826,01	13640,99	15552,50
Credit	5953,04	7012,39	7169,81

The data reporting system of RBI generates information on outstanding deposits and credit as indicated above and not annual averages.

(c) Reserve Bank of India had constituted a Task Force to go into the reasons for low Credit Deposit Ratio (C DR) in West Bengal. In the meetings held subsequently to consider the findings/recommendations of the Task Force it was agreed, inter alia, to make joint efforts by State Government and bankers for improving CDR and recovery of bank dues in the State.

Government Securities

7418. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken a decision to conduct auction of Government Securities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of auctions held during 1995, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b) Since 1992-93, central Governments' market borrowing is at market related rates of interest which are determined at auctions conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. The switch to market related interest rates was essential because the earlier systems in which Government borrowed heavily from the Reserve Bank or from commercial banks at artificial rates was leading to inflationary pressure and had an adverse impact on the health of the banking system.

(c) In 1995-96 so far, one auction for raising a market loan of Rs 1000 crore was held on 4.5.1995

NBFIs in Gujarat

7419 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the location of Non-Banking Financial Institutions working in Gujarat at present,

(b) the number of companies out of the above which have been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to operate in the State;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints that some of these institutions are cheating and have duped the depositors,

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to wind up these institutions?

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

Investments by UTI

7420. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds invested by the Unit Trust of India in securities, shares, debentures and other operations till March 31, 1995;

(b) the total amount raised by UTI from public under different schemes of UTI till March 31, 1995; and

(c) the earnings of the Unit Trust of India during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 under different schemes, unit-wise?

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

(a) The UTI outstanding investment of Rs. 61546 crores as on 31st March, 1995.

(b) Year-wise amount raised by UTI under different schemes till 31st March, 1995' is given in the Statement attached.

(c) The cross earnings of UTI was Rs. 5533 crore from 51 schemes during 1992-93 and Rs 7909 crore from 54 schemes during 1993-94. The current year's position will be known after the end of the year. viz, 30th June, 1995

STATEMENT

Year-wise Sales under all Scheme

(Sale in Rs Crore)

Year	Amount (F.V.)
1	2
64-65	19.14
65-66	2.15
66-67	9.24
67-68	15.34
68-69	17.16
69-70	22.83
70-71	18.00
71-72	15.11
72-73	23.17
73-74	30.64
74-75	17.24
75-76	28.97
76-77	34.59
77-78	73.27
78-79	101.53
79-80	57.85
80-81	52.10
81-82	157.37
82-83	166.90

1	2
83-84	330.16
84-85	756.19
85-86	891.75
86-87	1,261.06
87-88	2,059.42
88-89	3,855.01
89-90	3,853.59
90-91	4,552.95
91-92	12,182.35
92-93	6,492.00
93-94	10,711.55
⊙ 94-95	9,960.99

⊙ Up to 31st March, 1995.

Income Tax and Excise Duty Dues

7421. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Income Tax and Excise Duty (Outstanding as on March 31, 1995);

(b) the name of the top defaulters against whom the maximum Income Tax and Excise Duty arrear is outstanding and the amount of arrear to be recovered in each case; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for recovery of the tax arrear?

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

Powerloom Sector

7422. SHRI M.V.S MURTHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Philippines delegation that visited India recently have shown keen interest in country's powerloom sectors;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been made or signed in this regard, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, Through, no agreement has been made or signed, the delegation has shown keen interest no using Indian technology in the powerloom sector.

Upgradation of Cargo Complex at Bangalore

7423. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade cargo complex at Bangalore Airport;

(b) if so, the details there alongwith the cost involved; and

(c) by when the execution of work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). The Air Cargo complex at Bangalore is operated by Mysore Sales (International) Ltd., a State Government of Karnataka Undertaking. Airports Authority of India has no plans to expand this cargo complex.

[Translation]

Export of Garments

7424. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the scope of export of India garments in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up textile manufacturing centres at Block level to eradicate unemployment in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) . (a) and (b). No, Sir. Government have not conducted any survey to ascertain the scope of export of Indian garments in the world market. However, our Missions abroad and our Export Promotion Councils give their assessments from time to time regarding the scope of export of garments to different countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Loss/Profit of Cooperative Banks and RRBs in Madhya Pradesh

7425. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of profit earned and loss suffered by the cooperative banks and regional rural banks in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94;

(b) the reasons for suffering losses; and

(c) the steps taken to contain the losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The details of the amount of profit earned and losses suffered by the cooperative banks and regional rural banks in Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and

Rural Development (NABARD) are indicated below :
(Rs Lakhs)

Banks/ Cooperatives	No.	Profit	Loss
State Cooperative Banks	1	703.88	-
District Central Cooperative Banks	25	171.68	-
Madhya Pradesh Land Development Bank	1	118.35	-
District Land Development Banks	45	-	5699.69
Regional Rural Banks	24	-	5455.20

Information in respect of 5 PCCBs in Madhya Pradesh are not available.

(b) and (c). The major reasons for the losses suffered by various banks are little scope for deployment of funds, high incidence of overdues with low margins, Low level of business, bad debts, etc. Government, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD had taken important measures to improve the efficiency of the banks and to contain the losses in future. Some of these are extension of loans to non-target group of borrowers, widening the range of business and the scope of services, relocation of loss making branches, opening up of new avenues for investment of surplus funds, etc. RRBs have been advised to prepare banks specific development action plans for achievement of sustainable viability within a period of 5 years. All the SCBs/SLDs and DCCBs in the country and the concerned State Governments are entering into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with NABARD based on the State Action Plans and Development Action Plans.

English

Tampering of Records by Borrowing Companies

7426. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain cases of tampering with stocks hypothecated with the banks by the borrowing companies have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monitors cases of different types of frauds involving Rs.1 crore and above. Based on information received from banks, RBI have reported that there were 4 fraud cases involving Rs 1 crore and above during 1992-93 relating to tampering with stocks hypothecated with the banks by the borrowing companies. The total amount involved in these four frauds was Rs. 7.23 crores.

Measures advised by RBI to banks to prevent the possibility of tampering of hypothecated stocks include meticulous verification of the borrower's title to goods pledged/hypothecated, submission of periodical stock statements by borrowers to the banks, scrutiny of the stock statements by the banks, physical verification of the stocks from time to time, ensuring the safety of the godown in which pledged goods are stored, surprise inspection of the goods by a special squad, etc.

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

7427. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether handloom weavers working in cooperatives are covered by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring them under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments for the fixation/revision of minimum wages for the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions. The State Government are the appropriate Governments for the fixation/ revision of minimum wages for the workers engaged in the employment of handloom weaving. The provision of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are applicable to any handloom weaving establishments, if it is notified as a scheduled employment by the concerned State Government.

Illicit Trade by Foreign Countries

7428. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some foreign countries are selling artificial/fake jem stones in the domestic market as real stones;

(b) if so, the number of such cases found so far;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curb this illicit trade, and

(d) the loss incurred by the Government in terms of foreign exchange in this fake trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. The Government is not aware of any sale of artificial/ fake gems stones in the domestic market as real stones.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Agriculture Loan

7429. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the recovery of bank loans provided to agriculture sector during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the process of recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The average recovery percentage of various financing agencies during the last 3 years are as follows:

Agency	Percentage of recovery to demand		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(i) District Central Cooperative Banks	66	68	68
(ii) State Cooperative Banks (SCBs)	76	88	89
(iii) Land Development Banks (LDBs)	50	52	57
(iv) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)	42	41	NA
(v) Scheduled Commercial Banks	54	56	NA

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government, Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for improving the recovery performance of the banks .

- (i) Recovery Management has been made an important component of the Development Action Plan (DAP) which all banks are required to prepare for achieving viability.
- (ii) RRBs have been advised to make use of Lok Adalats/Lok Nyayalaya with necessary guidance on procedural matters from their sponsor banks for recovery of their dues.
- (iii) The recovery performance of the banks is regularly reviewed in the fora of Block level Bankers Committee/District Coordination Committee/State Level Bankers Committee and corrective measures are suggested for implementation by banks.
- (iv) Recovery cells in district Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) have been strengthened for constant and persistent recovery efforts for collection of dues under IRDP.
- (v) NABARD has taken initiative for strengthening the cooperative banks which have been advised to prepare their own DAPs as per guidelines issued by NABARD. Based on the action points in these DAPS a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been/is being entered into by the respective State Governments and State Land Development Banks with NABARD.

Bank Branches in Andhra Pradesh

7430. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had issued any directives to the nationalised banks to open some bank branches in Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the number of new branches of banks opened in Andhra Pradesh during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the nationalised banks show adequate enthusiasm for increasing their profile in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that under the extant policy, year-wise targets are not allotted to banks for opening branches. However, 9 branches of public sector banks were opened in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1994-95. The proposal for opening branches at rural centres identified by the banks within their service area and received through the concerned State Government duly recommended are considered by RBI on merit.

[Translation]

Inflow of Gold

7431. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a considerable increase in the inflow of gold during the last three years and a major part of which is smuggled;

(b) the quantity of gold imported during each of the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The quantity of gold imported into the country during the last three years is as follows :

Year	(In tonnes)	
	Quantity of gold imported as passengers baggage	Quantity of gold imported under special imprest licences.
1992 (March-December)	92.3	
1993	116.3	-
1994	159.7	18.7

Thus there has been an increase in the inflow of legally imported gold in country. Smuggling being a

clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate the quantity of gold smuggled into the country during the last three years. Available reports indicate there has been a decline in smuggling of gold after liberalisation of gold imports since 1992.

(c) Government have liberalised import of gold, including import under passenger baggage scheme to make legally imported gold available for consumption in the country. Anti-smuggling agencies remains vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling including smuggling of gold. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[English]

Indian Investment Centre

7432. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to review the working of Indian Investment Centre;

(b) if so, the constitution thereof and the work assigned to the Committee, and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Tourist places developed with Central Assistance

7433. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names and location of tourist places developed with the Central assistance in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the central assistance provided during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). On the basis of complete and eligible proposals received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Central financial assistance of Rs.151.04 lakhs in 1993-94 and Rs.168.06 lakhs in 1994-95 was sanctioned for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh. The details are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Central Financial Assistance to Projects/Schemes Sanctioned During the Years 1993-94 and 1994-95 in the State of U.P.

	Rs. in lakhs
1993-94	
1. Wayside amenities at Muradnagar	8 35
2. Wayside amenities at Pharenda	8.27
3. Wayside amenities at Shahganj	8.28
4. Tourist Lodge at Sardhana (Meerut Distt.)	13 40
5. Tourist Lodge at Kandala	10.07
6. Tourist Lodge at Bateshwar	13 59
7. Improvement of Ghats at Bateshwar	20.00
8. Triveni Ghat at Rishikesh	23 97
9. Jashne Avadh	4.70
10. Akbar Festival	2 88
11. Golf Course at Noida	37.45
	151 04
1994-95	
1. Tourist Reception centre at Sarnath	28.24
2. Meditation Centre at Sarnath	64.71
3. Development around Chaukhandi Stupa	3.40
4. Floodlighting of Monument at Varanasi Ghats	16.50
5. Restaurant-cum-waiting hall, Sravasti	12 26
6. Restaurant-Cum-waiting hall, Kushnagar	12.25
7. Restaurant-Cum-waiting hall, Pallia	12.26
8. Publicity, Fairs & Festivals	
(i) Taj Mahotsav	5 00
(ii) Avadh Festival, Lucknow	2.34
(iii) Printing of Publicity literature	11 10
	168 06

[Translation]

C.D. Ratio of Banks in Maharashtra

7434. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of total annual deposits on an average in all the nationalised banks in Maharashtra;

(b) the total amount of loans advanced every year on an average; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expand the work regarding loans process in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Aggregate Deposits and gross bank credit of nationalised banks in Maharashtra as on last Friday of March 1993, March 1994 and December 1994 is given below :

	(Amount Rs. in lakhs)		
	March, 93	March, 94	December, 94
Deposit	33048,82	37015,66	29862,51
Credit	22541,70	25262,21	28108,44

The data reporting system of RBI generates information on outstanding deposits and credit as indicated above and not annual averages.

(c) The following steps have been taken :

- (i) State Government authorities have been requested to provide necessary infrastructural support to enhance flow of credit under priority sector.
- (ii) Lead Banks in the State have been requested to achieve the expected level of C:D Ratio in districts wherein it is below 60%.
- (iii) Review of credit disbursal is undertaken in quarterly State Level Bankers' Committee meetings as well as in District Consultative Committee meetings of district Level.

[English]

Economic Surveillance by IMF

7435. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have accepted such a surveillance by IMF;
- (d) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of conditionalities involved in this surveillance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The articles of Agreement of the IMF applicable

to all member countries include surveillance by the IMF over exchange arrangements of the countries. This is necessary to enable IMF to perform its basic role of overseeing and maintaining an orderly international monetary system. This is not, therefore, a new proposal and all countries which are members of IMF are bound by the Articles of Agreement. The surveillance role of the IMF has come into greater focus after the Mexican crisis. In this context, at the Interim Committee Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IMF held on April 26, 1995 in Washington D.C., there was a consensus that in view of increased globalisation and integration of markets, the surveillance by the IMF should be strengthened in a symmetrical manner.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

7436. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the States where the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been implemented properly and the names of those States where it has not been fully implemented; and
- (b) the number of cases regarding the dispute on wages of farm labourers pending for the years and the action being taken by the Government for the speedy settlement of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is being implemented in all the States/U.T.s of India, except the State of Sikkim where the Act is yet to be extended. Under the Act, both Central and State Governments, as appropriate Governments are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of Act. The appropriate Governments have set up enforcement machinery to seek compliance with the provisions of the Act. The enforcement machinery conducts regular inspections and necessary action is taken whenever any violation to the Act comes to their notice. A Statement indicating the state-wise cases of violation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the action taken by the State Governments/Union Territories Administration is attached.

STATEMENT

Statement on Enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948

S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of violations detected in the last two years (1992-94)	Prosecutions launched	Amount realised (in Rs.)	Penalty imposed (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6.
1.	Assam	717	-	-	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11,462	Nil	2,94,49,057	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	NII	NII	NII	NII
4.	A&N Island	202	13	-	-
5.	Bihar	51,922	92	3,100	15
6.	Chandigarh	1	-	-	-
7.	Delhi	24,388	2,046	1,72,35,670	-
8.	Dadar and Nagar Havell	1	1	-	-
9.	Daman and Diu	NII	NII	NII	NII
10.	Gujarat	-	11,372	15,55,927	2,61,645
11.	Goa	3,601	371	-	1,26,375
12.	Haryana	9,089	6,139	-	1,18,335
13.	Himachal Pradesh	232	232	-	48,870
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	NA
15.	Karnataka	21,388	1,888	12,48,934	1,22,990
16.	Kerala	5,800	224	-	-
17.	Lakshdweep	NII	NII	NII	NII
18.	Maharashtra	8,56,641	1,116	1,79,48,000	-
19.	Mizoram	NII	NII	NII	NII
20.	Manipur	1,850	13	-	-
21.	Meghalaya	NII	NII	NII	NII
22.	Madhya Pradesh	1,358	1,358	-	-
23.	Nagaland	NII	NII	NII	NII
24.	Orissa	3,963	1,582	12,72,103	28,225
25.	Punjab	3,004	2,425	-	-
26.	Pondicherry	NII	NII	NII	NII
27.	Rajasthan	3,985	1,994	59,68,552	2,81,781
28.	Sikkim	Minimum Wages Act is yet to be extended.			
29.	Tamil Nadu	4,723	5,127	-	7,78,210
30.	Tripura	3	3	-	-
31.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	23,107	NA	NA
32.	West Bengal	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA : Not Available.

Note . The information in respect of Bihar is taken from the returns filed by the State Government under 20-point Programme and relates the period April, 1993 to Sept 1993.

[English]

Export of Mangoes

7437. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of mangoes proposed to be exported from Andhra Pradesh and the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom during the current season;

(b) whether any special incentives are offered to the exporters of mangoes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are no state-wise export targets for agricultural commodities including mangoes.

(b) and (c). Some of the incentives provided for export of mangoes and other agricultural products are:

(i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of precooling/cold storage facilities;

(ii) Soft loans given for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quantity testing equipments;

(iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control;

(iv) Providing financial assistance for export promotion and market development.

Performance of Boeing 777 Aircraft

7438. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state .

(a) whether American Boeing aircraft 777 arrived in India recently on a demonstration flight as well as a part of series of flight test;

(b) if so, the details regarding its performance;

(c) whether Boeing company has offered the 777 aircraft to Air India for its long haul routes;

(d) whether the Boeing has submitted a proposal to Air India for 10 of its new generation 777; and

(e) If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). M/s. Boeing Company, USA at their own initiative, brought one Boeing-777 aircraft to India on 24-25 April, 1995 as a part of a demonstration tour. Performance of any aircraft can not be fully assessed in demonstration flights. Air India has undertaken a techno-economic study for selecting the Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) aircraft for induction into the fleet. Apart from B-777, Airbus-A-340 aircraft of Airbus Industrie, France and MD-11 aircraft from McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company of USA are also being evaluated.

Birds Hit incidents

7439. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of bird hits affecting the flights of Indian Airlines during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the extent of the loss suffered on this account; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The number of incidents of bird hits affecting the flights of Indian Airlines are as under :

Year	No. of incidents
1992-93	71
1993-94	105
1994-95	102

(b) The total estimated losses suffered by Indian Airlines as a result thereof were Rs. 231.48 lakhs.

(c) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been set up at each airport to take steps for prevention of bird strikes. Action plans have been

formulated at major airports for combating the bird menace. Airport authorities have taken measures like levelling of operational areas, construction of effective drainage system to prevent water logging, planting of dhub grass, pigeon proofing of buildings, installation of incinerators and scaring of birds, etc. in order to reduce the sources of bird attraction to airfield areas.

Funds Allocation to Andhra Pradesh by NABARD

7440 SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided by NABARD to Andhra Pradesh under various schemes during the last two years and the number of farmers benefited therefrom;

(b) the amount of loan recovered so far; and

(c) the details of schemes being formulated by NABARD for the State and the total amount allocated therefor during 1995-96?

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

(a) and (b) National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facilities to various agencies under schematic lending. The details of purpose-wise disbursements made by NABARD under schematic lending to Andhra Pradesh during the last two years are given in the Statement attached. NABARD has reported that details regarding the number of farmers benefited from the schemes and the borrower-wise recovery details are not available with them as the details of the same are maintained by the financing institutions who avail of refinance from NABARD

(c) NABARD does not formulate schemes. However, the refinance allocation for financing banks under various schemes (schematic lending) made by NABARD for the State of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1995-96 is given below :

Purpose	(Rs. lakhs) Allocation
Minor Irrigation	15700
Land Development	105
Farm Mechanisation	3061
Plantation/Horticulture	1463
Dairy Development	290
Fisheries	3294
Forestry	45
Poultry/Sheep/Piggery	4962
IRDP	2662
Non-Farm Sector	2268
Total	33850

STATEMENT

Purpose-wise disbursements made by NABARD under schematic lending to Andhra Pradesh during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95

Purpose	Refinance disbursed in	
	1993-94	1994-95
Minor Irrigation	13705	12758
Land Development	327	91
Farm Mechanisation	4429	3852
Plantation/Horticulture	1449	1236
Poultry/Sheep/Piggery	2267	4324
Fisheries	3475	6854
Dairy Development	1081	671
Storage and Market Yards	7	76
Forestry	354	88
Gobar Gas	-	-
Non-Farm Sector	988	2791
IRDP	4939	2949
Others	524	449
Total	33545	36139

Girl Bonded Labour

7441. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to abolish girl bonded labour in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI PA. SANGMA).

(a) and (b) The Bonded Labour System stands abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 which inter-alia include girl bonded labour.

The Government of India accord the highest priority to the total eradication of bonded labour system. For speedy rehabilitation of identified bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is in operation for rehabilitation of bonded labour since 1978 under which financial assistance upto Rs. 6250/- is provided to the released bonded labour. The expenditure is equally shared by the Centre and State Governments concerned on 50:50 basis. The State Governments have also been advised to suitably integrate/dovetail the scheme with other ongoing poverty alleviation schemes so as to pool the resources available for effective rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

[Translation]**Diversion of Loans from Rural Areas**

7442. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tendency to divert the loans of backward and poor areas to prosperous areas is constantly increasing;

(b) if so, the details of improvements made by the Government in banking system to check regional imbalance;

(c) whether the Government are taking any steps for expansion of bank services in these areas to improve credit deposit ratio in rural areas,

(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) to (e). The credit deposit ratio (CDR) at all India level has declined from 61.0 per cent at the end of March, 1992 to 56.6 percent at the end of March, 1994. In line with the above trend, some of the backward States and Union Territories also showed decline in their CDR during this period. A number of steps have been taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to reduce the inter-regional and intra-regional imbalances in regard to disbursement of credit. These *inter-alia*, include :

(1) Banks were advised to achieve atleast 60 per cent CDR for their rural and semi-urban branches;

(2) With a view to ascertaining the reasons for low CDR in certain States, Task Forces were constituted. In other States and Union Territories where CDR is low and where specific Task Forces have not been constituted, the convenor banks for State Level Bankers' Committee were advised to convene special meeting to discuss and find out ways and means for improving the position.

[English]**Reward Package for SBI Staff**

7443 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision to offer a reward package to the staff and officers of State Bank of India has met with any opposition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether this separate package has affected banking sector in an adverse way;

(e) If so, whether the Government propose to implement similar package for other banks; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). While no reward package as such has been offered to staff and officers of the State Bank of India (SBI), a package comprising of payment of Special Compensatory Allowance, one stage higher fitment to eligible employees, Fixed Personal Allowance and slight improvement in the existing pension scheme was extended to employees/officers of SBI as a consequence of the pension settlement signed at the industry level on 29.10.1993 for the public sector banks (excluding SBI). The pension settlement in public sector banks involved an additional outlay of about Rs. 400 crores per annum. Since no benefits were extended to employees/officers of SBI in pursuance of industry level settlement, National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) and All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) made a demand for certain additional benefits to compensate them for benefits extended to employees/officers in other banks in the light of the agreement reached. In pursuance of this demand, Government agreed to SBI's proposal for a separate monetary package for employees/officers of SBI for maintaining relativity. Both All India Officers' Association (AIBOA) and All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) have lodged protests against this package. As SBI has extended the financial benefits to its employees to maintain relativity in accordance with the provisions in the Settlement dated 29.10.1993, there is no case for extending similar package to other bank employees. SBI has reported that payment of Special Compensatory Allowance has already commenced and other benefits will be extended shortly.

Trade Deficit

7444. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the trade deficit for the year 1994-95;

(b) the inter-annual rate of growth of export and of import and of trade deficit;

(c) the major items which have shown higher rate of import growth;

(d) the major items which have shown lower rate of export growth; and

(e) whether the Government as a matter of policy propose to endeavour to reverse the trend and to reduce trade deficit during 1995-96 by compressing imports and promoting exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) India's trade deficit during 1994-95 is provisionally estimated at US \$ 2028 million (Rs. 6367 crores).

(b) Percentage increase of exports, imports and trade deficit during 1994-95 as compared to 1993-94 are as follows :

	In US \$	In RE terms
Exports	18.3	18.4
Imports	21.7	21.8
Trade Deficit	95.2	95.4

. Note: Data for 1994-95 are provisional.

(c) As per the latest available trade data which relate to April-February 1994-95, the major commodities which have registered growth rates higher than the average growth rate of imports are edible oil, sugar, non-ferrous metals, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, pulp and waste paper, machinery other than electrical, transport equipment, Project goods, iron and steel, cashewnuts, synthetic and regenerated fibre, coal coke and briquettes, non-metallic mineral manufactures, organic and inorganic chemicals, dyeing and tanning material, wood and wood products, textile yarn, fabrics etc. artificial resins and raw hides and skins.

(d) The major products which have shown lower growth rate of exports than average growth rate during April-February 1994-95 compared to April-February 1993-94 are tea, rice, tobacco, groundnut, oil-meals, shellac, sugar and molasses, spirit and beverages, iron ore, mica, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, natural silk textiles, carpets and cotton raw including waste.

(e) It is not the policy of the Government to compress imports. However, export promotion remains the focus of Government attention as it holds the key to external sector management. Considering the present level of foreign exchange reserves, the trade deficit of \$ 2028 million (1994-95) is within manageable limits. The Government, in the medium term, aims at a sustainable trade deficit.

[Translation]

Child Labour

7445. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project for the welfare of child labourers is going on in Gujarat at present;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred under this scheme during the last two years;

(c) the number of children rehabilitated under this scheme during each of the last two years; and

(d) the number of children liberated from the hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Under the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC/ILO) in which India is a participant, there are two Action Programmes currently under implementation in Gujarat - one targetting 100 child labourers in Jamnagar and another targetting 250 children in Ahmedabad. The total budget for these two programmes is Rs. 5,95,202

(d) The number of children liberated from the hazardous industries is not maintained

[English]

Decline in Profit of Air India

7446. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for the steep decline in Air India's profits during the year 1993-94 as compared to 1992-93;

(b) whether the comptroller and Auditor General of India has given any opinion on this new creative system of accounting developed by the then management of Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During 1993-94 Air India earned a net profit of Rs. 201.90 crores as against a profit of Rs. 333.14 crores, in 1992-93; the decline was caused by the following factors :

- (i) Decline in passenger load factor from 64.6% in 1992-93 to 59.6% in 1993-94
- (ii) One time provision of Rs. 40 crores for obsolescence on spares and tools due to recategorisation of stores and spares.
- (iii) Increase in depreciation and financing charges on induction of three Boeing 747-400 aircraft,
- (iv) Increased material consumption and outside repairs amounting to Rs. 43.80 crores for the maintenance/repairs of aircraft.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

Computer Crimes in Banks

7447 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Cases of

computer crimes in banks on the rise" appearing in the 'Financial Express' New Delhi dated April 3, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of the loopholes in computerisation which enable an operator to increase the balance in a specific account;

(d) whether the fraud in electronic fund transfer is many times greater than the theft in manual system; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure proper controls, trail logs etc. in computerisation mechanism and plug the loopholes and prevent such electronic frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Government have seen the news-item referred to in the Question

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

Group Insurance for Cine-Workers

7448. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the cine-workers are presently covered by the Employees Provident Fund, (EPF) Scheme under Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether some of the cine-producers have defaulted in recent years in paying the employers' contribution to the fund;

(d) if so, the measures taken by the E.P.F. authorities in this regard,

(e) whether the Government have recently decided to extend the Group Insurance Scheme to the cine-workers throughout the country;

(f) if so, the details and the modalities thereof; and

(g) the details of the measures taken by the E.P.F. authorities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (g). The information is being collected and will be placed before the table of Lok Sabha in due course.

Bank Loans to SSI in Tamil Nadu

7449. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans sanctioned by banks to unemployed youths in Tamil Nadu for setting up of small scale industries during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries and the women beneficiaries among them, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government/banks to increase the amount of such loans during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the loans sanctioned under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the educated unemployed youth which was launched on 2nd October, 1993 Under the PMRY scheme the educated unemployed youth are provided bank loans upto Rs. 1 lakh including subsidy and margin money for starting self employment ventures through industry, service and business routes. Women are to be given preference under the PMRY scheme. As per the data obtained from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), number of cases sanctioned and the amount sanctioned during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 for the State of Tamil Nadu are set out below :

Year	Number of cases sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	2469	15.13
1994-95	13283	71.99

(Data are provisional)

The data reporting system does not generate information separately either for small scale industries or for women beneficiaries under PMRY scheme.

(c) The physical targets are allocated to the States under the PMRY scheme. The targets for 1993-94 and 1994-95 for the State of Tamil Nadu under the PMRY Scheme were 3560 and 17400 respectively. The physical targets for the year 1995-96 for the State of Tamil Nadu has been fixed at 21800.

Foreign Visits by Chief Ministers/Ministers

7450. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are certain guidelines/norms prescribed to be followed by the Chief Ministers and Ministers of the State Governments who want to visit foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the names of Chief Ministers and other Ministers of the State who visited to foreign countries alongwith purpose of visit as well as the expenditure incurred on them during the last three years, year-wise?

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

(b) The proposals of foreign visits on official account by Ministers/officials of State/UT Governments are processed in the Department of Economic Affairs in

consultation with the administrative Ministry concerned with the subject matter of the visit. Simultaneously, political clearance from Ministry of External Affairs is obtained. The Ministry of Home Affairs are also consulted for giving permission under FCRA, in cases where foreign hospitality is to be accepted.

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

Development Projects of International Airport

7451. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA . Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to invest about Rs. 731 crore on various development projects at international airports including Bombay and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such other projects and proposed investments in each case and by when these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount spent so far during each of the last three years for modernisation and development of domestic and international airports, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). While Bombay airport is an international airport, the Ahmedabad airport is a domestic airport. For development of international airports, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has proposed a revised outlay of Rs. 555.18 crores as against Rs 731 crores envisaged earlier.

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. The amount spent so far during the last three years for the modernisation and development of international and domestic airports is as follows :

Year	International airports	Domestic airports (Amount in crores)
1992-93	58.23	75.38
1993-94	79.31	253.54
1994-95	71.56	308.66

Major projects envisaged by the Authority include the following :

- (I) Modernisation of air traffic control services at Bombay and Delhi airports.
- (II) Procurement of Airport Surveillance Radars and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars.

- (iii) Procurement of Instrument Landing Systems.
- (iv) Development of Model airports.
- (v) Construction of International Passenger Terminal Complex (Phase-III) at Bombay airport.
- (vi) Construction of Domestic Terminal Complex (Phase-II) at Bombay airport.

Export Growth

7452. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA .
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY .
SHRI LAETA UMBREY .

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

- (a) whether there is a great difference in the growth rate of our exports and imports on yearly basis,
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor,
- (c) the details of growth rate of exports and imports during each of the last three years till-date, separately,
- (d) whether the growth rate of exports and imports was within the targetted rate;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor, and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The growth rate of exports and imports, in dollar terms, during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as follows .

	Exports (% growth)	Imports (% growth)
1992-93	3.8	12.7
1993-94	20.0	6.5
1994-95 (P)	18.3	21.7

P: Provisional figures

Exports and imports depend on different factors, which translate into different rates of growth. An exact balance between the two can only be a coincidence.

(d) and (e). Imports are made as per requirements. Hence, no targets are set imports. The targetted and the actual growth rates of exports for 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as follows :

	Targetted growth rate	Actual growth rate
1992-93	12.8%	3.8%
1993-94	20.0%	20.0%

No formal target was set for exports during 1994-95. However, trade and industry were expected to achieve 25% growth in exports during 1994-95. The

primary reasons for the slow growth in exports during 1992-93 were the fall in trade with CIS and East European countries, recession in industrially advanced countries and sluggish growth in world trade.

(f) Export growth is the main factor which helps in the reduction of trade deficit. Recognising this, the Government have taken a number of steps to encourage and maintain a strong export growth. India's trade policy was liberalised in July '91 to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed by the domestic and international developments and continuously revised thereafter to step up exports. The trade policy liberalised as of 31.3.1995 has aimed at creating a free environment for trade, strengthening export production, removing procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and sharpening competitive edge, facilitating input availability, focussing on quality and technological upgradation besides introducing and strengthening schemes for export promotion. Efforts have been made to provide cheaper export credit and provide tax exemption on export profits. Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and concerned institutions.

Flight Timings

7453 SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to reorganise their flight schedule to suit majority of passenger's convenience and to provide additional seating capacity on several congested and other tourist concentrated routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There is no proposal at present to re-organise the flight schedule of Indian Airlines.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Labour Welfare Funds

7454. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labourers have to undergo several difficulties for withdrawal of money from the Welfare Funds meant for the labourers;

(b) if so, the arrangements made by the Government to develop an easy procedure for application of the funds for welfare measures; and

(c) the number of complaints received from the labourers in various welfare organisations during the last three years, regarding difficulties faced by them in accessing the welfare funds State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Welfare Funds have been set up for Beedi, Mine (Limestone and Dolomite, Iron/Manganese/Chrome, and Mica) and Cine Workers to finance various welfare schemes aimed at providing education, health, housing and recreation facilities. There is no provision for withdrawing money by individual from these funds.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Bank Fraud

7455. **SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'CBI unearths Rs 90 lakh bank fraud' appearing in the "Pioneer" dated March 31, 1995;

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

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter?

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

(b) The investigation conducted by Central Bank of India had revealed that certain lapses/irregularities were committed by the then branch Manager and Regional Manager in sanction and conduct of borrowal accounts of M/s. Chabra Textile Mills and M/s. Anchal Silk and Sarees. These officials are reported to have shown undue favour to the firms by recommending adhoc/higher limits and by allowing certain other facilities despite existence of several adverse features in the conduct of the accounts. The bank has already filed suits for recovery of its dues. The bank also proposes to initiate departmental action against the concerned officials. CBI have also registered two cases against 5 officials of the bank and some private persons in the matter.

Hubli Airport

7456. **SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of air taxi services to Hubli airport from other parts of the country;

(b) whether the Government also propose to improve the condition of Hubli airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The number of flights to Hubli is decided by the airlines, taking into consideration the economic viability of the operations.

(b) and (c). Airports Authority of India has plans to improve the facilities at Hubli airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.50 lakhs. The proposed improvement works include maintenance of terminal building, runway, provision of streetlights on the approach road and augmentation of water supply.

Profit of ITDC

7457. **SHRI LAETA UMBREY :**
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :

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

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation have earned a net profit of Rs. 30.51 crores on a turnover of Rs. 250.70 crores during the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the growth rate in the profit as compared to the year 1993-94;

(c) whether the Government propose to take steps to improve the turnover and extended the network of ITDC and its operations in the North-Eastern region particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the turnover and the net profit during the year 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Based on provisional data for 1994-95 on a turnover of Rs. 227.82 crores the ITDC registered net profit (before tax) of Rs. 42.25 crores showing an increase of 75.9% over the profit for 1993-94.

(c) to (e) ITDC's Annual Plan 1995-96 does not envisage any specific plan scheme/provision for construction of any new hotel in the country, including Arunachal Pradesh. However, steps taken/being taken to improve the business turnover/profit of ITDC during 1995-96 include aggressive marketing efforts, introduction of special tariff/packages, upgradation/improvement/restructuring and control of operating costs, development of human resource by imparting suitable training etc.

[Translation]

Export of Readymade Garments

7458. **DR. P.R. GANGWAR :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign exchange earned through exports of ready-made garments during the year 1994-95; and

(b) the name of the countries which are importing our readymade garments?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The foreign exchange earned from exports of readymade garments during 1994-95 was US\$ 4 433 83 million (approx.).

(b) Indian readymade garments are exported to a large number of countries. The European Union Countries, the U.S.A. the, U.A.E., Switzerland, Canada, Japan and Australia are some of the major importers of Indian readymade garments

[English]

Mid Air Collisions

7459 SHRI RABI RAY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated May 4, 1995 stating that the pilots have blamed crowded corridors for mid-air collisions,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government have also received representations from the Indian Commercial Pilots Association in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Three alleged incidents of airmiss over Pratapgarh, Trivandrum and Delhi were reported.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps taken are :

(i) establishment of an additional Area Control Centre at Ahmedabad; (ii) modernization of Air Traffic Control Systems at Delhi and Bombay Airports; (iii) induction of State-of-the-Art. Radars and automation in Air Traffic Management at major airports; (iv) provision of extended range of air ground VHF communication facility on major domestic air routes in the country in a phased manner, etc.

New Safety Code for Air Taxie

7460. DR. LAL BHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared new safety code for air taxis;

(b) if so, the details of the new guidelines as well as the old guidelines;

(c) whether these guidelines are applicable on Indian Airlines also and if so, how they differ with the private airlines; and

(d) whether some of the private airlines have been permitted to serve hard liquor and beer and if so, its impact in getting more passengers and in creating difficulties for co-passengers including ladies and children who do not drink and the number and nature of complaints received alongwith the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Airlines and Private Airlines are governed by the same guidelines.

(d) No, Sir. Serving of hard liquor/beer on board the domestic air transport service has been banned since 27th June, 1994.

'Bifurcation of S.C.I.C.I.

7461 SHRI S M LALJAN BASHA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to bifurcate the present S.C.I.C.I.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b). SCICI Ltd., a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, is governed by the policies as decided by its Board of Directors from time to time. No proposal to bifurcate SCICI Ltd. is under consideration of Government of India.

Infrastructural Facilities to Exporters

7462. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a holding company to provide basic infrastructural facilities to exporters near international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of main facilities proposed to be provided by the said company;

(c) whether any amount of investment for the project has been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which these facilities are likely to be implemented;

(f) whether the Government have decided to hike export targets substantially after improving basic infrastructural facilities for exporters; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (g). A Satellite Air Freight City project aimed at providing infrastructural facilities to exporters near Indra Gandhi International Airport, Delhi is under consideration. However, a final decision on the project has not yet been taken.

[Translation]

Regional Office of R.B.I. at Bhopal

7463. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new building of the Reserve Bank of India has since been constructed at Bhopal; and

(b) if so, when, and the details of the departments/officers which have started functioning therein and the offices yet to be opened there together with the time likely to be taken in that process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the construction of its building at Bhopal was completed in May, 1991. The Department of Banking Operations and Development, Department of Supervision, Urban Banks Department, Rural Planning and Credit Department, Exchange Control Department of Economic Analysis and Policy have been shifted to the new building. RBI has further reported that it proposes to transfer the work of issue and Banking Departments to the Bhopal Office. RBI has started that it would be difficult to indicate the precise time limit in this regard.

[English]

Accounting Standards

7464. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any nodal statutory authority to formulate uniform accounting standards in the preparation of financial statements; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export and Import of Agro Products and Beverages

7465. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of agricultural products, food and beverages imported and exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the 1994-95 in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The total value of imports and exports of agricultural products during 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April '94 to Feb '95) are as under:

	(Value in Rs. Crores)	
	Exports*	Imports**
1993-94	9727.40	1743.56
1994-95 (April'94 to Feb'95)	8220.75	4786.18

* Agricultural products including tea, coffee and cotton (raw and waste)

** Agricultural products including tea, coffee and cotton (raw and waste) but excluding wood and wood products, and vegetable and Animal Fats

Transfer Policy for Handicapped Employees

7466 SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the physically handicapped persons employed in public sector undertakings, including banks are normally exempted from routine periodical transfers;

(b) if so, whether this directive is uniformly followed by all the public sector banks, particularly in the State Bank of India;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made to save the physically handicapped employees from the difficulty of periodical transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) to (d). In terms of the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training and circulated to the public sector undertakings and the public sector banks, award staff employees who are physically handicapped are given postings as far as possible and subject to administrative constraints near their native places. In the same spirit, the request received from such employees for transfers to or near their native place(s) are given due consideration. The public sector banks have also been advised to normally exempt physically handicapped persons from the routine periodical transfers, but if they have to be transferred

out of a particular zone/region on promotion, they may be posted, as far as practicable and subject to availability of vacancies, nearer to their original places of posting. However, these concessions are not available to such of the physically handicapped employees of the banks who are transferred on grounds of disciplinary action or are involved in fraudulent transactions etc.

Narasimham Committee

7467. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee were to be implemented by the end of March, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the same have since been implemented;

(c) if not, the details of the recommendations implemented and yet to be implemented, separately, together with the reasons for their non-implementation; and

(d) the time bound programme to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Most of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee are in the process of implementation including reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), simplification of interest rate structure, positioning of norms in respect of capital adequacy, income recognition and provisioning requirements, revision of Reserve Bank of India guidelines for branch licensing/branch closure, technological modernisation through computerisation, issue of guidelines for entry of new private sector banks, measures aimed at liberalisation of the capital market, vesting of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with statutory powers, equal treatment of various Mutual Funds in the area of tax concessions etc. Recommendations regarding issue of fresh capital to the public in respect of public sector banks, setting up of Special Recovery Tribunals and establishment of Board for Financial Supervision under the aegis of Reserve Bank of India have also been implemented.

The Committee's recommendations regarding reduction in priority sector lending to 10% and setting up of nation wide Asset Reconstruction Fund have, however, not been operated.

The main recommendations of the Committee which are still under examination include deductibility of specific provisions made by the banks and institutions under the Income Tax Act, decentralisation of recruitment of officers in the banks and structure of rural credit.

Regarding restructuring of the banking system, the Committee had suggested a broad pattern and the

movement towards the revised system was recommended to be market driven. In regard to Committee's recommendations for restructuring of Regional Rural Banks, after considering a number of alternative models it has been decided to revamp the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) by cleaning up their balance sheets on a 'stand-alone basis'. 49 of the RRBs have been taken up during 1994-95 for undertaking comprehensive restructuring and experience with these RRBs will guide the approach in later years for other RRBs. As suggested by the Committee, Industrial Finance Corporation of India has been converted into a company. Apart from this, the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 has been amended to restructure the IDBI by permitting it to raise additional equity from the capital market and to provide it with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility. However, the recommendation of the Committee regarding restructuring of IDBI by incorporating a separate financial institution as a company to take over IDBI's direct lending function has not been accepted.

No time frame has been fixed for implementation of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee. However, the process of financial sector reform is an on-going one, and would be continued to accelerate overall growth and enable the country to realise its full productive potential.

Powers of SEBI

7468 DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the powers vested in the Securities and Exchange Board of India to regulate the functioning of the stock exchanges;

(b) the criteria/guidelines adopted by the SEBI in granting authorisation and allocation of categories to the merchant bankers; and

(c) the details of the merchant bankers with their categories authorised by the SEBI so far to undertake management of capital issues and related activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been given several powers to regulate the securities market under the SEBI Act, 1992 and the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. These, inter alia, are grant and withdrawal of recognition to the stock exchanges, making or amending the bye-laws of recognised stock exchanges, hearing of appeals against refusal of stock exchanges to list securities of public companies, allowing existing stock exchanges to establish additional trading floors, appointing nominees on the Governing Board of recognised stock exchanges, directing recognised stock exchanges to furnish periodical returns and inspection of stock exchanges.

(b) The criteria and requirements considered by SEBI before granting a certificate of registration to a merchant banker are laid down in the SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, 1992. Some of the important requirements are the following :

- (i) sufficient infrastructure is available.
- (ii) the applicant has minimum two persons in employment with adequate merchant banking experience.
- (iii) the applicant is not involved in litigation connected with securities market.
- (iv) the applicant has not been convicted for any moral or economic offence
- (v) the applicant has the required professional qualification.
- (vi) the categorywise capital adequacy requirements are as follows, namely:

Category	Minimum Amount
Category I	Rs. 1 crore
Category II	Rs 50 lacs
Category III	Rs 20 lacs
Category IV	Nil

(c) As on 30-4-1995, there are 802 Merchant Bankers registered with SEBI. The categorywise break-up is as below :

Category I	- 343
Category II	- 36
Category III	- 126
Category IV	- 297
Total :	- 802

Study on Export of Sandalwood

7469. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any study on the total potential of sandalwood exports in all its forms,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the study report with sandalwood exporters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Central Assistance for Development of Tourism

7470. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central assistance has been provided for development of tourism in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years?

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

(b) The details of Central financial assistance provided for development of tourism in Delhi during the last two years are given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Sanctioned
1993-94		
1	Improvement/refurbishment of work at Red Fort.	98 37
2	10 rowing boats	7 50
3	Purchase of 25 (4 seater) for various lakes	7 97
4	Purchase of Trekking Equipment	5.84
1994-95		
1.	Development of food and craft bazar, INA, Delhi	31.61
2.	SEL Show at Purana Qila	25 00
3.	Purchase of Kayaks	2.03
4.	5 water scooters for Baleshwa Lake	4.82
5.	Purchase of 2 overcrafts	12.44
6.	Kutub festival	2.95
7.	Delhi Utsav	1.05
8.	Mango festival	2.69

Trade Fair Complex at Aurangabad

7471 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a trade fair complex at Aurangabad in order to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

I.T. Dues from Public Sector Undertakings

7472. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Public Sector Undertakings against whom maximum amount of Income Tax is outstanding at present and the total amount outstanding against them; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for recovery of Income Tax dues from these undertakings?

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

(a) The names of top 10 Public Sector Undertakings against whom maximum amount of corporation tax remained outstanding as on 31.12.1994 are as under

1. State Bank of India
2. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
3. United Bank of India
4. Steel Authority of India Limited
5. Bank of India
6. Bank of Baroda
7. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited
8. Garden Reach Ship Builders Engineers Limited
9. New India Assurance Co. Limited
10. Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corpn.

The total amount involved in these cases was Rs. 1339 27 crores.

(b) In most of the cases, the demands have either not fallen due for payment or pending in appeals. However, 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.

Import of Copper

7473 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI . Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue to import of copper;

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

(c) whether there has been surplus production of copper in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to meet the domestic demand of copper?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To facilitate meeting of domestic demand of copper, Hindustan Copper Ltd., a Central Government Public Sector Undertaking, is planning to expand its copper smelting and refining capacity from 31,000 Tpa to 1,00,000 Tpa.

Trade Agreement with Thailand

7474. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Thailand have agreed to pool their resources for meeting the requirements of the Indo-Chinese markets, explore possibilities of doing counter trade and extending credit lines for financing exports by the Exim Bank of the two countries;

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

(c) the steps being taken to implement these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). During the 7th meeting of Joint Trade Committee between India and Thailand held in New Delhi on 26-27, August, 1994 the two sides agreed, *inter-alia*, to cooperate with each other in pooling of the resources for meeting the requirements of Indo-China markets and explore the possibilities of doing counter trade as one of the options for enhancing bilateral trade. The two sides also exchanged views about possibilities for credit lines being extended by the Exim Banks in the two countries. No agreements have been concluded as efforts at boosting trade are on going exercises.

UNDP Assistance for Jute Industry

7475. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have selected some entrepreneurs for setting up mini jute spinning units for manufacturing jute fine yarn under UNDP assisted jute programme;

(b) if so the names of the entrepreneurs selected and the details of the jute spinning units set up so far proposed to be set up; and

(c) the extent up to what setting up of those units likely to help the jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). In phase I of the project of setting up mini jute spinning units for manufacturing jute fine yarn under UNDP assisted Jute Programme following six entrepreneurs have been selected.

- (i) M/s. Eastern Ju Wool Tex Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.
- (ii) M/s. Pioneer India Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad UP.
- (iii) M/s. Arihant Business P. Ltd., Calcutta.
- (iv) M/s. Siddha Technological Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.
- (v) M/s. BCO Fabrics Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta.
- (vi) Kanai Lal Bhattacharya Mini Jute Mill Co-operative Society Ltd., Dist. North 24-Parganas, West Bengal.

The above units will require finer quality of jute fibre. Jute growers will get better remuneration by producing better quality of raw jute.

Portfolio Investment by UTI

7476. DR. R. MALLU :

SHRI LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total face value of portfolio investment made by UTI in the ten largest private sector companies in India;

(b) the market value of such shares as on date;

(c) whether there is any proposal to dispose of such portfolio investment in these companies which are in dispute,

(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). The face value and market value of UTI's equity investment in top ten private sector companies based on assets as on 31.3.1995 are as given below:

Company	Face value (Rs. crores)	Market value of equity holding (Rs. crore)
1 2	3	4
1. Reliance Industries Ltd.,	58.333	1,523.97
2. TISCO	63.298	1,353.00
3. Essar Gujarat Ltd.	24.572	175.08
4. TELCO Ltd.	25.204	1,053.59
5. C.E.S.C.	0.462	9.26
6. L & T	25.631	666.42

1 2	3	4
7. Grasim Industries	14.618	847.84
8. Tata Chemicals Ltd.	15.945	554.10
9. GSFC	14.704	242.62
10. Hindalco Ind. Ltd.	12.242	1,089.58

(c) UTI trades in shares of companies on commercial considerations with due regard to investor expectations and investor interests.

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

Bank Loans to Exporters

7477. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware that the grant of loans by banks take inordinately long time even to exporters, much against the Government's declared policy; and

(b) the total number of applications of exporters pending and the total amount of surplus loans lying with the banks at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has issued instructions to banks in the area of export credit. These instructions, inter alia, include sanction of fresh/enhanced limits by banks for export credit within 45 days, renewal of limits in 30 days, submission of review note at quarterly intervals to the respective Board of Directors of banks on the position of sanction of credit limits to exporters, delegation of more powers to various functionaries especially in overseas branches for sanction of credit limits and evaluating a system by banks for prompt redressal of grievances of borrowers particularly exporters in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit facilities.

(b) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the export credit outstanding of scheduled commercial banks during the last three years was as under :

Period	Export Credit Outstanding (Rs. Crores)
March 1993	17018
March 1994	19693
March 1995 (Provisional)	25656

The above data would indicate that the credit needs of the exporters are being by the banking system. RBI also looks into individual complaints/grievances received from exports and takes suitable steps to redress such complaints/grievances.

Earning and Expenditure of Airports in Andhra Pradesh

7478. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the details of the earnings of the airports in Andhra Pradesh, separately during each of the last three years; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of these airports, during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Details of earnings and expenditure incurred at each of the airports by Airports Authority of India in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is given in the Statement attached

STATEMENT

Details of earnings & expenditure incurred at airports in Andhra Pradesh controlled by Airports Authority of India

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Airport	Total Revenue			Total Expenditure		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Provisional)	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Provisional)
Cuddapah	-	-	-	2 17	-	-
Donokonda	-	-	-	0 88	1 38	1 19
Hyderabad	394 60	867 18	949 16	309 05	372 66	455 42
Rajamundry	4 71	2 30	7 74	4 47	7 11	10 88
Tirupati	6 08	4 43	2 78	32 60	40 21	47 35
Vijayawada	9 16	2 20	5 46	48 93	54 06	59 19
Warrangal	-	-	-	2 05	1 43	1 42
Visakhapatnam	10 10	44 67	31 24	37 49	53 29	70 94

Shares Market

7479 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to develop better coordination amongst the brokers and the various departments relating to shares market and for bringing more transparency in the business,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the role being played by the Securities and Exchange Board of India in protecting the interests of capital investors in view of the heavy decline in shares market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has formulated several Rules and Regulations for various intermediaries in the securities market SEBI has also laid down certain code of conduct for these intermediaries These measures will regulate and streamline their activities and help in better coordination among them In order to bring more transparency in the securities Market, SEBI has also made it mandatory for all stock-brokers to issue contract notes, show brokerage separately and maintain books of accounts separately

for the money received on account of the clients and that received on own account

(c) SEBI remains committed to the protection of the investor interest and in addition to its efforts for achieving better transparency in the securities market, it has been continuously working to seek redressal of investor grievances But the prices of securities in the stock market and their indices are liable to fluctuate on account of the inter-play of various factors such as expectations of investors relating to the over-all economic environment, the performance of the corporate sector, transactions by large institutional investors, capital market trends overseas, including the secondary market prices of global depository receipts issued by Indian Companies and of expectations of changes of policy The markets tend to go through cycles and SEBI cannot ensure protection to the investors in case of decline in share prices

Promotion of Tourism in Maharashtra

7480 SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the Action Plans included in the Eighth Five Year Plan for promotion of tourism in Maharashtra,

(b) the amount provided by the Union Government for the purpose; and

(c) the details of facilities likely to be provided with the said amount and the locations of the places where these are to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Central Government have formulated a national Action Plan for Tourism, which was presented in the Parliament during May, 1992 with objectives of promotion and development of tourism. The entire country including the State of Maharashtra has been covered under the Action Plan and the Eighth Five Year Plan of the Department of Tourism, Government of India

(b) and (c). On the basis of the proposals received from the State Government of Maharashtra, the Central Government sanctioned 41 projects/schemes amounting to Rs.747.55 lakhs for development of tourism in Maharashtra during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The details of the projects/ schemes sanctioned with amount and places are given in the Statement- I, II and III attached.

STATEMENT-I

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1992-93

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
MAHARASHTRA		
1	Tourist complex at Gandhi Smarak Ashram at Pune.	25.59
2	Tourist Complex at Mahur, Distt Nanded	26.26
3	Wayside facilities at :	
	(a) Dajipur (dist. Kolhapur)	5.44
	(b) Balapur (dist. Akola)	5.44
4	Visitor Reception Centre at Nagpur	20.40
5	Tourist Complex at Narsi, dist. Parbhni	25.40
6	Tourist Complex at Lonar, dist. Buldana	26.47
7	Tourist Complex at Shikhar Shinganapur, dist. Satara.	8.40
8	Purchase of tents for Raigad	2.00
9	Purchase of tents for the State	19.23
10	Purchase of Haver Craft	16.97
11	Purchase of Water scooters	11.29
12	Ganesh Festival	3.41
13	Elephanta Festival	5.00
Total		201.30

STATEMENT-II

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1993-94

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
MAHARASHTRA		
1.	Construction of tourist complex (sea side cottages) at Ganapatpule, dist. Ratnagiri (Konkan circuit)	26.57
2.	Construction of tourist complex at Matheran (Hill station, dist. Raigad)	16.39
3.	Construction of tourist complex at Mahabaleshwar (hill station, dist. Satara)	23.46
4.	Construction of tourist complex at Fardapur (Dist. Aurangabad)	24.25
5.	Construction of beach cottages at Harihareshwar, Srivardhan, dist. Raigad, Konkan Circuit	24.88
6.	Construction of tourist complex at Kunkeshwar, Taluk Deogar, Sindhudurg dist.	24.80
7.	Construction of Lake View resort at Bhandardara, Akola Taluk, Ahemednagar dist	27.00
8.	Construction of wayside facilities at Mahed, Raigad dist Konkan Circuit	7.33
9.	Upgradation of Golf Course, Bombay	35.61
10.	Upgradation of Golf Course, Pune	48.00
11.	Purchase of 6 nos. of water scooters alongwith 10 HP OBMS (20+35)	4.67
12.	Purchase of 100 nos. of self-contained tents for Shiroda and Mathpur	12.80
13.	Purchase of water sports equipment	20.50
14.	Ganesh Festival	7.3
15.	Publicity support for Ajanta, Ellora Guide Book	5.40
Total		309.11

STATEMENT-III

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1994-95

(Rs. in Lakhs)		
S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
MAHARASHTRA		
1.	Tourist Complex at Gananbawda	25.02
2.	Wayside Amenities at Kudal	6.85

1	2	3
3.	Tourist Complex at Pahhala	25.02
4.	Tourist Complex at Tarkarll	23.21
5.	Tourist Complex at Vijaydurg	23.21
6.	Tourist Complex at Washim	23.65
7.	Purchase of boats	27.13
8.	Purchase of caravan	32.40
9.	Purchase of Two seater Hover Craft	27.00
10.	Purchase of Five seater Hover Craft	10.80
11.	Assistance for Ganesh Festival	5.00
12.	Elephanta Festival	2.37
13.	Publicity support	5.48
Total		237.14

Financing of Sick PSUs

7481. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for financing sick public sector undertakings through private financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) No such scheme has been formulated in the Ministry of Finance.

(b) Does not arise.

Bank branches for SSIs

7482. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE :
SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to open some specialised branches of Banks to cater to the needs of small scale industries exclusively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places selected therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have advised commercial banks to open specialised SSI branches or convert their existing branches into SSI branches to cater to the needs of small scale industries. As per liberalised branch licensing policy, opening of certain types of specialised branches including SSI branches is left to the discretion of commercial banks.

[Translation]

Seizure of Silver

7483. SHRI N.J. RATHAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of silver seized in Gujarat during the last three years as on April, 1995 and the name of places from where this has been seized;

(b) whether some smugglers gangs were found involved in this act;

(c) the details of number of persons arrested in each case; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such smuggling in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) and (c). The quantity of silver seized in Gujarat during the last three years as on April, 1995 and the names of places from where this has been seized and no. of persons arrested in each case is as follows :

Year	Quantity (in kgs)	Place	No. of Persons Arrested
1992-93	8125.900	Kandla	04
	7603.565	Between Vill. Mapar and Bhambhdal	11
	76.405	Vill. Dhotrana	01
	10473.250	At Ramdevpir Police Check Post	12
	4966.484	Kuttiyana	07
	443.700	Bedi Port, Jamnagar	30
1993-94	431.177	Ahmedabad	—
	99.980	Deesa	—
	6.200	International Airport, Ahmedabad.	—
	3445.941	Vill. Delsar	07
1994-95	8.631	Vill. Tharad	—
	1.000	Siddhpur	—
	498.250	From local courier service, Ahmedabad	—
1994-95	3.000	International Airport, Ahmedabad.	—

(b) Yes Sir.

(d) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of silver in the State of Gujarat. Close coordination is being maintained

amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

[English]

Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

7484. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total receipts in the Beedi Workers Welfare fund since its inception;

(b) the total expenditure from the Fund upto March 31, 1995;

(c) the break-up of the expenditure of various welfare schemes, State-wise; and

(d) the estimated number of beedi workers, with break-up State-wise, with the names of major districts of concentration in each case?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). As per provisional figures available, the figures of total receipts and expenditure and as follows:

Total receipts	:	Rs.120.82 crores
Total Expenditure	:	Rs.100.64 crores

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

(d) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Region	States Beedi workers	No. of (1)	Major Districts of Concentration of Beedi Workers (2) (3)		
Allahabad	U.P.	4,50,000	Muradabad	Farrukhabad	Jaunpur
Bangalore	Karnataka	3,55,00	Mangalore	Dharwad	Mysore
Hyderabad	Kerala	1,36,000	Cannannore	Kasargod	Tellicherry
	A.P.	6,25,000	Nizamabad	Karimnagar	Medak
Bhilwara	T.N.	6,21,000	Tirunelveli	North Arcot	Madras
	Rajasthan	1,00,000	Tonk	Ajmer	Kota
Bhubneshwar	Gujarat	50,000	Kheda	Mehasana	Ahmedabad
	Orissa	1.52,000	Sambhalpur	Cuttack	Dhenkanal
Jabalpur	M.P.	6,60,000	Sagar	Damoh	Jabalpur
Karma	Bihar	3,92,000	Nalanda	Singhbhum	Dumka
Nagpur	Maharashtra	2,56,000	Solapur	Bhandara	Ahmednagar
Calcutta	W.Bengal	4,50,000	Murshidabad	Malda	24Paraganas (S)
	Assam	8,000	Dhubri		
	Tripura	5,000	Tripura (W)		
Total :-		42,60,000			

Borrowing Limits of N.B.F.C.s

7485. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the non-banking financial companies (N.B.F.C.s) do not strictly adhere to the prudential norms laid down therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether all the N.B.F.C.s with a net worth of over 2 crores have not got themselves registered within the time-frame of March 31, 1995 or have failed to get a credit rating by that date;

(d) the number of N.B.F.C.s that have achieved capital adequacy norms by the stipulated date;

(e) whether the Government propose to curtail the borrowing limit of these companies which have failed to

adhere to the prudential norms laid down therefor from time to time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in June, 1994 it had issued prudential norms to Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) with net owned funds of Rs.50 lakhs and above and registered with RBI. The registered NBFCs are required to submit to RBI halfyearly returns as at the end of March and September duly certified by their auditors. The scrutiny of the return and, where necessary, inspection of the NBFCs will reveal whether the NBFC concerned is complying with the prudential norms or not. The first return relating to 31st March, 1995, is required to be submitted by 31.5.1995.

(c) and (d). RBI has intimated that the companies having net owned funds of Rs. 2 crores and above have been asked to get themselves rated before the end of March, 1995. The rating certificate is required to be submitted alongwith the first half-yearly return on prudential norms latest by May 31, 1995. The position of NBFCs which have achieved capital adequacy norms will be known after the receipt of the first half-yearly return and scrutiny thereof.

(e) and (f). RBI has reported that no proposal is under consideration to curtail the borrowing limits of NBFCs which fail to adhere to the prudential norms. However, NBFCs in the category of Loan and Investment companies, which have failed to secure satisfactory credit ratings, will be required to bring down their level of deposits (including money raised through non-convertible bonds/debentures) to 40 per cent of their net owned funds.

**Financial Assistance to Tamil Nadu
by LIC and GIC**

7486 SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of water supply and drainage projects in Tamil Nadu for which financial assistance has been provided by the Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation during 1993-94 and 1994-95, and

(b) the amount of such financial assistance sanctioned and released by each of these corporations during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) and (b). The requisite information pertaining to the LIC is contained in the Statement -I and II attached. GIC does not finance such schemes.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Name of the Schemes	Estimated Cost	Loan released during 1993-94
1	2	3	4
(A) CONTINUING URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES			
1,	Srivilliputtur	214.00	4.81
2,	Sivakasi	514.12	26.34
3,	Tiruchengode	500.71	6.18
4,	15, Velampalayam	104.61	12.05
5,	Kattumannarkoil	99.30	1.80
6,	Karur	471.57	39.70

1	2	3	4
7,	Alangudi	63.40	15.10
8,	Ariyamangalam	100.40	5.07
9,	Thirumuruganpondi	53.32	0.35
10,	Ammamet	39.70	6.94
11,	Nerinjipet	44.68	1.49
12,	Udankudi	62.64	0.85
13,	Manimuthar	63.17	0.63
14,	Mathagiri	47.06	12.78
15,	Palayam	51.06	12.43
16,	Vickramasingapuram	44.23	18.55
17,	Edapaddi	275.21	58.63
18,	Mallur	116.81	35.75
19,	Pillanallur	101.19	30.90
20,	Elampillai	81.26	29.15
21,	Thanjavur	415.00	144.07
22,	Kuttalam	55.75	8.86
Total (a)		3519.60	472.49

(B) NEW URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

1.	Kunnathur	89.99	59.97
2.	Kettaiyur	44.28	29.52
3	Thriukkattupalli	42.94	23.41
4.	Valangalman	33.87	22.58
5.	Gangaikondam	21.75	14.50
6.	Peraiyur	24.90	16.60
7.	Eral	24.04	10.00
8.	Veerappanchatram	268.20	92.76
9	Kuzhithurai	51.00	25.33
10.	Sathyamangalam	215.10	57.75
11.	Thiruppathur	253.75	101.83
12.	Alampalayam	68.70	26.67
13	Sawarpuram	94.00	26.67
14.	Palani	584.00	90.78
Total (b)		1816.48	598.37

S.	Name of the No.	No. of District	Estimated Scheme	Lic Cost during 1993-94
1	2	3	4	5

(C) CONTINUING RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

1.	Trichy	3	297.90	76.44
2.	Chengalpet MGR	1	336.00	104.40
3.	Periyar	2	433.45	84.97
Total (c)			1067.35	265.81

1	2	3	4	
(D) NEW RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES				
1.	Chengalpattu MGR	70	515.52	257.62
2	Tiruchirapalli	81	470.14	234.95
3.	Pudukottai	13	57.18	28.55
4	North Arcot Ambedkar	36	161.23	80.53
5	Dharamapuri	58	417.84	208.74
6.	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar	44	274.51	137.18
7	Thirunelveli Kottabomman	24	419.21	123.58
8	Kanyakumari	5	95.08	47.54
9.	V.O. Chidambaranar	22	1081.67	197.28
10.	Salem	57	769.90	200.65
11.	Periyar	31	802.74	232.76
12.	Colmatore	14	96.27	48.10
13.	Nilgiris	10	97.92	28.94
14.	Souht Arcot	74	339.99	169.86
15.	Thanjavur	26	430.06	214.99
16.	Nagapattinam- Quiad-E-Millath	27	153.40	76.63
17.	Madurai	22	232.86	81.34
18.	Dindigul-Anna	9	44.08	22.03
19.	Ramanathapuram	2	5.96	2.98
20.	Kamarajar	12	47.82	23.88
21	Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar	19	90.40	45.20
Total (d)		656	6563.78	2463.35

(E) CONTINUING WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

1	Hosur	1	521.00	50.00
2	Trupur	1	1354.34	25.00
				75.00
Grand Total (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+(e) :				3875.00

STATEMENT-II

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S No.	Name of the Schemes	Estimated Cost	Loan released during 1994-95	
1	2	3	4	
(A) CONTINUING URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES				
1	Ariamangalam	100.40	8.70	
2.	15, Velampalayam	108.92	2.76	
				11.46

1	2	3	4	
3.	Dharamapuram	190.40	45.47	
4.	Kangeyam	343.76	28.93	
5.	Pirattiyur	170.58	9.51	
				84.01
6.	Sathiyamangalam	215.10	39.32	
7	Eral	24.04	5.89	
8.	Kuzhithurai	70.85	8.67	
				53.88
Total (A)		1224.07	149.35	

(B) NEW URBAN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

1.	Bargur	70.00	46.67
2.	Nagapattinam	880.00	95.16
3.	Udayendram	147.62	90.58
4.	Panapakkam	124.00	78.00
5.	Thirunoorimalai	67.60	45.07
6.	Colachel	171.65	102.50
7.	Ammayanaickanur	72.25	48.17
8.	Pallapalayam	69.84	11.80
9.	Ulundurpet	149.25	91.30
10	Appakudal	62.72	41.81
11	Jalakandapuram	159.64	52.96
12	Tharamangalam	140.54	52.92
13.	Inamkarur	572.09	98.14
14.	Jolarpettai	130.25	81.80
15.	No 4 Veerapandi	81.51	37.73
Total (B)		2899.16	974.61

S.No.	Name of the Schemes	Estimated Cost	Loan released during 1994-95
1	2	3	4

(C) CONTINUING RURAL PIPED WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

1.	Selam	2	162.37	34.60
2.	Tirunavelli	1	91.76	21.26
				55.86
3.	Periyar	7	988.75	235.38
Total (C)		12	1242.88	291.24

S.No.	Name of the Schemes	Estimated Cost	Loan released during 1994-95
1	2	3	4
(D) NEW RURAL PIPED WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES			
1	Chengal MGR	33	227.83
2	Tiruchirappalli	66	614.08
3	Pudukottai	20	78.04
4	North Arcot Ambedkar	34	185.74
5	Dharmapuri	47	267.46
6	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar	43	204.95
7	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	22	169.22
8	Kanyakumari	14	375.73
9	VP Chidambarnar	15	108.66
10	Salem	48	1758.65
11	Periyar	3	180.18
12	Colombatore	55	1509.33
13	Nilgiris	36	280.33
14	South Arcot Vallalar	18	161.67
15	Villupuram Ramesamy Padayachari	26	254.58
16	Thanjavur	2	56.83
17	Nagapattinam- Quiad-E-Millath	10	40.01
18	Madurai	16	125.90
19	Dindigul Anna	16	105.39
20	Ramanathapuram	3	11.77
21	Kamarajar	13	67.58
Total ^(D)		540	6783.90

(E) CONTINUING WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Rasipuram	548.45	82.77
Total (E)	548.45	82.77
Grand Total A+B+C+D+E		4359.00

New Markets for Exports

7487. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to find out several new markets for exports,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether any new markets were found during the last year for any specific exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and the commercial institutions. It is the policy of the Government to expand the coverage of exports, both in terms of markets and commodities.

(c) and (d). Among the new markets identified for export promotion countries like South Africa & Israel may be specifically mentioned besides opening of border trade with Myanmar.

(e) The Government have taken a number of steps to encourage and maintain a strong export growth. India's trade policy was liberalised in July '91 to respond to the opportunities and challenges posed by the domestic and international developments and continuously revised thereafter to step up exports. The trade policy liberalised as of 31.3.95 has aimed at creating a free environment for trade, strengthening the export promotion structure, removing procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and sharpening competitive edge, facilitating input availability, focussing on quality and technological upgradation besides introducing and strengthening schemes for export promotion. Efforts have been made to provide cheaper exports credit and provide tax exemption on export profits. Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and concerned institutions.

[Translation]

Banking Service Selection Board

7488 SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Banking Services Selection Board has conducted any examination for making appointment in the nationalised banks during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the candidates who qualified the examination have not been given appointments so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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

[English]^

Backward Districts

7489. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated some fresh guidelines to identify the backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these guidelines are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). A Study Group was set up for identification of backward districts last year. The Group has submitted its Report which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Decision of the Government is expected shortly.

[Translation]

Loan to Sick Central Cooperative Banks

7490. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide long term loan to adjust the time-barred loans of the sixteen sick central cooperative banks of the State;

(b) if so, the date on which the said proposal received; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Vijayawada Airport

7491. SHRI SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether RITES has prepared a plan for development of Vijayawada airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to make available a few crores of rupees as interest free loan to the National Airports Authority for development of the Vijayawada Airport to facilitate landing of Boeing aircraft;

(d) whether the National Airports Authority has commenced work on the scheme of development of the airport;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Plan envisaged construction of new Terminal Building, strengthening and extension of runway, provision of Navigational and Communication Aids, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f). The Airports Authority of India have, at present, no plan to upgrade the airport because of insufficient traffic and non-commitment of operations by Airlines with B-737/A-320 aircraft.

EPF/ESI Defaulters

7492. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defaulters of Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance detected in Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the defaulters and the amount due from each of them;

(c) the action taken against the defaulters to recover their dues; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that such incidents do not reoccur in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Per Capita Debt

7493. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the per capita external debt of the Union Government at the end of 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 and as on date?

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

Labour Studies

7494. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-availability of upto date statistics is a major problem for labour studies in India;

(b) how does the Government propose to improve data collection and analysis on labour issues;

(c) whether any institute has been given this responsibility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). A number of schemes have been undertaken with a view to improving collection and publication of labour statistics under various five year plans. During the 8th Five Year Plan some of the important schemes under implementation are Rural Labour Enquiry Collection of Data on employment and wages in respect of Unorganised sector of Industries; Survey of Living and Working conditions of labour belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Communities in Urban areas; Annual Survey of Industries; Socio-Economic conditions of women workers in Industries, Modernisation of Machine Tabulation Unit, Working Class Family Income & Expenditure Survey; Evaluation Studies of Minimum Wages Act; Occupational Wage Survey; House Rent and Off-take Repeat Survey etc.

(c) and (d). Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour is engaged in collection, collation and publication of statistics and related information on different aspects of labour. The information is being collected through surveys, studies and annual returns prescribed under various labour laws

Performance Parameters of Airlines

7495. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned 'AI board suspects profits were fudged in Deveshwar's reign' appearing in the Business Standard dated May 3, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details of the reaction of the Government to the points raised in the news items?

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

(b) The minutes of the Board meeting of the Air India Ltd., held on 25.4.1995 do not indicate any such discussion.

Mint at Mysore

7496. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the mint at Mysore in Karnataka is likely to be commissioned;

(b) the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the project so far up to 31st March, 1995; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in implementation of the project and the escalation of cost?

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

(a) No Mint is being set up at Mysore in Karnataka

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Closure of Nationalised Banks

7497. SHRI PRAKASH V PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the nationalised banks that have closed down any of their branches during 1993-94 and 1994-95 together with the losses incurred by them, bank-wise; and

(b) the number of employees in each of such bank and the manner in which the employees are proposed to be absorbed in other banks?

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

(a) Bank-wise details of the branches of the nationalised banks closed during 1993-94 and 1994-95 along with the amounts of losses suffered by each of these banks are as under :-

Name of the bank	1993-94	
	Number of branches closed	Losses suffered by the bank (Rs. in crores)
1. United Bank of India	9	618.06
2. Dena Bank	17	69.84
3. Syndicate Bank	8	299.40
4. Bank of India	10	1089.15
5. Union Bank of India	5	-
6. Andhra Bank	1	162.25
7. Bank of Maharashtra	9	296.93
8. Central Bank of India	2	711.93
9. Canara Bank	5	-

1994-95

Name of the bank	Number of branches closed	Losses suffered by the bank (Rs. in crores)
1 Union Bank of India	1	Balance Sheet
2. Canara Bank,	3	not
3 UCO Bank	15	received

(b) RBI has reported that the employees rendered surplus on account of closure will be gainfully redeployed in the nearby branches/offices

Bank Loans to Framers in Andhra Pradesh

7498 SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the loans advanced by the nationalised banks to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the farmers in the State are facing difficulties in getting loans from the banks in time; and

(c) if so, the remedial action the Government propose to take to ensure that farmers in Andhra Pradesh get loans without any hurdles from the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The details of loans advanced by commercial banks (including nationalised banks) for priority sector are furnished below :

(Rs. in crores)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Estimated)
(I) AGRICULTURE			
Short-term loans (including crop laons)	500.27	740.32	861.89
Medium Term/Long-term laons	178.36	311.17	316.34
	678.63	1051.49	1178.23
(II) NON-AGRICULTURE			
Short-term loans	-	-	-
Medium term/long term loans	396.33	459.90	473.09
Total Priority sector loans	1074.96	1511.39	1651.32

National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not received any complaint from the farmers of Andhra Pradesh regarding not getting laons in time. Government RBI/NABARD have been

regularly reviewing the performance of nationalised banks in their respective States and take required steps to remove any bottlenecks coming in th way of farmers getting laons in time.

Border Trade With China and Myanmar

7499 SHRI D VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that China has also jointed the race with India in border trade with Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the extent of impact on Indo-Myanmar trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government are aware that China has made necessary arrangements for carrying on Border Trade with Myanmar.

(b) As the Indo-Myanmr Boarder Trade has recently commenced, it is too early to study the impact.

Trade With Isreal

7500. SHRI D VENKATESWARA RAO
SHR BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether India and Israel have set up a Joint Fund for research to help the both countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any trade agreement has been signed between these two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, area-wise,

(e) whether Isreal has offerd India investment in their key sectors;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the time by which the said trade agreement is likely to be implemented; and

(h) the extent upto which India will be benefited by this trade agreement?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Isreal, signed on 21st December, 1994, has the following salient features.

(i) Mutual Most-Favoured-Nation treatment

(ii) Promotion of business-level contacts through exchange of visits, participation in fairs and exhibitions, exchange of information, and opening of branches offeces;

(iii) Encouragement to economic, investment, industrial and technological cooperation, including joint ventures; and

(iv) Establishment of a Joint Trade and Economic Committee to promote the Agreement's implementation

(e) and (f). Israel has invited Indian companies to set up manufacturing facilities in Israel for exports to countries like USA and the European Community with which Israel has free trade agreements.

(g) and (h). It is in the nature of a framework agreement which is aimed at promotion bilateral trade and economic cooperation on an ongoing basis.

Privatisation of Insurance Sector

7501. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHORI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff of LIC and GIC have presented an alternative proposal to the proposal for privatisation of insurance industry; and

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

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

(a) and (b). Government has been receiving representations from different organisations/associations for and against privatisation of insurance industry. These will be kept in mind before a view is taken in the matter.

Complaints against Foreign Aircraft Leasing Firm

7502. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints of harassment from India private airlines against foreign aircraft leasing firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). East West Airlines (EWA) had complained against their lessor in response to latter's letter demanding control and possession back of the aircraft leased by them to EWA.

(c) Government does not involve itself in the lease agreements of aircraft between private airlines and lessors. The operation and control of the aircraft is subject to the conditions specified in the lease agreements.

Confirmation of Air India Tickets

7503. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' on March 27, 1995 under caption 'Hong Kong' bound passengers stranded;

(b) the reasons for confirming more tickets than the capacity of the plane;

(c) whether any guidelines has been laid down regarding confirmation of tickets for passengers in Air India planes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). Air India Monitors the overbooking profile of flights periodically but sometimes, offloading of passengers does take place. Air India has been asked to look into the problems of overbooking and avoid them as far as possible

Closure of Public Sector units

7504. SHRI BOLIA BULLI RAMAIAH Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have unilaterally moved ahead with plans for closure of some units of the public sector undertakings without waiting for the reports of the specially constituted tripartite committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers likely to be affected by closure and privatisation of public sector undertakings; and

(d) the remedial measures taken to protect the interests of workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Special Tripartite Committee and the six sectoral Tripartite Industrial Committees constituted by the Ministry of Labour are involved in the process of discussion/examination of revival/restructuring proposals of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). The views and recommendations of the tripartite committees constitute an integral part of the note for the Cabinet/ Group of Ministers for taking a decision on the stand to be taken by the Government in a proceeding in the BIFR. BIFR takes decision for revival or otherwise on the basis of various options submitted before them by the Government.

(c) As on 31.1.95, 56 CPSUs have been registered with BIFR. No estimates on the number of workers affected by the closure or privatisation of CPSUs can be made as BIFR is yet to take decision on the cases registered with them.

(d) The Government has established the National Renewal Fund as a social safety net for the workers affected by industrial restructuring under the new Economic Policy. The fund, inter-alia, provide assistance to cover the costs of retraining and redeployment of workers affected by the modernisation, technological upgradation and industrial restructuring.

Tax Reforms Committee

7505. SHRI DR. R. MALLU :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the recommendations of the Tax Reforms Committee have been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations which have not been implemented as yet; and

(d) the time by which all the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

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

(a) to (d) The recommendations of the Tax Reforms Committee, in so far as they were considered to be acceptable have been implemented through the Finance Acts of 1992, 1993 and 1994 and Finance Bill, 1995. No time limited has been fixed for implementing the remaining recommendations.

Child Labour

7506. SHRI M.VVS MURTHY Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has urged the Government to provide financial assistance to the States for rehabilitating children from the grips of child labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) and (b). As per information furnished by the National Human Rights Commission, the administrative, institutional and other arrangements required to be made to eliminate child labour in various industries and rehabilitate them are engaging the constant attention of the Commission. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, at the behest of the National Human Rights Commission, has submitted a scheme for the elimination of child labour in glass industry in Ferozabad to the Ministry of Labour. The Ministry of Labour has already examined the scheme and an amount of Rs. 9.73 lakhs has also been released for starting 10 new special schools during 1995-96. The National Human Rights Commission has been monitoring the progress of implementation of this scheme.

Hike in Wages of Air India Pilots

7507. SHIR SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reached an agreement with Air India Pilots regarding hike in their wages;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed increase in wages;

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(d) whether the proposed hike in wages of pilots of Air India has given rise to fresh problems for Indian Airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). A settlement was reached by the Air India management with the Indian Pilots Guild on 26.9.1994 on the revised rates of hourly payment vary from \$ 87 per hour to \$ 107 in the case of Commanders and \$ 53 per hour to \$ 75 in the case co-pilots. Indian Airlines have introduced the same rates of hourly payment to their pilots, operating international flights from 15.10.1994.

[Translation]

Excise Duty Evasion

7508. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the number of excise duty evasion cases detected since January 1, 1994 till-date;

(b) the amount involved in these cases so far, and

(c) the action being taken by the Government against persons found responsible?

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

(a) and (b) 9376 cases of alleged evasion of excise duty of the order of Rs. 1696.62 crores have been detected by the Department during the period January, 1994, to March, 1995.

(c) In all such cases, the companies as, well as individuals found involved in alleged evasion of duty are proceeded against through departmental adjudication. In these proceedings, besides demanding the duty amounts, penalties are also liable to be imposed on the concerned persons in accordance with the provisions of the Central Excises & Salt Act. In addition, in serious offence cases, the concerned persons are also prosecuted in the law courts.

[English]

Insurance Scheme to Cover Destruction of Rural Huts

7509. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated an Insurance Scheme to cover destruction of rural huts in fire?

(b) if so, the amount paid per claim and conditions for its eligibility;

(c) the number of beneficiaries since its inception, year-wise state-wise;

(d) the amount paid to the beneficiaries, year-wise and State-wise within this period,

(e) the number of claims pending, State-wise as on April 1, 1995;

(f) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to cover damage to rural huts by floods in flood-prone areas; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The Hut Insurance Scheme for Poor Families in Rural Areas was introduced w.e.f. 1st May, 1988. The Scheme provides relief to Poor Families in Rural Areas when their huts and belongings in the huts are destroyed by fire. Poor Families whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 4,800/- are eligible under the Scheme. In the event of loss due to fire, the insurance company pays an amount of Rs.1,000/- for hut and Rs 500/- for belongings in the hut.

(c) to (e). the requisite information is given in the Statement attached.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

State/U.T	1988-89 (May to April) No. of beneficiaries	1989-90 (May to April) Amount paid (in lakhs of Rs.)	1990-91 (May to April) Amount paid No. of beneficiaries (In lakhs of Rs.)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	8992	98.62	21756	219.34	14468	142.02
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	01	0.01	155	2.11
Bihar	-	-	22533	276.34	7448	90.17
Goa	27	0.41	43	0.62	38	0.30
Gujarat	-	-	146	1.67	71	0.71
Haryana	7	0.10	95	1.37	47	0.71
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	08	0.12	13	0.19
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	04	0.06	03	0.05
Karnataka	-	-	1086	13.18	3723	46.38
Kerala	119	1.76	1117	16.05	1118	16.04
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	144	1.20	127	1.70
Maharashtra	967	12.70	752	8.29	625	6.88
Manipur	2	0.03	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	01	0.01
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	-	-	3732	51.09	5199	64.57
Punjab	7	0.10	77	1.14	76	1.06
Rajasthan	138	19.5	1866	25.55	635	8.61
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	3577	39.32	9240	100.89	65.28	70.94
Tripura	-	-	154	2.25	133	1.95
Uttar Pradesh	1594	18.48	22387	205.14	5770	56.10
West Bengal	664	9.69	62.55	87.73	8732	127.59
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	25	0.29
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	92	1.07	195	2.97	27	0.40
Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	257	3.52	158	2.16	98	0.85

STATEMENT-II

State/U.T	1991-92 (May to April)		1992-93 (May to April)		1993-94 (May to April)		
	No. of benefi- ciaries	Amount paid (in lakhs of Rs.)	No. of benefi- ciaries	Amount paid (in lakhs of Rs.)	No. of benefi- ciaries	Amount paid (in lakhs of Rs.)	No. of outstanding claims as on 1.4.1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	12893	278.00	21395	199.82	18113	176.27	3390
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	65	0.95	9	0.01	21	0.25	850
Bihar	8294	110.28	304.31	386.18	22934	291.90	69.97
Goa	26	0.21	42	0.46	15	0.22	16
Gujarat	42	0.52	30	0.37	96	1.28	16
Haryana	20	0.30	48	0.71	37	0.55	114
Himachal Pradesh	20	0.30	1	0.01	47	0.70	28
Jammu & Kashmir	01	0.01	1	0.01	-	-	54
Karnataka	3094	40.16	2598	34.23	2362	30.77	155
Kerala	1138	16.29	1464	21.34	1141	16.68	245
Madhya Pradesh	128	0.92	35	0.52	14	0.21	87
Maharashtra	902	9.28	627	6.22	645	6.94	599

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur	05	0.08	7	0.10	1	0.01	369
Meghalaya		-	11	0.16	47	0.70	22
Nagaland	670	10.05	47	0.70	47	0.70	22
Mizoram		-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	4813	72.03	5200	77.74	4669	69.20	608
Punjab	45	0.68	1	0.01	-	-	8
Rajasthan	882	12.67	174	2.51	161	2.33	326
Sikkim		-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	7276	76.52	6853	65.06	5071	43.07	1258
Tripura	76	0.99	12	0.18	-	-	225
Uttar Pradesh	3640	34.76	4163	41.27	3889	37.93	2644
West Bengal	7044	105.43	6707	100.19	5495	93.21	817
Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	-	-	18	0.01	33	0.15	42
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi	08	0.12	641	9.57	42	0.63	-
Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	138	1.26	149	1.62	104	1.25	-

ITDC Operation in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

7510. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to increase ITDC operations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve facilities to attract more tourists in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Presently, ITDC is not operating any unit in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. ITDC's Annual Plan 1995-96 also does not envisage any new scheme to be taken up in these Islands.

(c) The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Govts. and Union Territories for augmentation of these facilities, based on the specific proposals received. During last 3 years an amount of Rs.106.97 lakhs was sanctioned to the

Andaman and Nicobar Administration for projects like tented accommodation, water sports equipment and tourist complexes at Diglipur and Rangat.

Production of Silk

7511. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether area of sericulture in Gujarat has remarkable declined and as a result thereof production of raw silk like muge and endi has declined in the State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Silk Board to increase production of silk in the State and to provide employment to rural silk producers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There has been a marginal decline in mulberry acreage in Gujarat. However the State not produce muge and er varieties of silk and there is no correlation between production of these varieties and the mulberry acreage.

(b) The Central Silk Board is implementing a World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project in Gujarat and has set up the following infrastructure in the State for the development of mulberry sericulture;

- (1) Basic Seed Farm Cum Grainage-
- (2) Technical Service Centres-
- (3) Demonstration -Cum-Training Centre
- (4) Cocoon Drying Chamber
- (5) Sericulture Training School

Besides, several field development programmes are being implemented by the Central Silk Board to encourage development of mulberry sericulture in various States, including Gujarat. These programmes include schemes for-

- (1) Provision of subsidy for establishment of mulberry rearing units.
- (2) Supply of rearing kits to small and marginal farmers.
- (3) Free distributions of rearing equipments to SC/ST sericulturists and landless labourers
- (4) Supply of improved mulberry seed cuttings.
- (5) Training of study tours for farmers.

[Translation]

Registered Recruiting Agents

7512. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of complaints regarding malpractices by registered recruiting agents received during each of the last two years;
- (b) whether such complaints are examined properly,
- (c) if so, the number of persons punished during the above period;
- (d) whether the punishment for such malpractices is confined only to cancellation of registration number;
- (e) if so, whether the Government propose to review the provisions Act, 1983; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
(a) During the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, 107 and 62 complaints respectively were received against the registered recruiting agents regarding malpractices.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On the basis of the complaints received, the Registration Certificates of 9 recruiting agents were

suspended during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 recruiting agents were suspended during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 and they were not allowed to do recruitment business during the period of suspension

(d) Besides cancellation of registration certificates, the Emigration Act, 1983 also provides for suspension of the operation of the certificate for a period of 30 days and penal action punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Functioning of Security Presses

7513. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of workers employed in Government Security Presses at Nasik and Hyderabad;
- (b) the capacity utilisation, turnover and profits/losses of the aforesaid two presses during each of the last three years;
- (c) the details of the orders placed by the Postal Department for printing of postal stationery during each of the last three years; Press-wise;

(d) whether the aforesaid security presses were unable to meet the entire requirements of the Postal department and the Postal Department consequently decided to get the postal stationery printed at private presses;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the output of the two security presses could considerably be increased by Proper management, rationalisation modernisation and introduction of new technologies; and

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

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

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

7514. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is planning to set up a clearing house for foreign exchange transactions;

(b) if so, the structure of the proposed Clearing House; and

(c) the details of the benefits likely to be achieved through setting up this house?

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

Export of Paper to Bangladesh

7515. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of items being exported to Bangladesh at present,

(b) whether the Government have been exporting paper to that country; and

(c) if so, the target fixed for the export of paper during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) The major items exported to Bangladesh include textiles and accessories, transport equipment, engineering goods, drugs, chemicals, cement, minerals and metals, fruits and vegetables and paper and wood products Details and statistics are provided in the DGCI and S publications, "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No specific country-wise export targets for paper are fixed CAPEXIL's target for export of paper and paper products for 1995-96 is Rs. 200 crore

Economic Reforms

7516. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have adopted some reformative policies of successful economies in the world,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the objectives that are likely to be achieved through adoption of these policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Government has adopted policy reform in the country based on the requirements and priorities of the Indian economy The scale and scope of reforms vary widely in its application across different countries .

(c) The fundamental objective of economic reforms is to bring about rapid and sustained improvement in the quality of life of the people of India. Central to this goal is the rapid growth in incomes and productive employment.

Resumption of Vayudoot Service in Gujarat

7517. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vayudoot services have been discontinued at many air-strips in Gujarat in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the State Government has offered to provide land for development and expansion of the air-strips as well as to share expenditure to be incurred thereon for resumption of these services,

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken in regard to the resumption of Vayudoot services from these air-strips in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The services operated by Vayudoot to Gujarat from Bombay base were discontinued due to commercial and operational constraints, grounding of Avro fleet and shortage of aircraft capacity

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

(e) Vayudoot has no plans at present to resume operations from Bombay base.

Revival of Sick Companies

7518. SHRI SULTAN SALAUDDIN OWAISI . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has demanded the Government to vest it with power to direct financial institutions to provide funds to sick companies for their revival, and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

English

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities on Women and Problems Faced by them - Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Members have some important issues to raise and they will be allowed to raise those issues one after the other. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji and other Members from Andhra also want to raise their issues.

But yesterday, we were sitting very late, upto 8.00 p.m. in the night. Some Members and Ministers were sitting and it was decided that the Reply to the Discussion on atrocities and problems of women should be given immediately after the Question Hour. After the Reply is given, I will allow these issues also to be raised and you will have full time to discuss those things. We will not abruptly get up.

"Now, the Minister may please reply".

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M.SAYEED): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday we had this subject to discuss for about four hours and as we have rightly pointed out, this was a subject which has been taken up by our esteemed colleagues, senior and distinguished Members.

Therefore, at the outset, I must thank the hon. Members of Parliament for raising this important issue of atrocities on women and the need to empower them so that they are able to fight against such atrocities.

Sir, this issue is in two sub-heads -first, 'the atrocities on women' and second, 'the problem faced by them'. As far as my Ministry is concerned, 'the atrocities committed on women' is dealt by us and therefore, I will be confining myself to that extent, and 'the problem faced by them' will be dealt with by my esteemed colleague of the HRD Ministry. She will be also speaking.

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and other hon. Members have also been drawing the attention of this House to these issues from time to time. Mr. Charles reminded us yesterday that Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was raising this matter in the form of a Resolution some five to six years back and I must admire her for consistently taking up the matter. We appreciate her courage and conviction. We are all with her in fighting this menace.

In addition to the suggestions, I will be mentioning some of the actions that we have taken.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: (Midnapur) Are atrocities increasing or going down?

SHRI P.M.SAYEED: I will tell you that during the course of my speech.

The suggestions which the hon. Members made in yesterday's debate, are from strengthening of existing institutions of enforcement and making them accountable, creation of district level women's

Commission, empowerment of women, strengthening of existing legislations and their proper implementation, education of women etc.

We have also noted the experience of working of various schemes in Rajasthan and other places. Yesterday's debate has indeed been most useful in providing guidance for action by all concerned.

Before I comment on the concerns so expressed, I would like to clarify that the issues relating to women are many and important. They are particularly so when women constitute half of the population. They cover wide ranging aspects concerning their status in the society and their overall development. Of several such issues, those which come under the overall ambit of human rights, crime against women happens to be the worst form. While no country is free from such crimes, it is essential that those perpetrated against women are viewed more seriously as also mentioned by several hon. Members during yesterday's debate. This calls for concerted steps to identify the causes and prevent them. In a country like India, termed as a sub-continent by its size, with second largest population in the world, this task assumes titanic proportions.

Unfortunately, women in India are mostly unaware of their rights because of illiteracy and oppressive tradition. The suffering of women increases out of ignorance of law and lack of awareness of their rights. Hon. Members have correctly pointed out that social awareness must arise from within. I would like to reiterate the remarks of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan. Yesterday, while speaking on the subject, she has stated that social awareness should start first among ourselves. You must have been the poor presence of Members in the House yesterday while this important topic was being discussed. So, we must first and foremost, ask ourselves whether in our own House here, we have such awareness.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee also said the same thing.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED. With due respect to all, I would like to stress this aspect of awareness among Members including myself. When such important issues were being discussed, how many were present in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: This point was mentioned by many other Members including Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Shrimati Mahajan has dwelt on this aspect in depth.

For this, all of us must consider measures whereby existing machinery is strengthened, culprits are punished, and incentives and training are given to meet the issues of not only women but also other weaker sections of society. I assure the hon. Members that the Government shall endeavour to do its best to foster such awareness in women so that they are able to stand up for their own rights.

As Members are aware, as per the constitutional, provisions police and public order are State subjects. Therefore, registration, investigation, detection as well as prevention of crimes including those against women

are the responsibility of the State Governments and the Union Territories' Administration. Even so, Government of India has not absolved itself of its responsibilities. We, in conjunction with the Ministry of Welfare and other Ministries, are constantly taking various steps and we do interact regularly to contain the increasing incidence of crime against women. The Government of India maintains close liaison with the concerned State Governments regarding atrocities on women and also monitors the trend of various crimes perpetrated thereof. The Government of India has also written periodically to the State Government to take effective measures under the existing laws. Such letters have been addressed to all States since 1989 at the level of Home Minister as well as senior officers of the Home Ministry.

Our endeavour has always been that justice is ensured to the victims and timely relief given. The Members present here are also aware of the fact that the Government has been making from time to time suo motu statements on individual incidence of crime in this House which is reflective of our concern, in the context of the role of the Central Government. Members will appreciate that the present federal structure provided in the Constitution provides the role of control of crime to the States and though views have been expressed about the federal policing the workability of such a proposition is debatable. While adequate legal provisions exist in the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act, the Government is alive to the needs of the changing society in this respect and has been continuously modifying and amending the legislation with a view to making such laws more stringent and of punitive nature. The hon Members have also drawn attention to this aspect.

We have been often hearing of incidents of molestation of women, rape in police custody, excesses committed on general public as well as women and certain incidents were mentioned by hon. Members yesterday and all these touch the heart of a common man in the society and leads to soul-searching as to what the Government is doing to contain these crimes. I would like to inform the House that the data on crimes against women and other weaker sections is analysed very closely by the Government, both to keep a check on crimes as well as to enable more meaningful advice to the States. From a recent analysis of crime trends between 1990 to 1994, it was seen that there is a steadily increasing trend of crimes against women. This, today constitutes about 4.5 per cent of the total crime in India. 47 per cent of this crime against women, according to reported data, was committed in just three States of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. There is a high level of rape, molestation, dowry deaths and eve teasing cases in Uttar Pradesh, while rape and molestation cases are predominant in Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra, on the other hand, has a very high incidence of dowry deaths and torture cases. Most of this crime is committed in Meerut, Bulandsahar, Lucknow, Hardoi, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Moradabad, Agra,

Allahabad and Allgarh districts of U.P. In Madhya Pradesh, the districts were Raipur, Durg, Sagar, Bilaspur, Guna, Vidisha, Sarguja, Jhabua, Dhar and Indore, while in Maharashtra the highest incidence of crimes against women was in Bombay, Nagpur, Amravati, Bhandara and Pune.

In addition, the problem was compounded because the conviction rates in crimes against women, like rape, have been only 36 per cent, as also mentioned by hon. Members yesterday, against an average of 48 per cent for all crimes. This was mainly due to the fact that due to various societal and other pressures, in such cases witnesses turn hostile or do not present themselves in court. Moreover due to the severity of punishment in rape cases, most Courts tend to give the benefit of doubt to the accused and this further reflects on the low conviction rates. The problem is further compounded in a conservative society such as ours, where the stigma attached to crimes like rape, and the embarrassment at cross-examination, leads to most victims being unwilling to follow through the prosecution.

I personally propose to visit the States, where crimes against women are manifested most seriously, along with representatives of the concerned Ministries so as to review the reasons for the large number of crimes against women and seen as to how the Centre can help them in various ways. I would invite the hon Members, especially those representing the most seriously affected areas I spoke about earlier, to accompany me so that we could have the benefit of their wisdom.

Here, I would also like to clarify that in regard to the allegations of torture and violation of human rights by the police, instructions have been issued by the Government of India to the State Governments and the Union Territories from time to time regarding strict compliance of relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

I would also like to inform the House that the subject of 'crimes against women' was discussed for the first time in depth in the Annual Conference of the Director Generals of Police from all over the country in July last year. Clear instructions were also given in that meeting to enforce the available laws on the subject strictly. It has also been decided to make the subject of 'crimes against women' a permanent feature of the agenda in all future annual conferences of the Director Generals of Police, which will be held by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

With a view to promote conciliation, secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith, the Government of India has enacted Family Courts Act, 1994. After the enactment of this Act, 49 Family Courts have been set up so far in the various States. The Family Courts are essentially the civil courts. They have jurisdiction over matters relating to matrimonial relief, legitimacy, guardianship and maintenance cases.

It will be obligatory on the part of the Family Courts to endeavour, in the first instance, to effect the reconciliation or a settlement between parties to a family dispute. In the above context, I would like to mention for the information of the hon. Members that, apart from executive instructions referred to earlier, the prominent legal reforms are also as under:

Section 376 of IPC has been amended and a new offence created, namely 'rape in custody' for which a police officer shall be punished with not less than 10 years rigorous imprisonment.

A new provision in Section 304-B, IPC was introduced through dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1986. This provision created a new offence, 'Dowry Death'. If a woman is burnt to death within seven years of marriage, and it is shown that she was subjected to cruelty, then her husband or relative would be deemed to have caused her death.

A new provision, Section 498-A, IPC was introduced which makes an offence of driving a woman to commit suicide or bodily harm an act of cruelty.

Section 174, Criminal Procedure Code was amended to provide for the examination of dead bodies by civil surgeon in case of suicide committed by a woman within seven years of marriage.

Similarly, Section 113-A, 113-B, 114-A are inserted in the Indian Evidence Act to strengthen the cases of atrocities on women.

A few amendments are also under consideration of the Standing Committee of Parliament, relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

There are : (1) Insertion of a new subsection 4 in Section 46 of the Criminal Procedure Code to prohibit arrest of women after sunset and before sunrise except in unavoidable circumstances, (2) Insertion of a new section 53 (a) in the Criminal Procedure Code to provide for a detailed medical examination of a person accused of an offence of rape or an attempt to commit rape, and (3) Insertion of a new section 164 (a) in the Criminal Procedure Code to provide for medical examination of a victim of rape with her consent.

Some recent incidents of alleged misbehaviour and excesses committed in certain cases were also mentioned by the hon. Members yesterday. The case of an Under Secretary of the Home Ministry was mentioned specifically. I would like to assure the House that the Government would like the strictest action against the guilty in this and other cases. Meanwhile, this case has been referred to CBI and the officer concerned has already been placed under suspension.

The Home Minister has earlier this month written to the Chief Ministers of these States suggesting various measures of creating awareness amongst the vulnerable sections of the society about their rights

and the legal recourse open to them. He had also separately addressed to the Chief Ministers of other States drawing attention to the fact the atrocities against women and other weaker sections of the society were a matter of great concern and requested them to review and institute measures to inhibit violations of their constitutional rights. Responses have been received from various States assuring the Home Minister of their concern and of the action they would take in the matter. The Home Minister had also written to all the Chief Ministers drawing their attention to the Government's concern and the support lent by it to a Private Members Resolution in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1995 on the subject of atrocities against women. The Home Minister has asked the States to carry out a comprehensive review of the magnitude and the measures taken by them.

As the hon. Members would recall, the Resolution had, inter alia, stated that; (1) our laws are sensitive to the specificities of the local situation, (2) as far as possible such cases are decided locally so that people, especially women, are saved from expensive commuting to seek redressal, and (3) such cases should be decided to the extent possible within a period of six months.

Here the hon. Members have mentioned statistics that thousand of cases are pending in the trial courts. The difficulty is of time. Because of the fact that the process is taking unduly long time, it was stated in this Resolution which was passed in the Rajya Sabha unanimously and which was supported even by the Government, that the period delay should be minimised to six months. To that extent the Government is concerned about this matter.

As a result of the overall efforts of the Central Government, 12 States and three Union Territories, as per the information available, have set up special cells to deal with crime against women. Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Government have also set up exclusive police stations manned by women police to deal with not only dowry cases crimes relating to women but also to inculcate confidence in women to approach police stations without fear or apprehension. The Delhi Police has also set up nine cells to deal with crime against women. Certain States like Maharashtra have also fixed a certain percentage recruitment to women police.

The recommendations made by the National Police Commission as well as received from the National Commission for Women in specific cases are also forwarded to the State Governments for guidance.

Further, Sir, directions have also been issued to the concerned State Governments to bring about a qualitative change in the thinking of police in their approach towards the suspects, the accused, and those detained in custody. Attempts are also being made to formalise gender-orientation training so that the thinking of police undergoes such a change.

Navertheless the role of police has been under adverse criticism in the recent past especially in recent incidents like Uttarakhand agitation and the related incidents at Muzaffarnagar. The Government has been sensitive to the complaints against women in this incident also and the matter has been handed over to CBI for investigation. Sixty-four cases have so far been registered in the designated Courts and these include seventeen cases of molestation. So far CBI has filed eight cases under Section 173 of Criminal Procedure Code before the competent Court of Jurisdiction at Dehradun.

Apart from this, the Home Ministry has also been referring certain other cases, like the recent incidents with some runs at Ghaziabad, to the National Commission for Women so that effective remedial measures can be instituted and the States advised accordingly. Members would agree with me that crime against women are wide-ranging and cannot be tackled alone by the enactment of laws. For this purpose, it is necessary also for various voluntary and non-Government organisations, the Press and other responsible members of society who can influence and educate women, to come forward and offer their assistance in the matter. About 12,000 voluntary organisations are currently operating at the grassroot's level in various parts of the country and this country-wide network of NGOs have been playing a significant role in creating awareness amongst the rural illiterate population. Government has, in the Department of Women and Child Development, in recent times published a Legal Literacy Manual which attempts to improve the levels of awareness of women in both rural and urban areas regarding the laws affecting them as well as legal procedures. I am sure, hon. Members will agree that this is a good initiative in an area of critical importance. In addition, the media campaigns undertaken by Government, from time to time, emphasise the developmental needs of women and girl children in our society, the need to empower them while attempting to sensitise them and the general public to these issues.

Government treats the issue of crimes against women as a series of crimes against society, an impediment to social peace, the maintenance of which is essential for creating conditions conducive to individual and societal development and to the empowerment of women. I would like to assure the hon. Members of the House that the Central Government will continue to remain alive to this issue and will keep it as important part of its national agenda to this and will keep it as an important part of its national agenda of action.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA(Pall) Shri, I want to know only one thing. After 8 p.m. women are arrested

MR SPEAKER: We are at a different level. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

* Not Recorded

MR SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI): I thank the hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for having brought this Motion before this House. About 14 Members had participated in the discussion, mostly women and men also had participated. I congratulate them on the floor of the House for having given such constructive suggestions. I also thank you, Sir, because this is the appropriate time when I could get suggestions in this House and also else where. Since we are going to have a World Conference at Beijing these suggestions will help us in a long way for the preparation of the final draft. Therefore, I take these suggestions into consideration and then wherever necessary I will put forth these suggestions in my final drafting by the end of July.

Apart from suggestions, there were also some policy decisions which has been put forth by hon. Members like Shrimati Suseela Gopalan and others regarding Uniform Civil Code, reservations of seats in the Parliament as well as in the State Legislatures and also uniform job reservations. That can be discussed at the appropriate time.

Now I will come to my subject. the Motion before the House is, 'Atrocities against women and the problems thereof'. I think regarding the atrocities against women my friend has given a detailed report about the atrocities. As per the statistics, crimes against women are more than crimes committed against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the general crimes.

Let me begin by saying that the Government not only shares the concern and indignation of this House over atrocities against women but we consider them a blot on our collective conscience not just as a nation but as civilized human beings. Sir, thanks to you, we have had the privilege of listening to Members cutting across party lines and gender divides giving valuable and concrete suggestions about countering this menace. I will refer to the major suggestions and points made yesterday and will try outline the Government response. I am not going to given individual replies but collectively I am going to give the replies.

Members have spoken of the need to change attitudes and create awareness among women and men. Sir, we are carrying out multi-media campaigns and we are involving NGOs in programmes aimed at education work for prevention of atrocities. Innovative programmes like WDP, Mahila Samakhya and the Lok Jumbish all aim at change in societal attitudes. Through the Central Social Welfare Board, we are running awareness generation camps under which over 2,000 camps have been organised every year.

Members have spoken about the attitude and approach of police. Sir, we have started gender sensitization programmes for the enforcement machinery

through the National Police Academy and the State training schools. We are trying our best to institutionise this.

Sir, Members have spoken of making women aware of their rights. We are trying this through a concerted legal literacy programme. We have brought out a set of 10 legal literacy manuals and are disseminating them through NGOs and Government's programmes. Sir, in the final analysis, the ultimate solution to gender atrocities is to change attitudes, a change which is slow and comes through a concerted and long-drawn process. This is the responsibility of both Central and State Governments...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May I request the Member to take his seat? The Minister is replying. You can meet the Minister later.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI . This is the responsibility of both Central and State Government on one hand and the wider sections of the society makers on the other. I believe the rising trend of gender violence is also an indicator of increased awareness among women and their families to report and register such crimes. The issue must no longer be a hidden one and in communities, families and individuals this must become a priority issue of concern and action

Sir, a unanimous view expressed in the House yesterday related to the empowerment of women through economic interventions and conferment of equal property rights, enforcement of labour views, creating various reservations in favour of women etc.

I would like to inform the House that the economic empowerment of women in the country has been attempted massively, through IRDP, where there is 40 per cent reservation for women, DWCRA, STEP, NORAD, SEP, various urban development programmes and bankable schemes. In schools, polytechnics and ITIs, the vocationalisation of courses has expanded tremendously. This is already showing some results through an increase in the work participation rate of women in the economy which has gone up from 16 per cent in 1981 to 23 per cent in 1991. Under programmes, like STEP, RMK and SEP attempts are being made to mobilise women, a sentiment which many Members had expressed yesterday. I would also like to inform the House that under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, 88.15 lakh accounts have been opened in rural areas and deposit of Rs. 88.54 crore already have been mobilised. Here Tamil Nadu has accounted first in mobilising the accounts; Andhra Pradesh is second and Goa is third. We have also given award for this.

On the subject of reservations, many concrete suggestions have come and we welcome them. As you know, Sir, our Constitution itself provides for affirmative action in favour of women and many of these suggestions are with Government and serious thought is being given to them. However, there is still need for

wider debate and discussion on some of them before finalisation. We welcome the general sentiments of the House.

On the question of equal property rights, the Government is seized of the matter and the National Commission for Women is also examining the problem. We are going to reconstitute the National Commission of Women as early as possible. It is under the examination of the Government. In fact, some State Governments have already affected amendments in the Hindu Succession Act to confer equal rights in coparcenary property. As Members are aware, the question of property right is a complex one and with a large number of traditional property systems in the country, there is considerable variation in the need for legal reform. The setting up of increasing number of State Commissions for Women and announcement of State Policies for Women by many States would, I am sure, lead to a greater awareness and action at State levels and for legal reforms in this matter. We also run a network of support services and are continuously expanding them. We have sanctioned total number of 740 Working Women Hostels and we also have a National Creche Fund under ICDS Programme which is the largest in the country.

On the specific question of atrocities, I would like to supplement the reply of my colleague from the Home Ministry briefly. In our view, there are six major problems faced by victims of gender atrocities. I have already spoken about the first problem of lack of awareness of rights and procedures. Specific campaigns against child marriage have also been carried out and in Rajasthan, 714 child marriages were prevented in 1994.

The second problem of police insensitivity is sought to be tackled through gender sensitization programmes at all levels of the police force as I have already described. Thirdly, Sir, since most atrocities start from within the family, Government has set up Family Courts to meet the need of a formal mechanism to resolve conflicts before an atrocity occurs. Simultaneously Sir, the Government has created a network of over 300 Family Counselling Centres which play an effective role in advising and counselling women who face family discord.

Next, Sir, the need for shelter for women victims in situations where they have to leave their marital homes and are unable to receive the support of their parental homes, has been sought to be met by setting up a network of around 300 Short Stay Homes through NGOs. Both the schemes of Short Stay Homes and Family Counselling Centres are to be expanded in the coming years to reach the various corners of this country.

Finally, Sir, the Government has set up the National Commission for Women to oversee the working of legal and other safeguards for women including those concerning their human rights. In my view, the

Commission has achieved some success in this regard and has made useful suggestions for legal reforms as well as intervened in exemplary cases of atrocities.

I am also happy to state that nine States have already passed laws setting up State Commissions for Women and more are in the process of doing so. Sir, the House will surely appreciate that this will create network reaching right to the grass-roots and will effectively monitor the situation regarding gender violence.

Sir, there had been suggestions yesterday about setting up Mahila Police Stations. There is now an increasing trend in various State Governments to set up such police stations and over 15 States have also set up crimes against women cells. This will create a climate of confidence in women victims to come forward and register their complaints. Concern has also been expressed regarding the winding up to the WDP programme in Rajasthan. I would like to inform you that the Government has already taken up the matter with the Rajasthan Government on this. A suggestion has also been made regarding removal of age bar for widows and divorcees in public employment. The Government has taken a note of this. Some Members had suggested that Anganwadi workers could be given more responsibilities in the area of literacy and other programmes to enable them to receive a higher remuneration. I would like to respond that the Government is also keen to effect convergence of development services and the issue is already being examined.

Sir, some Members had referred to the serious social evil of child prostitution. I would like to inform you that we are conscious of this social malaise and a Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution had been set up last year and they have submitted a comprehensive status and action report. I propose to distribute copies of this report amongst the Members soon. A programme of action is on the anvil to confront and eliminate this problem at the earliest. The State Governments have also been addressed on these issues and have been encouraged to set up State and District level Advisory Committees with the participation of NGOs.

Sir, the problem of crimes against women is now receiving the increasing attention of the Governments and police forces. It has now become a regular feature of discussion in the annual meetings of Director General of Police held by the Home Ministry every year. The State Governments have been addressed very often on these issues and I would like to appeal to my colleagues in the House to take the battle against atrocities against women to where it also belongs, that is the community, the family and individual...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, may I just seek one clarification from the hon. Minister?

The hon. Minister here gave a list of crimes and atrocities which are committed against women. In that list, I do not know why he has committed kidnapping and abduction of women. That is a very common thing. Kidnapping and abduction of women should be included as one of the main types of crimes against women.

And what about the killing of girl child, that killing of girl child while it is still at the stage of foetus? It is not happening only in our country. It is happening in many countries and it is happening in the country where the World Congress is going to be held also. There are social reasons for the killing of girl child while it is at the lotus stage. But this also should be considered as a crime against women.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, regarding kidnapping, last year it was menace. Even in Delhi, we have set up Cells in all the nine Districts. It is under full control and it is improving. Of course, it is also there in the Agenda of the Government to give equal importance to kidnapping, atrocities, sexual assault and all these aspects will be there in the priority agenda of the nation.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram). Sir, yesterday some of us were not mentioning special references. But in the reply today, the Minister has shown a leniency that the special reference made yesterday will be getting special attention. So, my plea is that if such is the case, some of us who spoke yesterday could also be given an opportunity to give some special references in writing to him and it should be considered as if they were told on the floor of the House yesterday. That is my first submission.

My second submission is this. With full hope I had put forward yesterday a concrete suggestion regarding the job opportunities of women...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That has been replied to. She has said that they are looking into it. The Minister has replied to it.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: What about the 50 per cent reservation?

MR. SPEAKER: The exact position has not been said but that point has been noted and they are going to take action.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: This is what I said. Sir, I cannot submit it on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You shall have to apply your mind and look at the problems from different angles because these details cannot be discussed on the floor of the House.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Sir, one thing more I would like to ask. What about the thinking of the Government for providing one-third reservation in the Legislatures?

MR. SPEAKER: She has replied to all those points. She has said they are going to look into it. It is not

possible to respond to such suggestions at the spur of the moment without consulting the Cabinet and others also.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Thank you very much.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, without your intervention, it would not have been possible to have to debate at all. I also thank the Members who took part in the debate yesterday, because they gave many suggestions. I appeal to the colleagues who are present here today to go through the proceedings of yesterday's discussion because there were suggestions not only to the Government but also to the Parliamentarians as to what they should do. I also appeal to the media to co-operate with us so that we can effectively fight this menace.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I would like to say that the debate was really very good and very good points were made by the members who spoke yesterday. The reply is also equally good. But the problem is so big that it is necessary for all of us to look into it in greater details and do something more. I would like to thank everybody concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very serious issue related to democracy. Elections are the soul of democracy. The soul and essence of democracy starts withering away where the mechanism of elections is extirpated and this gives birth to the surge of extremism. I will not name anybody, the process of Election Commission is still going on, and from the developments of the last few days it seems that the significance of elections has been diminishing. Elections have, in a manner, turned out to be a routine work and mockery of it how many days should it take to conduct elections. With your good wishes, I have been a Member of Lok Sabha since 1977 and prior to that I have been in the Assembly since 1969. Earlier, the electoral was marked with scrutiny of papers seven days after the filing of nominations and elections came to an end within 22-25 days from the date of withdrawal of papers, but, today, electoral process continues for three old months together. In Bihar, electoral process started in December-January and it has not come to an end as yet and one can not say whether it will close on 27th of the month or go beyond that? Another thing about it is that the amount of money to be spent by a candidate for Lok Sabha as well as Assembly elections is static. At the eleventh hour of the elections, the candidate exhausts all his energy and resources. He spends away every single penny thinking that he has fulfilled his responsibility, but when he comes to know that the polling scheduled for two three days hence has further been extended to another date, he is pained. The candidate who contests elections is aware of his financial and other position and which is why one resorts to malpractices subsequently. A candidate contesting for Assembly

elections spends Rs.1.35 lakh for 20 days of electioneering and the one contesting for Parliamentary elections spends Rs.5 lakh. How extended can one manage within this limit when the polling time is extended three times. Therefore, today's elections are very important. We all are going to face Lok Sabha elections in near future. Yesterday, I had raised the Punjab issue in this very House while as some hon. friends were raising the Andhra Pradesh issue. At that time, I said that I have visited Punjab. I have seen the situation there. An akali Dal candidate was to win with a heavy margin there against his rival, a Congress candidate. I had seen three days ago and stated in a Press conference there that elections should be countermanded because a conspiracy was being hatched there. There are two parties involved. The Election Commission has charged that there has been misuse of Government machinery. There are two aspects. One is the extension of the polling date and secondly the Election Commission has advanced the plea of open misuse of Government machinery for extending date in Punjab. In this regard, my suggestion and question to the Government is that by elections are being held in Giddarhbaha in Punjab. As a whole, elections are being held at 27-28 places throughout the country. Elections are being held at one place in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh each, at four places in Bihar. I would like to say that this will be perpetual problem because the Election Commission has not been able to conduct a by-election freely and fairly within the stipulated time. What is the guarantee that the Lok Sabha elections for 542 seats will be held on scheduled date? I had said it last time also that it will not be surprising if the Election Commission extends these elections for two or even five years.

Sir, I wish the House takes this issue seriously. We will discuss the domains of powers of the Election Commission, the Parliament and the President when you give us an opportunity. However, today it seems that the whole power has been concentrated into the hands of one individual or an institution. That very individual or institution decides whether elections will be held or not and if held, when and on what date? It also decides the period of electioneering process. The whole Parliament is a mute, helpless spectator as remains the Government. Same is the condition of the President, the constitutional head who looks desperately at the developments. Therefore, I wish that this matter should be taken seriously.

Our first demand is that the Government should on the basis of the Election Commission report tell the House why elections scheduled for 27th May are not being held in Punjab? Both the Congress and the regional party, Akali Dal have condemned this postponement of election date. I would like to know the reasons behind this extension of date. What kind of charge of misuse of the specific Government machinery has been levelled by the Commission? Our charge, too, is directed against the Government for its misuse of Government machinery but it is the duty of the Election

Commission to conduct free and fair polls. Secondly, this should not happen in future. There should not be whimsical postponement of election dates. The Government should give an assurance to this effect after holding discussions with all the parties with regard to ensuing Lok Sabha elections. Hence, free and fair polling should be held well on time. There should be no endeavour of diminishing the significance and killing the soul of democracy. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity of raising such a serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is it that you want to raise?

SHRI M.G. REDDY (Chittoor): Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 222 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: But in your notice you have made certain statements which are not in line with facts.

SHRI. M.G. REDDY. I will explain. all the MPs who went there yesterday are here. *(Interruptions)* We Will explain.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us discuss it. But then you have said that Presiding Officer directed you to go to somewhere else.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Yesterday, we raised this issue here. Some of the hon. Members have also suggested that we can represent to the Chief Election Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER: In your writing you have said this thing

SHRI M.G. REDDY: It is not about the direction.

MR. SPEAKER. First of all, you should withdraw it.

SHRI. M.G. REDDY : I will withdraw it.

MR.SPEAKER: How can you make such a statement?

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Yesterday you had given a suggestion to go to the Chief Election Commissioner, Sir, and with your direction only we had gone to the Chief Election Commissioner's office

MR. SPEAKER: Even now you are repeating that it was my suggestion

SHRI M.G. REDDY: I withdraw that word, Sir Please allow me to make my submission, Sir

MR. SPEAKER. I have the record with me You have given me in writing that I directed you to go somewhere. I think such a statement should not have been made by you.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: I am sorry, Sir

Sir, on 25.5.1995, at about 1.00p m., ten Members of Parliament went to the Office of the Chief Election Commissioner, New Delhi to represent certain facts

pertaining to the bye-election scheduled to be held on 27.5.1995 at Gorantla of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh. We met the concerned officer at the Reception in the Chief Election Commissioner's office on the ground floor, and after due security check, we were taken into a room, next to the Chief Election Commission's chamber on the first floor. The P.A. to the Chief Election Commissioner informed us that the Chief Election Commissioner wanted a delegation of only three Members of Parliament to meet an officer and the remaining Members were asked to be seated in the same room. Accordingly, Mr Chokka Rao, M.P., Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy, M.P. and Mr. Surendra Reddy, M.P. entered the officer's chamber. Immediately Mr. Seshan, Chief Election Commissioner, rushed into the room wherein the remaining seven of us were sitting....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These kind of things cannot go on record. I am sorry, it is becoming very complicated. On the one hand, something appears in the newspaper and, on the other hand, we cannot discuss it on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI. M.G. REDDY. We were all Members of Parliament, Sir. We need democracy, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESHWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada). Sir, they had caused a serious security lapse...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI. M.G. REDDY: Please allow me to complete, Sir*...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: They are presenting a wrong picture, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me deal with it properly....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Please give me also an opportunity, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not necessary....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me deal with the matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Sir, it is my privilege to raise this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All that is not necessary, please.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA (Anakapalli). He must withdraw that word, Sir.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: No I am hundred per cent correct, Sir..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You proceed further now.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Sir, Mr. Seshan, the Chief Election Commissioner rushed into the room wherein

* Expunged as ordered by the chair

the remaining seven Members were sitting* and showed the exit door....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall look into all those things. Only that which can go on record will go and others will not go.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Then we tried to pacify him and told him that we came there to represent. Then Mr. Seshan, the Chief Election Commissioner said that was his office and*..... The verbatim of the language used by the Chief Election Commissioner is:..*

Thus, the Chief Election Commissioner has committed a breach of privilege for the following reasons:

1. we have every right for audience before any officer in the country and the Chief Election Commissioner has no right whatsoever to deny audience.
2. It is a public office and every citizen has got the right to enter into a public office for the purpose of representing facts relating to elections. It is not a private house of Mr. Seshan. We have obtained necessary permission at the Reception and subjected ourselves to through security check and we were asked to be seated in the office by the Chief Election Commissioner's officials. It was not an unauthorised entry.. (Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us understand the rules.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Sir, we the Members of Parliament went to C.E.C's Office with permission. We were insulted.

MR. SPEAKER: You come to my chamber and convince me how it becomes a privilege and I will look into it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA (Anakapalli): Sir, please hear us for a minute.

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Sir, just give a minute. It is the ambition of all of us. As per protocol, M.Ps. must be given audience by any office. We are representatives of the people.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, I want to speak on Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, please allow me to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: Not necessary. Have you not heard what I have said to you?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, please hear me.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA : What he is saying is not correct.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to go on quarrelling between yourself, I have no objection.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I have to make my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not. Please understand how you are behaving.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.G. REDDY: The behaviour of the Chief Election Commissioner towards the Members of Parliament referred to above is an affront to the dignity and respect of the representatives of the people in this august House and it involves a breach of privilege of our rights. Thus, Shri Seshan, the C.E.C has committed a breach of privilege and he should be punished by this House in accordance with rules...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER : What is it Mr. Rao that you what to say?

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Sir, he cannot be allowed.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, even before listening to me you are stopping me. Please allow me. I want to bring facts before you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, let me be heard.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Sir, he is not* to represent the facts here. He used unparliamentary words which should not go on record. as a matter of fact, on Member of the Council of Ministers of Andhra Pradesh is involved in a landmine blast case wherein eight Congress workers, who were all members of a family, were killed. This is the fate of Congressmen in the State(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE. Sir, please allow me to clarify.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you want it?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Before hearing me you are saying. Please allow me for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You are complicating the case and getting it against yourself. If you have any sense and understanding please sit down.

(Interruptions)

* Expunged as asked by the Chair

* Expunged as asked by the Chair

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Please hear me.

MR. SPEAKER: What is it that you want to say? What is wrong in it?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Even before I tell something, I am stopped by them. They are misrepresenting the facts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You go on. The House is yours. You can use it in any fashion you like. Yes, speak now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I never do like that.

MR. SPEAKER: You are always doing like that.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: No, Sir. I have great respect for the Chair....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Sir, the issue is not of this party or that party. It is between Shri Seshan and ten Members of Parliament who went to his office yesterday. Shri V.S. Rao is talking like this to please *

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Do not talk*. How can you bring the name of a person here who is not a Member of this House?*(Interruptions)*. You were elected on a T.D.P. ticket to this House and now you went and joined the Congress. If you have any* do not talk like that....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing all sorts of things to come here because it seems that all of us have now decided to behave in this fashion. Shri Rao may speak now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the greatest regard for the Chair. With due respect I want to bring to the notice of yourself and this august House that it is the Congress(I) candidate and an ex-M.L.A. who have killed ex-T.D.P. sympathiser and they are accusing in this House that T.D.P. is not allowing free and fair poll there.

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: It is utterly wrong. It is not correct.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: But, that is not the position. They gatecrashed into C.E.C.'s office and the C.E.C. has asked the Government to take all necessary steps so that such things do not occur again. He in fact, demanded an authority from the Speaker. This is what I want to submit here. What they are doing is not correct. This is causing danger to the democracy. This is all that I want to submit...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.G. REDDY: Sir, it is not correct...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not said anything at all. You should be satisfied with that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the language he has used. You are a responsible Member. You need not get agitated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMIT SINGH BRAR(Faridkot) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has talked about deferring the election in Punjab. I want to speak something in this connection. Giddarbaha forms a part of my Parliamentary constituency. The Chief Election Commissioner has announced that polling will be held on 3rd and counting on 5th, but common people and voters of my constituency are apprehensive if this poll's going to be held at all. Hon. Speaker it is a very important letter has been despatched on behalf of the Chief Election Commissioner asking as to why not to de-recognize the party and why the model code of conduct has been violated. Leaders belonging to various political parties are present here. I want to state that there is no way out when the Government itself under whose auspices polling is going to be held, wants the poll to be deferred. Not only this, the Chief Minister and Ministers stayed therein the rest House from 7 to 15. Sarpanches have been replaced there and more than 60 lakhs of people have been given pension. Besides, jobs were also provided and teachers all demands have been conceded to. This has given rise to misunderstanding among people that the State Government wants the poll to be postponed in connivance with the Chief Election Commissioner. I do not want to level this kind of allegation against the Government, but really this is a matter of concern among the people in Gidarbaha and Punjab. This was really a Peak season and the people of Punjab were busy sowing and reaping the harvest. All the political parties and their people, Congress Party and the people of Akali Dal have wasted their time. Now when it is the sowing season, poll has been postponed further for seven more days so that their time could be wasted. In the condition when power is concentrated at once place, the will of people of the country, the election process and democracy is not being ascertained. This is really very sad. I will like this poll to be held and atleast on 3rd polling should be held so that the verdict that the people wants to give, could be ascertained.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, these kinds of matters have been raised every now and then on the floor of the House. Let us please understand that we are all governed by the Constitution of India and the Constitution of India has created the Election Commission; not only that, but the Constitution of India has created the Union Government, the Union Legislature, the State Government and the State Legislature.

In the Constitution of India, they have specifically mentioned as to what subjects can be dealt with by the Union Government and what subjects can be dealt with by the State Governments. Now, the Constitution of

* Expunged as asked by the Chair

India specifically says that "all elections to the Legislature of the States, subject to the provisions of any law made by the Parliament.." This is in the State List. This is a matter which has to be dealt with in the State Legislature by the State Government. The Union Government has no jurisdiction in this matter. It is only the Election Commission which has a jurisdiction in this matter. But without following the provisions in the Constitution, every now and then we are not only raising the issues relating to the State Legislatures, but we are raising the issues relating to the District Councils and the Gram Panchayats also. I do not know in what fashion this highest body which is expected to make the laws for the entire country should deal with the matters on which it is not given any jurisdiction, as to how we can discuss, as to what we can do as to what kind of conclusions we can arrive at.

I would plead with the Members to please look into this matter and at least in future to see that that which is not given to you should not be used by you. You should not try to use it.

Let us understand that if we do not follow what is given in the Constitution, then we are reaching no place, we are not getting any relief at all. The only thing is, we have the satisfaction of having ventilated our views on the floor of the House. May I very sincerely plead with the Members for future not to resort to these kinds of things please.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, what has happened to my point? I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss the entire election activities, you come before the House in a proper fashion. We will see as to how it can be fitted into the rules and then rules and then we will discuss it. But if you expect us to discuss each and every election for State Legislatures or the Gram Panchayat elections or the District Council elections, I do not know as to how we are going to discuss them. The jurisdiction for this purpose is given to the State Government and to the State Legislatures very clearly, without any ambiguity in the Constitution and even then if we, who have been making the laws for the entire country, are not following the law, it is not really good for us.

I plead, I request you to please look into these matters and at least in future see that it is not done.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA(Cuttack): Sir, it is true. But the question is that when the model code of conduct is being violated and the Election Commission is totally keeping quiet and if he becomes partial then what Parliament...

MR. SPEAKER: I need not explain to Mr. Jena who is a very knowledgeable person that whenever any law is violated or any code of conduct is violated, you have the Courts where you can go and get the relief. This Parliament is not sitting here as a Judge, hearing both sides and giving the judgement. We got the versions

from you, we got the versions from them but we have no authority to decide. That is why, the law has decided, the Constitution has decided that there is a law, there is a code and if it is violated, there are forums created for that instead of coming to Parliament where you are expected to make policy, where you are expected to supervise the implementation of the policies and where you are expected to hold the Government accountable and if you take on yourself the jurisdiction of deciding who is wrong and who is right without being able to hear what actually happened, it will lead us to nowhere. So, please let us understand this Mr. Jena and you come to my Chamber I will discuss it with you, not here.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I can discuss it with you...

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I am not going to enter into arguments with you.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Union Government, three days back, had declared the support price for coconut. The coconut farmers were in great difficulty as the price at which the Government was obtaining the coconut was very low. However, though the declaration has come, it is a matter of protest that the support price is not adequate enough to satisfy the farmers and to get a reasonable price for their produce. Only Rs.150, per quintal has been raised.

13.12 hrs

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

Now, another issue has arisen. Now that the support price has been given, the Government should come forward to procure coconut and copra at the price which they have declared. But there is a difficulty which has come between the NAFED and the Government. The NAFED, the agency who is supposed to procure, has not started procuring in spite of the fact that the support price has been declared. This is because the NAFED claims that they had incurred loss in the last procurement and there is an agreement by which Rs.25 crore has to be given by the Government of India to NAFED. Now, this issue is between the Government of India and the NAFED. But the poor farmers are in difficulty because even after the declaration of the support price, the procurement is being delayed which will only benefit the middleman.

So, I urge upon the Government to make an earnest effort to start the procurement immediately on the basis of the price which has been declared.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL PAWAR : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, India's predominantly an agricultural country and its majority of the people are engaged in cultivation. More than 65 crore people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood but today the agonies and plights of farmers have considerably increased. Even so long

after independence, despite trumpeting a number of subsidies for them, farmers are unhappy today even. Agriculture is still faced with problems which have not received adequate attention for some time.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Really India is called predominately an agricultural country but the reality is otherwise and if we call it predominately an industrial country on the basis of the concessions and facilities it deems fit. A farmer cannot transport his crops from one state to another one. They have not got any storage facility, electricity is not available for him. If they do get then for some hours only and that too at higher rates only. They get fertilizers and other things at costlier rates. That is how the agriculture has become fully unremunerative. Their entire family their children and even their females are found engaged, toiling hard in the field and yet our agriculturists in our loss only.

The agriculturists of India are incurring loss. I want to state through you that the concessions that are being given to industry must be given to our agriculture as well. I want to demand through you from the Government of India that the institutions like IDBI and ICICI which give loans to industries, must provide the same facility to Indian agriculture as well. But this kind of facility is not being extended. You should issue such instruction that this is being talked about for so long, so we must give our agriculture the status of an industry. Farmers are very unhappy, their plight is increasing manifold, so the farmers must be given these facilities. I express my gratitude for giving me time enough for speaking.

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS(Karimganj): Sir, as per the Ministry of Power, Government of India, the number of un-electrified villages in Assam is only 494 which is not correct because when only poles are set up and tension of wire done across the village or villages, the REC takes them as electrified although no electricity has been supplied to the households then.

Till today 50 per cent villages have actually been electrified in Assam and large number of SC/ST villages is yet to be electrified. Moreover, now heavy load shedding is going on in Southern Assam which is not less than 15 to 17 hours in a day.

So, I should request the Government of India to improve the situation in Assam as regards rural electrification and to lessen present severe load shedding in Southern Assam. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES(Udupi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of Karnataka has waved the recovery of interest from the farmers which was due to them. This revolutionary step has come as a boon to the farmers of my state.

[English]

ONE HON'BLE MEMBER. In which language are you speaking.

[Translation]

translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: This is Kannada. Sir, as a result of this, NABARD has stopped its loan facility to the farmers. NABARD was helping the farmers through State Co-operative Sector and all of a sudden it has stopped this loan facility. This has come as a sudden shock to the farmers. The rainy season has started and the farmers have to make preparations for the new crop. They need financial assistance for buying fertilizers, seeds and other inputs.

The farmers have to repay at least 90% of the loan. Hence a new situation has arisen in the State. I, therefore, urge upon the Centre to continue the loan facility to farmers of Karnataka through Co-operative Sector. The Centre should understand the predicament of farmers if this facility is stopped. They should also make it clear how long they will stop this facility.

I request the Centre once again to continue the loan facility and to save the farmers of Karnataka.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today India is an independent and self-esteemed, an upright nation. So to say, defence preparedness cannot be overlooked in the country like India. Today, when Pakistan is waging a Proxy War and with the help of I.S.I and foreign mercenaries it is aiding and abetting anti-national and subversive forces, then it becomes expedient that we must make efforts in order to strengthen our nuclear defence policy.

Today, China is our other immediate neighbour and it is also engaged in incessant nuclear bomb tests and indeed it has achieved a nuclear capability. On the other hand Pakistan claims that this does have a nuclear bomb. The powers like America and Russia have already hoarded piles of weapons and are engaged in incessant tests. China went ahead with nuclear tests despite America and Chinese ban. In this extraordinary kind of situation, I demand from the Government of India that it must frame a sound nuclear defence policy for reposing confidence among the people of India so that the enemies of this nation could be demoralised and dispirited and the nation's confidence could be boosted and bolstered up.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I would like to draw your attention to the serious problem faced by the people of Andaman & Nicobar. They are living separated from the mainland and they have to go through many difficulties regarding communication, transportation, regular non-supply of daily necessities and many other problems.

Yesterday I came to know from Port Blair one immediate problem of the people of Andaman & Nicobar. They have only a few ships for transportation of only

poor people. The number of ships is very limited. Indian Airlines flights are also very limited and poor people cannot afford to travel by air. One major ship is Mr. Akbar. It is out of order and it was sent to Hindustan Shipyard Company for renovation. After incurring an expenditure of Rs.33 crores, it came and it started carrying passengers last month. But after leaving Port Blair in the middle of sea, it developed some defects and it could be dangerous for the lives of the passengers. It came back to Port Blair and now it is lying there and the people are not able to travel from one area to another. A serious situation has arisen. The people decided to protest against this. But the highest Authority there, the Lt. Governor, resorted to repressive measures. They are threatening the people not to raise the issue and not to demonstrate. After issuing orders, the Lt. Governor, Andaman, left Andamans and the people are suffering.

I request the Government to look into the problems of the people who are living in far-flung area and to see that their transport should get priority and the repressive measures against the people who are demonstrating against such difficulties should be stopped.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of labourers from Saharsa, Darbhanga, Trihut and Saran areas of Bihar Deoria and Gorakhpur areas of Uttar Pradesh go for work to Punjab, Haryana and Jammu Tawi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Reading is not allowed, please speak spontaneously

SHRI MANJAY LAL: The labourers even after having the tickets have to travel on the roof top of the train due to the reserved coaches. Many of them meet with accidents. It is also complained that they are harassed by the G.R.P. and R.P.F. and their money is also looted. I would like to urge upon the Government that an unreserved train should be run between Samastipur division to Jammu Tawi. It will help labourers to go to Haryana and Punjab for job.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you towards those drought prone districts of Varansi division of Uttar Pradesh, which include the hill districts like Mirzapur and Sonbhadra. There are total 20 developmental blocks, out of these, 16 development blocks come under Sonbhadra district and 8 are under Mirzapur district. 18 developmental blocks are inhabited on the Kalmoor hills. These days, these blocks are severely affected by drought and potable water crisis. The people are not getting drinking water. Animals and birds are dying due to scarcity of water. I would like to bring it to the notice to the Government. Through you that the World Bank Project of Potable Water there, is totally insufficient, unorganised and unsatisfactory. The 'Jal Nigam' has installed tube

wells there and these always remain out of order. For example, all the tubewells installed by 'Jal Nigam' in the developmental blocks of Robertsganj. Ghorawal, Rajgarh, Keorpur, Majhva and Nagwan etc. have been out of order for the last 4-5 years. People in the Robertsganj Parliamentary Constituency are not getting potable water. The handpumps and the Government machinery are fixed at a very low depth. I would like to submit that the rig machines, which were sent for the hill areas of Mirzapur and Sonbhadra by UNICEF and which have been taken away to Delhi or other places should be sent back to Sonbhadra and Mirzapur districts. My submission is that the tubewells installed in the 18 developmental blocks by the water corporation for supplying water, the Central Government should immediately issue money to these and arrangements should be made to start those tubewells there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: By 1.30 p.m., the Zero Hour comes to an end. One more Member can be accommodated provided he cuts short your speech

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Sir, Buxar and Bhojpur districts in Bihar are 'no industry' districts, where the number of unemployed, youths according to the Government data is around 36 thousand in Buxar and 65 thousand in Bhojpur. There is even no proper arrangement of irrigation there. The unemployed youths there include the labourers and the educated people, who go to other states in search of work. The Integrated Rural Development Scheme has been launched only in the 4 blocks of these districts. If the Integrated Rural Development Scheme is implemented in all the blocks then a number of unemployed youths will get work and besides it the poor labourers will also get work. This scheme has not been implemented in all the blocks.

I would like to urge upon the Government through you that in all the blocks of Buxar and Bhojpur districts of Bihar, the Integrated Rural Development Scheme should be implemented. Earlier, there was factory in Shahabad Dehri but now it has also been closed. My submission is that a big factory should be set up in Buxar district, which can provide work to at least one lakh people. It will not only provide employment to the people there but the problem of livelihood of the people will also be solved.

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. There is a bank Kashinath Seth Bank in Uttar Pradesh. It was set up in 1948. It has 30 branches and there are 582 employees working in it. There are around two and half lakh defaulters, in it. It is a private bank, which has been given licence by the Reserve Bank of India. For the last

20 months restrictions have been imposed on this bank under the Banking Regulation Act and on account of it no defaulter can withdraw money from the bank. The result is that various people are dying, they are unable to have treatment and even the marriages are not solemnised. Both the defaulters and the employees of the banks are worried. When I met the hon. Finance Minister in this regard, I was told that the Government is going to liquidate this bank, or going to close this bank and thus the people will use their money. The employees are being left at their fate. My submission to the Government through you is that instead of liquidating the Kashinath Seth Bank, it should be amalgamated with some nationalised bank or its assets should be taken over by some other bank. The Government should pass such orders so that the money of the defaulters as well as the future of the employees remain safe. This is my humble submission.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER . Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to the query of Shri Oscar Fernandes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): If you permit me, I can inform the hon Member

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you volunteer, I have no objection.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Shri Oscar Fernandes has raised an issue about the NABARD refinancing to the Karnataka cooperatives. I wish to inform the hon. Member, through you, that recently the NABARD officials discuss this issue with the officials of the Karnataka State Government. They have signed an MOU in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up papers to be laid on the Table.

13.31 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Pawan Hans Ltd., New Delhi for 1993-94 and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) (SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR) : On behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No LT-7693/95]

Review of the working of and Annual Report of Jute Corporation of India, Calcutta for 1993-94 and Statement Showing reasons for delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : On behalf of Shri G. Venkat Swamy, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No LT-7694/95]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Coffee Board for 1993-94 and Statement Showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board for the year 1993-94.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (3) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) of the General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1993-94.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7695/95]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1993-94.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7696/95]
- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 :
- (i) The Export Inspection Council (Director) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1994, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 182 in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 1994.
- (ii) The Export of Cashew Kerneis (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1994 published in Notification No. S.O. 898 in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 1994.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7697/95]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I) for the year 1993-94.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I) for the year 1993-94.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7698/95]

Oriental Bank of Commerce officer Employees, Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 and reasons for delay in laying these papers and Annual Reports of Jaipur Nagaur Anchalik Gramin Bank, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur (Punjab) etc. for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employees' Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 3917 in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1995, under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7699/95]
- (3) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year 1993-94, together with Auditor's Report thereon :
- (i) Jaipur Nagaur Anchalik Gramin Bank, Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 7700/95]
- (ii) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur (Punjab)
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7701/95]
- (iii) Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Damoli (M.P.)
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7702/95]
- (iv) Shivpuri Gunakshetriya Gramin Bank (Shivpuri) (M.P.).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7703/95]
- (v) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola (Maharashtra)
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7704/95]
- (vi) Puri Gramya Bank, Puri (Orissa).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7705/95]
- (vii) Subansiri Gaonlia Bank, Lakhimpur (Assam).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7706/95]
- (viii) Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank, Bhawani Patna (Orissa).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7707/95]
- (ix) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi (H P)
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7708/95]

- (x) Koshi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnia (Bihar).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7709/95]
- (xi) Ellaqual Dehati Bank, Srinagar (J. & K.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7710/95]
- (xii) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7711/95]
- (xiii) Kamraz Rural Bank, Sopore (J. & K.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7712/95]
- (xiv) Chhatrasal Gramin Bank, Oraí (Jalaun) (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7713/95]
- (xv) Sri Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sriganganagar (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7714/95]
- (xvi) Malaprabha Grameena Bank, Dharwad (Karnataka).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7715/95]
- (xvii) Chhindwada Sconi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7716/95]
- (xviii) Vallalar Grama Bank, Cuddalore (T.N.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7717/95]
- (xix) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7718/95]
- (xx) Basti Gramin Bank, Basti (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7719/95]
- (xxi) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7720/95]
- (xxii) Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur (Punjab).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7721/95]
- (xxiii) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7722/95]
- (xxiv) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7723/95]
- (xxv) Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Tenali (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7724/95]
- (xxvi) Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Swai Madhopur (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7725/95]
- (xxvii) Aurangabad-Jaina Gramin Bank, Aurangabad (Maharashtra).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7726/95]
- (xxviii) Mahakushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Narsinghpur (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7727/95]
- (xxix) Rani Laxmbal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7728/95]
- (xxx) Ratnagiri Singdhudurg Bank, Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7729/95]
- (xxxi) Bijapur Grameena Bank, Bijapur (Karnataka).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7730/95]
- (xxxii) Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshangabad (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7731/95]
- (xxxiii) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7732/95]
- (xxxiv) Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Motihari (Bihar).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7733/95]
- (xxxv) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7734/95]
- (xxxvi) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba (H.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7735/95]
- (xxxvii) Adhiyaman Gramin Bank, Dharmapuri (T.N.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7736/95]
- (xxxviii) Nagarjuna Grameena Bank, Khammam (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7737/95]
- (xxxix) Rushikulya Gramya Bank, Berhampur (Orissa).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7738/95]
- (xl) Kapurthala Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala (Punjab).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7739/95]
- (xli) Manjira Grameena Bank, Sangareddy (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7740/95]
- (xlii) Shri Venkateswara Grameena Bank Chittoor (A.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7741/95]

- (xliii) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Laherlasaral (Bihar).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7742/95]
- (xliv) Sagar Gramin Bank, Amtala (W.B.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7743/95]
- (xiv) Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank, Koraput (Orissa).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7744/95]
- (xlv) Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bareilly (U.P.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7745/95]
- (xlvii) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore (Karnataka).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7746/95]
- (xlviii) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank, Jamnagar (Gujarat).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7747/95]
- (xlix) Grishna Gramin Bank, Gulbarga (Karnataka).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7748/95]
- (i) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malapuram (Kerala).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7749/95]
- (ii) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur (M.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7750/95]
- (iii) Bhiwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwara (Rajasthan).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7751/95]
- (iii) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Siwan (Bihar).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7752/95]
- (liv) Buldana Gramin Bank, Buldana (Maharashtra).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7753/95]
- (lv) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai (Bihar).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7754/95]
- (lv) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehradun (U.P.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7755/95]
- (lvii) Visveshvarya Gramin Bank, Mandya (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7756/95]
- (lviii) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur (U.P.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7757/95]

- (lix) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda, (U.P.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7758/95]
- (ix) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad (U.P.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7759/95]
- (ix) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu (J & K).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7760/95]
- (ixii) Bhagalpur Bank Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur (Bihar).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7761/95]
- (ixiii) Auranchal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7762/95]
- (xiv) Avadh Gramin Bank, Lucknow (U.P.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7763/95]
- (ixv) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Suri, Birbhum (W.B.).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7764/95]
- (ixvi) Baltarani Gramya Bank, Baripada, Mayurbhanj (Orissa).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7765/95]
- (ixvii) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner (Rajasthan).
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7766/95]
- (ixviii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Krishnagar (W.B.)
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7767/95]
- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sagar Gramin Bank, Ultadanga (Calcutta) for the year 1992-93, together with Auditor's Report thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7768/95]

13.32 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 1995 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd May, 1995 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

13.32½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND TOURISM**

Seventeenth Report

[English]

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum) I beg to lay the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on the National Highways (Amendment) Bill, 1995

13.33 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND TOURISM**

Evidence

[English]

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum) I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on the National Highways (Amendment) Bill, 1995

13 33½ hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) with your permission Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 29th May, 1995 will consist of -

1 Consideration and passing of -

- (a) The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, 1995
- (b) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1995

2 Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper

3 Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha -

- (a) The Delhi Rent Bill 1994
- (b) The Wakf Bill, 1993
- (c) The Assam University (Amendment) Bill, 1994

(d) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1995

(e) The Wrokmans Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 1994

(f) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995

4 Discussion on the Resolution regarding Draft Agriculture Policy

[Translation]

SHRI ASTBUHA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, following items should be included in the list of Business for the next week

- 1 Ghosi to Ghanghata road via Mehravat Khalilabad should be given approval and declared a National Highway
- 2 Reconstruction of the damaged road between Deputyganj and Chhavan and in view of the heavy traffic on it, it should be declared a National Highway

DR SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, following two items should be included in the list of Business for next week -

- 1 All the national highways traversing Madhya Pradesh should be repaired and Indore-Ujjain-Agar-Susner, Soyad-Jhalavad-Kota-Jaipur should be linked with Delhi through roads and alongwith it Indore-Ratlam-Mandsaur-Neemach-Chittorgarh Ajmer-Jaipur should be declared national highway and construction should be started accordingly
- 2 A new passenger train should be introduced from Indore to Jodhpur via Ujjain Jaipur on the Indore-Ujjain-Nagda-Kota-Sawaimadhopur-Jaipur Jodhpur broadgauge railway line and passenger trains should be introduced on Ratlaam-Badnagar-Indore metregauge railway line and between Indore and Ujjain to facilitate the public

MAJ GEN (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following items should be included in the list of Business for the next week -

- 1 There is no means of transport in backward hilly areas of Uttranchal There is an urgent need to review and relax the rules of Planning Commission to set up hospitals, bank, post-offices etc in that region It should be debated comprehensively
- 2 Scarcity of drinking water in Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts of Garhwal division

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following items should be included in the list of Business for next week

1. Approval for construction of railway line from Arrah to Bhavnathpur via Sasaram, Dehri-Rohtas.
2. The State roads from Sasaram to Azamganj via Kochas, Chausa, Buxar, Ujiyar Vally should be declared a national highway.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following items should be included in the list of Business for next week :-

The issue regarding the need to raise the allocation of wheat, rice, levy sugar, kesosene oil and domestic coal for Bihar in accordance with the present population of state, should be debated.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following item should be included in the list of Business for the forthcoming week :-

The issue regarding need to provide royalty on the basis of the price of coal in place of weight should be considered for debated to remove the economic backwardness of Bihar.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following items should be included in the list of Business for the next week :-

1. The issue regarding providing approval to the pending power projects of Bihar with the capacity of 6110 M.V., should be considered.
2. The issue regarding the need to provide required financial assistance for revival of around 50 thousand big and medium size sick industrial units which are lying closed in Bihar to remove the industrial backwardness of the state.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following items may be included in the list of Business for the coming week :-

1. Need to make proper arrangements for education of girls in rural areas of the country.
2. In view of the higher yield of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh, need to set up more sugar mills in the state.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATAL (Phulpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following item should be included in the list of Business for the forthcoming week :-

1. An all party meeting should be convened to discuss the measures for curbing the rate of growing population of the country so the country could make progress in economic social and political spheres.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that following items may be included in the list of Business after the statement by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs :-

1. Need to lower the age of senior citizens from 65 years to 60 years by Railway Ministry and Department of Civil Aviation and a limit of distance should be fixed for travelling on concessional tickets on which 50% rebate given by both the departments.
2. Jaipur city, which has a population of 18.50 lakh should be recognised as 'A' category city as under the Rules this limit is 15 lakh.

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Sir, I have a submission to make.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Just a minute. For Submissions, only ten subjects are taken for consideration.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : I have come to know of that. But this is the last day to make Submissions for the next week's business of this long session. I do not believe in gambling. It never helps me. I seek your indulgence because the matter is very important.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no such precedent. I think the rules also do not permit that.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : This is the last day to make Submissions for the next week's business. Next Friday is the concluding day of the session. The matter is very important. As I said Sir, I never believe in gambling. I seek your indulgence. There is nothing else.

[[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so. Rule do not permit it.

English]

It may not be good when the rules do not permit it and when there is no such precedent.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: There are precedents.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise it under Rule 377.

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : This topic is not included under this Rule though I have given it under Rule 377

[English]

That is why I seek your indulgence and of the House also.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rules do not permit it and it will not be good to violate the Rules.

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : As I have come to know, only 12 papers had been submitted for today. In the ballot two had been lost.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Every time only ten subjects will be taken for Submissions.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA That I have come to know

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER. Probably yours must have been eleventh or twelfth. In some other form you can try to raise this issue.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I will read it out. If it is fit enough, you can allow this

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not the question of fit, or otherwise. We do not decide that Whether eleven Submissions can be made or not, that is the question. When there is no precedent or when the rule does not permit it, I think the violation may not be good.

SHRI BOGENDRA JHA This is the last day, Sir. Next week there will be no business

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is true in some other form you can raise this issue. The very purpose is to bring the matter to the notice of the Government

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA . By this time I would have completed it.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not the question of saving the time. The question is, no such precedent has taken place so far. Only ten Submissions could be made and they will be brought on record.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : This has been decided upon very recently, the number of ten Submissions. That is good. Some limit has been put. I have no objection to it. But earlier, it was not so.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In some form or, the other, you could bring it. I am sorry, I am hurting your feelings.

SHRI BOHGENRA JHA : Simply I seek your indulgence and the indulgence of the House. Am I permitted; Sir?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sorry. In some other form you can bring it on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Thanks for it.

[English]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

3.44 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Fifty Seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order. The money sanctioned for MP's local Area Development Fund should be released immediately because rainy season and elections are ahead. The scheme could not be implemented if this fund is not sent at earliest.

14.57½ hrs.

TRADE MARKS BILL-CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Now, we shall take up item No 11-further consideration of the Motion in respect of the Trade Marks Bill. The time allotted to the subject is 3 hours. The time already consumed is 1 hour and 32 minutes. The balance time is 1 hour and 28 minutes.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Hon Deputy-Speaker, Sir I welcome this Bill with some reservations in mind. Whether there was necessity of bringing a new Bill or not, there cannot be two opinions. In the last thirty years the law was there, so many cases were decided. Even the trade was changed and it was absolutely necessary that new Trade Marks Bill was to be brought in. Then this renewal was necessary. But at the same time, I cannot understand the delay in the presentation and passing of the Bill.

This Bill was introduced on 19th April, 1993. On 31st March 1994, the Standing Committee submitted its recommendations, and today, 26th May 1995, we are discussing the Bill. This Bill was introduced on 19th April, 1993. On 31st March 1994, the Standing Committee submitted its recommendations, and today, 26th May 1995, we are discussing the Bill. It means that the Government was not at all serious about this Bill in the last two years. They never pursued it in the Standing Committee. Even after the Bill was brought to the Lok Sabha from the Standing Committee, they just ignored this Bill for a year or more. So, if the Government is not serious about the Trade Marks Bill till now, naturally we have a right to know whether the Government has something to do with GATT.

15.00 hrs.

I say this because the Bill was introduced in 1993, it was hastened up only in 1994 and only today we happen to be in a mood to pass it. I have a full list of questions raised in Parliament on GATT. The date is remarkable in the sense that the first question on this matter was asked on 1st March 1993 and after that only this Bill was introduced. After two years, say after the

signing of the GATT Agreement only, the Government has now become serious about this Bill.

I have one more comment to offer. I wonder whether the Government is really democratic in its functioning. We sent this Bill to the Standing Committee and there are some suggestions by some of the Members in the report of the Standing Committee which are totally ignored by the Government. I expect an explanation from the Minister concerned as to why they have ignored all those suggestions. Now, let us see the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The first suggestion is:

"Some Members of the Committee were of the opinion that the liberalisation of the trade marks legislation may provide an added advantage to the foreign multinational units. Instead, the policy should be to go slow in according recognition to foreign trademarks with a view to encourage initiative in the same or similar lines of production. They emphasised the need to make an effort to encourage the use of indigenous trade marks."

I am all the more concerned because as far as the Minister's speech is concerned, not a word is mentioned about this particular suggestion. I expect that at least at the time of her reply, she should tell us as to what they are doing about the multinationals vis-a-vis our own industry especially the small scale sector. How these small scale industries be saved from the onslaught of the multinationals which are entering the field?

I will now refer to the second suggestion with regard to inclusion of services in the jurisdiction of the Bill.

"They expressed the view that the Government should await the resolution of the current controversies that arose after the signing of the GATT Treaty and the agreement by the Western countries to provide satisfactory trade concessions on a reciprocal basis."

Yesterday, Shri Syed Shahabuddin has raised a point on this issue only. We would like to know whether you have taken enough care about this reciprocity. As far as GATT is concerned, just as a foreign industry registering its trademarks here, will the industries in India get reciprocity in those nations from where the MNCs have come over to India.

"Also, in view of the amendments required in the Indian Patent Act, 1970, consequent upon the GATT Treaty, they felt that the new legislation should await the change in the Patent Law."

Now, the Minister is aware that Patent Law is yet to be passed in Rajya Sabha. The Government is not making sincere attempts to get the Patent Law passed in Rajya Sabha. We do not know for what reason they are waiting. If at all, the Patent Law is not passed in the Rajya Sabha, and if the Government plans to go ahead with this Act what about this suggestion? What is your response to this particular suggestion of the Standing Committee?

Then Sir, there are many other suggestions. I once again request the Minister to go through the report of the Standing Committee in the light of the speeches made here since yesterday. As far as these points are concerned, she may at least let us know as to what the Government's views are.

Sir, I would like to have some more information. As far as the MNCs are concerned, I would like to know the number of multinationals that are entering into Indian market and registering their trade mark. This information would be beneficial to our country as far as the entry of the multinationals into the Indian market is concerned.

Then, I would like to know about the joint ventures that look place before and after 1985. Now, there is a new trend being observed in India that is, the multinational companies who have entered into a joint venture with the Indian industrialists are in a mood to do away with them. Now, 'Lehar-Pepsi' would be sold with the name of 'Pepsi' only, and 'Lehar' would be dropped. In case of 'Maruti-Suzuki', 'Maruti' would now disappear with the entry of a new model called 'Zen'. So, this is a new trend. In a way, the multinational companies are ditching the Indian industries, at least, as far as the joint endeavours are concerned. Are we in a mood to safeguard the interest of Indian industries, especially the small scale industries? The small scale sector is in panic. With the Multinational companies entering into so many fields, the small scale industries are in panic. If the hon. Minister goes through the advertisements in the financial papers, she would find many industries are on for a scale. The Government has to worry for our small scale industries and our own industries. The Government have to tell us whether we want to go the Singapore way or follow the Japanese model or the Korean model. We would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Whatever thought has been given to the problems of the small scale sector and other industries vis-a-vis the multinational companies, the hon. Minister owes an explanation about that to Parliament while replying to this debate.

SHRI S.S.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR (Chengalpattu):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of my Party AIDMK, on the Trade Marks Bill, 1993.

Sir, while supporting the Bill which is now being discussed in this august House, I would like to place before the Government some of the views of my Party and suggestions for the consideration of the Government.

Sir, the Trade Marks Bill, which is under discussion, is considered be a welcome step taken by the Government and it is widely welcomed by the genuine manufactures in the country. It is a right step in protecting not only the genuine manufactures but also the innocent consumers in the country. While the GATT attempts to protect the MNCs the present Trade Marks Bill, when enacted into law, would go a long way in protecting the genuine Indian manufacturers.

Sir, coming to the subject matter of the Bill, I would like to place before the Government the following points for consideration.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is mentioned under (e):

"Providing for registration of trade marks to 'Collective Marks' owned by the associations etc.; if a proprietor manufactures different goods or provides services and obtains certification of trade marks in a 'Collective' form, then the responsibility lies on one individual firm for any kind of malpractice or sub-standard goods sold under the registered Trade Mark".

But in the case of medicines and food articles which are produced by different sister firms, though under one proprietorship, in that case 'Collective Marks' certification would lead to many complications involving serious consequences affecting the health of the consumers. Therefore, the Government should consider this point and include necessary clause in this regard.

Sir, my second point is that the Bill envisages establishment of an appellate board for speedy disposal of appeals and rectification of applications. I suggest that appellate boards should be established in those places where clusters of industries are located. I request the Government to establish State appellate board in Tamil Nadu, in Madras and Coimbatore, so that disputes arising out of bogus trade marks or copying of trade marks can be disposed of speedily.

The bill provides for transferring the final authority of terms of certification to Registrar instead of the Central Government in whom the authority is hitherto vested. In that case the Registrar will be the sole authority of giving certification. Vesting of power in one person may lead to many controversies and given room for misuse and abuse of that power. I would suggest that the Registrar of each region, or working in each State should invariably consult the State authorities before issuing certification to firms. In the case of issuing licence to vehicles and vehicle-owners in a State, the State Government has the sole authority. In the same way the State Government should be consulted before issuing certification of trade marks. This was time and again suggested by our hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi.

Sir, the Bill envisages prohibition of using someone else's trade marks. It is not clear whether the trade mark right can be passed on to any individual manufacturer other than the registered owner of the trade mark with the permission or sanction of the Registrar. Trade marks and names of many firms are used after adding words like "India Limited", as in "Phillips India Limited", by paying some royalty. It is not clear whether this kind of transfer or use of trade marks would be allowed.

Sir, under the garb of simplifying the procedure for registration and enlarging the scope of permitted use, the Government should take every precaution to see that unscrupulous manufacturers, and manufacturers of spurious items do not obtain certification of trade marks. The Registrars in various regions should be armed with necessary staff, laboratories and testing facilities so

that utmost care is taken before issuing certification of trade marks. The Government should consider the environmental pollution point of view also while issuing registration.

Sir, I hope the Government would consider the points suggested by me. Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity

[Translation]

SHRI KRIPAL SINGH YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing Trade Marks Bill, 1993 here in the House. This Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 19th of April, 1993. But the House had referred this Bill to a 'Standing Committee at that time. It had been done in order to get it reintroduced with a report after plugging all its loopholes. But after that discussion in 1993 we are again discussing it today in 1995. This Bill has been introduced for a discussion on it after a long gap. A similar kind of Bill had existed before this 1993 Bill which had paved the way for provision of laws as per our country's yardsticks. Such a Bill was passed in 1958 and the same Bill has been amended and introduced again in 1995. It has been extensively amended to suit the interests of the businessmen and industrialists. Though this Bill has been amended yet some very good points of the earlier Bill have not yet been incorporated. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, to incorporate those good points. Earlier this Bill read as 'Trade and Mercantile Marks Act, 1958' and goods used to be registered under this Act. The word 'goods' has been substituted with 'Services'. I would like to say that the word 'Services' is a vast term. They have made no effort to explain as to what kind of items would be included in it. It would have been better on your part to have explained at length as to what were to be included under 'Services'. I feel another amendment is called for.

Secondly, the Government should take another point also in reckoning which was mentioned yesterday by the hon. Member Shri Shahabuddin ji also. He said that the registration of a trade mark should not be done in the name of any, particular person, caste or religion. Often we notice that some people get the registration of trade mark done in the name of deity or a pilgrimage. A stringent provision should be made that no registration is made in the name of any religion or a pilgrimage so as to avoid hurting the sensibilities of any particular religion. A law should be enacted to ensure that anybody who violates this rule and gets a trade mark registered in such a way would be punished.

Thirdly, it is commonly seen that people carry out their trades on large scale on the basis of a fake trade mark. The things are getting manufactured and sold at a large scale in the name of foreign trade marks. You must have seen that people commonly use Pond's and Lakme in our country. A strict action should be taken against such people indulging in such practice of making use of fake trade marks. They have not made any such provision in the Act. I feel that such a provision should be made in the act.

I would like you to specify one more thing. Under the 1958 act, if a registration was not made then a reason used to be furnished as to the non-granting of registration but no such provision has been made in this new Act. You should make a provision specifying the reasons for not granting registration in certain cases. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a provision has been made in this Act for awarding two years' imprisonment. It is a laudable inclusion. This would be considered a non-cognizable offence. I request you that the term of this punishment be increased from a period of two years to three years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several hon. Members have complained that since the day we have adopted liberalisation policy, the entry of multinational companies has been initiated and these companies come through the help of Indian trade marks and entrepreneurs. These multinationals first initiate work in joint venture with Indian companies and after establishing their business then they chuck the Indian industrialists out of the business, we have examples like, Pepsi, Maruti-Suzuki, etc. That is why, attention should be given to this aspect and it should be ensured that Indian industries and industrialists do not face any hardship. You must make some provision in the new Act in this regard also. If it is not done then Indian industrialists and businessmen would definitely suffer. It should be made sure that such restrictions should not be imposed on our industrialists so as to enable the multinationals to exploit our industrialists and businessmen.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister, through you, that though you have introduced several good points in this Act yet the Parliament's Standing Committee has recommended in its report that this law should not be implemented before the implementation of the Patents law is pending with the Rajya Sabha. So, you should keep in mind that recommendation of the Standing Committee and should not implement this law until the Patents law is implemented. It would augur well for the Indian industries.

With these words, I respect the intentions of the hon. Minister with which this Bill has been introduced and urge upon him to plug the loopholes and get it passed after amending it suitably.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I respect the intention of the hon. Minister with which he has introduced this Bill. I welcome this Bill because the existing act is 80 year old. In the meantime, several decisions were made by the Supreme Court and these would have called for several amendments in the act. It would have been tedious for everyone concerned. That is why, the hon. Minister has attempted to introduce this Bill in a consolidated form.

Sir, it has been attempted to simplify the law for the traders/businessmen. It will bring relief to people. A provision to set up an appellate court has been made in this to dispose of those cases which have been pending in courts for years. The right to cancel a

registration which was earlier with Central Government has now been conferred on a Registrar. This is laudable. But this law was very old. It was introduced in 1958 which was again brought in 1993 and then it was referred to Standing Committee and the Standing Committee came out with certain recommendations. I suggest to the hon. Minister to introduce the Bill and enact a law but the main thing is that it should not be implemented until the Patents Act is passed by the Rajya Sabha. It has been said here. You should have given proper attention to it but you did not.

Sir, as the former Speaker mentioned that the trade marks would not be named after a caste, deity religion. As we were discussing here I would say that trade marks should not be named after women also. And if it is a saree-store then a woman should not be allowed to display the saree by modelling for it as the men do not model for suiting-shirting. This is not right. Madam Krishna Sahi, if I want to name a trade mark after your name then it would not be proper because your name symbolises good and similarly it would also not be proper for me to name a Trade mark after Manmohan. So, it should not be done in the name of a caste or a religion. The name 'Manmohan' is also a good name. So far as my name is concerned my parents had named me after a lot of deliberations. Women mention my name a lot during the days of Kartik.

Sir, I am trying to say that you have not followed the report of the Standing Committee in this regard word for word. It was imperative to do so in the interest of the nation in the form that when multinationals start functioning here they will cause harm to Indian industries, not big but small industries. So, please do not be in a haste to pass the Bill

Sir, several things have been mentioned in this. It is not essential to get its registration done. In certain cases trades produce imitating goods by marking a slight change in the spelling with wrapper of the same variety. Thus they deceive the consumer, e.g., we have sunlight soap. It is a very famous soap but some company changed it to 'somelight'. Similarly, the spellings of the 'lifebuoy soap' was slightly changed for a new product which is also a soap only. This way people get deceived. In some cases, contradictory advertisement is done. Like, it is printed on a cigarette box that it is not good for health and some instructions are also given on it that cigarette smoking is injurious to health. I want to say that the Government did not stop to think about these things.

Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister, through you, that the Department of Industries had made some remarks in this connection which were forwarded to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs which endorsed those remarks. But those remarks have not been incorporated in the Bill for consideration. They should have considered all these points. You are right in saying that this act was 30 years old. You have included registration of services also through this but

what does the term 'services' mean? What does it mean? You are the hon. Minister... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, how much time do you require?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have started speaking only now. So, I should be allowed some time to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is 3.30 p.m. Now we shall have to take up Private Members Business. So, you can continue your speech next day.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not want to interfere in the Private Members' Bill as it is presented on Friday only. I always listen to you. So, I conclude my speech with the hope that you will allow me to speak again on Monday.

15.31 hrs.

THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Forty-Second Report

[Translation]

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL (Hathras): Sir, I beg to move :

"That This House do agree with the Forty Second Report of The Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th May, 1995".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-Second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th May, 1995"

The motion was adopted

15.32 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: SUSPENSION OF PROVISO TO RULE 29

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Members are aware that Private Members Business (Resolutions) could not be transacted on 28th April 1995 and the

House had agreed that the business listed for that day might be taken up on some other day. As already notified, Private Members' Business listed for 28th April 1995 will now be taken up on 30th May 1995. If the House agrees, the provision to rule 29 may be suspended so that further discussion on the part-discussed Resolution of Shri Satya Deo Singh regarding steps to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is resumed at 30th May 1995 as the first time in the List of Business for the day.

15.33 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: REVIVAL OF SICK PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): Sir, I beg to move:

"This House expresses its grave concern over the increasing number of sick public sector undertakings under the control of the Central Government and non-payment of dues of workers in those units and urges upon the Government to take steps for the revival of the units and for the payment of dues of their employees in the interest of the country"

Sir, today itself, in reply to a Starred Question regarding closure of certain companies by BIFR tabled by the hon. Members Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad and Shri Indrajit Gupta, the hon. Minister replied that the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has reported that as on 30.4.1995, it had recommended winding up of 11 public sector undertakings with the concerned High Courts. Sir, all of us know that during the last four to five years, the Government has been pursuing an Economic Policy and Industrial Policy, which not to speak of satisfying the needs of the common people, the workers of the country but these policies have caused tremendous hardship to the lives of the entire working people and affected the fate of lakhs of employees working in the public sector undertaking under the Central Government. That fate has for all practical purposes been sealed.

I can refer to the situation in my State, West Bengal, where out of 54 Central Public Sector Undertakings, 20 had been referred to the BIFR and the revival package for five of these 20 have been cleared so far thankfully. But even of these five, three packages for Bharath Brakes and Valves, Braithwaite and Smith Stanistreet are in jeopardy. Why these packages are in jeopardy is because of the fact that the Government is not complying provision of the schemes of the revival package and in case of other units like Bharath Ophthalmic, BPMEL, Cycle Corporation, MAMC, National Instruments and Weighbird show cause notices for winding up had been issued by the BIFR. What is unfortunate is that though

the Government of India is the promoter, yet now the Government of India has refused to continue as promoter and therefore, it has not contested such winging up notices. It is only because of the stay order from the Calcutta High Court, winding up of five of these units could not be executed so far. The Government's policy towards these public sector units would be apparent from the real events, real happenings in some of the Public Sector Undertakings. I can refer to the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation. This MAMC has till date orders worth more than Rs.140 crore but in order to execute such orders, it needs adequate funds so that it can execute orders and at the same time, it may create a sort of credibility in the market and it can get future orders also but the Government of India have refused to supply that monetary input. Then the BIFR's notified scheme for revival of Tyre Corporation of India has not been accepted by the Government though the Government has taken full four months to respond to the draft rehabilitation package. Though four months have lost, the Government of India is sitting tight. It has been playing a role of silent spectator and the Tyre Corporation of India is going to sink. I can refer to the situation in the National Textile Corporation Mills. All of us know that the National Textile Corporation Mills are in a crisis because of the fact that most of the mills are to work with outdated, if not dilapidated, machines. Modernization programme has not been taken up, in spite of the fact that during the later period of the '80s' a decision was taken at the tripartite meeting involving the management and all the trade unions—from Leftist to Rightist stage, everyone—participated. The Government too participated. As per the Tripartite Committee meeting decision, the work norms had been changed. New SITRA norms of work load were introduced in spite of the fact that many workers have tremendous resentment against introduction of such norms. Because of the intervention of the Government of West Bengal and because of the intervention of all the trade union leaders, the workers accepted the new SITRA norms. But after that during the last four or five years we have seen the situation in the NTC mills. I can refer about the NTC mills in West Bengal. There are twelve mills. Some two or three mills have merged into one as per the decision of the Government of India. But in spite of that they are not getting the essential raw materials, the inputs like cotton. The Cotton Corporation of India, though it is a Government institution, has refused to supply cotton and it has stated very recently that unless the dues by the NTC mills are cleared immediately, the CCI is not in a position to supply cotton on credit. This is the position. The NTC mills are not getting working capital and without working capital, they are now depending upon the mercy of the individual customers. Some of the mills are continuing their job in a conversion method. But the problem is that these customers are in fact speculators. They are supplying cotton of a very low grade quality and are demanding that the workers should supply yarn of high quality. It is not possible to

produce high quality of yarn with low grade quality of cotton. But this is the fact and the conversion method is going on in many of the mills in West Bengal. Now, this conversion method is going to collapse.

The NTC mill workers are not getting their wages. This is the month of May. They reported that even the two instalments of wages that were due in the month of April have not been received by them. Since yesterday, the workers led by INTUC and others are in the sit-in strike at the NTC headquarters at Calcutta. The workers are not only not paid wages or salaries but also Provident Fund dues, gratuity dues, ESI dues are not paid. What is most disappointing is that the workers who have come under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and who have retired voluntarily, have not got their dues in full. This is the problem.

I know many of the NTC mills in West Bengal like Rampuria Mills or Central Mill or Jyoti Mill. For the last one year they have not produced anything but spider webs. This is the fact.

There was some assurance in this regard on the floor of the House a few days ago. Today itself in reply to a question the hon. Minister replied on this. I quote from the reply of the hon. Minister.

"The Government have approved a revised turn around plan for the modernisation of the NTC mills involving modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.70 crore, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills etc. This plan is generally in line with the plan prepared by the Textile Research Association and the recommendations of the special Tripartite Committee of the Ministry of Labour and the N.T.C. The plan has to be put up before the B.I.F.R. for its concurrence before implementation and the details of the plan will be laid on the table of the House soon."

This is the reply given on 26.5.1995. Sir, you may recall that a few days ago, perhaps a week ago, the hon. Minister to Textiles, Shri G.Venkat Swamy has made a SUO-MOTU statement on the floor of the House in the same language that the details of the plan will be laid on the table of the House soon. Meanwhile more than a week has passed. But the Government has not moved an inch forward and the workers are not getting their dues. This is the position of the NTC mills.

So far as due wages and salaries are concerned, not only the NTC workers are not getting their dues but the workers of Jessops, Burn Standard, NIMC are also not being paid their salaries, wages, P.F. etc. not to speak of on a regular basis but not even on an irregular basis they are getting their dues. What is alarming is that recently we have come across a news that the Reserve Bank of India has issued a sort of guideline to the banks that the banks are to reduce reliefs and concessions for financial rehabilitation packages for sick units referred to the B.I.F.R. Now these sick units these days include, as per the new amendment of the Act, the Public sector undertakings too. If the public sector undertakings do not get the necessary relief and

concessions, the necessary financial support and the necessary budgetary support, how can we expect that these very units will become viable? How could you expect that these very units will be able to stand in competition with the private sector?

Sir, the common arguments that we put forth against the public sector units is that in public sector units there is a lack of management culture, work culture, administrative efficiency and at the same time the public sector units, because of the fact they have enjoyed for a very long period after independence a sort of patronage from the Government, whether of the State or of the Centre, and therefore, they lacked that stamina and that very merit which is very essential for these units to survive in the struggle and to face stiff competition.

Since the days have changed now and we are speaking of market economy and market friendly public sector units, we are expecting that these public sector units would be able to survive in spite of stiff competition from the private sector

Now, we all know that even the private sector units get their financial inputs from the banks and other financial institutions. It is not that the owners of these private mills and private units put money and capital out of their own pockets. It is not a fact. They get the inputs from banks and financial institutions

We do not grudge that. But now the public sector units are not getting necessary inputs from the banks and financial institutions. So, is it a level playing field? It is not a level playing field. They are not enjoying the earlier patronage and they now are to face a particular sort of wrath from the Government of India because of the policy, the Government pursuing today at the behest of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Sir, it is said that during this present period the public sector undertakings are not in a position to foster efficient and innovative production system. I can refer to some sentences from a book by renowned socialist and economist, Mr. Ralph Miliband, who stated

"Another answer to the question of whether public ownership can foster efficient and innovative economy is provided paradoxically enough by the experience of countries which are extolled a shining example of unfettered capitalism, namely, those of the Asian Pacific region"

As Jeffery Henderson and Richard Applebaum among other writers on the subject have noted, I quote:

"State policy and influence should now be accepted as the single most important determinant of the East-Asian economic miracle."

The State intervention in this country took many forms which varied in scope and character. But they included notably in South Korea and Taiwan, a large

and powerful State sector. And the most remarkable example of successful State intervention in capitalist economy is Japan. We all know that America is now scared of Japan. Japan's economic miracle is largely due to it. Japan is the best example of the State-guided market economy currently available, the guidance being provided by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry who have a direct and intimate involvement in the fortunes of what are taken to be as a strategic industry. So, this is the position with the economies of those countries which these days we are trying to emulate. We profusely quote from the experiences of South Korean Tiger or Taiwan Tiger or Japanese Tiger and this is the policy precisely they are pursuing. But we instead are following different practice. The public sector undertakings were once at the commanding height of our economy. During the British days, the British imperialism, followed a consistent policy of de-industrialising India. This is the policy normally pursued by any colonial power in the third world countries

Now, after gaining independence, the major task of our country was to evolve a developed industry as well as a developed agriculture. But the fact remains that the private capitalists refuse to invest such huge amounts which are required for infrastructural sector

Moreover, these private capitalists were scared that because of the long gestation period involved in the process of commercial production in the infrastructural sector or the capital goods industry, they will not be able to earn quick profits. So, they instead switched over to consumer industry and the State was required to invest in infrastructural areas. In capital goods areas, and in machine building areas. Now, these units like Durgapur, Bhilai and Rourkela came up. After this, we got back to some position where we are saying that public sector is not in position to lead our economy. public sector is not in a position of commanding height as it was in the yesteryears.

Sir, I can refer to the position of some other industries also where the Government of India is pursuing this policy of privatisation of every public sector unit, like the Telecom industries. You know, Sir, the National Telecom Policy was announced in this House. And you also know, Sir, that the House neither got the opportunity nor the time to discuss all the aspects of the National Telecom Policy barring a few minutes or hours in the form of question-answer session. This National Telecom Policy has envisaged that tenders would be invited for providing basic telephone services in all the telecom centres of the country. And not only that, it also envisaged that intra-circle trunk routes should also be privatised. These intra-circle trunk routes account for Rs. 3,000 crore of DOT's revenue and are far and away the most remunerative part of its operations. Now, without these revenues, how can you imagine that the Department of Telecommunications would be able to finance its rural telecom expansion? Do you know what is the funny thing in this? We are speaking of competition, and at the same time, we are refusing the

public sector units to stand on their own feet. The hon. Minister of Communications, Shri Sukh Ram, perhaps on 6th December, announced a sort of a policy statement that public sector undertakings would not be allowed to bid for providing basic telecom services along with the private sector. All of us know, that some public sector undertakings with a good deal of expertise in electronics and perhaps with a great deal of more managerial talent than in the bulk of our private sector firms were indeed interested in joining the competition. But these public sector units were excluded and will be excluded simply because they are in the public sector. What is sauce for the private sector gander is not sauce for the public sector goose

Therefore, I would ask this Government to please reconsider its policy and to see whether the public sector units can be made viable. I can refer to certain problems. I do not know as to what is the exact policy of the Government of India towards revival of these public sector undertakings.

16.00 hrs.

A special tripartite committee was formed by the Government with the assurance the unit-wise study, analysis and revival of each unit should be examined in this letter to hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal on a date as far back as June, 1992 stated that a Special tripartite committee under the Ministry of Labour is already looking into the problems of sick PSUs in each sector and trying to find solution. If these are agreed to in the tripartite committees, the BIFR will be required to accord only formal approval to the rehabilitation plan and the same sentiment was expressed again by the Labour Minister, Shri P.A. Sangma when he stated in one of his letters that the Government would certainly honour the decision already taken by the Industrial Tripartite Committee that every proposal between the managements and unions of sick public sector enterprises for their rehabilitation could be brought before the tripartite committees and decisions could be taken there. If this is done, as I have already been saying, BIFR would then only be required to accord formal approval to the rehabilitation plan. But now, not to speak of the fact that the Special Tripartite Committees had virtually become non-existent, I can refer to the exact dates of the meetings of the various of the Special Tripartite Committees. Meeting is being held only once or twice a year. But even then, we have information that trade unions and managements of certain sick public sector undertakings have agreed on certain proposals for rehabilitation and those were brought before the Tripartite Committees so that decisions can be taken there and can be referred to the BIFR for its formal approval. But now, a new mechanism, the group of Ministers, has intervened. After the Special Tripartite Committee recommendation, a group of Minister' approval is required as in the case of Cycle Corporation

and after that, it will be referred to a Committee of Secretaries or even the Cabinet and only then BIFR would be asked to offer its opinion.

The Industry Ministry is in conflict with the Labour Ministry. The hon. Minister Shrimati Krishna Sahi, in a letter to one of our colleagues, Shri Haradhan Roy, Member of Parliament, as far back as on October 8, 1993 stated that trade unions and managements of Cycle Corporation of India have agreed on a particular proposal for rehabilitation of Cycle Corporation. What is to be done?? This has to be referred to BIFR for its formal approval, routed through the Special Tripartite Committee. But Shrimati Krishna Sahi is stating that so far as Government of India is concerned, it has already made its stand clear to the BIFR that revival scheme now submitted by CCIL is required to be scrutinised by the BIFR. So, BIFR will now scrutinise. The agreed proposal is to get just formal approval from the BIFR as was stated by the hon. Prime Minister. BIFR is to offer just formal approval as was stated by the hon. Labour Minister, Shri Sangma. But now Shrimati Krishna Sahi is telling us that BIFR would scrutinise the entire proposal. Has the BIFR got that machinery? We know that even after the BIFR approved some revival package, the Government of India has refused to abide by such a revival package. I have referred to the case of Tyre Corporation of India. The BIFR has approved the rehabilitation package and the Government of India is now refusing to do anything. So, it is a Catch-22 situation. Sometimes, they are telling that the BIFR approval is necessary and when the BIFR's approval is coming, then, they are telling that they will not do anything and they refuse to continue as the promoter. So, this is the position. Even the units which can be made very much viable, they have the orders - like the MAMC, Braithwaite. Braithwaite has got orders. It is a premier crane manufacturing unit of our country. Earlier, it has exported crane to Bangladesh, Vietnam and to other countries. It has the capacity to produce 15 to 18 cranes per year. I am not speaking of the wagon manufacturing unit of Braithwaite. That is a separate case. About the problem of the wagon-building units like Jessop or Burn Standard of Braithwaite at Calcutta, I am sure, my colleagues would be touching that particular issue. But the Braithwaite Angus unit can produce cranes. But last year, the Government has offered orders for only one crane. The last but one year, the Government has offered orders for only two cranes. It has the capacity to produce 15 to 18 cranes. But the Government has refused to give adequate budgetary support. Now, from where is the Government getting the required number of cranes? It has placed orders with the private sector units like Mukund, like Khandelwal in Bombay. So, this is the position. Braithwaite does not have resources to buy components and inputs for manufacturing cranes, and Mukund and Khandelwal, the private sector units, are getting orders. How can you expect that NTC would be viable if you do not make

such policy decisions that all the Government sectors will be required to buy products from these mills? The Defence Sector, the Health Sector, the Education Sector and all the sectors of Government buy every year a lot of textile goods. The NTC mills have produced goods. They have produced cheap textiles. They are of even high quality textiles. But the Government Sectors have never purchased.

Sir, I must say about one major problem that these public sector units face. We are asking them to face competition. We know that in order to have orders, the private sector units often indulge in some corrupt practices like bribing somebody from under the table. The public sector units are not expected to do that. They are not in a position to do that. One thing could have been done by the Government. The price preference system was in operation up to 1984. But after 1984, this price preference system in favour of the public sector units was discontinued barring a few exceptions. I am not in the know of such things.

But under the circumstances, how can you expect that public sector units will be able to get adequate orders?

The policy of the Government is first ambiguous. It is not stating in clear terms that we do want liquidation of these public sector undertakings. They are eloquently on these public sector undertakings. They are habituated these days with this because of the election reverses. Secondly, the policy they are pursuing in the name of revitalising these public sector undertakings is also causing havoc. I can again refer to Braithwaite where workers who were in some crucial sectors or crucial shops, had taken a voluntary retirement, like a fitter in the fitting shop has taken a voluntary retirement. But no new person was appointed as a fitter. A new steel foundry is there. But the moulder is not there. The moulder who was there earlier has taken a voluntary retirement. And the new moulder has not been appointed. So the entire production system has collapsed. Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to please reconsider their policy so that the public sector undertakings who have played a major role indeed in building our nation's economy and through it in building our nation's pride, in strengthening our sovereignty, in strengthening our independence, in strengthening our self-respect. Please reconsider your policy and do something to revitalise these units in a manner where we can continue to boast of our national sovereignty, continue to boast of our national independence and where multinational corporations are not required to come here and take the leading positions of the crucial sectors in their hands. This is my request and this is my demand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"This House expresses its grave concern over the increasing number of sick public sector undertakings under the control of the Central

Government and non-payment of dues of workers in those units and urges upon the Government to take steps for the revival of the units and for the payment of dues of their employees in the interest of the country."

The total time allotted to the subject is two hours, Shri Sudarsan has initiated the debate and he has consumed forty minutes. The remaining time at our disposal is eighty minutes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): That is the initial hypothesis. Then in the course of the discussion we modify it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not take any objection to it. I just narrated as to what has happened I think, you do not have any objection to that.

There are slips which have come from the Whips as also slips which have by-passed the Whips. We wish to satisfy everybody provided you agree to limit the timing. Each Member will get between six to eight minutes. Please speak on relevant points only. There is no use in just searching for an ounce of gold by digging out tonnes and tonnes of dust. You stick to the point.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): That is what Muniappa is doing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, he is digging tonnes and tonnes of dust and bringing out only an ounce of gold from the KGF. Of course, it is worth it.

Shri Gopi Nath Gajapathi to speak.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): In deep privatisation is among the most-widely talked about topics of today. It is deemed the antonym of nationalisation, the craze of yesteryears. Public sector enterprises are the most conspicuous symbol of the now-abandoned Nehruvian model of economic development.

Since the Eighties, the tide has turned the world over, against State ownership of enterprises and India is no exception. Privatisation is the obvious priority in structural adjustment programmes of the new economic order initiated in the Nineties. Privatisation should better be viewed as part of an overall larger strategy, which lays emphasis on the role of PSEs in the economy's development plans. It is a part of the process of economic liberalisation. It rests on two basic principles, namely, most efficient and effective resource use and the private sector tuned as it is to market forces is more efficient in the use of these resources. The Eighties saw a rethinking on what the State should directly take up in its own hands and what it should not. As a result, the hitherto followed practice of the State taking a lot of services and industries into its own hands was reversed. The State thus began challenging its own earlier view that public ownership was always good and deserved

encouragement. The view that has gained ascendancy and acceptance instead is that private ownership and competition help efficiency and prompt a company to offer better services to society.

The most extreme exponent of privatisation was Great Britain under its former Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. Between 1979 and the mid-Eighties, the country privatised many State-owned enterprises including British Telecom, Jaguar, Britoll, Amersham International and British Gas. Britain was followed by West Germany, France, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil and many others. India has also joined this club.

The term "Privatisation" is an omnibus term, entailing a large range of ideas and covering a multiplicity of forms. One form is restructuring the capital base of PSEs. Another could be entrusting of the management of a PSE to a private company. Even a change in the nature of relationship between an enterprise and the Government permitting private sector participation is privatisation. One must remember that the acid test of privatisation lies in the breaking of monopoly. For, monopoly inevitably breeds inefficiency and customer-insensitivity, regardless of whether it is public or private. Privatisation also entails the risk of selling assets too cheaply in an effort to encourage ordinary people to own shares.

The most popular form of privatisation in India has so far been disinvestment. The first exercise in disinvestment, which began in 1991-92, was not very well handled resulting in a loss of Rs 10,000 crore to the Central Exchequer. Shares were grossly underpriced and norms for price fixation were not strictly followed. There was, moreover, lack of transparency in the way the shares were disinvested.

The public sector assets got sold to sustain the government's current expenditure and thus capital formation was not in the least helped.

The latest round of disinvestment in PSEs came in January 1995 when the Government fixed the target of Rs. 2,000 crore. The response was not encouraging as it could raise not more than one-third of the target. This was attributed to the adverse secondary market conditions and lack of liquidity in the market. It is also to be remembered that trade unions have been highly inimical to the move and are fiercely opposed even to disinvestment.

The Government's policy towards sick mills appears to be rather unclear, although the Government's inner most intention still is to revive the falling PSEs. A coherent policy must be formulated before privatisation exercises are taken up. Arrangements must be made for employees, who have been discovered as surplus and redundant. They must be retrained and provided with alternative employment on a preferential basis. Employees must, of course, play their part and evince

willingness to change in a changing situation. They must give up their traditional relaxed working style and be prepared to raise their productivity. Work culture in the public sector must undergo a change necessarily.

Privatisation is more a retreat, a roll back of the State. But one must note, the withdrawal is not total or indiscriminate. The State is still called upon to oversee the operational side of the enterprise. The need for regulating the market and the playing field inevitably sucks the State into a new role or the role of a regulator. This constitutes a shift in the State's role. To put it differently, the State abandons its role of rowing and assumes that of steering.

When Great Britain was privatising its electricity supply undertaking, it already had in existence the Office of Regulator. Indeed, it is now acknowledged without privatisation of electricity in that country would not have been possible without a regulatory mechanism in existence. Except for the Securities and Exchange Board of India, India yet does not have regulatory bodies. In the United States, the private sector has necessitated the creation of independent regulatory commissions. India will have to create them.

Consequent on the opening up of the economic space to the private sector, both Indian and foreign, and liberalisation of imports, PSEs in India find themselves operating in a competitive and challenging environment. They need to be provided with a level playing field condition. They must function with greater autonomy. Innovations must be tried to enforce accountability. As PSEs are no longer dependent on the budgetary support and are increasingly raising their funds in the capital market, they must be endowed with freedom in the matter of investment decisions, as in many other and encouraged to function in a business like manner.

Service conditions of employees in PSEs warrant revision, broadly keeping in mind the principle of fair comparison with the private sector. PSEs today face the problem of flight of managers to better paying private sector organisations. The brain drain from PSEs to the private sector must, in other words be stemmed. In 1994, for instance, at least one thousand senior personnel from Bharat Heavy Electricals, a well-managed PSE, jumped the fence to join Asia Brown Boveri, its multinational competitor.

The performance appraisal must focus more closely on the results shown. The recent economic reforms have not only popularised the MOU system in public sector enterprises but have also made it a more serious affair. In a bid to raise efficiency, the MOU contents have been recently revised to make them more performance-oriented.

The public sector undertakings are no more what they were during the Nehruvian era of socialism. Governmental share-holdings have been diluted by equity from the market. Their shares are also quoted on the stock exchanges. Indeed, one notable consequence is that the line of demarcation between

the public and the private sector is becoming growingly unclear and even indistinct. The Government of India's tireless efforts are on to eliminate all the ills experienced by the public sector enterprises and their bold and right steps in this direction are commendable.

In conclusion, I welcome the Private Member's Resolution moved by my esteemed colleague Shri Sudershan Roychoudhuri and urge the Central Government to make further in-depth study for most appropriate action on the subject of such far-reaching consequences as "Revival of Sick Public Sector Undertakings" keeping in view the welfare of industrial labour, the general public and the national prosperity in general.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government established factories in Public Sector after independence of our country. At that time, the people were not capable enough to establish factories on their own, on such a large scale. Therefore, the Government established heavy industries and these have created a number of records during the last 45 years. However, the situation today is that these industrial units are threatened with gradual closure. The sickness in these units has reached such an extent that our efforts to revive them have proved futile.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, our hon. Finance Minister has made several announcements over the last four years and it has been stated that such public sector industries will be revived. However, the revival scheme is yet to be made public. The main reasons for their closure have been bureaucracy and non-application of modern technology.

Besides, there had been shortage of raw-materials and less demand of products due to recession. These factors later turned into a big problem. Another major factor responsible for this has been that the workers engaged in these industrial units belong to trade unions. In the beginning, they struggled for their rights in these factories but later on, it went against their interests resulting in closure of factories for years. Thereafter, the things came to such a pass that now those industries have been closed down for ever. Due to all these reasons, most of public sector industries are on the verge of closure. This is a matter of great concern for our country because lakhs of workers have been rendered unemployed. In majority of factories, the workers driven by starvation, have committed suicide. Today, they are jobless. I do remember that the Government had launched nationalisation drive some 20-25 years back in this country. At that time, if there was a minor sickness in private sector or resentment in private industry, the Government used to go ahead with its nationalisation. Initially, these industries were given financial assistance as a result of which they functioned properly for some time but later they were trapped in

the net of bureaucracy. Today, these industries have been dramatically closed down. There are a large number of such industries in the country.

Sir, in this way, we are now switching over to privatisation from nationalisation. It is very astonishing that first, we went for nationalization, and now we are going ahead with privatisation? What is happening in the name of this privatisation? Sometimes, it appears that in the race of privatisation our future is uncertain. Today, foreign multinational companies are coming to this country. At times, I feel that a big conspiracy is being hatched. An impression is being created that our public sector undertakings may pose a stiff challenge to foreign MNC's. However, there is no doubt that they have become a challenge for them. In order to meet this challenge, the MNCs have hatched this conspiracy in a planned manner to dismantle these industries and earn more profit. The interests of foreign multinational companies are not linked with the interests of our countrymen. They are setting up industries in their own interest. I am apprehensive of the future of those workers who are engaged in these industries.

The Government must ponder over these facts with all seriousness and formulate a comprehensive scheme for revival of Public Sector Undertakings. I am of the opinion that prominent leaders belonging to all political parties must sit together and resolve this national problem. Due to closure of Public Sector Undertakings, lakhs of labourers are being rendered unemployed every year. Today, our nation faces the formidable crisis. If the things continue to move with this face, I think we will be left with only a couple of public sector undertakings. Even the industries like BHEL or HMT running in profit used to earn good profits earlier. Now, their rate of profit has fallen and the things are back to square one. It seems that one day these industries will also become sick. It will be very unfortunate if big industries like BHEL and HMT turn into a loss-making industries and face privatisation, following which lakhs of workers will be rendered unemployed.

I support the Private Members' Resolution moved by our hon. lady Member and hope that the Government would consider this issue seriously and take a firm decision in this regard.....(Interruption)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I may be kindly permitted to make an observation. There is a very alarming and a disturbing news flashed by the UNI which says that the by-election of the Thirurangadi Constituency in Kerala from where the Chief Minister Shri A K Antony is contesting, has been postponed by the Election Commission and the reason has not been given.

Sir, the election is posted for tomorrow and the flash news says that the election is postpone. This is a very very unhappy situation ... (Interruptions) Only one

point I want to make. If this is the treatment meted out to a Chief Minister of a State, what will happen to the future of this country?..(Interruptions)

There should be some limit for everything....(Interruptions)

There is no authority in this country which is not accountable to the Parliament; and the Election Commission is not above the Parliament. He is acting in a way that he is above the *Rashtrapati*. Some action has to be taken and accountability has to be established.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, will you kindly hear me?

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I can hear you. But I am very much upset.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is nothing which warrants you to be upset. You are a very calm man. You are a seasoned parliamentarian. By chance, if somebody wants to raise the similar question then how would you have tolerated it?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: That is at the last moment. Tomorrow is the election.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. That is a different matter.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer). If the ruling party members will speak like this, what can be expected from other... (Interruptions).. After all, there should be some order.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a point of order. What Shri Bhogendra Jha raised is a very relevant point. We are under the Private Member' Resolution. We are in the midst of the discussion. All of us have some issues. However, it is being agitated. I think this is not the proper way.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, this is such a news item.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may be anything in the whole world. You only think over the matter.

(Interruption)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Sirampur): Sir, Charles has stated that Chief Election Commission is accountable to the Parliament.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: It cannot be.

SHRI A. CHARLES: (Trivendrum): Every institution should be accountable to the Parliament because the Parliament is supreme. The Chief Election Commission should be accountable to the Parliament..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us come back to our own subject. There is a Constituion, an independent body.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Let the Private Members Bill continue..... (Interruptions) We get only such opportunities..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Charles, would you like to speak-not on this, but on the subject before us under the Private Members' Resolutio?

SHRI A. CHARLES: No, Sir, Now, I am not in a mood to speak as I am so much agitated ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You said that you had some meeting and you would participate in the debate at 4.30 p.m. So, I have kept your name reserved for 4.30 p.m. and that is why I called your name. If you are in a position to speak now, you can speak, otherwise I will give a chance to Shri Oscar Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Oscar Fernandes, just a minute.

Now, it is the turn of the Congress Party Members and Mr. Chakraborty wants to go out. So, please accommodate him.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Okay Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very good.

Mr. Chakraborty, please conclude within six and eight minutes. Mr. Sudarsan Raychaudhury has exhausted the entire thing.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: No, Sir, I have not exhausted. There are so many aspects on this matter... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know, there is a time constraint.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Sir, I have touched only the tip of the iceberg. I do obey you always.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time is being allotted in the Business Advisory Committee. The Leaders of the various parties sit there and discuss as to which subject is important, how much time shall have to be given and how many speakers shall have to be there from each party. The whips of the Parties send the names of speakers.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Sir, it is a Private Members' Resolution. It is not the property of the political parties.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the Private Members' Resolution only two hours time was allotted. Can we extend it? There is also another important subject for discussion.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: The second item is not coming up today, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are bound to complete the business within two hours.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: No, no.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not agree with you.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Why, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because the time allotted is only two hours. Mr. Chakraborty, you kindly limit between six eight minutes.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY(Howrah): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri on the revival of sick public sector undertakings. If you look at the Resolutions, you shall see that there are two parts in it. The first part is concerned with growing sickness in Indian economy, specially of the public undertakings. The second part is about the inability of the Government of India to pay wages and salaries to the employees of the public sector undertakings as also its inability even to clear off the statutory liabilities.

Sir, I shall take up the second part first, i.e. the inability of the Government of India to pay wages and salaries and clear off the statutory liabilities. I can cite examples of any number of undertakings. But I shall limit myself to the names of certain undertakings in my constituency Howrah in West Bengal.

Sir, the employees of Burn Standard are not getting their salaries. Similar is the fate of the employees of Reyroll Burn India Limited, which is a subsidiary of Burn Standard. The employees of NJMC are also not being paid their salaries. The employees of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, which falls within the purview of the Ministry of Surface Transport, are also not getting their salaries and wages. I met the hon. Finance Minister with these demands on several occasions. A group of twelve MPs met the Prime Minister also on the 24th of this month to raise this demand. When I go to the Finance Minister, he says that while he is ready to pay the salaries, the Departments and Ministries are not pacing the claim. When we approach the departmental authorities, they say how they can do it. They say that the workers have to earn their livelihood and they are not doing anything! This is the attitude of the Government. Here lies the crux of the problem and the attitude of the present Government towards these industries.

On 24th, when I raised this matter with the Prime Minister himself, he said that he would look into it and that he would require certain time for it. I do not know when this issue will be finalised. In Burn Standards, there is a liability of Rs.30 crore on account of provident fund and yet another Rs 30 crore as statutory liability which include provident fund and ESI etc. are to be paid to the employees of NJMC. Some Rs.12 crore are pending in Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited. Rs. two crore are outstanding in the case of Reyroll

Burn India Limited. These amounts are to be paid by the Government as statutory liabilities. Not clearing statutory liability is a criminal offence. In this case, the Government of India itself is the offender. If it were the case of a private sector unit, they would not have got even a stay from the courts and they would have been behind the bars by this time.

When the Minister stands up to speak in defence of their economic policy, and in defence of their attitude towards the employees of these sick units, I don't know what he will say. Will he say that the Government need not pay the statutory liabilities? How long will the employees go on working without wages? Here, we the Members and hon. Ministers are getting our emoluments and allowances while the workers are not being paid even their salaries. We should get out of this shameful situation.

A serious thought must be given to it. The sickness in Indian industry is an all pervasive one. It is across the industry; it is across the scale of operations; it is across the nature of ownership-private or public; small or medium or large. This is going on like anything. At this given moment of time, more than three lakh industries are sick. To be particular, in regard to the sick public sector undertakings, the Government of India has made a list of 53 chronically sick public sector undertakings. Those industries have been referred to the BIFR with the hope that the BIFR would either help in revival of those industries or would help the Government in winding up those industries.

Sir, before I go to that point, one question must be answered why is this sickness? What are the contributory factors of sickness? The Reserve Bank of India, in one of its report revealed that the sickness of Indian industry is the cumulative result of variety of factors-both internal and external to the unit. There are, mismanagement, diversion of funds, faulty planning in the initial stages, technological obsolescence, market recession, shortage of power, raw materials poor industrial relation etc. The one factor which the RBI study did not mention is the new economic policy of the Government of India. The policy advocates liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. Someone has humorously put it as the L.P.G. policy of the Government of India. It is because of this L.P.G. policy of the Government of India, the expert Committee-which went into the causes of sickness of Indian industries, known as the Onkar Goswami Committee —stated, you either decide to wind up or you decide to revive it but comfortable solution would be to place it under the hands of the private individual, that is privatisation. That is the panacea of all ills'.

Sir, now, out of the 53 public sector undertakings which have been referred to the BIFR, 20 of them belong to the State of West Bengal. These include the premier engineering industries, like M/s Jessop, M/s Burn Standard, M/s Braithwaite, M/s NAMC, major steel units like IISCO, Fertilizer units at Durgapur and Haldia,

pharmaceutical plants like Bengal Chemicals, M/s Bengal Immunity, Smith Stainstreet etc. Now, revival package for five out of the twenty companies have been cleared so far. Again, out of these five, three packages are already in jeopardy, as has been mentioned by Shri Susanta Roychowdhury. This is because of the non-compliance of the provisions of the scheme by the Government. These companies are, M/s Bharat Brakes and Valves, M/s Briathwaite and M/s. Smith Stainstreet case. What has the BIFR done?

Sir, just today I have heard that BIFR has sent a show cause notice to the institutions involved in the Smith Stainstreet case This is the position Even six other companies namely, M/s. Cycle Corporation of India, M/s WEBER, M/s BPMEL, M/s. National Instruments, M/s. MAMC and M/s Bharat Ophthalmic were given show cause notices for winding up.

But, the Government of India did not contest it The workers went to the court. This is now at a stage where nobody can say what will happen ultimately

My friend from the Treasury Benches was alleging that one factor that should be given due importance is the work culture. I ask him, what is the work culture? I do not know any such thing. There may be an industry culture, culture of management, culture of the finance institutions or culture of the promoter If you do not consider these cultures and only insist on the work culture then you will be doing injustice to the workers. The ex-Chairman of the BIFR, Mr. Ganpati remarked that out of 100 cases that are brought to BIFR, only in two per cent of cases, a unit becomes sick because of the workers.

There is a big NJMC mill in my constituency. It is the biggest of the NJMC units, which employs more than 13,000 workers. I went to the spot and inquired into all the aspects of the company. I could see more than 70 machines lying idle for the last 10 years because spare parts were not supplied to them I think only a few lakh or rupees may be required for the purpose but that was not given The basic raw material, that is jute was not supplied More than 600 employees retired, but since their provident fund and gratuity were not cleared, they were continuing as workers. Who will bear the burden? I met the Textile Minister and requested him to give at least the required amount of jute and then see the difference. Ultimately the jute was given and we saw that the workers who used to produce only 14 tonnes of jute bags in a day, the same number of workers began to produce 125 tonnes of bags per day. So, it is not the work culture that matters. In this case, because the raw material was not supplied, machines were not properly maintained and spare parts were not supplied that the industry became sick. When some of the basic requirements were met, the unit starts reviving. The Minister of Textile assured us last year in the month of June that he will report to the BIFR that this unit can continue as a public sector undertaking.

So far as NTC is concerned, at least some announcement has been made. But to announcement about revival has been made about the NJMC till date. We would like to know the policy of the Government in this regard.

16.54 hrs

[Prof. Rita Verma *in the Chair*]

Bengal Chemical was declared as chronically sick unit but it is being revived now. A decision has to be taken in this regard. Who will take the decision? When a list of sick units was placed before the Parliament, some of the Members from West Bengal meet the Prime Minister. He assured us that a committee comprising of three persons will be set up which will look into it. We met Mr Sangma also several times. But what did the Committee do? We demanded case-by-case study and we were assured that case-by-case study would be made but till date that has not been done A Committee comprising of group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Mr. Manmohan Singh was also set up. Has it been able to make any headway? It has not been able to make any headway. We are whiling away the time and the industries are becoming more sick

Madam, problems of the sick public sector undertakings need to be studied seriously. In many cases you shall find that there is want of adequate capital. Adequate working capital is lacking. I am speaking of Reyroll Burn which is a subsidiary of the Burn Standard Company. It has got orders but it has no working capital. No bank guarantee is given to it. The Government can give bank guarantees to private persons but they cannot give bank guarantees to sick public sector undertakings. This is the attitude of the Government towards the problem. The new attitude is that the public sector will no longer be at the commanding heights of the economy.

HON. CHAIRMAN: How much more time are you likely to take?

PROF SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: I will take five to ten minutes more, Madam. I shall confine to my constituency only.

HON. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for 15 minutes.

PROF SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: Madam, there is uncertainty in a major sector like wagon-building industry. In West Bengal, Braithwaite, Burn Standard, and Jessop are the three public sector undertakings which supply wagons to the Railways. They are captive industries. The Eighth Five Year Plan document had envisaged a target for wagon procurement of 1,50,000 four-wheeler units. The wagon-building industry has been asked gear up to meet the requirement and the industry has prepared itself for this. But, what did the Government do? What is the exact order position? In 1989-90, orders for 6,045 four-wheeler units were placed. In 1992-93 orders for 5,120 units were placed. In 1993-94, orders for 4,425 units were placed. And in 1994-95, order for only 2,317 wer placed out of which

Burn Standard's Howrah unit received orders for only 937 units. What is their capacity?? The capacity of the Howrah and Burnpur units taken together is more than 8,000 units and the order position is 2,317. So, Idle capacity is bound to be there as a result of which to average cost of production will go on rising. The whole blame for this is put on the workers. But is it the fault of the workers or is it because of the attitude of the Government that we are in such a position?

We met the Railway Minister We were told in the House itself that the Railway Minister would meet us and we would discuss and try to solve the problems, almost two years ago. But till date, that assurance has not been fulfilled. We met the Prime Minister and requested him to do something for these industries, the wagon industry which is related with the Railway Ministry and the industry of off-shore platforms which is related with the Ministry of Petroleum. Madam, we demanded of him as the Prime Minister is the captain of team that he should hold talks with both the departments in the presence of trade union leaders and in the presence of the Members of Parliament who are interested in the issue. But, till date that meeting has not been held. How can the problem be solved? The problem is increasing alarmingly and it would increase further.

17.00 hrs.

Meanwhile in the case of Burn Standard Company accumulated loss, as on 31.3.94 stood at Rs 176.10 crore. So, the net worth was reduced. It was sent to the BIFR. Has this position developed suddenly? It did develop because in the year 1993, suddenly, the Government of India decided that the accumulated interest on Government loans should be calculated in a particular year. Why did they take this decision? Shrimati Krishna Sahi is here, she must be knowing what is the position. This is the situation.

Madam, it is a very important subject. Already nine public sector undertakings in my Constituency have become sick. That is why I would like to give my opinion on this. For reviving these industries some Reports have been submitted. In 1992, Mr. Atkins, along with the NIDC, had submitted a proposal to the Government. We do not know what it contained. But that has not yet been considered. In 1982, the Government itself had formulated a Corporate Plan for an investment of Rs. 30 crore. This was not revised to Rs. 62.63 crore in April, 1992. The revival proposal was approved by the Government of India. Now, what to do? The same situation is with the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers. It is under the Ministry of Surface Transport. They have orders in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

HON. CHAIRMAN : You have already spoken for more than twenty minutes. There are other Members also who want to speak. You try to finish.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : If you say, I shall sit down.

Madam, it cannot be completed today. Mr. Basudeb Acharya is not here.

HON. CHAIRMAN : You try to finish it as quickly as possible. It is a very important subject. There are at least 15 more Members who want to participate in this debate.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : I am not going to disobey the Chair. I am going to wind up now.

So, Madam, these are the areas of concern for all of us. I know you have constraint of time. The Government says that they have constraints of resources. But is it only due to finance the industries are becoming sick? Who prevented the Government from taking up the modernisation programme when they nationalised Burn Standard Company, when they nationalised Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers, when they nationalised Reyrolle Burn Limited, and when they nationalised NJMC? The entire economy of West Bengal is dependent on the engineering industries, and jute industries. All the engineering units belonging to public sector undertakings are in this sick state. You can easily apprehend the fate of the ancillary units which are dependent on order from these industries? Is it because of shortage of resources that they could not do anything? There is one Government of India Press in my Constituency at Santragachi. I have been demanding modernisation of this unit for the last four years. I met the Minister several times. He told me that it is with the Cabinet. I do not know how long the Cabinet will take. Next time, I was told that there is no fund. Do you know how much fund is required? It requires only Rs. 6 crore.

I told her, 'I am arranging the fund for you. Will you do something?' She asked me: 'How?' I told her, 'There is Rs 11 crore in the Depreciation Fund. You can invest it if you have no fund at all. If the Finance Minister does not agree to give any fund, take this Rs.11 crore and modernise it' It has not been done. Again, Madam, the problem is not due to outside factors. The remedy lies in our house. It is the house-keeping; it is the house management and it is the attitude, the attitude of the Government which matters. Today, we are depending on multinationals and private companies. There is a conflict between the Planning Commission and the Departments and Ministries. When the Department and Ministry officials are of the opinion that this can be revived, the officials of the planning Commission come out with a reply that this is some sort of a luxury and we cannot maintain this because of the resource crunch. So, first of all, the Government should make up its mind. The loss which we shall incur due to the closure of the companies, in terms of resources, in terms of employment, in terms of psychology of the workers, in terms of psychology of the human resources has to be considered. I think the Government will think over. And at least an assurance should be given to us that from

today they will make it known to everybody that no worker in any public sector undertaking will go without pay and all their statutory dues will be cleared.

[Translation]

*SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member. First of all, I would like to congratulate him for bringing such a vital issue in this august House. In Karnataka many industries have been set up. Among them important public sector units are ITI HMT, BGML, BEML, KGF (Kolar Gold Fields), and HAL. There are many other public sector units in Karnataka and I am proud of it. These units have a vital bearing on the economy of our country. Several thousands of persons have been employed in these industries. In our country where 1/3 of the population are below poverty line, there is a great need of such industries. Many scheduled castes and other backward classes persons have been employed in these industries. The families of these scheduled castes persons are completely dependent upon these industries. If these industries become sick, the economy of the entire State would be in jeopardy. The poor people will have no other alternative to work and the families of those people would be disturbed.

We have to find out the reasons for these PSUs getting sick. This is a big question before us. It is also a fact that many State Electricity Boards are running under heavy losses. What are the causes for these losses? The poor people particularly the SCs would be affected to the maximum extent if these Electricity Boards are transferred to private sector. Similarly, the PSUs also cannot be given to private sector. There would be no job opportunity for the poor people if the PSUs are handed over to private sector.

The Electricity Boards are supplying electricity to the farmers on the guidelines of policy of the Centre and the States.

Sufficient funds have to be provided to these Electricity Boards by the Centre and the States. There would be no loss to the Electricity Boards if sufficient funds are allocated in the Budget. We feel that these Electricity Boards have to be handed over to private sector because of the losses. These private sectors will never come to the rescue of our Farmers. I have no objection if the States can provide financial assistance to these Boards. This burden is put on the PSUs and we say that they are running under losses. We cannot come to the conclusion of closing down the PSUs on this pretext. The Hon'ble Minister has to think about this point with great care.

We also say that the suburban Railway system is incurring heavy losses. We cannot blame the Railway Minister for this. In fact, the Centre has to make sufficient allocation for the suburban Railway in its budget. Then

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

only we can have better Railway Facilities in the suburban areas. Similarly, PSUs also should get sufficient support from the Centre for their efficient functioning. My friend, the Hon'ble Member from the West Bengal has just now mentioned about the importance of Research and Development in PSU's. We cannot stick on to the old technology any more. We have to adopt new technology and that would be one of the major solutions for avoiding sickness in PSUs.

There are some lacunae in our administrative set up also. IAS officers are appointed as Chairman of the Managements of the PSUs. They are sent to foreign countries for about 2 to 3 years for the purpose of study and training. They would be transferred to some other Departments as soon as they come back to our country because by that time their period of deputation would be over. Hence, there is scarcity of intelligent, experienced and able officers in the managements of PSUs. This is one of the major causes of heavy losses in PSUs. I, therefore, appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to take responsibility of providing efficient and enthusiastic officials to the managements of these units.

These officers should take the responsibility of running the public sectors more efficiently.

HMT in Karnataka is also incurring losses. These are several problems in the Kolar Gold Mines. These are the world famous gold mines. We have extracted gold from these mines for the last several Gold Mines. We should not hesitate to import new technology for the revitalisation of these mines. By switching over to new technology, we can continue to get gold in these mines for many more years to come. Therefore, these Gold Mines should not be closed under any circumstances.

MDL is an important industrial sector in my Constituency. The people of South Canara are very much worried about the losses in this unit. The Petroleum Ministry has not given sufficient orders to this unit and that is one of the major reasons for its sickness. Corrective measures have to be taken by the Centre in this regard immediately.

I reiterate that one third of our population are very poor. It is our duty to see that the number of poor people would not increase any more. At the same time we have to take steps to narrow down the gap between rich and poor. If this is not done, I am sure that the poor people will have no other way but to revolt against us. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to mitigate the hunger of these poor people and to provide them more jobs.

I thank the Chair giving me a chance to speak on this important issue with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr, Chairman, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Sudarsan

Raychaudhuri because it makes a mention of expressing serious concern on increase in the number of the sick Public Sector Units or undertakings under the administrative control of the Central Government and also on not having paid the outstanding dues to the workers of these units. It urges the Government to take steps for the revival of these units and the payment of their outstanding dues in the interest of the country. I do support it but the learned mover of the resolution probably wants to restrict it to West Bengal alone. To me, it is not a matter of West Bengal alone.

(Interruptions) This matter has repeatedly been raised in the context of West Bengal and a lot of mention of the area has been made. They shall also have to analyse the reasons as to how and why was a situation of sickness of the Public Sector Undertakings established in the country created? A major contributory factor to this *interalia* is the presence of diverse unions and workers' associations in our country. There are bandhs and strikes observed every other day.

Through you I would like to tell the Government that it should take appropriate decisions with regard to these sick Public Sector Units when it has resolved to undertake many revolutionary transformations in the name of liberalisation. It should not remain indecisive and in the state of a dilemma. How long can the people of the country endure the undertakings running in losses? We are faced with the problems of eradication of poverty, propagation of education, total literacy and health for all.

On the other hand we shall have to take a final decision on these white elephants, the loss incurring units that have become a liability on the country but so far as the interests of the workers are concerned, through you I would like to submit to the Government that I have received an information from my constituency yesterday only that no payment of wages has been made to the workers of the two ancillary units of the National Textiles Corporation, the Edward and Mahalaxmi mills for the last two months. While constituting the National Renewal Fund the hon. Textile Minister had declared here that payment of wages will be made to them very soon along with regular salaries but nothing has been done so far. This has generated indignation and resentment among the workers there. They are anxious about their future. There is a deliberate attempt of retrenchment of workers in the name of revival of sick industries under the voluntary retirement scheme launched by the Government under which the workers are relieved of their work by giving them four, five or six months' advance salaries. This is no remedy for that. Therefore, the Government should undergo a self-introspection first. There was a time when the Congressmen were seen constantly chanting the hymns of the socialistic pattern of economy launched by Nehruji and were all praise for these Public Sector Undertakings but, today the same congressmen have totally forgotten that Nehru model in the backdrop of

liberalisation and new economic policy and are heading towards privatisation and globalisation leaving far behind nationalisation and public sector etc. It is time for them to resort to self-introspection. This is why we have been saying from the beginning that nationalisation and public sector are no panacea to any problem. We should adopt the path best suited to our national interests. The Soviet Russia is a living example before us. I would like to remind my Marxist, leftist friends here that in USSR everything was under Government control and it might have become a Super Power in the process of nationalisation but from economic point of view it became hollow from inside and one day this great empire fell apart and dismembered into many small provinces. The people have to form long queues there for obtaining a petty bread and they are seen begging before America today.

Therefore, through you, I would like to warn the Government lest we should deviate from making efforts to eradicate poverty, from observing and fulfilling our constitutional obligation of universalisation of education, making health facilities available to all. I had been to an FCI unit in Gorakhpur as a member of Parliamentary delegation some 4-5 years back. Hundreds of staff quarters have been constructed there, machinery worth crores of rupees installed but the employees and officials are receiving regular salaries there without any work to do. Those willing to work have no work to do and on the other hand some people draw salaries sitting at home. How long can the State exchequer bear this financial burden?

I would like to say that the industrial sickness is detrimental to the health of a developing country because it hampers production, minimises employment opportunities, causes loss of Government revenues consequent upon which we have to bear the brunt of capital investment and other adverse effects. We have to recognise that India can compete in the modern, developed and international economic market with a strong backbone of industrial development alone. Any obstruction coming in its way means that the development of a developed country is hindered. I am pained to say that as a result of the erroneous industrial policy of the Government, there are about 2.5 lakh industrial units including some small scale units and big undertakings of the Government of India totalling 247 out of which nearly 39 have been declared as sick, a total of 2.5 lakh industrial units are sick against whom a loan of Rs 8837.32 crores is outstanding. This clearly indicates what is the real ground situation.

Mr. Chairman, no well defined and concrete policy is forthcoming despite all the efforts of the Central as well as the State Governments. No real remedy has been found out for these sick units running in losses. Sometimes these are referred to the BIFR where these have to undergo a long drawn procedure. Subsequently these are referred to the authority where it takes a long

time to take a decision. Under an organised pressure, the Government yields and says that the matter has been referred to B.I.F.R and by the time the process is completed there, another movement is launched and it is said that so much of money has been sanctioned for modernisation. The matter is again averted by modernisation of many mills and the situation remains unchanged.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to urge the Government to take a solid decision in this regard. In this connection the Government lacks a clear policy and a comprehensive scheme and that way the industrial unrest is encouraged and only temporary measures are taken. Closure of Public undertakings has led to social tensions. There is an H.M.T. unit in Ajmer which used to earn profits earlier but it suddenly started running in losses after two years. How did a profit earning unit come to incur losses? This means that it is either corruption ridden or wrong officialdom or mismanagement or other such lacunae. We sent many complaints of corruption to the officials in the management of N.T.C. mills at Byawar. All the workers' unions of different ideologies complained of rampant corruption there and also that all the resources and luxuries were being mobilised into the bungalows of the managers. The situation of workers is such that they are not now given the cotton they used to get earlier and no lay-off is given to them. They are sent home after taking their signatures with the word that they will be called when there is any work. Who is responsible for this? This should be inquired into.

Mr. Chairman, similarly we visited another Public sector mill I.D.P.L. at Rishikesh. It is a big pharmaceutical undertaking of the Central Government. When asked why was that running in losses, the people there said that it can start earning profit next day, but for the faulty policy of the Government of India. When asked to explain, they stated that when the Central or State Government intends to procure medicines, it invites tenders and procures medicines from the pharmaceutical companies mushroomed in Bombay which have neither authentic raw-material, nor scientific technology nor the specialists because their costs are naturally less as compared to I.D.P.L. drugs which are backed by authenticity, credibility, technological basis etc. and cost a little more. As a result of this all the public undertakings run in losses.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to suggest that if the Government really wants to do something, it should impart training to the deserving candidates or give encouragement to the productive units and also retrain people by enhancing the amount of National Reconstruction Fund but this voluntary retirement scheme under which the employees are forcedly retrenched and relieved of their duties by giving them some money in the name of a Fund should be done away with. I wish that in order to revive sick industries

an institution having representation of their own experts and the representatives of companies' industries and chambers of commerce should be set up who can render proper consultancy and advices to those companies or Public Undertakings. The sick industries should be permitted to appoint their own consultants who can formulate revival schemes of these loss incurring industrial units with speed and authenticity and make efforts to make them viable and profit earning units.

Mr. Chairman, besides, all these things should be scrutinized and money should be granted on the basis of the tripartite negotiations between the workers, the managers and the Government; and the basis of the suggestions with regard to the Industrial Construction Board given by the tripartite committee constituted by hon. Sangama ji or on the basis of the recommendations of B.I.F.R through R.B.I or other financial institutions.

This money should be granted to them once which should attract profitable returns in this competitive age. I would like to say that the Government is inviting the multinational companies with upgraded technologies but why do not the multinationals take over the sick industries units or Public Undertakings. They should take over and make viable the sick industrial and Public Sector units if they really want to extend their co-operation and propagate their technology and production. It is easy to give finishing touches to an already running enterprise but if they make the sinking industries viable, everybody will appreciate their co-operation to our country, but they are keeping their hands off, from the sick sector. The investors also invest very less in these loss incurring industries. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that permission for appointing consultants should be granted to the sick industries so that they can formulate their schemes. Care should also be taken to see that the weaker sections, the workers are not rendered unemployed. They should not add to the already flagrant problem of unemployment in the country. The Central Government should give them financial assistance and take steps to ensure that the country's labourers, consumers and the common people are benefited. In order to minimise the fiscal deficit, the public sector industries should be run in profit. Therefore, all the political parties and the workers' unions related to them should hand over these undertakings to them after forgetting all the strikes etc. with national interest uppermost in their mind if they have to go in for nation building and national development. In my opinion, these industries should be handed over to the workers on co-operative basis rather than those multinationals if the workers are interested to run these through their co-operative societies. Four-five units have already been handed over to them and these are running smoothly. In this connection, I would also like to add that in order to deal with the workers' problems...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRMAN . The time allotted for discussion of this Resolution is now over. Does the House agree to extend the time?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS. Yes, yes, the time must be extended.

HON. CHAIRMAN : So, the time for discussion is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT Madam, I would only like to say as to what happen to the work force constituted to handle the workers' problems and voluntary retirement and other schemes We should recognise the importance of the role of public sector in increasing production and productivity, reducing the cost expenditure, improving quality, in sales competition, in manufacturing products, enhancing profit earnings capabilities etc. All these aspects should be taken in view and it should not be like "easy come and easy go" The workers there may like to spend an easy going life, doing no work, caring two hoots for the loss incurring trend. They should get their monthly salary regularly no matter if the poor people of the country are crushed down.

The amount of Rs.700 crore or Rs.1200 crore which is being spent from this fiscal deficit and the Budget for the revival of the public sector undertakings, should not go waste. The Government should have a clear-cut policy in this regard and efforts should be made to revive the industries running in loss. In this connection, we are rehabilitating these industries through financial resources or with the help of B I F R. The functioning of the B I F R should also be improved so that the decision can be taken at the earliest The Government should examine the fiscal deficit, the accounts as well as the audited accounts and after finding out the reasons of the deficit, it should allocate the amount The Government should also pay attention towards it

I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak In this regard, I would like to submit that keeping the national interest uppermost in mind and to make those units self-dependent, the Government should cover up their deficit through B I F R or National Financial Institutions or banks Further, the Government should either provide them grants or hand over these industries to the Co-operative Societies of the workers. Otherwise we will have to incur great financial loss due to these loss making units in the country will have to bear the brunt.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) Mr. Chairman, this private Members' Resolution has been discussed earlier also and the discussion is still going on Except the ruling party, every one is of the view that

the new industrial policy or the economic policy adopted by the Government is not in the interest of the country.

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had not adopted the policy of building public sector aimlessly. It was after keeping in view the economic developments in the world and the conclusion drawn on careful thinking that the policy was adopted in a backward country like India. The thinking behind it was to remove the backwardness of the country as well as regional imbalance, eradicate unemployment and make the country self-dependent in the economic and industrial field. This fact was also kept in mind that ours' is a poor country and it is a welfare State Therefore, the Government bore the responsibility of the problems being faced by common man Keeping all these things in view, the industrial and economic policy was framed. Now it has been changed completely. It is an attack on those basic principles on the basis of which the old policy had been framed Unemployment is increasing due to privatisation The factories are being closed down and the labourers are being rendered jobless. Retrenchment of labourers is being resorted to in a backward country like India in the name of voluntary retirement and golden hand shake scheme By adopting the policy of Privatisation foreign investment is being invited. Where is this foreign capital being invested ? Whether the foreign capital will be invested in a State like Bihar ? No, the foreign capital will be invested in those developed States where the infrastructure and the power supply etc are available. Even the private industrialists/capitalists are not ready to invest their capital in under-developed or backward States. The economic and industrial policy had been framed in 1956 to resolve one of the biggest problem of the country i.e. regional imbalance. However, this imbalance is increasing further. Since, the implementation of the new industrial policy, more than one thousand units have been shut down As far as the big, small and medium units are concerned, more than three and half lakh units have been closed down. Bihar is the most backward State and being a backward State, there are around 325 big and medium units Out of them 67 sick units, have been referred to B I.F.R But, what is its function ? It does not help in rehabilitating such industrial units. Regarding 17 units of Bihar, it has advised to sell them off. Among them includes unit of E.C., which is performing well.

There is a fertilizer factory at Sindri, which is the only unit responsible for supply of fertilizers to North and the East. It's condition is so miserable that a delegation from Bihar as well as a delegation of the employees of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory met the concerned Minister, the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister several times. Besides, the hon. M.Ps also met the concerned Ministers many a times but to no avail. The employees and the officers had prepared

a draft jointly for modernisation and reconstruction of this unit, and submitted to the Central Government alongwith some suggestions. However, it was not pondered over. Barauni Refinery also faces the same situation. I have already told you about H.E.C. As regards Jamaipur wagon factory, it has been raised many a times here. There is a wagon factory in Muzaffarpur. It has also figured in the debates of this House. So far as Chakia Sugar Mill is concerned many farmers have outstanding amount against it. The Government does not consider the suggestions which are forwarded for the revival of sick or closed units. The labourers and the management of the factory are ready to shoulder the responsibility, be it in Bihar or in any other State...*(Interruptions)* Whether it is I.D.P.L., Muzaffarpur Unit or any other Unit all are facing the same situation. I have observed that the labourers/workers are struck by the panic and uncertain future.

As far as work culture is concerned, this criticism can be accepted to some extent that at the time of creation of public sector, the labourers did not do as much as they should have to save these units. As the situation went on deteriorating the labourers as well as trade union people realised that their bread and butter are linked with the progress of the nation. Therefore, they should carry out their responsibilities honestly. That is why the things have changed completely today. These people now want to work hard and the work culture — generally heard in foreign countries — is catching up fast in this country.

Now the Government is firmly sticking to its policy. The Government should ponder over the problems of the labourers like payment of arrears and other facilities. When the labourers and the management ask for financial aid from the Government for modernisation and removal of sickness and give suggestion in this regard, the Government should consider them they should be given full liberty to run the unit. There is a unit of BHE in my area, which manufactures all sorts of machines used in the production of electricity. It is understood that the foreign companies are being invited in the field of power generation. For this purpose, they are being given all facilities like financial aid or remunerative rates as well as guarantees and counter-guarantees. The version of B.H.E.L. people is that they have the capacity to generate power as per the target fixed by the Government and that too with minimum facilities. Even after that the Government, instead of giving order to it, is inviting foreign companies. In this way, our units capable of doing such works are being neglected and our country is being surrendered to the foreign hands. It will definitely leave an adverse impact. Therefore, my suggestion is that the merits of the old policy should be kept in view. Where it appears essential to invite the foreign companies, foreign countries can be contacted to transfer the latest technology. The

indigenous industrialists, the workers and the management should be given every opportunity alongwith finance facility to enable them stand against foreign companies. We must save our public undertakings which are the pride of the nation and which have played a historical role in strengthening our economy.

Sir, with these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Madam, Chairperson, I share the concern of the hon. Member from West Bengal regarding the state of sickness of the public sector undertakings. But I believe that this problem cannot be discussed from the very limited point of view — either of party politics or of class interest or the interest of organised workers by themselves or our loyalty to our own States. This problem is of a national dimension and has to be viewed in a national perspective in the interest of the nation as a whole and in the interest of the people as a whole.

Madam, the public sector is dying today. Whether it is being deliberately liquidated or it is collapsing under the weight of its own inefficiency or the historical load that it has accumulated over a period of time or its lack of competitiveness or its lack of work culture, as somebody pointed out, or whether it is being starved out intentionally, I will not pass a judgment. But all I know is that it is disintegrating and there are certainly some useful elements in the public sector which need to be preserved in the national interest. What is really of concern to me is the fact that the Government do not appear to have made up their mind whether they want to keep the public sector or whether they want to liquidate the public sector. They do not have a clear-cut policy in this respect. Perhaps, it is the competition between the lingering love - the old love - and the new affection that has crept into their soul for privatisation.

[Translation]

This is a dilemma, which they have been unable to resolve till late.

[English]

So, today everyone here speaks of privatisation and some years back one used to speak of nationalisation. I would like to point out that initially in the first euphoria of our independence, we wanted to make an industrial leap.

We wanted to jump over the century. There was a sense of national pride in us. We wanted to say that India can produce everything. We adopted technology, we found capital and perhaps invested in those sectors where the gestation period was very large and, therefore, private capital was not available for investment. And,

therefore, we had certain sectoral priorities that we defined for ourselves. For example, there were certain core sectors of the economy where the nation was deficient and we wanted to be able to stand on our own feet, whatever be the cost. We wanted to be on our own, we wanted to develop a spirit of self-reliance. Later on, however, I find that slowly we strayed from this clear perception that a certain gap in national economy, national industry has to be met by the State. Under political pressure, I would say, we began on a spree of nationalisation, not setting up new industries to meet the requirements and the needs of the nation, but just taking in under the umbrella of the Government any unit which was declared to be sick. Now, that was the turning point, that I think was the wrong direction that we took, the wrong turning that we took and that is what has us to the present state of affairs.

Today, if you just check up the list of the public sector units, I believe that half the units do not pertain to any sector of national priority, any core industries or any industries of strategic importance. Anything that came in, whether it was hair oil or whether it was cosmetics, soaps, clothing I do not know what, everything we took because we were after all a democracy, we were under democratic compulsions and there was also the question of political alliance. We had to keep our friends on our side and, therefore, we had to be nice to them. And that is where we made a mistake. And, therefore, many private units were taken over by the State which had no business to be in the public sector at all by any interpretation of the 1956 Industrial Resolution. Those units had no place in the public sector and yet we took them in, and today we are reaping the harvest. Today, we are crying as to why they are sick. This is the result, therefore, of a haphazard growth, of a deviation from a policy, from the essentials of a policy. And obviously, in the meantime, all the vices of a monopoly system came in. Management became weak, management became self-centered. Public sector became a pasture for the unwanted bureaucrats, each of them established his own domain. And I am speaking of this all from a very personal knowledge. People were very happy to be in the public sector because it was a good pasture for them. Nepotism came in; you could not possibly, sitting in a Government office, give jobs to your nephews and nieces; in a public sector, the entire field was open. All these things came in, and therefore, the public sector became a vested interest. This is the problem as I see it and that brought in these results. I do not know what we are doing now. We are still seem to be sleep walking or in a fit of absent-mindedness. My concern, therefore, and my request to the Government is please define your policy; please review the public sector, the entire concept of the public sector; please define what you want to retain in the public sector and retain it with all the resources of the nation at your command, and what you wish to discard, discarded

ruthlessly. It should be a very clear-cut policy. And I am sure, my friends are absolutely right in saying that public sector is being dismantled brick by brick. And, therefore, it is giving rise to a lot of problems. The Government does not seem to have a clear vision of policy; the Government does not take people into confidence as to why they are doing what, to which public sector unit. That should be made plain to the people. And, therefore, we find that many of our public sector units are sick. They have accumulated losses; they are nearly bankrupt; they cannot pay their workers' wages; they are eating up their reserves; they are eating up their workers' funds; their total assets hardly cover their total liabilities; the technology is outdated; they cannot even pay for the raw-materials, even for the orders that they have on their books; they cannot pay the middle suppliers.*All the troubles of a sick unit which are there, today have become endemic in the public sector.

What is worse is that some of the original public sector units which were built upon the premise of a captive market, those markets have been let loose. They have been liberated and, therefore there is the case of wagon industry and there is the case of HEC. HEC units cannot survive unless steel units were to be its customers. There was a time when I used to decline it with a sense of pride abroad as India's diplomatic representative that we have a unit which will reproduce and generate one million tonne steel capacity every year. That used to be our slogan. What a state of affairs HEC is in now? I am happy that the Prime Minister has now made a distinction that HEC is a mother industry and the mother must be saved. I agree with him and I thank him for that. But a similar clear perception must come with regard to each public sector unit as to what is essential. Merely dumping everything on BIFR is no solution. BIFR is a sort passing the baby. You take your time and whether the baby dies in the meantime or not, that is not my concern. You take your time. They are taking their time.

If you look at your own reply to the question this week in which you stated the number of cases which have been referred to the BIFR and the number of cases in which they have been able to produce a package, you will be surprised at the low state of progress. In fact, the number of new cases being handed over far exceeds the number of cases that they are able to handle. So, BIFR has become fit of a joke. It has been reduced to a device to deceive the people. You do not want to take any hard or ruthless decision. So, you pass on the baby and say' let somebody else take the decision.

What I plead for is for a basic review of the entire concept of the public sector keeping the original spirit of 1956 Resolution in mind. There are core industries. There are strategic industries. There are nationally important industries which have to be nursed and have

to be kept, whatever the cost. In fact, if they are making losses, we have to invest money in order to make them productive. But all the others which can be easily handed over to the private sector and run in the private sector, which should not have come into the public sector in the first place, have to be discarded. Some other way has to be found to keep them alive. It is not a question of just producing a turn around package with regard to every one: That is a mechanical problem.

That can be worked out. You need so much money to keep them running, you need so much money to pay the workers, and so much money to buy raw materials. That can be easily worked out. That is a very simple arithmetical exercise. But the real question is : Are we prepared to make a nation-wide review? I would say that the basic review must go into a categorisation of the public sector into five clear-cut units. One those which are non-viable. They are in a continuous state of sickness. They are not essential to the national economy. They have to be closed down, in those units which are to be closed down. I do not mean that the workers have to left to be their fate. The workers must get their compensation, rehabilitation, or re-training, whatever it is. That package goes with it. But we must be very clear in our mind that this unit should be closed down.

The other is, the unit which can easily be sold to the private sector and where there is a private sector market for it, they say 'Yes. We shall take it up, with all its assets and liabilities, with all its gains and losses, because we can make it profitable, It is all right. We trust the private sector also. Let them run it under the laws of the land. That is the second category.

The third category would be where we say — and I hope that our friends from the left may help us — where the workers will come forward and say 'Leave it to us. We shall run it and make it productive. we shall run it as a cooperative and make it productive.' I would say the Government should make an open declaration that if the worker of any PSU unit form a cooperative and offer to take it over they would come forward with all the financial and infrastructural support and give it to them. Let the Government say so. It will become a private unit and a workers' cooperative. The Government can allow them to pay the cost, the book value

It is a very small value in a number of installments. In the mean time, the Government may loan out money in order that the unit is revived. That is the third category. The fourth will be that the Government must decide that we shall keep control of it, that is to say, but we shall disinvest it partially. But the disinvestment must be done very clearly. I am happy that the 1995 programme has learnt from the lessons of the previous year. Therefore, this year, you are doing it unit by unit and you are going into the question of fair value.

HON. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shahabuddin, do you need more time.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I just need two minutes more. This being the last day for a Resolution, I think that the House would like to go a little bit beyond six of the Clock....(Interruption)

HON. CHAIRMAN: All right. Please speak for two minutes and conclude.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I would conclude in two minutes. Then, I would say that a clear-cut statement should be made before the people that the Government propose to disinvest such and such unit up to this level. They should come before the people and tell, 'Here is the face value of the share; there is the book value of the share; here is the reserved price and now we are asking for the highest bid.' Let there be a transparent transaction. Let there be no suspicions and no doubts about the integrity of the persons who are involved because I do not wish to repeat on the floor of the House The rumours that are flying around. Who has made how many crores of rupees in the process of disinvestment is being said aloud. That does not go to the credit of the Government.

The next category will be the fifth category where you say that there is no sharing of the responsibility, this is an industry in the national interest; it will have to be kept alive; it will have to be revived and it will remain in the public sector, hundred per cent in the hands of the Government and, therefore, we are prepared to ask the nation to make the biggest sacrifice to keep it alive. Unless this sort of a very clear-cut perception downs on the Government, unless a very specific prescription is made for each unit in all, I do not see any future for the public sector. Otherwise, in our country, we are used to muddle along. We have muddled along for 5000 years and we have survived. We shall survive everything. We have survived all calamities, all invasions, all disasters and we can survive this disaster also. Today we have got a Government which claims to have knowledge, experience, wisdom and the people's power behind it. Let the Government emenciate a clear-cut policy enunciation and try to save what needs to be saved from the public sector.

Madam, I will not take more of your time. I will again repeat that we cannot judge the fate or the future of the public sector units on the basis only of the loses recorded in its books today. We should not judge it, as I said earlier, in the interest of the workers. I know our friends always try to preserve the interests of the organised labour which, in my view, has become a class by itself and a vested interest So, I will not say that I would only say one thing. Let us categorise it scientifically, review it ruthlessly and then decide what needs to be done today. But the nation today shares

the concern about the fate of the public sector units which had given us a sense of pride, which had given us a sense of entry into the modern world of science and technology, which had given us a sense of competition with the rest of the world and therefore we want to preserve the essentials of the public sector. Wherever needs to be saved, the Government should be prepared to give the necessary financial assistance, give the necessary managerial assistance and give the

necessary technological assistance in order to revive selected public sector units.

HON. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 29th May, 1995, at 11 a.m.

18.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Monday, The 29th May, 1995/Jyaishta 8,
1917 (Saka)*