

Tenth Series, Vol. II, No. 13

Friday, July 26, 1991
Sravana 4, 1913 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**First Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. II contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 26, 1991/Sravana 4, 1913
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleague Shri Kadiyala Gopala Rao.

Shri Kadiyala Gopala Rao was a member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57. He represented Gudiyada constituency of the then State of Madras.

A dedicated political and social worker, he took part in the movement for social reforms amongst women and conducted political classes to make them aware of their rights.

He was associated with various organisations connected with the welfare of peasants in different capacities.

Shri Rao passed away on 2 July, 1991 at the age of 79.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

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

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: What about obituary reference of Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao?

MR. SPEAKER: We are getting the confirmation. We are following the procedure.

Q. No. 163.

11.03 Hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Issue of Bonds by Konkan Railway Project Authorities

*163. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Project authorities had sought permission for issue of Bonds;

(b) if so, whether the permission has since been granted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how the Government propose to make resources available for this vital project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Permission has already been granted to Indian Railway Finance Corporation for raising Rs. 150 crores by way of 9% tax free Bonds to meet the requirements of Konkan Railway Project during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister would agree with me that one of the major distortions of our development process has been the regional imbalance. One of the worst areas to suffer in this regard has been the coastal belt from Bombay to Mangalore. This has been a missing link in the Indian Railway system right from the beginning because it did not suit the British Imperialism. There was no troops movement. The National Transport Policy Committee strongly advocated for this line and Mr. T. A. Pai had initiated the process. But I must compliment my colleagues Shri George Fernandes and Shri Madhu Dandavate for having brought it into a reality. This Corporation has got a unique structure.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: The State Government has also helped.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Certainly. The hon. Defence Minister and the State Government of Maharashtra have promptly paid for it also. It started as a Corporation so that it could cut through red-tapeism and also prevent operation scuttle by the treasury, the Ministry of Finance, with which the hon. Minister is very familiar. The total capital to be employed comes to Rs. 43 crores. Now the revised estimate would be Rs. 100 crores. A target date was given under the corporate plan that it should be completed by October 1994. And one of the persons who took the

keenest interest in this project was the present Defence Minister. In spite of all these, I find that still the operation scuttle continues. The Corporation asked for Rs. 250 crores in the first year. Part (b) of the answer reads as follows:

“Permission has already been granted to Indian Railway Finance Corporation for raising Rs. 150 crores...”

It is Rs. 100 crores less, when actually it should anywhere go to Rs. 400 crores. I would like to know, from the Minister when was this decision taken, the date on which it was conveyed to the Corporation and why it was Rs. 100 crores less than what was sought.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Actually the original cost was Rs. 1043 crores. One aspect I have to mention here is that, not only the Railways but the State Governments are also there. The other partners are the State Governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa. The ratio of percentage has been fixed. The Railways would get 51 per cent of the equity, or Rs. 250 crores, Maharashtra gets 22 per cent, Karnataka gets 15 per cent, Kerala gets 6 per cent and Goa gets another 6 per cent. This was the basis. Recently this was revised. As Shri Unnikrishnan said, it is not Rs. 1200 crores. It has been revised to Rs. 1200 crores plus the cost of the interest on the Bonds which comes to Rs. 1400 crores. The total cost envisaged is now estimated at Rs. 1400 crores out of which the requirement for the current year was up to June 1992, Rs. 250 crores for the current year and Rs. 150 crores has been distributed and accordingly permission for the bonds has been given for Rs. 150 crores. This would be sufficient for the current year up to March as per the requirements of the Corporation.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He has not answered one part of the

Question. When was this decision taken?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: When was it conveyed to the Railways? Because we have an answer from the Railway Minister in this session itself, that you have not done anything. When was it conveyed to the Railways?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: The date is 22nd July. And the amount, as I mentioned was Rs. 100 crores which was meant for April to June 1992 and for March 1992 the amount required as indicated is Rs. 150 crores for which permission has already been granted.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: You have not answered the question. When was it conveyed to the Railways? And I think the Railway Minister has answered in this House, last week, that it had not yet come. When did you convey? That is the question. Do not sidetrack and go elsewhere.

SHRI A. CHARLES: This is an official answer.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: What do you mean by an 'official answer'? Do not teach me procedure. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it in writing if you do not have it.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: It is 22nd July, as I said.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, now he has been—unfortunately he is a very dear friend of mine—talking like "*Aswathama Hatah*"...

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: What is unfortunate in this? Say 'fortunately'. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: He does not want to come out with the whole truth. My whole charge is, and it is being substantiated from his answer, that there is a scuttle. For example, they are not clearing any foreign exchange required for certain special type of welding and other special requirements which involve lot of tunnelling in the whole process. This is one of the major tasks that has been entrusted to this Corporation and some unique construction methods are called for. They have not granted the foreign exchange and even in this he is not correct. By that time, that is by the second year or the next year, that is, by the time the bonds are floated and the money is extracted it will be August-September, 1992. He is not correct in saying that this amount will suffice.

So, he says, especially in reply to part (d) of my question, "How the Government propose to make resources available for this vital project?", simply "Does not arise". I do not understand his answer at all.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Because he does not intend to answer it.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, I do not understand his answer at all. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he would give a specific assurance that the Corporation would be allowed to raise the additional amount required.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: The entire amount is not required. The bonds are to be issued year-wise. The States have given their share and every year the percentage, which I have already said, will be contributed by the Railways and the State Government. The question of Bonds will come year-wise. And the necessary permission will be given year-wise...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the Minister is misleading the House. The State Governments are not required to pay money every year

and only the Railway Department is expected to pay money every year. They are only to contribute the equity in the first year, in the second year and it is very very negligible part in the next year. They are to pay only for two years. In the third year it is the pittance.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: So far as the financial year 1992-93 is concerned, the approval will be given before April 1992. For the current year upto March 1992, approval has been given. For the next year, it will be given before March...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: What about the balance of Rs. 100 crores? They have asked for Rs. 250 crores. You have given only Rs. 150 crores.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: That is what I am saying. The approval for Rs. 100 crores will be given before the end of March 1992. Upto March for the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 150 crores has already been sanctioned.

So far as financing of the entire project is concerned, this has to be done in due course in consultation with the Government and the Corporation and the pattern of Bonds will be decided. But so far as the next year is concerned, it will be decided before March 1992.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Sir the Minister is not prepared to give any assurance.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Sir, the main grievance is about the delay. This Corporation was formed on 19th June 1990. To the unstarred question dated 16-7-91 of Shri Unnikrishnan, it was replied that the Corporation has since approached the Controller of Capital Issues for clearance. Now the question is, when did they approach to the Government for this

clearance? You have said that the clearance has been given on 22nd July only, perhaps after the receipt of this question.

Secondly, the equity amount of the Corporation Rs. 250 crores has to be checked in by the Centre Rs. 128 crores; Maharashtra Rs. 55 crores; Karnataka Rs. 37 crores; Goa Rs. 15 crores and Kerala Rs. 15 crores. I want to know from the Minister as to what proportion to these States, the amount of Rs. 150 crores was sanctioned.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I have already given the breakup. Railways will give 51 per cent; Maharashtra Government will give 22 per cent; Karnataka will give 15 per cent; Kerala will give 6 per cent and Goa will give 6 per cent.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Sir, my question has not been answered fully. I have asked a question, as to when was this permission for sanction sought?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, the right hon. Member is correct that the sanction was given on 22nd July. I had a discussion with the hon. Minister for Railways. The question, why was it not given before, should be asked to the other side of the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, the Minister is trying to be smart. I would request you Sir, to ask the Minister not to be smart because the Government that refused the sanction was the Government that was supported by your party. Please do not try to be smart in these matters. In this House let us not try to be smart with each other. Let us come out with the truth.

I would like to ask the Minister, when was the request first made by the Konkan Railway Corporation for sanction of the Bonds? Is it a fact the request for Rs. 250 crores was

decided when the Corporate Plan was worked out to complete this project by the end of 1994? I also want to know from the Minister whether the sanction of Rs. 150 crores today is primarily because you did not give the sanction at the proper time, which was before the end of the financial year 1990-91. And in the context of the Budget speech and the Industrial Policy that the Minister has outlined, in which he has talked about his own Perestroika and liberalisation, will the Konkan Railway Corporation be given a blanket sanction to take whatever steps that are needed to complete this work within the time that they have stipulated and which has again been reiterated by the Railway Minister yesterday while replying to the debate on the Railway Budget?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Regarding the first part of the question, the Konkan Railway Project authorities had approached the CCI on 6th of June, 1991. I think, the Hon. Member would be in a better position to say why the sanction was not given earlier. The sanction has been given by the Controller of Capital Issues on 22nd of July, 1991. Thereafter the whole thing has been worked out. There are certain premises for the issue of bonds. Those premises have been considered. According to the discussions, it was decided that the requirement for the current financial year is only Rs. 150 crores for which permission for issue of bonds has been granted.

So far as the last part of the question is concerned, no blanket permission is contemplated to be given because all the aspects have to be considered. Various State Governments are involved. So the permission has to be given on year to year basis but it will be given well in time.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It means that the budget speech of the Finance Minister and the industrial policy so far as construction of the

Konkan Railway is concerned, are being given a decent burial.

SHRI RAM NAIK: When the original scheme was conceived the rate of interest was fixed at 9 per cent. Subsequently the Government of India and the Reserve Bank have increased the lending rate by one per cent. Naturally those who wish to contribute also will look at the 9 per cent rate. Does the Government propose to increase the rate by one per cent so that those who are interested in purchasing the bonds will come forward and purchase the bonds?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Under the present Income Tax provisions we do not have any such proposal under consideration. I feel that the tax free bonds which carry the rate of 9 per cent provide adequate incentive for people to subscribe to such bonds.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: While intervening in the debate on the Railway Budget the Minister of State for Railways Shri Mallikarjun had given a clear commitment and reiterated that the Konkan railway project will be completed by the year 1994. There were lot of heated arguments. At that time also many Members put in their queries demanding how the Government, which has not made sufficient funds available to the project authorities, plan to complete the project in time. The answer to that question was not given. When the commitment is to complete it by 1994, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister in which manner the Government plans to fulfil the commitment which it has given on the floor of the House and outside the House also. If the Government is not giving blanket permission to the project authorities for the issuance of bonds, then what other alternative has the Government in mind which will ensure that the project will be completed in time?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I think the Hon. Members would appreciate that what is being done is for

the benefit of this Corporation itself. They do not need Rs. 250 crores this year. They need only Rs. 150 crores. Now this is a project which is going to be completed over a number of years. If you pile up interest obligations, it will only add to the cost of the project. Therefore, I think, it is in the interest of this Corporation that it should not raise money prematurely. They need during the current year only Rs. 150 crores. That has been cleared. They need Rs. 100 crores in the first quarter of 1992-93 and as my colleague, the Minister of State, has mentioned, that would be done before the end of the current year.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Konkan Railway Project also was conceived as a noble approach wherein the States were asked to participate in the equity stage. Part A of my question is in view of the fact that the budget proposals will have a devastating effect on the State, will the Central Government contribute to the State fund so that other States also participate with the co-operation of the Railways, floating such corporations for railway lines to be laid in their areas and part B of my question is will the Government—the Finance Department—permit the term lending institutions to lend their money to this Konkan Railway Project?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I think, it is not correct that the Budget, that I presented to this August House day before yesterday, will have any adverse effect on the States. In fact, I have mobilised resources for the benefit of the States. I thought that the hon. Members and the State Governments would show some appreciation for resource mobilisation effort that I have done on their behalf. I have not imposed any burden on the State Governments. I have improved their resource position. Therefore, this inference that my Budget will have any devastating effect on the State Governments, I am afraid, is not correct.

Now, as far as the question of the term lending institution is concerned, most term lending institutions do not float tax free bonds. I do not think that this Corporation can pay the rate of interest which term lending institutions would charge. If you look at the Economic Survey, the hon. Member and the former Railway Minister, Shri George Fernandes, himself would recognise that asking this Corporation to go to the term lending institution is to condemn this project right from the inception to non-viability.

M. P. Fund

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

(a) whether the Government had received representations from some Members of Parliament in 1990 to constitute an M. P. Fund to be spent by the Government on the suggestions of the concerned M. P. on the lines of M.L.A. Fund constituted and being spent in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Suggestions were received from some Members of Parliament during 1990 for constitution of an M.P. Fund for undertaking small development works in each Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency on the suggestions of the concerned Members.

(c) The allocation of State Plan Funds is made by the Planning Commission after discussion with representatives of the concerned States and the Central Ministries, sector/sub-

sector-wise, and also for certain specified projects in sectors like power and irrigation. Funds are also allocated for 'Special Area Programmes' (e.g., programmes for the development of backward areas within the state). These allocations are based on an assessment of resource availability, developmental needs, absorptive capacity, etc. of such sector/sub-sector or backward region, as the case may be. Some projects and programmes do not lend themselves to being allocated Parliamentary Constituency-wise. Moreover, allocation of approved plan outlay among various parts of a State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Accordingly, it is not possible to allocate plan funds Parliamentary Constituency-wise. State Governments are, however, free to consult Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures in formulating plan proposals and in allocating funds.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, being from Maharashtra, you also know that M.L.A. Fund Scheme is in force in Maharashtra. The hon. Minister of Defence, who was earlier Chief Minister of Maharashtra is also aware that there is a scheme called M.L.A. Fund Scheme in Maharashtra involving an outlay of Rs. 21.5 lakh in order to provide facilities like toilets, electricity, water, small roads, small bridges and 'balwadi', etc. under the scheme. A question on this subject was asked on 18th May, 1990 in the Lok Sabha. Prior to that a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister. At the time, hon. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and hon. Shri Kumaramangalam, now Ministers, were the Members of the House and they had asked a supplementary question to which the Finance Minister Prof. Madhu Dandavate had replied:

[*English*]

"I will assure this House that we will re-examine the entire issue *de*

novo and try to make a final decision".

[*Translation*]

About 100 M.Ps. had submitted this memorandum to the Prime Minister and this was the assurance given by the hon. Minister. Now what I want to know is whether this scheme has been re-examined and if so which of the three Governments—V.P. Singh Government, Chandra Shekhar Government or Narasimha Rao Government—re-examined it?

SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question concerns Ram.....(*Interruptions*)

The question which he asked reads:

[*English*]

"Whether the Government had received representations from some Members of Parliament in 1990 to constitute an M.P. Fund to be spent by the Government on the suggestions of the concerned M.P. on the lines of M.L.A. Fund constituted and being spent in some States."

[*English*]

There is nothing like M.L.A. Fund(*Interruptions*).

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: It might not be in that name but it is given from DPDC Fund to every MLA in so many States.

SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Sir, this is a Fund which is at the disposal of the District Planning and Development Council. Even the Planning Commission is not in favour of giving such a Fund. The Planning Commission says: "As decentralised planning, particularly the area development concept catches on, comprehensive attention to the requirement of each Panchayat, Mandal Panchayat, Zila Parishad, will become an integral part of the planning. The new Planning Commission is

working towards this goal. Apart from that, any attempt to make budget provision on constituency basis is neither feasible nor desirable."

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: What I wanted to know was whether Government had re-examined it, and if so, which Government did it and when?

AN HON. MEMBER: He is expressing his helplessness.

SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: We are not expressing helplessness it is you people who are doing so. I am simply stating the facts.

[English]

Sir, I was telling that the concept of planning is at the village level, at the Panchayat level...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: No, the question is: was it considered by the Government, as was agreed.

SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: No, Sir, it was not considered by the Government.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that he will consider it.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Sir, this is a suggestion for action...*(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, I will not be in a position to answer this question whether the previous Government has considered this question before or not. I would ask for information and come before the House. As far as our Government is concerned, I have had preliminary discussions with the Deputy Chairman

of the Planning Commission and his advice to me was that there are practical difficulties in giving effect to this recommendation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Some time ago, when this issue was discussed, we were told that the matter would be discussed with the leaders of all political parties. We live on the seashore where there is water all around but no drinking water. My second supplementary question is whether a Member of Lok Sabha is so powerless that he cannot have any say in the works which can be done at the instance of even a member of Gram Panchayat, Chairman of a Municipal committee or an M.L.A.? They have the powers to get all these things done, but the Members of Parliament who pass budget worth crores of rupees are not authorised to get even a small bridge or a path constructed in their constituencies. Will the Government give consideration to it because M.P. too has a right to serve the people. But he is never given an opportunity to do so? Is there any proposal before the Government to discuss this matter with the Members of Parliament?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I respect the sentiments of the hon. Member. But I will be very honest. Here we are dealing with a very sensitive matter having bearing on Centre-State relations. Now all these issues have been under discussion. The Sarkaria Commission Report is there stating what is the proper way for the Central Government to allocate resources among the States. Now, I would respectfully submit that these are issues which do not lend themselves to simple answer. But if the hon. Members would like to have a discussion, I think, we are certainly prepared for a discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some schemes which can be executed only

by the State Governments. Similarly, there are some schemes which are controlled directly by the Centre through their Ministries/Departments. For instance, Rest Houses, Rail Yatri Niwas are such schemes which can ensure balanced development of the area giving equal opportunities to all and all such schemes are under the direct control of the central Government. I want to know as to what is the thinking of the Government and his Ministry in this direction?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is different. I have disallowed that question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that its implementation depends on the relations between the State and the Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he did not say that.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: He has said so.

MR. SPEAKER: He has not said like that.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: The State Government has authorised the M.L.A.s to spend a sum of Rs. 3 lakh each in their respective Assembly Constituency or this money can be spent in the constituency on the recommendation of the concerned M.L.A. But the Members of Parliament are not empowered to implement small schemes in their constituencies. Therefore, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to give Rs. 10 lakh to each M.P. so as to enable them to spend it in each Assembly segment on their recommendation?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it has already been replied to.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he is ready to discuss the matter with the representatives of all parties.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: We want and this is our demand also that after this session is over, a meeting should be convened for this purpose. Do you agree with it?

MR. SPEAKER: It will be discussed in this session itself.

[*English*]

Mr. Minister, the hon. Member wants to know whether you are going to discuss the issue in this session.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: As I mentioned, this is not a simple question. I did mention that when it comes to allocating resources to the States, there have been several issues which are raised and all these require a careful examination before we can do anything in this. If you want a discussion I am always available.

MR. SPEAKER: The only question is whether you are ready to discuss in the session?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: We are ready.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: The hon. Minister has stated that the State Governments have authorised the District Boards to incur expenditure on the schemes within the district. M.L.As participate in the meetings of the district board. Will the hon. Minister advise the Chief Ministers of the States to associate the Lok Sabha Members with the schemes being executed by the District Planning Boards?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the question is, there are District Boards on which M.L.As. are Members and are you going to advise the State Governments to have M.Ps. also on those Boards?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: My information is that in several States Members of Parliament are there on these Boards.

Decanalisation of Imports

*166. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to decanalise almost all imports;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the items canalised so far and those likely to be decanalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The items, the import of which is presently canalised, are specified in Appendix 5 Part A & Part B of the Import and Export Policy, 1990-93 (Volume I). These lists are being reviewed to determine whether some of the items could be decanalised. A decision will be taken in the near future.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I put my question, I must lodge a protest with him. Part (c) of the question is very clear and it asks for the items canalised so far and those likely to be decanalised. As far as those likely to be decanalised are concerned, the Minister can certainly say that they are considering the matter. But the information asked about the items canalised so far, is not given. He says, the items, the import of which is presently canalised, are specified in Appendix 5 Part A and Part B of the Import and Export Policy, 1990-93 (Volume I). This will not

do. This is a question asked on the floor of the Parliament. If some items are canalised at present, that appendix must be laid on the Table of the House. I am not going to hunt for Volume I. This is not the way to reply to the question. Do you have anything to say about that? Why are you not giving the list of items which are already canalised?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, when this policy was announced in 1990 effective from 1st April, 1990 it was laid on the Table of the House. This is a public document. If the hon. Member wishes to have a copy of that, I am willing to furnish him a copy of Volume I. But, let me assure him, it was laid on the Table of the House when the policy was announced on 1-4-1990.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, a new scheme has been announced under the new trade policy under which exporters will be permitted freely to sell their replenishment licences to importers and importers will no longer have to go through the labyrinth of Government offices and regulations. They can purchase directly from the exporters. What will be the impact of this on the fact that there will be actually no canalisation at all and these licences will be sold at a premium. I would also like to know as to what will be the result of this on the actual import and values of imports coming into this country because even people who have no import value in their exports can also buy these licences, as far as I am able to understand.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect to the hon. Member, I would like to say that they are really two separate issues. Although replenishment licences do not arise out of this question, I will answer that. The replenishment licences were always tradeable. It is not a result of the policy announced on the 4th of July, 1991. Now, what we have done is, we have made a large number of items importable

only against replenishment licences and not against free foreign exchange. This will result in import compression, not import enlargement and one of the objects of the new policy is import compression. I have answered earlier in this House that we are aiming at an optimal import compression of approximately Rs. 3,000 crores this year. But, this has to be seen after we set our targets, since the Budget was presented only day before yesterday and tariff rates have been made known only day before yesterday. We will have to set our targets for the current year. As far as the impact of replenishment licences on canalisation is concerned, this is where, I think, there has been some misunderstanding. Appendix 5 Part A contains non-sensitive items which, although canalised, are also available against replenishment licences. So, there is no change there. Appendix 5 Part B contains sensitive items which are canalised and which, therefore, cannot be imported by anyone except the canalised agency against free foreign exchange given by the Reserve Bank. I do not think that the policy of REP licences affects canalisation as such.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Is it broad understanding of this Government that agencies like the State Trading Corporation and the MMTC should gradually, by stages be abolished altogether?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me make it absolutely clear that we intend to strengthen the STC and MMTC and make them highly competitive international trading houses. If this policy is implemented, STC and MMTC will grow in strength, their volumes will grow, they will find new markets and will export new products.

DR. DEVI PRASAD PAL: I want to ask one question. In the case of decanalisation, will the importer be able to use the actual trading licence—

India's trading licence—or on the basis of general trading system he will be able to import the goods in the case of decanalised items?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not quite sure what the hon. Member wants to know. But today we have abolished supplementary licences and additional licences. The only licences that are available to importers are advance licences for duty free imports against an export obligation and REP licences which will now become EXIM scrips. If hon. Member wishes to know that if an item after being decanalised, whether the importer will be allowed to import it, the answer is 'Yes'. If it is decanalised, anyone can import it. But how he will finance the import will depend upon which route he is taking. If he is an exporter who is willing to perform an export obligation, I assume, he will go by the route of advance licences. If he is an importer for domestic production or domestic consumption, which is more unlikely, he will go by the route of EXIM scrips. If the hon. Member has any specific commodity in mind and specific kind of importer, I will be able to help him more.

SHRIMATI GEETHA MUKHERJEE: Sir, is it a fact that paragraph 9 of the policy statement of Shri Chidambaram, as reported in the newspaper, contain the following:

"in three years time objective we will be to remove all import licensing for capital goods and raw materials except for a small negative list".

If so, I would like to know what is the necessity of having all the raw materials also imported when our country is potentially rich in raw materials?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Do you allow Q. No. 180 to be taken up now?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a supplementary to Q. No. 166.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is an entirely different question. This has nothing to do with decanalisation as such. This is a question about the import policy one should follow. Now, import restrictions are of different kinds. One kind of import restriction is by licensing. Another kind of import restriction is by tariffs. The third kind of import restriction is by quantitative restriction. We believe that the most effective way to control imports is by tariffs and not by licensing or by quantitative restriction. But this is a long term goal. What I have said in that statement is that we will control imports by the method of tariffs and this is what has been attempted by the Finance Minister in his Budget. This is a continuing exercise. So far as licensing is concerned, we would like to remove it over a period of time. Whatever raw materials that are not available in this country will not be imported and they will be controlled by high tariffs. Tariff barriers will be there to control imports.

Ferry Service between Bombay and Goa

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*167. **SHRI SHANKARJI VAGHELA:**

DR. A. K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of **SURFACE TRANSPORT** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resume the ferry service between Bombay and Goa for the convenience of the people of these areas as also of tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for acquiring new ships for service between Bombay and Goa has also been considered; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government have permitted M/s. **SATYA GIRI SHIPPING COMPANY** to acquire two high Speed Catamarans for plying on the Bombay-Ratnagiri-Panaji route. This Shipping Company has since deposited initial payment to the seller in respect of the first catamaran while the sanction for acquisition of the second catamaran is valid upto 14-8-1991. The Government have also permitted M/s. **LINK-on-SEA-LINK** to acquire a Catamaran to ply on Bombay-Goa route, and this sanction is valid upto 31-10-1991.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARJI VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has thought about Goa and Bombay technically only. Had he given the reply after applying his mind, probably the reply would have been something else. I would like to say through you, that the condition of railways is well know, and so is the condition of the roads. Very recently the hon. Minister of Finance increased the prices of petroleum products. That also you know. You also know the condition of the entire transport system. In view of the above, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is going to accord priority to water transport over the road, rail and air transport as the former will be cheaper and the distance will be cut short?

MR. SPEAKER: Vaghelaji, you are going from specific to general. It should not be so.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: There was such a scheme but we had to suffer heavy loss on it. So it was withdrawn. We are granting permission to State Governments and private parties. Permission had been granted even before I took charge of this Ministry as Minister. There are about five such companies who had sought permission and it has already been granted to them. We want that permission should be granted throughout the country, not to speak of Bombay and Goa alone.

SHRI SHANKARJI VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether this scheme would be implemented by private parties within a period of six months or a year? Because sometimes it is said that it would be implemented from August, and some other time it is being said that it would be implemented from October. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it would be implemented through private individuals within a definite time limit?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have already issued the sanction order. We have prescribed certain dates in the sanction. If the dates are over, we will see whether they have acquired the vessels or not.

[*English*]

DR. A. K. PATEL: Sir, Goa is now-a-days becoming a spot of tourist attraction because the people do not visit Kashmir for known reasons. I think, top priority should be given for ferry services between Bombay and Goa.

As my colleague has asked the question, I would ask the Minister, what concrete steps have been taken for the ferry service. What time-bound action would be taken for this purpose? What progress was made during this period? When is the private party going to start ferry service?

MR. SPEAKER: That was answered by the Minister.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to give details to the hon. Member. There are five companies. One, Satya Giri Shipping Company has given a proposal to acquire two second-hand high speed boats from abroad in principle. They had put an application in 1987 and this sanction was valid right up to 1988. Later on, this was cancelled.

But later on, Satya Giri Shipping Company applied for acquisition of

two second-hand Catamarans. This letter of sanction was issued on 6-12-89.

The West Coast Hover Craft Pvt. Ltd., Bombay applied. Their date of application was 17-11-1988. Of course, rejection letter was issued because they did not go through the norms which the Government prescribed.

Then, there is Binkam Shipping Company. They also applied for acquisition of second-hand catamaran in principle. This proposal was sanctioned on 30th May, 1989. Then, we had Great Eastern Shipping Company which also applied for acquisition of two second-hand Catamarans from abroad. The letters of sanction were issued and were valid up to 6-5-1990 and 7-9-1990. The number of passengers it would carry was 250 each. The cost, of course, was there.

A number of companies have applied and we were not hesitant in giving permission.

I am only waiting for these people to acquire the ships and high-speed boats so that they can serve the people in Bombay who want to travel to Goa and vice-versa.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Earlier a number of ports in this area were served with ferry service. The hon. Minister has mentioned that licences have been given only for plying a ferry service from Bombay-Ratnagiri-Goa. It is inadequate. There are a number of ports which require this service. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there is any plan for granting licences to other ports and also to developing these ports.

Secondly, licences have been granted only up to 14-8-1991 and 31-10-1991 and no ferry service has yet started. Is there any proposal to extend these licences and, if so, to which companies?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Anybody who does not complete acquisition of vessels by the date which they

have informed the Government applies for extension and, if there are genuine reasons for extending, we give extension. But again I want to tell you that there is no restriction anywhere in the country, subject to the clearance of Defence in certain parts, that we will not allow ferry service.

Export of Cashewnut, Pepper and Marine Products

*171. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been fall in the export of cashewnut, pepper and marine products from Kerala during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of cashewnut, pepper and marine products from Kerala during 1990-91?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Separate state-wise export figures are not maintained. While exports of cashewnuts and marine products recorded an increase during 1990-91, there was a fall in the export of pepper mainly due to the high price of Indian pepper as compared to pepper of rival origins, lower production and the Gulf Crisis.

(c) According to the provisional data available, the export of cashewnuts, pepper and marine products were as follows during 1990-91:

Item	Value in Rs. crores
Cashewnuts	443.50
Pepper	111.00
Marine Products	893.37

(Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council, Spices Board and MPEDA)

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I want to know whether there was an increase value-wise in respect of cashew and marine products in 1991 and, if so, the details.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: There was an increase in marine exports from Rs. 635 crores to Rs. 893 crores in 1990-91. On cashew, the export increase was from Rs. 360 crores in 1989-90 to Rs. 443 crores in 1990-91.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: What steps are being taken to make Indian pepper competitive in the international market?

MR. SPEAKER: If statistics are not available, you can send them.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Steps are being taken including interaction with international agencies. The problem that arises is pepper is an exclusive crop. There is also the problem of drop in prices in the world market. We are aware of all these and steps are being taken with international agencies, to ensure that prices would not drop. The main reason is drop in world prices because of the demand and supply position.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The hon. Minister has given the figure in terms of rupees. I would like to know whether there has been a rise or fall in the export of these items in terms of quantity and in terms of unit earning. If there has been a fall in some countries and a rise in some other countries, in that case please give the names of the countries to which our exports have fallen in this context.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Sir, there is an increase both in terms of quantity as well as amount regarding export. If the hon. Member wants the details, we will give the same in writing.

SHRI E. AHAMED : The hon. Minister has replied that earning in respect of Cashew is much less than

the marine products. One of the reasons which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister is that there is not sufficient promotion of cashew products to the Western countries where we have good marketing and the schemes that have been contemplated for the cashew cultivation with the help of the World Market have not been taken up by the Government of India so far. Therefore, we have to depend on other countries for the import of raw-nuts. I would like to know whether the Government has any scheme to promote the cashew production by indigenous method with the help of the World Bank for which a scheme has already been there before the Government of India which has been approved and sent by the Kerala Government.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Since Cashew is a horticulture crop, the main responsibility for its regulation, production remains not with the Central Government but with the Government of Kerala; not with our Ministry but with the Ministry of Agriculture. A five-year World Bank assisted programme of area development from 1982-83 to 1986-87 has rejuvenated trees and also helped to increase acreage under Cashew in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The results in harvest have just begun to show. We need greater interaction between the Central Government and the State of Kerala. We have already initiated plans and steps in this regard.

Assistance from Foreign Agencies for Improvement of Exports

*172. **SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any monitoring and coordinating agency to improve the export position of our country;

(b) whether any assistance has been sought from some foreign agencies to help in increasing our exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the garment exporters regarding their problems; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

STATEMENT

(a) The Ministry of Commerce functions as the central monitoring and coordinating agency to improve the export position of our country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Assistance is sought from time to time from various international agencies such as Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), London, European Economic Community (EEC), Brussels, etc, as also from our major trading partners for increasing our exports.

(d) and (e) Government have been receiving a number of representations from the garment exporters from time to time on various problems being faced by them and appropriate actions have been taken on such representations where found necessary.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, the answer given by the Minister is very evasive. Really speaking, I had asked what are the main points in the representation of the garment exporters and the problems they are facing and what concrete actions the Government has taken to increase the garment exports particularly in view of the latest decision of the Government by which you are withdrawing the export subsidy. Garment being one of the major items of our export in which India has a name, what concrete actions the Government is taking to increase the garment exports and also to increase the quota fixed by the EEC.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, these representations come from time to time. I can share with the hon. Members some of the decisions which have been taken recently by the Ministry of Textiles in consultation with us on the representations of garment exporters.

Firstly, Sir, they wanted the Blanket Advance Licensing Scheme to be liberalised. This has been done. The Blanket Advance Licensing Scheme has been made applicable to garment exporters having an average NFE earning of Rs. 2 crores and above during the last three years.

Secondly, they wanted revision of input-output norms under Advance Licensing Scheme. We have increased the REP rate for Advance Licence from 10 per cent of Net Foreign Earnings to 20 per cent of Net Foreign Earnings.

Thirdly, they wanted duty concessions for trimmings and embellishments. This was earlier 10 per cent of the 20 per cent NFE. Now it is 10 per cent of 30 per cent NFE. Therefore, they have three per cent for trimmings and embellishments.

Fourthly, they wanted duty-free import of machinery. Both my colleague Shri Ashok Gehlot and I have strongly recommended to the Finance Minister that there must be a duty-free import of textile machinery with an export obligation to run into seven years. Unfortunately, the Finance Minister in the Budget has not accepted it. But both my colleague Gehlotji and I will persist in the matter and try to see whether duty-free import can be allowed. They wanted minimum export prices. Gehlotji has already announced that the minimum export prices in terms of dollars will become effective from 1-1-92. We will consider each one of them. If the hon. Member has anything particular in mind, please write to me and I will answer that point.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, the EEC has fixed a quota

for Indian garments. I would like to know whether the Government of India has proposed to increase that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is governed by the Multi-Fibre Agreement. They want MFA to continue and we want it to be terminated. We are now discussing it. Under GATT, we expect MFA to be rolled over for some time to time before an agreement is reached on how to wind it up; the moment MFA is in force, we cannot ask for anything more than what is prescribed in that. The details about it are with the Ministry of Textiles.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Export of Iron Ore through Paradeep Port

*165. **SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Iron ore allotted to Paradeep Port to be handled and exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(b) how it compares with the corresponding figures for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Iron ore targetted for export and actual exports through Paradeep Port during 1990-91 and 1991-92 as also during the earlier two years are:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual exports
1988-89	14.00	16.40
1989-90	18.75	20.97
1990-91	22.50	16.97
1991-92	20.10	5.40
		(up to 15-7-91)

Acquisition of New Ships

(f) if so, the details thereof?

*168. **SHRI VEJAY NAVAL PA-TIL:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding acquisition of new ships;

(b) whether the Government have estimated the dead weight tonnage (DWT) of fleet required by the year 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how much replacement of existing tonnage is likely to be required;

(e) whether the Government have worked out the financial requirements; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The policy of the Government is to encourage acquisition of new ships, keeping in view the requirement of tonnage to meet the transport needs of the country's sea borne trade and the need to support Indian Shipyards.

(b) to (f) The Planning Group on Shipping set up by Planning Commission estimated in 1987 the tonnage required to be acquired by 2000 A.D. and the corresponding investment required at the prevalent exchange rates to be made to finance this acquisition on the basis of four scenarios. The details are given below:—

	Tonnage (Million DWT)			Total Investment (Rs. crores)
	Total required by 2000 A.D.	Additional acquisitions	Of which for replacement (1987-2000)	
(i) High cargo and high market share	11.6	9.0	7.1	8,100
(ii) High cargo and low market share	10.3	7.7	7.1	7,200
(iii) Low cargo and high market share	10.7	8.1	7.1	7,500
(iv) Low cargo and low market share	9.6	6.9	7.1	6,700

Change in Import-Export Policy

*169. **SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a major policy change in the import-export trade keeping in view the consequences recorded after devaluation of rupee in the country;

(b) whether the balance of payments would be adversely affected in the near future with more import trade than export trade orientation; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Evasion of Excise Duty by companies

*170. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the companies against whom show cause notices for Excise duty evasion of more than Rs. 50 crores each have been issued during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to take over the shares of the foreign companies against whom excise duty of more than Rs. 50 crores is pending realisation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Show-Cause-Notices for Excise duty evasion of more than Rs. 50 crores each have been issued to the following companies during the last three years:—

1. M/s. Hindustan News Print Limited, News Print Nagar, Kottayam.
2. M/s. Mysore Paper Mills, Bhadravati.
3. M/s. G.I.C., Bombay.
4. M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited, Bombay.

(b) and (c) After the issue of Show-Cause-Notice, the case has to be adjudicated. Question of initiating recovery proceedings arises only after confirmation of the duty demands in adjudication & not just after issue of the Show-Cause-Notice. After the demands are confirmed, there are several other more direct and quicker methods of enforcing recovery than taking over the shares of a company.

[*Transkation*]

Alleged irregularities in DGS & D

*173. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in "Jansatta" dated 9 and 10 January, 1991 regarding the irregularities committed in the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir, in so far as publication of the news item is concerned.

(b) The allegations were examined in January, 91 and found to be unsubstantiated.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Implementation of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief scheme in Gujarat

*174. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited under the 'Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990' till date, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released under the scheme to the State of Gujarat till date; and

(c) when the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Scheme provides debt relief to eligible borrowers who are farmers, artisans and weavers. As on 1st July, 1991

the number of beneficiaries provided relief under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 was 93.7 lakhs for public sector banks, 164.59 lakhs for Cooperative Banks and 37.21 lakhs for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). No separate category wise break-up of relief provided is available since the reporting system does not generate such information. State-wise/Union Territory-wise details are given in the *Annexure*.

has reported that a sum of Rs. 90.29 crores and Rs. 17.12 crores has been sanctioned and released to Gujarat State Cooperative Bank (GSCB) and Gujarat State Land Development Bank (GSLDB), respectively by NABARD as fifty percent share of Government of India for implementation of the ARDR Scheme in that State for Co-operative Banks. NABARD had also sanctioned and released Rs. 4.17 crores to the Regional Rural Banks.

(b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

(c) It is expected that the remaining amount will be provided in the current and the next financial year.

ANNEXURE

Statewise/Union Territorywise number of persons who have been given relief under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 as on 1st July, 1991

Sr. No.	States/U.T.s.	Number of beneficiaries given relief			
		Public Sector Banks	Cooperative Banks	Regional Rural Banks	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,71,823	13,57,224	4,02,433	29,31,480
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3,599	7,138	1,420	12,157
3.	Assam	2,16,908	1,66,585	1,25,069	5,08,562
4.	Bihar	7,65,129	22,49,039	5,29,181	35,43,349
5.	Goa	9,984	8,777	..	18,761
6.	Gujarat	4,62,958	8,46,328	46,193	13,55,479
7.	Haryana	2,27,085	3,08,357	63,607	5,99,049
8.	Himachal Pradesh	93,465	1,71,687	12,669	2,77,821
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	15,913	8,787	9,105	33,805
10.	Karnataka	8,85,013	4,73,257	2,58,106	16,16,376
11.	Kerala	3,12,855	56,543	67,924	4,37,322
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4,70,840	1,21,570	2,22,456	19,14,868
13.	Maharashtra	6,84,602	21,24,862	65,614	28,75,078
14.	Manipur	14,209	54,584	4,271	73,064
15.	Meghalaya	14,889	..	2,177	17,066
16.	Mizoram	2,151	..	4,245	6,396

1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Nagaland		14,354	..	35,747	50,101
18. Orissa		5,20,432	11,50,160	3,81,072	20,51,664
19. Punjab		2,00,105	2,56,632	7,054	4,63,791
20. Rajasthan		4,66,027	11,52,597	2,90,443	19,09,067
21. Sikkim		9,394	..	..	9,394
22. Tamil Nadu		8,28,817	10,88,674	60,732	19,78,223
23. Tripura		46,160	..	99,965	1,46,125
24. Uttar Pradesh		9,78,354	36,50,793	5,26,186	51,55,333
25. West Bengal		9,06,011	85,057	5,05,110	14,96,178
26. Chandigarh		1,667	1,696	..	3,363
27. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1,290	1,508	..	2,798
28. Daman and Diu		415	700	..	1,115
29. Delhi		10,978	..	..	10,978
30. Lakshadweep		91	..	..	91
31. Pondicherry		26,049	15,483	..	41,532
32. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		3,567	1,188	..	4,755
Total		93,65,134	164,59,226	37,20,779	295,45,139

Recommendations of National Commission on Urbanisation

*175. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations of the National Commission on Urbanisation relating to Delhi concerning his Ministry; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The National Commission on Urbanisation have made recommendations on a wide range of subjects pertaining to transport but no specific study and recommendation has been made in respect of Delhi.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Growth Rate

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

(a) whether the World Economic Survey brought out by the United Nations indicates that the Growth rate in India will be retarded in the process of correcting growing disequilibrium in the external accounts;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Sir. While dealing with the impact of Gulf crisis and the recession in some developed countries on the economics of developing countries in Asia, the World Economic Survey 1991 has observed that:

“In India, in particular, the growing disequilibrium in the external account is the most worrying aspect of the present situation, in that probably output growth will be retarded again in the process of correcting it”.

(b) and (c) Several factors have contributed to the growing disequilibrium in the external accounts. These, among others, include: declining self-sufficiency in production/consumption of crude oil and petroleum products, a steady erosion of the surpluses in the invisible account in financing the trade deficit, unfavourable climate for concessional assistance, the bunching of debt service obligations on past borrowings and growing fiscal imbalances. These strains were further compounded by the crisis and the war in the Gulf during 1990-91.

A number of steps have been taken to meet the balance of payment situation. In order to enhance the international competitiveness, improve export performance, contain imports and curb destabilising market expectations, adjustment has been made in the exchange rate of the rupee. Government have also announced significant structural changes in the import-export policy and industrial policy.

For improving the management of the economy, the centre-piece of Government's strategy would be a credible fiscal adjustment and macro-economic stabilization during the current financial year, to be followed by continued fiscal consolidation thereafter.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bye Passes

*177. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct bye-passes in those cities where the National Highways pass through the cities; and

(b) if so, the details of such highways and cities where the bye-passes would be constructed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Construction of bye-passes is accorded a relatively low priority *vis-a-vis*, other developmental works on the National Highway system. During every Plan period, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority among different projects, construction of bye-passes around selected locations are taken up. The bye-passes now under construction are given in the statement annexed.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>NH No.</i>
ASSAM	
1.	NH 37-Jorhat bypass
BIHAR	
2.	NH 28A-Motihari bypass
GUJARAT	
3.	NH 8-Dhoraji bypass
HIMACHAL PRADESH	
4.	NH 22-Simla bypass (Phase II)

Sl. No.	NH No.
5.	NH 22-Barog bypass
KARNATAKA	
6.	NH 4-Hubli Dharwar bypass (Phase I)
KERALA	
7.	NH 47-Trivandrum Neyyattinkara bypass (Phase I)
8.	NH 47-Chalakydy bypass
9.	NH 47-Alleppey bypass (Phase I)
MAHARASHTRA	
10.	NH 4-Westerly diversion of Pune
NAGALAND	
11.	NH 39-Dimapur bypass (Phase I)
ORISSA	
12.	NH 42-Meramandalli bypass
13.	NH 5-Rambha bypass
TAMIL NADU	
14.	NH 7-Pugalur bypass
15.	NH 46-Vaniyambadi bypass
16.	NH 46-Vellore bypass
17.	NH 45-Chengalput bypass
18.	NH 7-Coimbatore bypass
UTTAR PRADESH	
19.	NH 2-Varanasi bypass
20.	NH 26-Lalitpur bypass
GOA	
21.	NH 17-Mapusa bypass

[English]

Consignment Tax

*178. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal under consideration to bring forward a legislation for the levy of consignment tax;

(b) if so, when and the broad details thereof;

(c) whether the views expressed by some of the State Governments in this regard have also been taken into consideration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) Some proposals in this regard have been received. The matter requires further consultations with States.

Impact of Rupee Devaluation on Prices of Essential Commodities

*179. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the two-step devaluation of the Indian rupee on the prices of essential commodities and consumer articles; and

(b) how it will stimulate export promotion, induce effective import substitution and arrest the flight of capital from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The impact of the recent exchange rate adjustment on the prices of essential commodities and consumer articles is expected to be marginal. Most of the essential commodities consumed in our country are wholly produced domestically. Among the

essential commodities that are imported, the most important ones are edible oils, pulses and kerosene. The share of imports in the domestic consumption of pulses and edible oils is small. The share of imports in the domestic consumption of kerosene is relatively high, but with effect from the evening of 24 July 1991, the domestic price of kerosene has been reduced by 10 per cent. Under the import-export policy, there are no imports of consumer goods other than life saving drugs and books.

(b) The exchange rate adjustment will stimulate exports by raising their profitability, encourage effective import substitution by making imports costlier, and stem the flight of capital from India by curbing destabilising expectations which were generated by perceptions about the exchange rate of the rupee.

Import Licensing for Capital Goods and Raw Materials

*180. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove all imports licensing for capital goods and raw materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Certain changes in the import policy for import of raw materials and components by units, other than SSI Units and manufacturers of life saving Medicines/equipment, have been announced recently which reduce the extent of licensing. No change has been made in the import policy for capital goods. The policy of the Government would be to progressively reduce licensing on capital goods and raw materials over a 3 to 5 year period. Detailed proposals in this regard have yet to be worked out.

Formation of Women Army Battalion

*181. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a women army battalion is proposed to be formed;

(b) if so, the proposed strength of the battalion; and

(c) the duties to be assigned to this battalion?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While there is no move to induct women in the combat elements, the proposals of the Defence Services for the induction of women in selected branches are being processed for an early decision.

[*Translation*]

Declaration of Part of New Delhi-Bombay Road as National Highway

*182. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi-Bombay road via Ajmer, Nasirabad and Indore is very important from traffic point of view;

(b) whether the headquarters of Army and CRPF, several cement factories and other industrial units are located at three places on this road viz. Nasirabad, Neemuch and Mahu;

(c) whether preliminary formalities have been completed to declare the middle part of this road from Nasirabad to Indore as National Highway; and

(d) if so, the time by which the aforesaid part of New Delhi-Bombay road is likely to be declared as National highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) New Delhi is connected to Bombay via Ajmer through existing National Highway No. 8. Similarly, existing National Highways No. 2 and 3 connect Delhi to Bombay via Indore. The route from Ajmer to Indore via Nasirabad and Neemuch, has its own importance and is part of the Road system, under the control of the respective State Governments.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Shelters at DTC Bus Stops

640. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
 DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of bus stops in the Capital and the number out of them which have overhead shelters;
- (b) whether bus shelters will be constructed at all the bus stops;
- (c) if not, the criteria followed in selecting the bus stops for construction of new bus shelters;
- (d) the details of new bus shelters constructed during 1990 and 1991 so far and also those which are proposed to be constructed during the remaining period of 1991;
- (e) whether this programme of sheltering Capital's commuters also envisages the repairs of the existing dilapidated shelters, which do not provide any relief during rains; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) DTC has approximately 5500 bus stops in the city operational area out of which 1533 are covered with Bus Queue Shelters.

(b) It is not feasible to construct shelters at all the bus stops due to paucity of space and set back constraints.

(c) Bus queue shelters are constructed keeping in view the availability of land with enough set back from the main thoroughfare.

(d) The Delhi Transport Corporation has awarded the work of construction of 320 bus queue shelters in Delhi to the CPWD in December, 1990. No construction has commenced so far. The NDMC propose to construct 10 bus queue shelters during the current financial year.

(e) Yes, Sir. Repairs to existing bus shelters are also undertaken whenever they get damaged.

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to (e) above.

Losses in NTC Due to Cancellation of on going Projects

641. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government propose to review the position with regard to expansion of different mills under the management of National Textiles Corporation Limited and its subsidiary corporations particularly these expansion projects which were stopped due to lack of funds;
- (b) whether those projects which were so abandoned are incurring huge interest loss and loss of expected production;
- (c) whether the accounts have been settled with various contractors for these cancelled contracts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the claims pending against the NTC or subsidiary corporations on account of cancellation of the on-going projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In the case of some of the mills under NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd., Calcutta, orders for civil works were cancelled, due to pruning of modernisation schemes. There is no proposal to review expansion of such civil works.

(b) There is no loss of interest on account of pruning of modernisation schemes, since the funds invested pertained to equity capital. Since no capital machinery was procured by NTC under the scheme, there is no loss of production.

(c) to (e) NTC (WBAB&O) has settled the accounts with the concerned contractors. Only one contractor pursued for restoration of their order, which was restored. However, as he did not accept the PWD rates offered by NTC, his contract was cancelled.

Honouring of Export Commitments by Companies

642. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all companies which have given export commitments, honour their commitments;

(b) whether there is any agency to monitor the exports of these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is already a provision

in our procedure for monitoring of export commitments. The exporters are required to furnish periodic returns on year to year basis to competent authorities located at the Headquarters office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports or at the regional licensing offices, as the case may be, indicating their export performance in a specific format.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to collect and coordinate vast mass of material from the thirty one Regional Offices which issue various kinds of licences including licences involving export commitments.

Trade Agreement with Saudi Arabia

643. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any new trade agreement with Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Constitution of Pepper Board

644. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute Pepper Board;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) No proposal to constitute a Pepper Board is under consideration of the Government. Pepper is already under the purview of the Spices Board.

Construction of Bridges on Remuna-Durgadevi Road and River Budhabalanga

645. DR. KARTIKESWAR PASTRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released so far by the Union Government and the extent of work completed on the Bone bridge on Remuna-Durgadevi Road and the bridge over river Budhabalanga near Balighat in Bala-sore district of Orissa; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken to complete the same in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The bridges in question fall on a State road and not a National Highway. The Government of Orissa is, therefore, responsible for construction of these bridges.

Delimitation of Constituencies

646. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies;

(b) whether there is any proposal for fresh delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof and when it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI

RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM): (a) In accordance with the provisions contained in articles 81, 82 and 330 of the Constitution of India, the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies is to be done in such manner as Parliament may by law determine.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30th May, 1990 seeks to provide for fresh delimitation on the basis of 1981 census without affecting the total number of seats allotted to various States on the basis of 1971 census. No time limit for such delimitation can be given, at present, as further action in the matter depends upon passing of the Bill by Parliament.

(d) Does not arise.

Customs Duty on Sugar of Milk used in Homoeopathic Medicines

647. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar of milk is used in homoeopathic medicines;

(b) the quantity of sugar of milk imported and the rate of customs duty levied thereon at various ports during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether any concession in customs duty has been granted to importers of Homoeopathic medicines for import of sugar of milk during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) In Homoeopathy 'sugar of milk' is used as vehicle for the manufacturing and dispensing of homoeopathic medicines.

(b) to (d) Rate of customs duty levied on 'sugar of milk' during the last two years and concessional rate of duty leviable thereon are specified in the attached statement.

The information regarding quantity of 'sugar of milk' imported during the last two years is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTS

<i>Sl. Period No.</i>	<i>General Rate of duty (Basic + Auxiliary + Additional)</i>	<i>Concessional Rate of duty (Basic + Auxiliary + Additional)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. 1st March, 89 To 19th March, 90	135.75% <i>ad valorem</i>	..	..
2. 20th March, 90 To 14th December, 90	131.5% <i>ad valorem</i>	60% <i>ad valorem</i>	The concessional rate of duty was applicable to lactose of a kind used in homoeopathic medicines commonly known as 'sugar of milk'. (Vide Notfn. No. 28/90-Cus. dt. 20-3-90).
3. 15th December, 90 To 24th July, 91	137.29% <i>ad valorem</i>	65% <i>ad valorem</i>	-do-
4. 25th July, 91 onwards	138.83% <i>ad valorem</i>	65% <i>ad valorem</i>	The concessional rate of duty is applicable in respect of lactose conforming to Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India specification imported for the manufacture of homeopathic medicines subject to the conditions prescribed in the notification. (Vide Notfn. No. 50/91-Cus. dt. 25-7-1991).

Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

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

(a) the import policy for homoeopathic medicines;

(b) whether the Government have received representations for ban on import of homoeopathic medicines in

view of indigenous manufacturing capacity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Import of "Homoeopathic medicines in finished form or Homoeopathic drugs (single) in basic form and/or

of any potency" is being allowed by all persons for actual use/stock and sale.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Farbisganj
Bye-Pass**

649. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for linking the Muzaffarpur-Dharbhanga-Farbisganj bye-pass of the National Highway;

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the present position of the construction of bridges on Kamala, Bhuthi, Balan and Kosi rivers for the bye-pass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members are having in mind the development of Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga-Farbisganj Road in Bihar as a National Highway. A decision on this issue would be taken only after the finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) The proposed bridges in question presently lie on State Road network. As such, their construction falls within the purview of the State Government.

[English]

Widening of National Highway No. 6

650. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the development/widening of the Howrah-Kharagpur section of the National Highway No. 6?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Development of National Highways is a continuous process and improvement works are taken up keeping in view the existing conditions of the National Highways, traffic intensity, inter-se priority on All India basis and availability of funds. Seven works amounting to Rs. 762.45 lakhs had been sanctioned for strengthening of the Howrah-Kharagpur section of National Highway No. 6 during the last three years.

Strengthening works of certain stretches between km. 34 to 37 and 99 to 106 as also work of survey and investigation for 4-laning between km. 17.4 to 80 of Howrah-Kharagpur section of National Highway No. 6 are proposed to be sanctioned during 1991-92.

[Translation]

**Performance of Branches of State
Bank of Indore**

651. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of State-Bank of Indore functioning in the country, State-wise as on June, 30, 1991;

(b) the number of branches of the above bank which suffered losses and which earned profits during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to save those branches which are running in loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALDIR SINGH): (a) State-wise number of branches of State Bank of Indore functioning in the

country as on 30-6-91 are indicated below:—

<i>Name of State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>No. o branches</i>
Rajasthan	3
Delhi	6
West Bengal	3
Madhya Pradesh	289
Uttar Pradesh	7
Gujarat	7
Maharashtra	11
Andhra Pradesh	1
Karnataka	1
Tamil Nadu	2
Total :	330*

*One branch opened in May, 1991

(b) Number of branches of State Bank of Indore which suffered losses and earned profit during the last three years are indicated below:—

<i>Year ending</i>	<i>Loss making branches</i>	<i>Profit making branches</i>
March, 1989	46	274
March, 1990	61	268
March, 1991	48	281

(c) Steps taken to save loss making branches are as under:—

1. The performance of all loss making branches is reviewed and monitored closely at the apex level.
2. Increase in miscellaneous business to boost earnings.
3. Conducting regular income leakage audit of branches to plug income leakages.

4. Adoption of aggressive market strategies and increased training inputs for improving operational efficiency and the quality of services rendered.

5. Containing of over-heads and controllable expenditure through optimum utilisation of available resources and adoption of various austerity measures.

6. Reducing non-performing assets through improved recoveries viz. compromises, out of court settlements, rephasing re-scheduling etc.

[English]

Roads under BRTF in Assam

652. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of roads under Border Road Task Force (BRTF) in the two hill districts of Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hill districts in Assam;

(b) the names of the roads; and

(c) the amount spent on maintenance of those roads during 1989-90 and 1990-91, road-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SARAD PAWAR): (a) Only 113 Km of a road which falls partly in the North Cachar hill district and partly in the Cachar district is with the Border Roads Organisation.

(b) and (c) Udarband-Jatinga-Mahur road.

	1989-90	1990-91
	(Rs. in lakhs)	
Udharband-Jatinga	5.54 (April- Sept. 89)	Nil
Jatinga-Mahur	3.36	3.36

The upgradation to National Highway specification of the Udharband-Jatinga sector is being funded by the North-East Council from 1-10-1989. Consequently, no separate maintenance funds are allotted by the NEC for this sector.

[Translation]

Civic Amenities at Heera Mills of NTC in Ujjain

653. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for providing civic amenities in the workers complex of Heera Mills under National Textiles Corporation situated at Ujjain (M.P.) and the provision made for the repair of dilapidated houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): As per the agreement of National Textiles Corporation with the Ujjain Municipal Corporation, the cleanliness of the quarters/factory at Hira Mills, Ujjain has been entrusted to the Municipal Corporation, on monthly payment basis. Other civic amenities provided are as under:—

- (i) electricity at the mills quarters provided by the mills on chargeable basis.
- (ii) street lights at the Mill's expenses.
- (iii) water supply pipeline laid by the mills for supply of water.
- (iv) repairs and white-washing of mill quarters carried out by the mills.
- (v) separate recreation clubs in the chawl in the mills campus provided by the mills.
- (vi) community latrines provided in the mills campus whose maintenance/services charges paid by the mills to the Municipal Corporation.

- (vii) contribution was made to Ujjain Municipal Corporation of around Rs. 2 lakhs for other consequential expenses on roads and drainage work in Hira Mills chawl in 1990.

Necessary repairs of houses are undertaken by the Mill Management as and when required.

[English]

Arrears of Central Excise Duty

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

(a) the total arrears of Central Excise Duty as on March 31, 1989, March 31, 1990 and March 31, 1991;

(b) the names of major defaulters with arrears of more than Rs. 1 crore as on these dates with amount due;

(c) the total arrears of the major defaulters;

(d) whether any interest is payable on the arrears; and

(e) the steps taken to collect the arrears, including denial of expansion licences and quotas for raw materials in short supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Rs. 847 crores, Rs. 973 crores and Rs. 1226 crores respectively.

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

(d) No, Sir. The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 does not provide for charging interest. The arrears have to be cleared immediately unless otherwise stayed by the competent authority. However, by executive instructions, in deserving cases on the request of the party, instalments facility is allowed provided the said party is prepared to pay interest at the rate

of 17.5% per annum, compounded at the end of each month.

(e) As the realisation of arrears of revenue is an on going process, such measures, administrative, legal and others, as are considered necessary from time to time continue to be taken. In case of deliberate and persistent tax default of huge amounts less preferential treatment in the matters concerning approval of applications for capital issues, bonus shares, loans from banks/public financial institutions, expansion licencing etc., is given:

[*Translation*]

Provision of raw material for weavers in Bihar

655. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of State for TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide raw material, finance and proper market facilities to improve the lot of weavers in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government also propose to make arrangements for the export of their goods;

(c) if so, when and how; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government of India has formulated a number of schemes in consultation with the State Governments for provision of raw material, finance and for providing marketing assistance to handloom weavers throughout the country. These schemes are implemented by State Governments and are not area/district specified. Following facilities are provided with a view to improving the lot of weavers, including, those in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur Districts of Bihar:

Provision of Raw Material.—Hank Yarn obligation scheme ensu-

res adequate provision of hank yarn for the handloom weavers. For augmenting yarn production, assistance is given for setting up of new spindles, expansion of the existing capacities by way of share capital participation in weavers cooperative spinning mills. National Handloom Development Corporation was set up with a view to augment yarn supply and supply of dyes and chemicals to the handloom weavers.

Provision of Finance.—A scheme is in operation for providing working capital finance to primary/apex cooperative societies through cooperative banks. Individual weavers in the fold of State level handloom corporations are assisted by the Corporations which get working capital finance from nationalised banks and the other banks.

Marketing Assistance.—A comprehensive Market Development Assistance scheme is being implemented by the Central Government as a replacement of the earlier rebate scheme. Under this scheme, state level apex cooperative societies and corporations are eligible for assistance at the rate of 8% of their turnover or the amount equal to rebate drawn by them in the year 1988-89. This scheme gives greater flexibility to State organisations to deploy the funds for improving the marketing of handloom products.

(b) to (d) *Export of Handloom Products.*—Government has set up Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd., which tries to promote export of handloom products from all over the country. However, export is largely in private hands and is done through private negotiations. There also exists a Handloom Export Promotion Council which strives to promote handloom exports from India.

Recovery of Loans

656. **SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of recovery in respect of bank loan schemes like Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme, Integrated Rural Development Programme and other loans given for agricultural purposes during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to take the bank documents out of the purview of the law of limitation to simplify the recovery procedure;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The percentage of recovery of direct agricultural advances of public sector banks for the years 1988, 1989 and 1990 was 56.8, 57.3 and 46.8 respectively. The percentage of recovery of IRDP loans advanced by public sector banks for the years 1988, 1989 and 1990 was 40.8, 39.1 and 30.8 respectively. So far as Self Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Schemes (SEEUY) is concerned, Ministry of Industry has reported that scheme was got evaluated by the office of the Development Commissioner through independent reputed institutions. The evaluation studies have so far been carried out in 16 States/ Union Territories covering a total of 21054 beneficiaries; of these 6412 loanees (41.17%) were found to be in default in repayment of loans to banks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Postponement of Election in Punjab

657. **SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:**
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

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

(a) the date upto which the Government and the Election Commission held that elections in Punjab would be held on June 22, 1991, as per schedule;

(b) the date on which the Commission announced that the election were being postponed as the Commission felt that 'free and fair' elections were not possible on June 22, as per "the information available to him";

(c) by whom such information was supplied to the Election Commission in the above interim period; and

(d) the estimated expenditure incurred by the Government and persons and parties fighting for the June 22 elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Election Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Sections 30 and 153 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, and all powers enabling it in this behalf, postponed the date of poll for Parliamentary constituencies in the State of Punjab from 22 June, 1991 to 25 September, 1991 vide its notification dated 20th June, 1991. Until the 20th,

these elections were due to be held on 22 June, 1991.

(c) The Election schedule was being constantly monitored by the Election Commission on the basis of information received from various sources including the State Government, the Central Govt., the political parties, public men and the observers appointed by the Election Commission. The decision of the Commission to postpone elections was based not on any specific information received by it at a particular point of time, but on an assessment of all relevant factors and the totality of the situation then prevalent.

(d) The estimated expenditure incurred by the State Government was approximately Rs. 3.46 crores. The figures of expenditure incurred by the persons and parties fighting for June 22, 1991 elections are not available.

Border Trade with China

658. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to resume border trade with China; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) India and China have agreed, in principle, to resume border trade. The two sides have exchanged draft agreements in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Participation of Private sector in Transport System of Delhi

659. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage participation of the

private sector to bring about improvement in the transport system of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to improve the transport system in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government welcome the active participation of the private sector to bring an improvement in the transport system of Delhi. The Government have already recommended to the Delhi Administration to introduce a scheme of special stage carriage permits at a fare structure higher than that of DTC.

(d) The Delhi Administration had engaged M/s RITES to take up a techno-economic feasibility study for the introduction of Mass Rapid Transport System for Delhi. The report was submitted to the Delhi Administration. The Government of India, in consultation with the Delhi Administration, have constituted a Steering Committee to take preparatory action.

The Delhi Administration have also been advised to grant additional stage carriage permits to private operators.

[*English*]

Corrosion of Imported Materials at Mazagaon Docks Limited

660. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sub material rusting" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 17, 1991;

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

(c) the reasons for not utilising the material for construction of sub-marines and how the Government propose to consume the material;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the same; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the concerned persons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The total value of submarine material imported from West Germany so far is valued at Rs. 138.00 crores. Of this, material valued at Rs. 134.88 crores (97.3%) has already been used in the construction of the two submarines. The balance 2.7% will be utilised as under:—

Material valued at — within one year for the remaining construction work
Rs. 3.12 crores

Material valued at — During future refits/repairs.
Rs. 60 lakhs

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of replies to parts (b) and (c) above.

Curbs on Imports

661. **SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHDURY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift curbs on imports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India in the recent past had introduced certain restrictions on import finance. Lifting of curbs will depend on the 'Balance of Payment' position.

[Translation]

Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen

662. **PROF. PREM DHUMAL:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of ex-servicemen who have been resettled after their retirement during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether they are being resettled as per the prescribed percentage provided for ex-servicemen; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Placement of ex-Servicemen, in civil jobs including the private sector, is as follows:—

Year	No. of retires	No. desires of employment assistance	No. provided employment	No. % w.r.t. Col. (3)
1988	55,295	35,882	21,872	60.96%
1989	62,274	37,849	18,853	49.81%
1990	53,979	31,868	15,909	49.92%

(b) and (c) Ex-Servicemen cannot be resettled as per the prescribed reservations for various reasons, inter-alia:

- (i) Reluctance of ex-Servicemen to take up civil employment far from their homes.
- (ii) A large percentage of ex-Servicemen are unable to satisfy the various prescribed criteria/qualifications of the civil jobs reserved for them.
- (iii) A limited number of ex-Servicemen are available for absorption against the reserved vacancies in scientific and industrial appointments.
- (iv) The reluctance of ex-Servicemen to join Central Police Organisations and Para Military Forces which have a substantial number of vacancies reserved for them.

[English]

Appointment of SCs/STs Judges in High Courts

663. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the vacancies of Judges in the different High Courts under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes reservation category. Court-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons.

Irregularities in Punjab and Sind Bank

664. SHRI UDAY SINGH RAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Punjab & Sind Bank Ki Sadar Shakha Mein Ek Karod Se Jyada Ka Golmal" appearing in Jansatta dated July 3, 1991;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) advised the Branch Manager, Sadar Branch of Punjab & Sind Bank on 15-5-91 not to make payment of 40 Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) since they were suspected to be in bogus names. However, the Branch Manager released these 40 FDRs aggregating to Rs. 1.02 crores (including interest) on 15th May, 1991 itself. The proceeds were credited by way of Manager's cheques, to the respective Savings Bank Accounts, which were hurriedly opened on 15-5-1991, without complying with the formalities connected with opening of new accounts. The amounts were withdrawn from these S/B accounts on the 16th May, 1991.

(c) Yes, Sir. The branch manager has been suspended and the matter has been taken up by Central Bureau of Investigation.

(d) does not arise.

Export of Basmati Rice

665. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Mi-

nister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the Basmati Rice Exported during the last three years, country-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there is scope for increasing export of basmati and few other superfine varieties of rice; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):
(a) A statement of export of basmati rice for the last three years (Year-wise and country-wise) is attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government assists export of basmati rice by sponsoring delegations to the major overseas markets, helping exporters to participate in the trade fairs and by providing infra-structural support. The recent exchange rate adjustments and enlarged REP (Exim Scrip) scheme would have a favourable impact on basmati rice exports.

STATEMENT

Countrywise and Yearwise Exports of Basmati Rice

Qty. M. Tonne
Value: Rs. Lakh

<i>Country</i>	<i>1988-89</i>		<i>1989-90</i>		<i>1990-91</i>	
	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Value</i>
TOTAL	349687	33353	396895	41206	241876	28813
MIDDLE EAST	183954	19145	253451	28359	192361	22883
Bahrain	5825	637	9900	1487	8394	1166
Kuwait	33890	3706	46852	5403	9739	1135
Oman	17925	1665	12961	1347	2481	298
Qatar	1081	118	625	79	1168	152
Saudi Arabia	108521	10765	159739	17327	154080	17907
U.A.E.	16712	2254	23374	2716	16448	2217
Yamen Pdr	..	..	..	..	51	8
WESTERN EUROPE	24328	2879	21095	2305	25578	3025
Belgium	21	3	442	59	63	9
France	500	61	1070	122	1008	121
Germany FR	137	21	250	36	620	78
Netherlands	596	97	3392	408	6695	830
Norway	56	8	145	20	142	22
U. K.	23018	2689	15796	1660	16649	1912
Denmark	..	..	..	..	43	7
Greece	..	..	..	..	63	7

Country	1988-89		1989-90		1990-91	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Italy	..	..	..	..	232	31
Sweden	..	..	..	..	63	8
North America	10169	1240	6877	1095	5336	885
U.S.A.	9395	1127	6464	1036	4323	723
Canada	774	113	413	59	1013	162
ESCAP	183	24	42	5	83	12
Hong Kong	53	9	..	..	..	..
Singapore	90	9	21	2	..	..
Sri Lanka	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malasia	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	38	6	21	3	62	8
Thailand	..	..	..	..	21	4
EASTERN EUROPE	130746	10032	109982	8687	575	69
U.S.S.R.	130746	10032	109982	8687	575	69
AFRICA	277	28	21	2	..	..
Seychelles	73	7	..	..	..	..
Mauritius	..	..	21	2	..	..
Djibouti	204	21	..	..	..	..
OTHERS	30	5	5427*	767	17943**	1939**

Source: Daily list of exporters of the Custom Houses & Kandla, Jamnagar Port Trust. Based on Kandla Port Trust.

* Exports through Bombay & Cochin Ports for which countrywise figures are not available.

** Includes 17500 tonnes & valued at 19 crores of export from Kandla Port for which countrywise detail are not available.

Expansion of Public Transport

666. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise expansion of public transport in the public and Private Sectors to meet the requirements of different classes of travelling public, curb the use of private vehicles by

individuals and effect savings in the use of petrol and diesel; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have recommended to the Delhi Administration to introduce a scheme of special stage carriage permits at a fare structure higher than that of Delhi Transport Corporation, with

more comforts, to wean away passengers who presently use personalised vehicles, to public transport. The State Governments have also been asked to take action on similar lines to make public transport more attractive and to effect savings in the use of petrol and diesel.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Audit of Nationalised Banks and Financial Institutions by Comptroller and Auditor General of India

667. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand for entrusting the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with the audit of nationalised banks and other financial institutions such as Life Insurance Corporation, General Insurance Corporation etc; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Demands have been made from time to time for entrusting the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with the audit of nationalised banks and other financial institutions.

(b) The audit of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) which is a Government Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 is within the purview of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG). The accounts of the nationalised banks and the Life Insurance Corporation of India are audited by the statutory auditors who are qualified to act as auditors of a company under the Companies Act, 1956 and are appointed by them with the prior approval/consultation of the Government in accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing them.

The question of bringing the audit of nationalised banks and the Life Insurance Corporation of India within the purview of C&AG has been examined in the recent past. It was found that the existing system of audit and internal inspections/control in public sector banks, including nationalised banks and public financial institutions like Life Insurance Corporation of India, is working smoothly. Further, in view of the nature of commercial operations of these institutions there is need to ensure a proper mix of autonomy and accountability. Therefore, the Government do not consider it necessary to entrust the audit of these organisations to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

Implementation of Service Area Approach Programme by Public Sector Banks

668. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by Public Sector Banks so far in the implementation of Service Area Approach Programme;

(b) whether the Regional Rural Banks can implement the above programme in a better way;

(c) whether there is any proposal for expansion of Regional Rural Banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Service Area Approach to rural lending launched by Reserve Bank of India became operational with effect from 1st April, 1989. The public sector banks have been preparing credit plans under this new dispensation for the last 3 years i.e. 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92. The data available so far indicates that the performance

of public sector banks since the introduction of Service Area Approach has been satisfactory. The data for 1989-90, 1990-91 is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)
(Provisional)

<i>Public Sector Banks</i>	<i>Target for 1989-90</i>	<i>Achievements for 1989-90</i>	<i>Target for 1990-91</i>
1. Agriculture & Allied activities .	4316	3838	5025
2. Small Scale Industries .	1603	1596	1558
3. Other priority sectors .	1616	1425	1641
Total .	7535	6859	8224

(b) Service Area allocations are made to all commercial banks i.e. public sector banks, private sector banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). Keeping in view the resource position of RRBs and their nature of lendings, the responsibility to cater to the credit needs of non-target group of borrowers in the service area of RRBs has been entrusted to designated branches of commercial banks which are by and large sponsor bank branches. In case of financially weak RRBs, the responsibility of catering to the credit needs of even the target group is that of the designated branches of commercial banks.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export Processing Zone in Tamil Nadu

669. SHRI C. K. KUPPU-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Tiruppur, in Tamil Nadu as an Export Processing Zone for hosiery garments;

(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)

to (c) There is no proposal at present to set up Tiruppur as an Export Processing Zone as most of the existing Zones are yet to be fully utilized.

Fire in Sena Bhavan

670. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in Army Headquarters, 'Sena Bhavan' in the last week of June, 1991.

(b) if so, the number of secret and other important documents damaged due to the fire;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No classified or important documents were destroyed/damaged in the fire.

(c) and (d) A Court of Inquiry has been set up to investigate causes of fire, to determine the extent of damage and to recommend remedial measures. Responsibility for the fire will be fixed on the basis of the report of the Court of Inquiry.

[Translation]

Exchange Rate of Rupee

671. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring any further change in the rupee exchange rate in future;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the time by which package trade reforms are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to bring any further change in the rupee exchange rate.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Implementation of package of trade reforms, as announced by Commerce Minister, on 4th July, 1991, has commenced through a series of notifications dated 4th July, 1991.

[English]

R.B.I. Survey Regarding Loan Waiver Scheme

672. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sample survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India of certain branches of the nationalised banks in the country has revealed exaggerated claims regarding loan waiver scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that test checks were conducted by its Regional Offices in selected branches of the public sector commercial banks in each of the districts in the country to ensure that the eligibility criteria laid down in the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 have been followed by them. RBI has further reported that a consolidated report on the test checks is under preparation.

Diamond Export

673. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in Times of India dated 6 June, 91 stating that finished diamond worth Rs. 600 crore did not find their way either to the local market or in the exported jewellery; and

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

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

(b) The news item is reportedly based on a study of the Diamond Industry in Gujarat conducted by the State Joint Industries Commissioner. The details of the study have been sought from the Government of Gujarat.

Narcotics Smuggling

674. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of narcotics smuggling detected during the years 1990 and 1991 so far, state-wise;

(b) the number of persons apprehended in these cases and the number of foreigners out of them, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check narcotics smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) and (b) The number of cases of narcotics smuggling detected during the years 1990 and 1991 and the number of foreigners arrested, country-wise are furnished in the statement annexed.

Total number of persons arrested in these cases are as under:

1990	1991 (upto June) (Provisional)
4032	4540

(c) The Government have taken various steps such as:

- (i) enacting a new law in 1985 and further strengthening its provisions in 1989,
- (ii) creating a Central nodal enforcement agency i.e. Narcotics Control Bureau in 1986 and strengthening it in 1990,
- (iii) Improving inter-state and inter agency enforcement coordination through the N.C.B.,
- (iv) Arranging training of Customs, Police and other enforcement officers through courses organised in various training institutions,
- (v) Improving international, regional bilateral cooperation in drug enforcement by ratifying the U.N. Convention of 1988, formulating the SAARC Convention of 1990 and signing bilateral agreements with several friendly foreign countries such as U.S.A., Mauritius and Afghanistan.

Number of Cases of Narcotics smuggling detected during the year 1990 and 1991 State-wise

<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Number of cases detected</i>	
	1990	1991 (As on 17-7-91) (Provisional)
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	42	10
2. Andaman and Nicobar Island . . . . .	..	..
3. Arunachal Pradesh	4	..
4. Assam	32	180
5. Bihar	647	330
6. Chandigarh	9	..
7. Dadra & Nagar Haveli . . . . .	..	..
8. Daman & Diu . . . . .	..	..
9. Goa	33	12
10. Delhi	383	526

1	2	3
11. Gujarat	24	11
12. Haryana	144	129
13. Himachal Pradesh	65	6
14. Jammu & Kashmir	13	11
15. Karnataka	3	2
16. Kerala	71	27
17. Lakshadweep . . . . .	..	..
18. Madhya Pradesh	49	19
19. Maharashtra	319	676
20. Manipur	45	129
21. Meghalaya	18	..
22. Mizoram	29	69
23. Nagaland	52	74
24. Orissa	4	1
25. Pondicherry . . . . .	..	..
26. Punjab	45	32
27. Rajasthan	93	39
28. Sikkim . . . . .	..	..
29. Tamil Nadu	953	1257
30. Tripura	5	..
31. Uttar Pradesh	566	1088
32. West Bengal	250	18
Total	3898	4646

Number of Foreign Nationals arrested in India in 1990 and in 1991 (up to June)

Nationality	Arrested in	
	1990	1991 (up to June)
1	2	3
Nigerian	104	20
Srilankan	13	13
Burmese	13	3
British	9	2

1	2	3
Pakistani	9	4
Afgan	5	2
German	5	3
South African	7	..
Zambian	4	..
Tanzanian	2	..
Senegalize	3	..
Ghanian	3	..
Kenyan	2	..
Bangladeshi	4	2
Spanish	2	1
Argentine	1	..
Italian	3	..
Swiss	2	1
Austrian	1	2
French	4	3
Canadian	2	..
Dutch	1	..
Nepalese	3	7
Greek . . . . .	..	2
Benin	1	..
Malian	1	..
Guinean	1	..
American	1	..
Israeli . . . . .	..	1
Togo	1	..
Thai	1	..
Ugandan	1	..
Djibutian	1	..
Gambia	3	..
Danish . . . . .	..	1
Zairean	1	1
Under Verification	20	2
Total	234	69

Tellicherry—Chithradurga National Highway

675. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary work of Tellicherry—Chithradurga National Highway has been completed; and

(b) if so, the time by which this National Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Tellicherry—Chithradurga road is on State Highway network and is not a part of the National Highway system. The Governments of Kerala and Karnataka are responsible for its development.

NRI Problems Regarding Direct Investment

676. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of non-resident Indians has recently submitted a memorandum in connection with various problems relating to direct investment in India;

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

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) to (c) Government receives from time to time various memoranda/suggestions from NRIs/NRI organisations to simplify procedure, review policies and to provide better incentives to create a more favourable climate for NRI investments. These suggestions are duly examined and implemented to the extent they fit in the

overall objective of development and increasing foreign exchange inflows. Constant effort is also made to streamline the procedure and remove bottlenecks and irritants for prospective NRI investors.

Introduction of New Tank, Air-craft, and Missiles

677. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main battle tank 'ARJUN', Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and different missiles are ready for introduction in the Defence Forces;

(b) if so, when these are likely to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in their production and the likely increase in the cost as a result thereof;

(d) whether any decision has been taken for procurement/construction of the new aircraft carrier for the Navy; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Main battle tank 'ARJUN', Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and different missiles are at various stages of development/evaluation.

(b) Main battle tank 'ARJUN' is expected to be introduced into service after completion of trials by Army in 1992. Delivery of LCA to Air Force is likely to commence during first half of the next decade. The surface-to-Surface missile PRITHVI and Surface-to air missile TRISHUL are likely to be introduced in Army in 1992. Third generation anti-tank missile NAG and medium range Surface-to-air missile AKASH are expected to be delivered to Services in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

(c) The reasons for delay and increase in cost of main battle tank 'ARJUN' are:

- (i) Changes in Qualitative Requirements by the Army.
- (ii) Requirements of additional prototypes for trials.
- (iii) Requirement of pre-production series tanks.
- (iv) More realistic assessment of technical and user trials. The revised cost of main battle tank ARJUN project is Rs. 280.8 crores as compared to original estimate of Rs. 15.5 crores.

The development of LCA has been delayed mainly in obtaining critical technologies from abroad, non-availability of inadequate infrastructure and the level of indigenously available technologies. Cost of LCA project at 1982-83 price level was Rs. 560 crores. The estimated cost of the project upto first phase of Full Scale Engineering Development for two LCA technology demonstrator aircraft is Rs. 1670 crores. The Missile programme in progress is more or less on schedule; however, the project cost has been revised from Rs. 388.83 crores to Rs. 784.06 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

National Highways in Gujarat

678. SHRI CHHITUBHAI
GAMIT:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the target in Kilometres fixed for constructing National Highways in

Gujarat under Road Development Plan during the period from 1961 to 1981;

(b) the extent to which the target has been achieved so far;

(c) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat to declare new National Highways in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the roads which will be declared National Highways in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The 20 year Road Development Plan for 1961-81 recommended a target of 51,500 Kms for National Highways by 1981 for the entire country, but no State-wise break up was given. The targets indicated in this Plan were merely of recommendatory nature, whereas additions to the National Highway network depend mainly on the Plan Outlays. At present, the total length of National Highways stands at 33,689 Kms including those declared as National Highways since 1961. Further additions to the National Highway network would depend upon Plan allocations for the purpose from time to time.

(d) to (f) The Government of Gujarat has forwarded 7 proposals for new National Highways as per the attached Statement. The question of declaration of new National Highways would be considered only after the 8th Plan is finalised.

STATEMENT

	<i>Length in Kms.</i>
1. Extension of Calcutta—Nagpur—Dhule NH No. 6 to Dhule—Surat—Hajira linking NH No. 8 in Gujarat	160
2. Gandhinagar—Ahmedabad—Godhra—Dahod—Indore—Bhopal	250
3. Malia—Jamnagar—Okha—Porbandhar—Veraval—Diu—Bhavnagar—Karjan linking NH No. 8 near Vadodara	900
4. Rajkot—Jamnagar—Vadinar Road	150
5. Extension of NH No. 8 A from Kandla to Manavi—Maliya—Narayan Sarovar	206
6. Vadodara—Sinor—Natrang—Vyara—Ahwa—Sputara—Nasik Road linking NH No. 8 with NH No. 3.	245
7. Link road from Patanpur on NH 14 to Gandhinagar—Ahmedabad NH 8.	150
TOTAL	2061 Kms.

Widening of Delhi-Calcutta National Highway

[*English*]

679. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the Delhi-Calcutta National Highway into four lanes upto Agra; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above National Highway would be widened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of the 200 kms length of National Highway No. 2 from Delhi to Agra, the stretch from Delhi to Ballabgarh (42 kms) is already 4-lane, as also another 10 kms in various reaches. Four-laning from Ballabgarh to Mathura (96 kms) has also been sanctioned. Widening of the National Highway from Mathura to Agra (52 kms) is included in the Annual Programme 1991-92.

Disbursement of External Assistance to States

680. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various projects, proposals received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for consideration of external assistance during the last three years till date;

(b) the amount of external assistance sought and the amount proposed to be extended, State-wise and project-wise and the details of the institutions/countries from which assistance has been sought;

(c) the details of the projects, proposal approved by the Union Government for external assistance, State-wise;

(d) the details of such proposals pending approval with the Union Government;

(e) the reasons for delay in approving the same; and

(f) the external assistance disbursed to these States during the above period, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) to (c) Details of projects which had been received with due clearances and tied-up for external assistance during the last three years in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are provided in the Statement attached.

(d) and (e) Project proposals from State Governments for external assistance are mostly sent to the line Ministries. This is a continuing process and various mandatory clearances from the Planning Commission, and administrative Ministries are required to be taken before finalisation. Hence, at any point of time, exact details of such projects are difficult to quantify or enumerate. Further the extent and timing of commitment depends on the status of lending programme of the donors.

(f) Amount of assistance released State-wise during the last three years in respect of all on-going externally aided projects is as follows:

(Rupees Crores)

State	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
ANDHRA PRADESH	35.78	38.09	68.05	67.36
KARNATAKA	31.03	44.80	67.91	34.31
RAJASTHAN	28.13	9.35	12.44	5.84
UTTAR PRADESH	76.55	239.79	292.69	126.51

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Donor agency	Amount of assistance in donor currency million
1	2	3	4

I. ANDHRA PRADESH

1.	A.P. Cyclone Emergency Reconstruction	IDA/IBRD	US \$ 210.00
2.	Royalaseema Thermal Power	A.D.B.	US \$ 230.00
3.	A.P. Primary School Building.	U.K.	£ 0.630
4.	A.P. School Building Phase-II	U.K.	£ 27.90
5.	Hyderabad Habitat Phase-III	U.K.	£ 14.94
6.	Vijayawada Slum Improvement.	U.K.	£ 16.25
7.	A.P. Tribal Development	IFAD	US \$ 20.00

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the project</i>	<i>Donor agency</i>	<i>Amount of assistance in donor currency mill on</i>	
1	2	3	4	
8.	Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation	IBRD/IDA	US \$	89.90
9.	Drinking Water Supply	Netherlands	Rs.	138.92 crores.
10.	AP Rural Water Supply	„	Rs.	153.00 million.
11.	AP Rural Water Supply	„	Rs.	12.76 „
12.	Rural Water Supply	„	Rs.	84.00 crores.
13.	Training of Women in agriculture.	„	Rs.	5.62 „
14.	Drinking Water Supply (Anandapur)	„	Rs.	21.50 „
15.	AP Tubewell Project	„	Rs.	50.00 „
16.	Surface Waterlift irrigation schemes.	„	Rs.	118.93 „

II. KARNATAKA

1.	Karnataka Power	IBRD	US \$	260.00
2.	Upper Krishna Phase II Irrigation.	IDA/IBRD	US \$	320.24
3.	Integrated Rural Water and Sanitation.	Denmark	DKR	50.00
4.	Grant for Increasing Food production.	Japan	JY	600.00
5.	Raichur Thermal Power Station Expansion.	Japan	JY	23142.00
6.	Mysore Paper Mill Modernisation and Renewal.	Japan	JY	2381.00
7.	Rural Small & micro enterprises Dev	Netherland	Rs.	8.432 crores
8.	Development Upgradation of slums in Bangalore.	„	Rs.	41.60 „ (approx)
9.	Rural Water Supply	„	DFL	15.00 million grant
10.	Development of Coconut plantation.	OECF	Rs.	35.75 crores.
11.	Comprehensive Land use Management Programme (CLUMP)	„	Rs.	190.20 „
12.	Raichur Hospital Project	OPEC	\$	9.0 Million

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the project</i>	<i>Donor agency</i>	<i>Amount of assistance in donor currency million</i>	
1	2	3	4	
III. RAJASTHAN				
1.	Rajasthan Agricultural Drainage.	Canada	CAN\$	57.54
2.	Goat Development Foder Production	Switzerland	Indian Rupees.	10.20 Crs.
3.	Indira Gandhi Nahar Project	Japan	JY	84.00
4.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation-I	FRG	DM	12.30
5.	Afforestation and Pasture development in Indira Gandhi Canal area.	OECE	Rs.	80.00
6.	Agricultural Drainage Research	Canada	C\$	57.54
				million
7.	Rajasthan Minor Irrigation	Germany	DM	15.00
				million
IV. UTTAR PRADESH				
1.	U.P. Power	IBRD	US \$	350.00
2.	Unchahar Thermal Power Expansion	A.D.B.	US \$	160.00
3.	Kanpur Electricity Distribution	U.K.	£	9.60
4.	South Bhagirathi Phase-II	E.E.C. grant	ECU	8.40
5.	Anpara Thermal Power Station-III	Japan	JY	49801.00
6.	Integrated Watershed Management Project (Kutchgad)	Netherland	Rs.	9.00 crores.
7.	UP Sub -Project VI	„	(Dutch-guilder)	25.00 million
8.	UP Sub-project VII	„	Rs	2.54 crores.
9.	UP „ „ VIII	„	Rs	30.00 „ (appx)
10.	Surface Water storage structure in Bundelkhand region.	„	Rs	21.15 „
11.	South Bhagirath Phase -II	EEC	ECU	8.4 million
12.	Bhimta integrated Watershed Management Programme.	EEC	ECU	4.4 million
13.	Annapura Transmission Project	OECE	Rs	379.61 Crores
14.	Forest Communication Project	„	Rs	11.01 Crores

Multi-State Projects

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the project</i>	<i>Donor Agency</i>	<i>Amount (@@) of assistance in donor currency US \$ million</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	2	3	4	5
1.	National Seeds project-III	IDA	150.00	Covers eleven States including A.P., Karnataka Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
2.	VITH Population	IDA/IBRD	124.60	Three States including A.P. and U.P.
3.	Vocational Training	IDA/IBRD	280.00	National wide project and includes A.P. Karnataka Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
4.	Intergrated Child Development Services-I.	IDA/IBRD	106.00	Two States including A.P.
5.	National Sericulture	IBRD	25.07	} Andhra Pradesh Karnataka
		Switzerland	3.52	
		IBRD	37.73	
		Switzerland	5.27	
6.	Road Improvement project	A.D.B.	37.89	Andhra Pradesh
		A.D.B.	26.84	Karnataka
7.	Second Roads Project	A.D.B.	10.51	Andhra Pradesh
		A.D.B.	30.92	Uttar Pradesh
8.	Second Port Project	A.D.B.	77.90	Andhra Pradesh
9.	First Technician Education	IDA/IBRD	260.00	Covers eight State including U.P., Karnataka & Rajasthan.
10.	Second Technician project	IDA	307.1	Nine States and Union Territories including Andhra Pradesh
11.	Integrated Watershed Development (Plains)	IDA/IBRD	62.00	3 States including Rajasthan
12.	States Road project	IBRD	58.00	Rajasthan
		IBRD	85.70	Uttar Pradesh
13.	Dam Safety project	IDA/IBRD	153.00	4 States including Rajasthan

@@ Represents total assistance except in the case of items 5--8 and 11 allocation not provided in the legal documents.

Expansion of Agricultural Credit Card Scheme

681. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector banks have introduced Agricultural credit cards in selected districts in some States;

(b) if so, the criteria for issuing such cards to farmers and the districts selected for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) the names of the public sector banks which have introduced the above scheme;

(d) the number of farmers benefited through Agricultural credit cards scheme during 1990-91;

(e) whether the Government propose to expand the scheme all over the country during 1991-92; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Some of the public sector banks have introduced their Credit Cards on an experimental basis in selected districts in few States. These cards are given to farmers who have good track record to enable them to get agricultural credit without difficulty to meet their cost of production inputs. The Credit Card would provide following facilities:

(i) It will enable a card holder to secure production credit instantly.

(ii) It will dispense with procedural formalities such as making applications, furnishing land record certificates and documentation or every agricultural season.

(iii) It will also dispense with the necessity of the farmer carrying cash for purchase of production inputs.

(c) As per information available Agricultural credit card scheme has been introduced by Dena Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, New Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Vijaya Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Syndicate Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, State Bank of India, Canara Bank, United Bank of India, Allahabad Bank, Punjab National Bank, Corporation Bank, Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, State Bank of Mysore and Bank of Baroda on an experimental basis in selected areas of States.

(d) The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for.

(e) and (f) Public Sector Banks take measures on their own like introducing credit cards to farmers with a view to provide easy and timely credit to the farmers and also to augment credit flow to agriculture sector.

Special Training to SC/ST Bank Managers

682. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The total number of branch managers employed in the nationalised banks and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe branch managers among them:

(b) Whether the Government propose to provide special training to the branch managers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the projects and schemes proposed by the Government of Orissa pending clearance; and

(b) the action taken in each case so far?

Projects from Orissa Pending Clearance

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The information is given in the attached Statement.

683. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project/Scheme of the Govt. of Orissa pending clearance</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1	2	3

E & I Works

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Improvement to Jaipur (Kota)-Malkangiri-Motu-M.P. Border road including bridge over "Saberi" near Motu (MP Border) 130 K.M. | These Schemes are pending for want of finalisation of the 8th Plan. |
| 2. Improvement to road from Kareda to Khariar Road (MP Border) via Rayagada, Bhawanipatna Khariar including C.D. works 303 KM | -do- |
| 3. Improvement to Berhampur-Phulbani road S. H. 7 | -do- |
| 4. The Re-construction of old damaged W.D. Bridge over river Muhan at 50.50 Km "Mushal at 57.9 KM" Sila at 98.19 Km.* | -do- |
| 5. Improvement to Cuttack-Chandabali-Bhadrak road including bridge over Baitarani near Chandabali S.H. 9 and S.H. 9A. 150-49 Km. | -do- |
| 6. Improvement to Road from Bhadrak-Bonta-Anaadapur Thakumunda-Karanjia-Joshipur-Rairangapur-Bahalda-Tiring Bihar border Road. | -do- |
| 7. Improvement to road from Jaleswar-Batagaon-Nuguli-Chandeswar Road (Border of West Bengal) | -do- |
| 8. Construction of bridge over river Mahanadi near Sonapur on Sambalpur-Sonapur road S.H. 15. | -do- |
| 9. Improvement to Rajnagar-Hansuna-Dangamal-Telchuna road 36.5 km. | -do- |

*"Kalinjar at 109th Km", "Aradei at 136th Km.", "Aradei at 147th K.M." on Jaipur-Champua main road S.H. II.

1	2	3
10. Improvement to Palur-Prayagi-Krushnaprasad Puri Road via Chilida 55 Km.	These Schemes are pending for want of finalisation of the 8th plan	
11. Construction of bridge over Mahanadi near Boudh on Boudh-Kiakata-Rairakhol Road.		
12. Improvement to road from Dhenkanal on N.H. 12 to Jaipur road and Panikoili on N.H. 5 via Deogaon-Maadar-Bhuban-Sukinda and Chora Chhack including construction of bridge over river Brahmani Near Nilakanthapur.		-do-
New addition to NHs		
13. Gopalpur-Raipur Road via Khariar-Nawapara		-do-
14. Panikoili to Rajamunda via Keonjhar-Barbil Koira		-do-
15. Construction of H.L. Bridge over river Mahanadi near Sonepur on Sambalpur-Sonepur Road S.H. 15	These Schemes are pending as actual augmentation of Central Road Fund has not yet taken place.	
16. Replacement of Old damaged Arch Bridge over river Aradei at 147 Km of J.C. Main road S.H. 11 (147.25 to 148/0)		
17. Replacement of Old damaged bridge over Musal at 58 Km. J.C. Main Road S.H. 11.		-do-
18. Replacement of old damaged bridge at Mahana at 51 Km. on J.C. Main Road S.H. 11		-do-
19. Replacement of Godahad bridge near 26/0 Km. on Dorhampur-Phulbani Road S.H. 7		-do-
20. Replacement of old damaged bridge over "Aradei" at 136 Km. on J.C. Main Road S.H. 11		-do-
21. Replacement of wooden bridge to R.C.C. bridge over High level Canal at 1.70 km. of Rangi Haripur Road M.D.R. 17.		-do-
22. Replacement of old damaged bridge over Luno near Dalang at 13th km. of Patnaik in Delang Road MDR-79		-do-
23. Construction of H.L. Bridge over Daya at Tirumalagat near village Beguniapada at 23rd km. of Pattanaikia Delang-Khurda road MDB-79.		-do-
24. Construction of submersible bridge over river Deo near Jamghat on Thakumunda-Dangadiha-Podadiha-Manitri-Doisinga-Rupoa road M.D.R. 70		-do-
25. Replacement of Decking of Steel girder of bridge over Laxmijore at 73/2 Km. of Bargarh-Bolangir-Salntala road S.H. 2		-do-
26. Construction of Missing Link of Dhenkanal-Kamakhyanagar road M.D.R.		-do-
27. Construction of missing link road Vansadhara on Gunupur Bisham-Cuttack Road S.H. 4.		-do-

1	2	3
28. Improvement to Khurda-Nayagarh-Phulbani Border Road S.H.I. 0/0 to 32/0 Km.		These schemes are pending as actual augmentation of Central Road Fund has not yet taken place.
29. Improvement to Cuttack Chandabali road S.H. 9		-do
30. Improvement to Rajathagarh Narsinghpur road M.D.R. 18		-do-
31. Construction of bypass for Pattamundai Town and providing R.C.C. bridge over Pattamundai canal road S.B.I. on Cuttack Chandabali road S.H. 9A		-do-
32. Construction of H.L. Bridge over river 'Ong' on Bolangir-Agalpur road via Chandan Bhati Bhasuja-C.V.R.		-do-
33. Improvement to Mitrapur Bainchua road including bridge over 'Ghagara' and 'Sono' ODR.		-do-
34. Construction of Girder Bridge over river "Kuanria" at 98 km over (Dahuk) at 69th km. and over "Kasumi" at 49th km. of Khurda Nayagarh-Daspala Phulbani Border road S.H.1		-do-
35. Improvement to Khurda Nayagarh-Phulbani Border road S.H.1.		-do-
36. Research Development and development of Database		-do-
37. Training of Highway Engineers.		-do-
38. Improvement to roads inside island 42 Mouza in Cuttack Distt. and 10 other feeder roads (Rural roads)		-do-
39. Improvement to Sohela Saipali road in Sambalpur Distt. (Rural road)		-do-
40. Improvement to Phulkana Kutrabeda Road in the Distt. of Koraput (CVR)		-do-
41. Improvement to Raikia-Simanbadi road in Phulbani.		-do-
42. Construction of 3 Nos. Bridges on Raikia-Simanbadi road in Phulbani.		-do-
43. Improvement to Mangapur-Darlipali road in Sundargarh.		-do-
44. Construction of 2 Nos. of S.B. over Kurla Nallah and Pakhiraj Nallah on Mangaspur-Darlipali Road in Sundargarh.		-do-
45. Improvement to Vejidihi Sarata road in Mayurbhanj		-do-
46. Construction of S.B. over river Salandi at 2nd km. on Vejidihi Sarata road in Mayurbhanj.		-do-
47. Improvement to Tikabali Chakapad Nediguda Badangir road in Phulbani Distt.		-do-
48. Construction of bridge over Kutrasingh Nallah at 35 km. and Landikasan Nallah at 40th km. on T.C. N.B. Road in Phulbani Distt.		-do-

1	2	3
49. Improvement to Jagannath Prasad Sunamuih road in Ganjam Distt.	These schemes are pending as actual augmentation of Central Road Fund has not yet taken place.	
50. Construction of bridge over Sanshi Nallah at 11th km. on Jagannath Prasad Sunamuih road in Ganjam Distt.		
51. Improvement to Dharamgarh Ampani road in Kalahandi Distt.		-do-
52. Construction of bridge over Dharmagarh Ampani road in Kalahandi Distt.		-do-
53. Improvement to Demadarpur-Chandua road.		-do-
54. Improvement to R. Udayagiri Sambalpur Road in Ganjam district.		-do-
55. Construction of minor bridge over Mahendratanaya river at 31/0 km. on R. Udayagiri Sambalpur road in Ganjam Distt.		-do-
56. Improvement to Suliapada-Kantisahi road in Mayurbhanj district.		-do-
57. Improvement to Raruan Chagarbeda Fogu road in Mayurbhanj distt.		-do-
58. Improvement to Balinga to Kanika via Hemagiri road in Sundargarh Distt.		-do-
59. Construction of bridge over Attanguda Kantinga Padar road in Kalahandi Distt.		-do-
60. Survey & Investigation of Parallel service road on Khurdha Bypass on NH-5		-do-
61. Survey & Investigation estimate of Parallel service road on Baragarh Bypass on NH. 6		-do-
62. Survey & Investigation estimate of Parallel service road on Baripada Bypass on NH. 5		-do-
63. Survey & Investigation of Parallel service road on Bari-pada Bypass on NH. 5		-do-
64. Survey & Investigation estimate for constn. of Parallel service road to Bhadrak Bypass on NH. 5		-do-
65. Survey & Investigation estimate for constn. of Parallel service road Balasore Bypass on NH. 5		-do-
66. Improvement to Rajngar Hasina Dangamal-Talchar road (36.5 Km) including constn. of CD works.		-do-
67. Improvement to Cuttack-Chandabali road including bridge over Baitarani near Chandabali.		-do-
68. Construction of H.L. Bridge over Mahanadi near Boudh.		-do-
69. Improvement to Narsinghpur-Hindol road MDB-18		-do-
70. Coastal Highway from Gopalpur to Chandanawar & Digha.		-do-

1	2	3
71. Widening to 4 lanes from KM 411/0 to 418/0 KM of NH-5		These schemes are pending as Demands for Grants for the year 1991-92 are yet to be Passed by the Parliament.
72. Providing pre-cast RCC Box culvert (0.90 M × 0.90 M) at 267.544 KM of NH-5 in place of existing damaged HP culvert.		
73. NH-Reconstruction of deck slab of culvert No. 64/2 at 63.239 KM & culvert No. 69/1 at 68.418 KM alongwith diversion road.		-do-
74. Improvement to the pavement of NH-3 from KM 316/745 to 319/0 KM & 335/400 to 354/700 KM.		-do-
75. Improvement to the pavement of NH-43 from KM 377/2-4 to 392/0 KM & 437/175 to 437/475 KM.		-do-
76. Improvement to NH-5 from KM 22.80 to 24.60 & 27.80 to 29.80		-do-
77. Construction of M.B. at KM 354/4-6 on NH-43 to replace culvert No. 55.		-do-
78. Improvement to NH-43 such as providing protection work against Valley slip at 467/513 & 459/183 KM.		-do-
79. Construction of culvert at 67/220 KM of NH-42 including raising the road formation within 67/130 KM to 67/265 KM.		-do-
80. Reconstruction of 6 Nos. of weak and narrow culverts Nos. 438/1, 445/3, 445/4, 446/3, 446/4 and 447/2 from KM 437/0 to 449/0 NH-43.		-do-
81. Stg. KM 245/0 L. 250/NH-5		-do-
82. Stg. 80/0 88/0 NH-5		-do-
83. W/Stg. to 2 lane KM 245/0 to 249/0 & 263/0 to 265/0 NH-6		-do-
84. W/Stg. to 2 lane KM 322/0 to 346 NH-6		-do-
85. W/Stg. KM 381/0 to 401/0 NH-6		-do-
86. Riding surface KM 0/0-26/0 NH-5		-do-
87. Stg. KM 401/0 to 408/0 NH-6		-do-
88. WID to 4 lanes KM 411-418 NH-5		-do-
89. Stg. KM 558.6 to 563.6 NH-6		-do-

1

2

3

90. Stg. KM 23-27 & 45 to 50 NH-6
 91. W/Stg. KM 437/0 449/0 NH-43
 92. Missing link KM 46110 to 54580 NH-23
 93. Missing Link KM 29810 to 37500 NH-23
 94. L. Grade Imp to KM 252-262 NH-23
 95. Widening to 4-Lane KM 0.0 to 23.0 NH-5

These schemes are pending as Demands for Grants for the year 1991-92 are yet to be passed by the Parliament.

-do-

This project is pending for want of clearance from the ERC.

Financing of Ajanta and Ellora Projects by Japan

684. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Government has agreed to finance the Ajanta and Ellora Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Tourist Development Plan of Ajanta and Ellora Region at a total cost of Rs. 195 crores is one of the projects posed for assistance from OECF of Japan in the 1991-92 loan package.

(c) A final decision is expected during the financial year 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

Devaluation of Rupee

685. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the rupee was devalued in the past; and

(b) the amount of loan taken from the Internal Monetary Fund date-wise and the value of rupee in India as well as in the international market against Dollar and Pound Sterling at that time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House later.

[*English*]

Irregularities in Tickets and way Bills in Punjab Roadways

686. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flying squad and Punjab Roadways, Nangal Depot unearthed irregularities in tickets and way bills during the last quarter of 1990;

(b) whether a police case was filed in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of such irregularities unearthed in Punjab Roadways during the last one year; and

(e) the amount involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Construction of National Highways and Bridges in Bihar

687. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways and bridges in Bihar recommended by the National Traffic Development Council for inclusion in the Eighth Five Year Plan by the Union Government;

(b) the areas in which these are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to get the construction work of these National Highways and bridges started during the first half of the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of any organisation known as the "National Traffic Development Council" or the recommendations made by it. Even otherwise the 8th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised and as such it is too early to indicate the works on various National Highways to be taken up during the 8th Plan in the country as a whole including Bihar, as well as any new National Highways to be added to the existing grid.

[English]

SC/ST and Minority Communities Judges in Supreme Court

688. SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL: Will the Minister of LAW,

JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Judges in Supreme Court at present;

(b) the number of Judges belonging to SC/ST, OBCs, minority communities and women Judges out of them;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide adequate representation to the above categories, while filling up the vacant posts; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) to (d) Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As on 22-7-91, against the actual strength of 25 Judges, there were 2 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes, none belonging to Scheduled Tribe and 1 woman Judge in the Supreme Court of India. The information regarding Judges belonging to Other Backward Classes and minority communities is not available at present and will be placed on the table as soon as the same is available.

Punctual Running of DTC Buses

689. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms for punctual running of the Delhi Transport Corporation buses in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any surprise checks are made to ensure punctual running of DTC buses;

(d) if so, the details of such checks made during 1990 and 1991 (upto 30 June):

(e) if not, the reasons therefor:

(f) whether the Government propose to involve ticket-checking staff to ensure punctual running of DTC buses in Delhi; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The timings of all the DTC routes have been specified. These timings are being regulated through Time Keepers and the supervisory field staff of the DTC.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of surprise checks made to ensure punctual running of DTC buses are as under:—

<i>Number of trips checked during 1990</i>	<i>Number of trips checked from January, 1991 to June, 1991</i>
5009923	2374915

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above.

(f) and (g) The members of the checking staff of DTC are already involved in the job of ensuring the punctual running of DTC buses in Delhi. The Time Keepers are being posted at important points/terminals who keep record of the arrival and departure of buses. Apart from ensuring punctuality of the running of buses, the checking staff also undertake the checking of ticketless travellers.

Price of Gold

690. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the sudden spurt in the price of gold recently; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The increase and subsequent fall in the price of gold is attributable to combination of factors such as, speculative nature of gold, marriage season demand and varied interpretation of recent adjustments in exchange rate.

(b) Gold is not an essential commodity and Government does not regulate its price.

[*Translation*]

Proposal to Declare Ajmer-Nawara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway

691. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to the Union Government to declare Ajmer-Nawara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A decision about the declaration of new National Highways in various States including Rajasthan would be taken after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

Bank Branches in Rajasthan

692. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in Rajasthan district-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the total amount of deposits made in the various bank branches, district-wise;

(c) the amount of loan sanctioned by these branches during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the amount of sanctioned loans is as per targets fixed; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to raise the amount of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) District-wise and bank-wise number of branches of public Sector Banks functioning in Rajasthan at present are set out in the attached Statement I and II respectively.

(b) District-wise outstanding aggregate deposits of commercial banks in

Rajasthan in December, 1990 are given in the attached Statement-III.

(c) The total loans sanctioned by the banks during the last three years are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
December, 1988	2296
December, 1989	2629
December, 1990	2876

(d) and (e) Under the Annual Credit Plans (ACP) prepared by lead banks for the districts, the banks try to achieve the credit targets indicated therein. The data of credit allocation vis-a-vis achievements under ACPs in Rajasthan for the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

January, 1988 to December, 1988		April, 1989 to March, 1990		April, 1990 to March, 1991*	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
493	541	611	529	663	438

*Provisional

RBI has asked the banks to make efforts for achieving the targets indicated in the ACPs.

STATEMENT I

District-wise number of branches of Public Sector Banks in Rajasthan

Name of the District	No. of branches of Public Sector Banks
1	2
1. Ajmer	101
2. Alwar	96

1	2
3. Banswara	49
4. Barmer	43
5. Bharatpur	72
6. Bhilwara	63
7. Bikaner	84
8. Bundi	26
9. Chittaurgarh	60
10. Churu	49
11. Dholpur	22
12. Dungarpur	36
13. Ganganagar	142
14. Jaipur	221
15. Jaisalmer	20
16. Jalore	24
17. Jhalwar	35
18. Jhunjhunu	35
19. Jodhpur	108
20. Kota	91
21. Nagaur	66
22. Pali	35
23. Sawai Madhopur	70
24. Saikar	44
25. Sirohi	25
26. Tonk	35
27. Udaipur	102

STATEMENT II

Bank-wise number of branches of Public Sector Banks in Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of the Bank	No. of branches
1	2	3
1. State Bank of India		154
2. State Bank of Hyderabad		1
3. State Bank of Indore		3
4. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur		579
5. State Bank of Patiala		2
6. State Bank of Travancore		1

1	2	3
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	2
8.	Central Bank of India	91
9.	Bank of India	32
10.	Punjab National Bank	188
11.	Bank of Baroda	290
12.	UCO Bank	134
13.	Canara Bank	16
14.	United Bank of India	7
15.	Dena Bank	11
16.	Syndicate Bank	10
17.	Union Bank of India	39
18.	Allahabad Bank	23
19.	Indian Bank	8
20.	Bank of Maharashtra	6
21.	Indian Overseas Bank	9
22.	Andhra Bank	3
23.	Punjab & Sind Bank	19
24.	New Bank of India	69
25.	Vijaya Bank	7
26.	Corporation Bank	1
27.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	52

STATEMENT III

District-wise outstanding aggregate deposits of all scheduled commercial banks in Rajasthan in December, 1990

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Deposits</i>
1	2
1. Ajmer	315
2. Alwar	244
3. Banswara	82
4. Barmer	59
5. Bharatpur	142

1	2
6. Bhilwara	128
7. Bikaner	191
8. Bundi	50
9. Chittaurgarh	122
10. Churu	145
11. Dholpur	38
12. Dungarpur	67
13. Ganganagar	333
14. Jaipur	1215
15. Jaisalmer	26
16. Jalore	39
17. Jhalawar	41
18. Jhunjhunu	176
19. Jodhpur	352
20. Kota	274
21. Nagaur	145
22. Pali	99
23. Sawai Madhopur	116
24. Sikar	169
25. Sirohi	69
26. Tonk	51
27. Udaipur	380
Total	5068

Powers of CCI&E

693. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Import and Export, (Control) Act, 1947, the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports and the Additional Chief Controller of Imports and Exports have been invested with powers of a civil court to hear appeals from persons aggrieved by any decision passed under the Act;

(b) whether these powers to hear appeal have been delegated by the CCI&E to its subordinate officers; and

(c) if so, under what provision of the Act these powers have been delegated to subordinate officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes. Sir. Section 4-M of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 gives powers to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and to the Addi-

tional Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to hear appeals from persons aggrieved by any decision or order made under the Act. Section 4-O of the Act provides that every authority making any adjudication or hearing any appeal or exercising any powers of revision under this Act shall have certain powers of a civil court under the C.P.C. enumerated in sub-Section (1) and sub-Section (2) of the Section provides that such authority shall be deemed to be a civil court for the purposes of Sections 345 and 346 of Cr.P.C.

(b) The powers of the Chief Controller of Import and Exports/Additional Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to hear appeals against the decisions or orders passed under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, have not been delegated. The Imports (Control) Order, 1955, however, contains a provision under Clause 10(2) for notifying appellate authorities for certain actions taken under the Imports (Control) Order.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Chief Executives

694. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of appointments of Chief Executives in Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of his Ministry during 1991, till-date;

(b) whether these appointments were made after consulting both Public Enterprises Selection Board and Appointments Committee of the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES.

(SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d)

1. Shri Mahendra Singh Yadav, IPS (UP:66) was appointed as CMD of British India Corporation in June, 1991 with the approval of ACC.
2. Shri A. K. Moitra's appointment as CMD of National Jute Manufacture Corporation Ltd. was extended beyond 28th May, 1991 until his date of superannuation, i.e., 16-5-93, after consulting PESB and ACC.
3. Shri M. S. Pangtey, IAS (AM: 66) was appointed as Managing Director of North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation with effect from 27-6-91, with the approval of PESB and ACC.
4. Shri R. Ramakrishna was appointed as CMD, NTC (Holding Co.) with effect from 19-4-1991 after obtaining the approval of the ACC and in consultation with PESB.
5. Shri S. Chakravarthy was appointed as CMD, NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd. with effect from 6-5-1991 after having been recommended by PESB and approved by the ACC.

Action against sick Industrial Units by BIFR

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) will invoke penal provisions" which appeared in the Times of India dated June 29, 1991;

(b) if so, the particulars of sick industrial units in respect of which banks and financial institutions have

failed to discharge their duties of rehabilitation as advised by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

(c) the names of such banks and financial institutions and the penal action taken or proposed by the Government/BIFR against them; and

(d) if no penal action is proposed to be taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No such news-item has appeared in the Delhi edition of 'The Times of India' dated June 29, 1991. However, such a news item has appeared in certain other newspapers, including the Delhi edition of 'Financial Express' of the same date.

(b) While the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) had sanctioned revival schemes in respect of New Central Jute Mills, Calcutta and Easwaran & Sons Engineers Ltd., Madras on 20-9-1990 and 24-1-1989 respectively, the implementation of the schemes were delayed due to several reasons resulting in the non-release of funds by the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) in the former case, and by Vysya Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank, in the latter case.

(c) and (d) BIFR has reported that it threatened penal action under Section 33 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 against SBI, IFCI, Vysya Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank, for not releasing the need-based funds. BIFR has also reported that while SBI and IFCI have reported compliance, the dead-line prescribed by BIFR for Vysya Bank Ltd. and Lakshmi Vilas Bank, is not yet over. Penal action can be initiated by BIFR only after giving due notice of the violation of the schemes sanctioned by it.

[*Translation*]

Rate of Inflation

696. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the rate of inflation in May, 1991 in comparison to its position prevailing in March, 1990; and

(b) the reasons for this increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The annual rate of inflation in terms of the wholesale Price Index (Base: 1981-82=100), on the basis of monthly average, increased by 2.4 percentage points from 8.6 per cent in March, 1990 to 11.0 per cent in May, 1991.

(b) The accelerated rise in prices was the result of the following factors: (i) persistent and large fiscal imbalances resulting in a higher increase in money supply, liquidity overhang and thus effective demand; (ii) supply and demand imbalances in sensitive commodities mainly due to shortfall in domestic production and inability of the Government to import desired quantities because of the constraints on balance of payments; (iii) substantial increase in procurement prices/support prices of agricultural commodities; (iv) imposition of the Gulf surcharge at the rate of 25 per cent on domestic prices of petroleum products since the middle of October, 1990 and the resultant increase in transportation cost; (v) the disturbed law and order situation leading to disruption of transport and localised shortages; and (vi) the consequent inflationary expectations.

[*English*]

Cases Pending with Grievance Committees and Appellate Authorities

697. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the

number of cases pending with Grievance Committees and Appellate authorities set up under the Import & Export (Control) Act 1947 as on 1-4-1991 for over 2 months, 3 months, 4 months and above, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Information in respect of the Ministry of Commerce and Headquarters office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports is as under:—

(i) *No. of cases pending with Grievance Committees as on 1-4-1991*

Over 2 months	: 2
Over 3 months	: 1
Over 4 months and above	: 6

(ii) *No. of cases pending with Appellate authorities as on 1-4-1991*

Over 2 months	: 52
Over 3 months	: 2
Over 4 months and above	343

Information in respect of the Regional Offices of the Imports and Exports Trade Control Organisation is being collected and will be placed before the House in due course.

Payment of Income Tax by Individuals

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

(a) the particulars of the individuals who have defaulted in payment

of Income-tax and Super Tax amounting to rupees one crore and above;

(b) the amounts due from them and since when; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to recover the amounts so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) and (b) As on 31-3-1991, there were 141 individuals who had defaulted in payment of Income-tax and Super Tax amounting to rupees one crore and above. A list of such individuals and the amounts due from them as on 31-3-1991, is enclosed as Statement. These demands relate to various assessment years and have been raised at different points of time as and when the relevant assessments etc. were finalised.

(c) Appropriate actions to recover the taxes are taken both as per law and also administratively. Legal actions include levy of penalty for non-payment, issue of garnishee orders to attach bank accounts, debts etc., drawing up of tax recovery statements by Tax Recovery Officers enabling them to effect recovery by attachment/sale of assets, appointment of receiver for managing defaulter's property, arrest of defaulters etc. Administratively, Action Plan targets have been fixed for reduction of outstanding demands and the progress of recovery is monitored at various levels. Since a large part of the demand is disputed in Appeals etc; steps are also taken for expeditious disposal of appeals.

STATEMENT

List referred to in answer to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha unstarred question No. 698 for 26-7-1991

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Assessee</i>	<i>Amount due as on 31-3-1991</i>
1	2	3
	Shri/Smt. /Kumari	(Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Abdulla Ghani	244.00
2.	Ahmad Yassin	103.89
3.	Anil Kumar Parolia	257.37
4.	(Late) A.R. Chadha	101.29
5.	Ambalal Valdas Patel	140.00
6.	Alibhoy Mohammed	143.55
7.	A Vishwanath	310.76
8.	Anil Kumar Aggarwal	124.56
9.	Anil Kumar Didwania.	458.75
10.	Anupam Kumar Didwania	198.49
11.	A. Thangam	147.61
12.	A. Balasubramaniam	155.77
13.	B.M. Chheda	114.00
14.	Bharat Lal B. Jain	257.26
15.	Bhupinder Singh (Prop. of M/s. Gogi Enterprises)	111.38
16.	B.K. Patel	361.35
17.	B.M. Kanodia	135.81
18.	B.P. Goenka	105.38
19.	Bhupat Rai K. Sheth	121.86
20.	B.T. Shankar Hegde	138.14
21.	Bhagwandas Agarwal	790.21
22.	Bipin Kamji Jain	171.07
23.	C.V. Jain (Late)	138.22
24.	C.S. Goenka	102.24
25.	C.C. Albert	206.88
26.	C.A. Taktawala	154.98
27.	Chandra Nath Banik	286.08

1	2	3
	Shri/Smt./Kumari	(Rs. in lakhs)
28.	D.D. Ghai	208.01
29.	D.M. Pawar	338.05
30.	Major Deba Dutta	183.96
31.	D.K. Agarwal	110.00
32.	Dilip Kumar Hansraj (Prop. of Barai old India)	302.02
33.	D.N. Dosani	111.00
34.	D.P. Mansingka	114.48
35.	Damji Devji Hari	674.44
36.	Deendayal Didwania	181.28
37.	E.K. Chandrasenan	126.00
38.	Girdhar Gopal Sharma	159.70
39.	G.D. Agarwal	290.90
40.	G. Jayaraman	136.78
41.	G. Venkateshwaram	200.40
42.	G. Krishnaswamy Thevar	106.75
43.	Haridas Mundra	1064.70
44.	Hari Ram Agarwalla	164.60
45.	H.R. Trivedi	244.73
46.	Haji Ismail Subhania	211.73
47.	Harish Popat Lal Prajapati	131.00
48.	H.S. Rao	140.33
49.	Indermal Manaji.	219.66
50.	Dr. J. Dharam Teja	1018.98
51.	John Thomas	147.34
52.	Jyotindra Singh (of Gondal).	211.98
53.	Jivabhai A. Patel Ind.	169.00
54.	J.B. Rupani	389.02
55.	J. Devarajula	108.00
56.	Kamini Sondhi (L/R Late M.L. Sondhi)	295.00
57.	Kailash Chandra B. Verma	208.11
58.	Kanti Lal M. Mali	122.65
59.	Kusum Chand Keshrichand Zaveri	405.52
60.	K. Satish Chandra Hedge	222.58

1	2	3
	Shri/Smt./Kumari	(Rs. in lakhs)
61.	K.S. Dattatreya	288.46
62.	K. Venkatesh Dutt	276.43
63.	K. Prasanna Kumar Reddy	104.21
64.	K. Subramaniam	190.83
65.	K. Rajagopalan	153.71
66.	L. Kunju Kunju	103.91
67.	Lajpat Rai C. Agarwal	166.09
68.	Lokumal C. Virmani	769.84
69.	Laxmi Narayan Khemka	392.65
70.	Laxmi Das Premji	139.95
71.	Liladhar N. Parekh	212.81
72.	Mahabir Prasad R. Kandeï (Late).	102.64
73.	Mohan Thakur	157.61
74.	Mayurdhwaj Singh Ji (Late)	185.72
75.	Mohmed Akhtar Hussain alias Kadar Ahmed Bhatti	108.00
76.	Mansukh M. Jagde	102.78
77.	M.L. Gupta (Prop. Vikash Associated)	432.98
78.	Mopuru Sesha Reddy	114.13
79.	M. Kedandarani Reddy	247.04
80.	M. Subbarami Reddy	143.99
81.	M. Sudha Kara Reddy	130.92
82.	Manoj Kumar Didwania	112.08
83.	M.R. Purushothaman	120.20
84.	N.K. Tanna	182.00
85.	N.D. Arora	131.63
86.	Nand Kishore Malpani	121.00
87.	Narender Anand.	186.70
88.	Narayan Bhai I Patel	295.00
89.	N.K. Parikh	678.72
90.	N.K. Mahnot	221.17
91.	O.P. Arora.	218.00
92.	O.P. Navani	416.36

1	2	3
Shri/Smt./Kumari		(Rs. in lakhs)
93.	Padmavati D. Ghai	179.20
94.	P.C. Gupta	123.05
95.	Puspa Devi Tak	526.06
96.	Priti Pal Singh	213.64
97.	Pawan Kumar Jain	224.12
98.	Popatlal Kanji Bhai Ohelani	160.53
99.	Prakash Mehra	179.81
100.	P.I. Fernandez	139.14
101.	Pawan Kumar Didwania	637.67
102.	P. Govindaswamy	113.44
103.	P.K. Balamurugesb	116.51
104.	Ram Kumar Jalan	527.55
105.	Ramnath Goenka	103.38
106.	R. Bharathan	151.12
107.	Ramesh Suri	109.75
108.	R.P. Agarwal	353.64
109.	Ram Nath Bajoria	116.53
110.	Raj Chopra	615.11
111.	Rampurshottam G. Aggarwal	152.73
112.	Rajendra Nana Lal Kataria	386.38
113.	R.K. Parikh	712.44
114.	R. Ramadevi	118.44
115.	Ratanlal Didwania	363.47
116.	R. Jayapradha	159.13
117.	Ramgopal Didwania	131.08
118.	R.L. Dhanapalan	235.28
119.	(Late) Sayaji Rao Gaikwad	231.31
120.	S.M. Shah	104.32
121.	Shanti Lal M. Kapadia	246.22
122.	Surendra Kumar Garg	596.00
123.	Sudhir M. Zaveri	240.00
124.	S.A. Kareen	243.48
125.	S.S. Ahluwalia	140.80

1	2	3
	Shri/Smt./Kumari	(Rs. in lakhs)
126.	Sukarbhair Naranbhai Bakhia	3193.09
127.	S. Barkatulah	233.49
128.	Shushil K. Jalan	186.18
129.	Shanti Lal M. Sopuriwala	195.89
130.	S. Sewak	208.27
131.	S. Sundaram Pillai	101.94
132.	T.M. Abdul Ghafoor	138.44
133.	T. Balasankara Reddy	172.51
134.	Uma Kanth Rath	101.00
135.	Vijay Kumar M. Shah	162.00
136.	Vishwanath G. Sharma	123.29
137.	Vij C. Shroff	186.27
138.	Vasumal Bhagwan Dass	156.99
139.	Vinod Kumar Didwania	3267.46
140.	W.N. Chadha	1056.00
141.	Younus Kunjee	214.34

Delhi Exporter's Association's Complaints with RBI

699. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Exporters' Association has taken up with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) certain complaints by exporters in the matter of foreign exchange transactions by banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government/RBI to remove these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received certain complaints from the Delhi Exporter's Association relating to bank charges, delays etc., in the matter of foreign exchange transactions by banks.

(b) While some of the complaints are of general nature, a few of them relate to the levy of charges by banks for handling foreign exchange transactions, and delays in the completion of various transactions.

(c) The matter has been looked into by RBI in consultation with the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India (FEDAI). As regards bank charges, RBI has reported that these have been laid down by FEDAI and their considered view is that the charges for handling foreign exchange transactions in India are quite economical as compared to charges levied by banks in foreign countries. Further, in order to help the Exporters, FEDAI has brought out a booklet titled 'Rules of Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India' (effective 1st June, 1991) which covers, inter-alia, the time schedules for completion of various types of foreign exchange transactions and charges payable by the exporters. Since these Rules have now been made public, it is expected that exporters &

importers will be able to sort out their problems in respect of the handling of foreign exchange transactions by banks. The Delhi Exporters' Association has been suitably advised by RBI in the matter.

Balance of Payments Position

700. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise balance of payments position since January, 1990, vis-a-vis the availability of foreign exchange reserves in each month;

(b) whether the balance of payments position had been unfavourable

during the preceding three years also.

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the position; and

(d) the immediate impact of the devaluation of rupee thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The balance of payments position mainly gets reflected in the level of foreign exchange reserves. The foreign exchange reserves position (excluding gold and SDR) since January 1990 is as follows:

(Rs. Crores)

	1990	1991
January	4871.01	4719.27
February	5559.97	4445.87
March	5787.17	4388.10
April	5092.87	2527.06
May	5403.55	2677.40
June	5356.17	2382.69
July	5050.12	
August	5479.82	
September	4511.64	
October	3820.45	
November	3142.19	
December	2152.39	

(b) Yes, Sir, the balance of payments situation has been under severe pressure for the last five years.

(c) To improve the balance of payments position the Government proposes to:

(i) in the short run, continue the import compression measures, accelerate the utilisation of already committed external aid and explore additional financ-

ing facilities including the use of IMF facilities.

(ii) in the medium term, reduce the trade gap through more vigorous export promotion measures, augment net invisible receipts through increased receipts from services including tourism receipts; and increase capital flows consistent with financial prudence and their productive use. Consistent with

our overall economic policies, measures to attract foreign direct investment as well as to encourage larger capital inflows from non-resident Indians are also proposed to be taken.

(d) It is expected that, along with a number of policy measures, the adjustment in exchange rate would help to stabilise the balance of payments situation in the short terms and improve the balance of trade situation in the medium term.

Road Mishaps in Delhi

701. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died and injured in road mishaps in Delhi during 1990 and upto 31, May, 1991 and how the same compares with the preceding three years;

(b) the measures taken to bring down the rate of deaths and injuries on the roads and the effect thereof;

(c) the number of persons prosecuted for rash and negligent driving during the above period, vehicle, category-wise;

(d) the action taken against the erring persons;

(e) the number of vehicles, out of the above, involved in similar offence previously;

(f) the number of private buses operating under D.T.C. and those plying under S.T.A. permits in Delhi found engaging only one driver for the whole day instead of two drivers; and

(g) the steps taken to ensure the employment of two drivers and not taking work from one driver for more than eight hours a day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Details given below:

Year	<i>Persons killed</i>	<i>Persons injured</i>
1987	1271	6388
1988	1474	6830
1989	1581	7378
1990	1670	7883
1991 (Upto 31st May)	747	3412

(b) The measures taken are:

- (1) Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.
- (2) Regular special drive against rash and negligent driving without Driving License, drunken driving, defective head lights, overspeeding, over-loading etc.
- (3) Regular prosecution of violation through issue of notices.

- (4) School children are regularly imparted necessary training/education in the school about the rules of the road and related safety aspects by the Road Safety Cell of Delhi Traffic Police.
- (5) Introduction of Blinkers/signals at accident prone areas.
- (6) Prosecution through Radar Guna.

- (7) More police presence in accident prone areas.
- (8) Special morning drives and night mobile patrolling.
- (9) Extensive use of Doordarshan/AIR/Press for giving wide publicity on Road Safety.
- (10) Painting of Bus Boxes, yellow Boxes.
- (11) Special Night Checking in Highways.
- (12) Special drive against buses, MTUs, TSRs, Taxies etc.
- (13) Painting Competitions and other Road Safety activities are being organised by Road Safety Cell to inculcate the sense of Road Safety among various road users and children.
- (14) Introduction of Area Traffic Control system of computerised signal etc.

As a result of above measures,

The Delhi Traffic Police have been able to arrest the rising number of accidents, with a slight decrease. In the number of fatal accidents.

(c) Details are given in the attached statement.

(d) In cases of prosecution under the MV Act, either the offences are compounded at the spot or the challans are sent to Court. As regards accidents in which cases are registered, prosecution is ordered under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

(e) No such records are available.

(f) No such case has come to the notice of Government.

(g) Does not arise in view of answer to (f) above.

STATEMENT

Number of Persons prosecuted for rash and negligent driving—Category-wise

<i>Vehicle-wise</i>	<i>1-1-87 to 31-12-87</i>	<i>1-1-88 to 31-12-88</i>	<i>1-1-89 to 31-12-89</i>	<i>1-1-90 to 31-12-90</i>	<i>1-1-91 to 31-5-91</i>
HTV/MMV . . .	1311	1543	3094	4430	5521
LCV	163	245	477	947	1219
BUS	299	462	1052	1156	1087
Pvt, Bus, U/DTC. . .	154	261	562	452	360
DTC	147	121	177	154	306
Matador	97	137	179	133	81
Taxi	83	82	71	71	77
TSR	364	389	654	645	595
Scooter/Motorcycle . .	707	793	1338	962	959
Car, Jeep	473	696	785	829	593

Exchange Value of Rupee

12. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rupee has been devalued and its exchange value readjusted against the foreign currencies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the International Monetary Fund had insisted upon such a devaluation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any difference between the official and unofficial exchange value of the rupee as against major currencies; and

(f) if so, the value of the rupee in the official and unofficial rates of exchange as on July 5, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The exchange rate of rupee against foreign currencies is adjusted from time to time and recently there have been steep adjustments on 1st July, 1991 and 3rd July, 1991.

(b) Exchange rate adjustments had been necessitated by the growing external and internal imbalances in the economy. The balance of payments situation had become very critical as reflected by a sharp drawdown of reserves. Since October, 1990 there has been an appreciation in the real effective exchange rates of the rupee as a result of a relatively high rate of inflation in the country vis-a-vis India's major trading partners and a much slower rate of depreciation in the normal exchange rate leading to

an erosion in the international competitiveness of the economy. It was equally necessary to stem the destabilising market expectations which were generated by perceptions about the exchange value of the rupee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government and Reserve Bank of India require that all transactions are operated at official rates only and hence identifying the difference between official and unofficial exchange value of the rupee does not arise.

(f) The exchange value of the rupee in respect of major currencies as on 5th July, 1991 is as follows:—

	(Rs. per unit of foreign currency)
US Dollar	25.96
Pound Sterling	41.72
Deutsche Mark	14.18
Japanese Yen	0.186

Impact of Devaluation of Rupee on Industries Dependent on Imports

703. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent devaluation of rupee has hit the industries which are dependent on imports;

(b) whether only the exporters have been benefited by the devaluation; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to rectify the situation in the interest of importers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The downward adjustment in the value of rupee effected by the Reserve Bank of India on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 is expected to restrain imports, improve India's export earnings, and encourage capital flows by restoring confidence in the Rupee.

(c) The Government have recently introduced far-reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing controls through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings.

Firing in Karan Sub-Sector

704. **SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:**

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing on Indian posts in the Karan sub-sector of Kupwara in J&K on June 29 and July 1, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of jawans killed due to firing by Pakistani troops;

(c) whether the Indian forces returned the fire;

(d) the details of the incident; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to face such challenges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were no casualties on the Indian side.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Our troops effectively returned the fire.

(e) Our troops are fully equipped and trained to meet all contingencies, to ensure our territorial integrity.

Reward to Informers of Income-tax Evaders

705. **SHRI KARIA MUNDA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the informants of Income-tax evaders in Delhi during 1990 and 1991 have been rewarded;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the cash reward will be given to the informants of Income-tax evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. Reward including interim reward was paid to 17 and 24 informants respectively during the financial years ending on 31st March, 1990 and 1991 in Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the guidelines for reward to informants, an informant can be paid final reward only after entire tax directly attributable to information furnished by him, as determined in the assessments, has been realised after all the appeals relating to the assessments have been disposed of and the assessments have become final. Hence the time taken for the grant of final reward will vary from case to case.

[Translation]

Repair of Bridge on National Highway No. 25 at Shivpuri Bhognipur

706. **SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bridge situated at Shivpuri Bhognipur on the National Highway No. 25 was blown off in October, 1990;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused to the bridge;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the repairs to this bridge; and

(d) the time by which the repairs are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The central span of the arch bridge was damaged and piers cracked.

(c) and (d) The State Government have incurred Rs. 1.00 lakh to carry out temporary repairs of the bridge, after which it was opened to traffic in November, 1990.

Setting up of Major Port at Hajira

707. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts had recommended setting up of a major port at Hajira (Surat-Gujarat) several years ago;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for setting up of this Port; and

(c) the reasons for delay in setting up of the Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Cases Pending Before Central Excise, Customs and Income-Tax Tribunals

708. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the Central Excise, Customs and Income-Tax Tribunals as on April, 1991;

(b) the number of cases pending for more than three years, Tribunal-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the delays in disposal of the cases and the steps proposed to be taken for early disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Cases pending before Customs, Excise & Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT) and Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) as on 1-4-91 are 39,957 and 1,98,915 respectively.

(b) Cases pending for more than three years as on 1-4-91 are as under:—

CEGAT : 16,412

ITAT : 29,943

(c) Frequent requests by parties for adjournment, complex issues which involve time consuming hearing, increased institution of cases and unfilled vacancies of Members in ITAT especially those of Accountant Members, are amongst the main reasons for delay in disposal of cases.

Amongst the steps taken for early disposal of cases are bunching of cases involving similar issues, listing of cases disposable on the basis of earlier decisions of the Tribunal and Supreme Court and creation of additional benches for CEGAT. Steps taken in respect of ITAT include selection of new Members for appointment, separation of cases which can be disposed of by benches consisting of two Judicial Members only, identification of cases covered by earlier judgements and separation of appeals involving common issues for hearing in bunches and Members undertaking tours to stations where pendency is more or regular benches are not functioning.

Default in Repayment of Loans

709. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrialists/entrepreneurs/businessmen/traders etc.

who have defaulted in the repayment of loans/overdrafts taken from the banks and the financial institutions during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to recover the money from them; and

(c) the number of such persons/firms which were blacklisted; how many of them have been removed from that list, the reasons therefor and the present position regarding realisation of the money from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it does not maintain data regarding industrialists/entrepreneurs/businessmen/traders etc., who have failed to repay loans and overdrafts taken from banks and other financial institutions, or on action (including blacklisting) against them.

(b) Whenever there have been defaults in respect of the repayment of loans or the payment of interest, the banks resort to measures like the stoppage of further drawals or other operations on the accounts, notices to guarantors, filing of suits etc., to recover their monies. In respect of financial institutions, IDBI has reported that appropriate follow-up measures are initiated for recovery, which include the vigorous pursuing with the borrowing companies of the early clearance of overdues and, in cases of recalcitrant borrowers, the recall and filing of suits for recovery.

Promotion of Group 'C' and 'D' Government Servants

710. **SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 9371 on May 18, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the matter relating to the promotion of Group 'C' and 'D' Government Servants has since been examined;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that a Group 'B' gazetted Government Servant also gets a promotion immediately after putting in five years of service in that grade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

(c) In all Ministries/Departments promotions are vacancy based except in certain Departments where flexible complementing scheme has been introduced for certain categories. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to ensure time bound promotion in five years in case of those Group 'B' gazetted Government Servants who are not covered by flexible complementing scheme.

Black Money

711. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:**
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated black money in the country; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to control black money which has reached colossal dimensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money in circulation in the country. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in their report titled 'Aspects of the Black Economy in India' have estimated the black money generated in the year 1983-84 between Rs. 31,584 to Rs. 36,786 crores. The authors have, however, admitted that their estimate is based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which can be challenged. No estimate

of the quantum of black money in circulation in the country has been attempted thereafter.

(b) Evolving of steps to control the generation, growth and use of black money is a continuous exercise. The Government takes necessary legislative and administrative steps from time to time for this purpose. Changes in economic policies such as lesser bureaucratic controls and delicensing have been effected which help in reduction of black money generation. Other measures taken are streamlining of direct taxes structure and strengthening of the enforcement machinery to check tax evasion and improve tax compliance.

Some of the measures taken by the Income-tax Department to check tax evasion and curb black money transactions are as under:—

- (i) Systematic survey operations;
- (ii) Search and survey operations in appropriate cases;
- (iii) Verification of information by Central Information Branches in a planned manner;
- (iv) In-depth investigation in a selected number of cases; and
- (v) Pre-emptive purchase of immovable property by the Central Government under the provisions of Chapter XXC of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in certain notified cities.

Persons found to be indulging in tax evasion or holding black money are being dealt with severely by imposing penalties and launching prosecution proceedings against them.

Impact of Devaluation of Rupee on Trade

712. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the immediate impact of the rupee devaluation on the value of exports to and imports from Japan, United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Belgium and the United Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The downward adjustment in the value of Rupee effected by Reserve Bank of India on 1st and 3rd July 1991, is expected to improve India's overall export earnings and restrain imports by making them dearer, in respect of all countries including Japan, United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Belgium and the Germany.

Cargo Traffic Handled by Major Ports

713. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the cargo traffic handled by the major ports during April-June, 1991, with month-wise target and actuals in respect of each major port;

(b) the reasons for shortfall or better performance as the case may be with reference to the target; and

(c) the names of the major ports which have been performing consistently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) During April-June, 1991, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Madras, Tuticorin, Mormugao and Jawaharlal Nehru Port handled cargo in excess of the target mainly due to better materialisation of cargo. In case of Calcutta, Cochin, New Mangalore, Bombay and Kandla the actual cargo handled was less than the target mainly due to less materialisation of POL, coal, fertilizers and general cargo. However, all major ports combined handled cargo in excess of the target (+2%).

(c) Taking into account the various factors influencing the flow of traffic through ports and the total traffic handled at ports during past few years, all the major ports have been performing consistently.

STATEMENT
Cargo Traffic Projections and Traffic actually handled by the Major Ports during April, May and June, 1991
is given below

IN 000 M.T. (Provisional
Figures)

Name of Port	April 1991		May 1991		June 1991		April-June 1991	
	Projection	Actual	Projection	Actual	Projection	Actual	Projection	Actual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Calcutta								
(Including Haldia dock complex)	1102	1332	1475	1278	1536	1205	4113	3815
Paradip	363	599	526	611	514	442	1403	1652
Visakhapatnam	1523	1903	1578	1589	1596	1718	4697	5210
Madras	1724	2366	1749	2101	2040	1773	5513	6240
Tuticorin	385	414	386	487	413	520	1184	1421
Cochin	641	451	640	539	616	562	1897	1552
New Mangalore	729	594	730	720	629	639	2088	1953
Mormugao	1849	2123	1650	1571	210	401	3709	4095
Jawaharlal Nehru Port	189	201	194	226	165	216	548	643
Bombay	2343	2286	2388	2128	2315	1985	7046	6399
Kandla	1669	1481	1673	1713	1667	1802	5009	4996
All Ports	12517	13750	12989	12963	11701	11263	37207	37976

Unused World Bank Assistance

714. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether more than 12 billion dollars made available to the country by the World Bank stand unused;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether due to delays in project implementation the country is not able to utilise the World Bank assistance;

(d) if so, the details of the projects for which the World Bank agreed to pay assistance; and

(e) the reasons for not utilising the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
(a) and (b) Yes. At the end of June 1991 the total undisbursed balance under World Bank line of assistance was 12.159 billion US dollars.

(c) and (e) The undisbursed balance appears large in aggregate terms but is dependent on the time profile of various projects. Apart from gestation period of externally aided projects, delayed utilisation arises from factors which inter-alia include exchange rate fluctuations, in adequate counterpart by State Governments, tardy land acquisition procedures and other project specific issues. Such problems some time lead to a delay in utilisation of World Bank assistance which is taken care of extension/restructuring of projects.

(d) A list of on-going projects with World Bank assistance is enclosed as Statement:

STATEMENT*List of On-going projects**US \$ Million*

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Original Loan amount</i>	<i>Undrawn balance IBRD/IDA</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	West Bengal, Social Forestry	33.7	1.985
2.	Himalayan Watershed Management	30.2	9.310
3.	Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas	38.4	29.134
4.	Karnataka Social Forestry	33.4	8.385
5.	Kerala Social Forestry	39.9	14.196
6.	NAEP I	50.36	30.193
7.	NAEP II	65.57	29.684
8.	National Social Forestry	217.08	77.731
9.	National Agricultural Research II	90.80	64.574
10.	NNAEP III.	93.5	69.645
11.	National Water Management	114.0	105.160

1	2	3	4
12. National Dairy II	.	385.1	269.948
13. National Seeds III	.	141.7	160.024
14. A.P. Cyclone	.	210.0	40.30
15. National Sericulture	.	148.5	164.661
16. M.P. Major Irrigation	.	254.7	50.278
17. Haryana Irrigation II	.	181.3	29.851
18. U.P. Tubewells II	.	119.5	0.441
19. Maharashtra Water Utilisation	.	38.6	2.249
20. Pariyar Vaigai	.	43.4	13.355
21. Upper Ganga Irrigation Modernisation	.	158.3	95.500
22. Gujarat Medium Irrigation II	.	214.0	88.161
23. Narmada River Water Delivery & Drainage	.	195.0	147.358
24. West Bengal Minor Irrigation	.	131.8	115.543
25. Maharashtra Composite Irrigation III	.	214.2	187.515
26. A.P. Irrigation II	.	166.3	469.872
27. Bihar Public Tubewells	.	77.6	70.127
28. Upper Krishna Phase-II	.	330.0	298.759
29. Punjab Irrigation & Drainage	.	168.6	181.271
30. M.P. Fertilizer	.	184.6	19.759
31. Maharashtra Petrochemicals	.	300.0	6.168
32. Cement Industry	.	165.0	90.165
33. IXth Telecommunications	.	193.0	35.406
34. Export Development	.	120.0	91.743
35. Electronics Industry Development	.	210.0	7.499
36. Industrial Technology Development	.	202.7	180.783
37. Ramagundam Thermal Power II	.	280.0	9.613
38. Korba Thermal Power II	.	424.8	21.225
39. Upper Indravati Hydro-Power	.	359.9	193.656
40. Central Power Transmission	.	250.7	132.323
41. Nhava Sheva Port	.	250.0	20.805
42. Duddichua Coal	.	109.0	19.632
43. Cambay Basin Petroleum	.	213.5	37.703
44. Indra Sarover	.	44.4	47.833
45. Railway Electrification	.	279.2	279.2

1	2	3	4
46. Farakka II Thermal		309.8	26.409
47. Trombay Thermal IV		135.4	135.4
48. Jharia Coking Coal		57.7	5.657
49. National Highways		200.0	135.640
50. Chandrapur Thermal Power		300.0	125.558
51. Rihand Power		250.0	59.148
52. Kerala Power		176.0	138.601
53. Combined Cycle Power		485.0	38.565
54. Coal Mining & Coal Quality Improvement		340.0	122.373
55. National Capital Power		485.0	299.315
56. Talchar Thermal Power		375.0	327.298
57. Western Gas Development		283.3	29.815
58. Railway Modernisation III		390.0	263.558
59. Karnataka Power II		260.0	233.287
60. U.P. Power		350.0	302.952
61. States Road		251.1	231.605
62. Natpha Jharri		485.0	448.286
63. Maharashtra Power		400.0	376.651
64. Gujarat Water Supply & Sewerage		83.2	27.586
65. Calcutta Urban Development		177.8	84.529
66. M.P. Urban Development		24.1	6.431
67. Tamil Nadu Water Supply & Sanitation		92.1	56.535
68. Bombay Urban Development		179.0	111.834
69. Kerala Water Supply & Sanitation		65.7	40.643
70. Gujarat Urban Development		76.3	48.186
71. IIIrd Bombay Water Supply & Sewerage		137.6	156.659
72. U.P. Urban Development		158.7	122.719
73. Madras Water Supply & Sanitation		69.31	146.788
74. Tamil Nadu Urban Development		282.4	231.386
75. Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitation		79.9	94.704
76. IIIrd Population		86.5	2.256
77. IVth Population		67.2	27.171
78. Vth Population		53.5	19.429
79. VIth Population		125.1	114.210

1	2	3	4
80. Vocational Training		276.8	264.423
81. Technician Education I		260.0	263.265
82. Tamil Nadu Nutrition		95.8	98.120
83. Integrated Water shed Dev (Hills)		13.00	13.00
		80.60	80.602
84. Integrated Watershed Dev. (Plains)		60.452	57.026
85. N.C.D.C. II		280.471	91.280
86. Tamil Nadu Agri-Development		92.800	92.800
87. Central Power		502.700	132.323
88. Northern Region Transmission project		485.00	462.753
89. Oil India Petroleum		140.000	68.141
90. Indian Export Engg.		90.00	12.628
91. Hind Petrochemical		12.00	11.00
92. Gujarat Rural Roads		131.299	101.753
93. Sardar Sarover Project		200.00	200.00
94. Punjab Irrigation		166.271	154.427
95. Integrated Child Services Development		104.541	98.808
96. Private Power Utility Project		98.00	98.00
97. IFFCO		118.260	25.885

*Where the undrawn balance is more than the original amount it is because of change value of SDRs vis. -viz the US dollar.

Use of Staff Car by Officials

715. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any maximum mileage per staff car per month has been laid down by the Service Headquarters for effecting economy in the use of petroleum products;

(b) whether no individual officer has to be provided with a single staff car but the same are to be clubbed for use of at least two officers;

(c) if so, the details of the guidelines laid down, and the manner of allocation of staff cars to officers; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to review the existing system and to further tighten the arrangements to effect economy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per extant guidelines, below the rank of Lieutenant General and equivalent, two or more officers should travel in the same staff car, to the extent possible. This is being enforced.

Besides the mileage restrictions and a 15%—20% cut in the allocation of petrol/diesel, the Services Headquarters have already taken further steps

for reduction in the consumption of petroleum products by banning use of staff cars on Sundays and holidays except for operational or Law and Order duties; effective maintenance of cars; effective training of drivers and replacement of old vehicles with fuel-efficient ones in a phased manner.

Fare Structure of Buses Plying under STA Permits in Delhi

716. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fare structure of buses including mini buses plying under STA permits in Delhi has again been revised.

(b) if so, the date from which the fares have been revised and the de-

tails of the fares before and after the revision;

(c) when were the fare last revised in Delhi;

(d) the reasons for sharp increase in fares when no such fares have been increased in respect of DTC or buses plying under DTC;

(e) whether the buses under STA permit carry large number of standing persons and have removed the seats; and

(f) if so, the number of buses booked for such irregularities during the last twelve months?

THE MINISTER FOR SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Fares of buses under STA in Delhi were last revised in April, 1990. The details of fares revised are as under:—

<i>Distance</i>	<i>Pre-revised fare</i>	<i>Revised fare w.e.f. 2-4-90</i>
<i>(i) Standard Size buses</i>		
Upto 5 Km.	Re. 0.50	Re. 0.75
Subsequent per Km.	Re. 0.05	Re. 0.05
<i>(ii) Mini buses</i>		
Upto 6 Kms.	Re. 0.50	Re. 0.75
6-16 Kms.	Re. 1.00	Rs. 1.50
16 & above	Rs. 1.50	Rs. 2.00
<i>(iii) Point Micro mini buses</i>		
Flat rate	Re. 1.00	Rs. 1.50

(d) Consequent upon hike in prices of petroleum products in 1990, various associations of STA bus operators represented for revision of fares. Keeping in view the fact that fares were last revised in 1985, the fares of STA buses were revised in April, 1990 due to increase in operational cost.

(e) and (f) The Delhi Administration has informed that instances of over-crowding have been noticed in STA buses. During the last 12 months (i.e. from 1-6-90 to 31-5-91), 87 buses were prosecuted for over-crowding.

Loans given under "APNA GHAR" Scheme

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

(a) the number of persons who have been given loans for constructing houses under the 'Apna Ghar' scheme of the National Housing Bank since its inception, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the scheme, the procedure to take loan and the rate of interest;

(c) whether the State Governments and Union Territories were asked to furnish their proposals in this regard to the Union Government;

(d) if so, the names of the States and Union Territories which have sent their proposals and the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have taken any action thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it has not launched any scheme known as "Apna Ghar" scheme.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Imports and Exports

718. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of imports and exports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The value of imports and exports during the last three years is as under:

(Value: Rs. Crores)

Year	Imports	Exports
1988-89	28235	20232
1989-90(P)	35412	26781
1990-91(P)	43171	32527

P: Provisional

Source: DGC&S, Calcutta

[English]

Over-Invoicing of Machinery by Pepsi Foods Pvt. Ltd.

719. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 113 on February 22, 1991 and state the outcome of the investigations regarding alleged over-invoicing of import of machinery by M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The investigations initiated by the Enforcement Directorate (FERA) regarding alleged over-invoicing of import of machinery by M/s. Pepsi Foods (P) Ltd. are still in progress.

Angamaly-Munnar-Madurai National Highway

720. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to repair and improve the Angamaly-Munnar-

Madurai National Highway in Kerala which is totally in a dilapidated condition; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Angamaly is connected to Munnar through N.H. No. 47 upto Cochin and then N.H. 49 which continues upto Madurai. These sections of National Highways are being kept in trafficworthy condition against the available maintenance and repair grant. Further improvements on N.H. 49 will be taken up in a phased manner subject to the completion of surveys and investigations by the State PWD.

Construction of New National Highway from Angamaly to Madurai

721. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new National Highway from Angamaly to Madurai via Thekkady through the middle of the backward Idukki District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the time by which the National Highway is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There has been neither a request from the Kerala Government for inclusion of this road in the National Highway grid during the 8th Five Year Plan nor has the N.T.P.C. (National Transport Policy Committee) recommended its inclusion in the National Highway network.

Writing-off Agricultural Debts

722. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding writing off of agricultural debts upto Rs. 10,000/-;

(b) whether there is any proposal to write off the debts of farmers in other banks also which are not within the purview of this decision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members are referring to the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief Scheme (ARDR), 1990 under which debt relief to the extent of Rs. 10,000 per borrower was extended by Government to eligible borrowers including farmers, artisans and weavers in rural areas, with effect from 15th May, 1990. The amount of relief extended by public sector banks, co-operatives and Regional Rural Banks under the Scheme till 1st July, 1991 was Rs. 7434 crores covering about 297.56 lakh beneficiaries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Bonus Eligibility Ceiling

724. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the ceiling fixed for the eligibility for bonus to its employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) The Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, in a batch of applications filed before it, has held that the applicants (who represent a section of the Central Government employees) shall be entitled to the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus/Ex-gratia as long as their emoluments do not exceed Rs. 3500/- per month, as against the existing eligibility ceiling of Rs. 2500 per month. The order of the Tribunal is receiving attention of Government.

Export of Industrial Goods

725. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take any steps to increase the export of industrial goods; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have recently introduced far-reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing controls through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings. These are designed to improve the export environment which will lead to increase in production and improvement in the quality of export of industrial goods. Besides, the downward adjustment in the value of Rupee effected by Reserve Bank of India on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 is also expected to improve India's export earnings.

Export of Tea

726. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of tea exported in 1990 fell in quantity though

it earned more in terms of value as compared to the previous year;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to export more tea in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of tea during 1990 has been estimated at 199.66 M.Kgs. valued at Rs. 1028.20 crore with unit price of Rs. 51.50 per kg. as compared to 212.66 M.Kgs. (provisional) valued at Rs. 848.98 crore with unit price of Rs. 39.92 during 1989.

The Gulf-crisis, rising domestic demand and stiff competition abroad have been the main reasons for decline of exports in quantity terms while increased unit price has earned higher value realisation over the last year.

(c) The objective of the Govt. is to maximise export of tea and at the same time to ensure availability of adequate quantity of tea at reasonable price for domestic consumption.

Export of Betel Leaves

727. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the export of Betel Leaves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Export of betel leaves is allowed on de-controlled basis without any licensing formalities. Replenishment rate of 30 per cent has been provided in the new trade policy to promote their export.

[*Translation*]

Loans Advanced by Lucknow and Kanpur Branches of State Bank of Indore

728. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of loans advanced by Lucknow and Kanpur branches of State Bank of Indore to the weaker sections, businessmen and mill owners during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) The amount recovered and the outstanding loans, separately;

(c) Whether any complaints of irregularities have been received in advancing these loans;

(d) If so, the details thereof, branch-wise; and

(e) The action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The amount of loans advanced by Lucknow and Kanpur branches of State Bank of Indore to the weaker sections, businessmen and mill owners during the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, the amount recovered and the outstanding loans on this account are given in the attached statement.

(c) State Bank of Indore has reported that they are not aware of any complaint of irregularities in advancing the loans at the above branches.

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

STATEMENT

Loans advanced, amount recovered and amount outstanding to weaker sections, businessmen and mill owners in Lucknow and Kanpur Branches of State Bank of Indore

(Amount in Lacs)

	Loans sanctioned			Recovery			Amount outstanding		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Lucknow Branch									
Weaker Sections . . .	Nil	11.10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.18	Nil
Businessmen . . .	2.30	0.30	0.44	0.53	Nil	0.06	1.77	6.33	0.38
Mill Owners . . .	6.91	7.13	3.10	0.36	0.78	0.84	6.55	6.35	2.16
Kanpur Branch									
Weaker Sections . . .	1.02	3.37	0.58	0.01	0.37	0.01	0.01	3.00	0.57
Businessmen . . .	1.27	2.15	0.40	0.19	0.75	Nil	1.08	1.40	0.40
Mill Owners . . .	18.83	35.60	7.50	13.58	12.01	3.92	5.15	23.59	3.58

[English]

Production of Muga Silk

729. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Muga Silk produced during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by 'Muga Silk' growers due to pollution from the Oil field in Upper Assam; and

(c) if so, the steps the Govt. have taken or propose to take to protect the interest of 'Muga' silk growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The year-wise details of Muga Silk production are as under:

Sl. Year No.	Production (Metric Tonnes)
1. 1988-89	45
2. 1989-90	57
3. 1990-91	70
	(Provisional)

(b) and (c) None of the Muga growing States nor the Central Silk Board's units have brought any such problem to the notice of the Board.

Amount Awarded by Finance Commission to Autonomous District Councils of Assam

730. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount awarded to the Autonomous District Councils of Darbi Anglong and N.C. Hills of Assam (Constituted under the Sixth

schedule of the Constitution of India) by the Eighth Finance Commission;

(b) whether the Ninth Finance Commission has awarded any amount to the said District Councils; and

(c) if not, what is the policy of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The Eighth Finance Commission awarded Rs. 5 crores during 1984-89 for both the District Autonomous Councils in Assam.

(b) No Sir; The Ninth Finance Commission recommended grants-in-aid to cover both the non-plan and part of plan gaps of the State of Assam as a whole.

(c) Government have accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

[Translation]

N.T.C. and S.T.C. Mills

731. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the measures taken by the Government under the new textiles policy to make the National Textile Corporation and the State Textile Corporation mills profitable and the time bound programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): Improving the performance of textile mills under National Textile Corporation is a continuous process and it is not possible to indicate a time-bound programme. The following steps have been taken to improve the profitability of the mills under NTC:—

Modernisation

pruning uneconomic capacities
optimising economic capacities

183. *Written Answers*

- selective modernisation
- higher productivity
- labour rationalisation
- competitive purchase of raw materials
- higher yarn production
- lower cloth production
- price optimisation
- product upgradation.

Improving the performance of the textile mills run by the State Textile Corporations is the concern of the respective State Governments.

[English]

Settlement of L.I.C. Policies

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

(a) the number of Life Insurance policies which had matured or became payable prior to 31-3-90 and which remained unsettled on 1-4-90;

(b) the number of such policies which matured or became payable during 1990-91;

(c) the number of policies included in (a) and (b) above which were settled during 1990-91;

(d) the number of policies which remained under settlement on 31-3-91;

(e) the average time taken by Life Insurance Corporation to settle claims on maturity; and

(f) the steps taken to reduce processing time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 64,946 policies.

(b) 13,94,277 policies.

(c) 19,08,739 policies.

(d) 50,484 policies.

(e) The Corporation has laid down the following time norms to be observed by its all offices in respect of maturity claim payments:

(i) where all requirements are received sufficiently in advance of the date of maturity, post dated cheques in advance should be issued.

(ii) where all requirements are received after the date of maturity, the cheques towards the payment of claims should be issued within a maximum period of 4 days from the date of completion of all formalities.

(f) Several administrative measures such as use of micro-processors, purification of records, sending the discharge forms well in advance, etc. are being taken to reduce processing time.

Sanctioned strength of Posts in High Courts

733. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of Judges and Additional Judges of High Courts as on 1 April, 1991, Court-wise;

(b) the vacancies in each High Court on that date;

(c) the number of Judges and Additional Judges belonging to OBC's SC, ST and religious minorities on that date;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to upgrade the representation of the under represented groups in these posts; and

(e) the break-up of existing Judges/ Additional Judges by mode of appointment i.e. promotion from the bench or nomination from the Bar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution

of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and women, who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

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

STATEMENT

The Strength and Vacancies in Various High Courts as on 1-4-1991

Sl. No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Actual Strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total
1.	Allahabad	57	3	60	56	..	56	1	3	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	2	25	22	..	22	2	2	4
3.	Bombay	42	12	54	39	8	47	3	4	7
4.	Calcutta	45	1	46	41	1	42	4	..	4
5.	Delhi	25	5	30	24	5	29	1	..	..
6.	Gauhati	13	..	13	11	..	11	2	..	2
7.	Gujarat	23	7	30	23	7	30	..	..	..
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	2	7	4	2	6	1	..	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	..	8	8	..	8	..	..	..
10.	Karnataka	28	2	30	26	2	28	2	..	2
11.	Kerala	21	3	24	20	3	23	1	..	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23	7	30	21	3	24	2	4	6
13.	Madras	28	..	28	28	..	28	..	..	..
14.	Orissa	12	2	14	12	2	14	..	..	..
15.	Patna	35	..	35	29	..	29	6	..	6
16.	Punjab & Haryana	26	6	32	26	6	32	..	..	..
17.	Rajasthan	22	3	25	19	3	22	3	..	3
18.	Sikkim	3	..	3	2	..	2	1	..	1
	TOTAL	440	55	495	411	42	453	29	13	42

Persons killed/injured in Elections

734. SHRI SYED SHAHABUD-DIN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons killed and injured separately in election violence during the General Election, 1991 between the nomination of candidates and constitution of the Tenth Lok Sabha;

(b) the break-up of fatal casualties, State and Union Territory-wise with the average electorate per casualty in each case; and

(c) the details of Parliamentary constituencies in which at least one life was lost with the number of lives lost in each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delay in Disposal of Cases

735. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Acts framed several decades ago and the legal procedure are responsible in abnormal delay in disposal of cases; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring forward necessary amendments to the various statutes which affect the common people and to simplify legal procedure to avoid delay in disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) A Committee of three Chief Justices of High Court was constituted by the Government in January, 1989, to study the problem of arrears in Courts and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee identified several reasons for Delays viz. litigation explosion, long arguments and prolix judgements, failure to utilise grouping of cases, increase in legislative activity etc. The Committee made available to the Government in September, 1990 several recommendations in this regard covering various aspects like jurisdictional and procedural modifications/improvements including amendment of Civil Procedure Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Section 17 of Indian Divorce Act, Constitution of India, the Commission of Inquiry Act, Arbitration Act, Limitation Act, etc. and also amendment of State Statutes and High Court Rules. These recommendations have been forwarded to all concerned such as Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts for implementation.

Modernisation of sick Textile Units

736. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any comprehensive scheme for modernisation of sick textile units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) A Textile Modernisation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 750 crores was set up

by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) on 1-8-86 to meet the modernisation requirements of textile mills. A part of the fund was earmarked to provide special loan assistance to weak but viable units as a part of the promoters' contribution to enable them to avail of modernisation assistance. As on 31-5-91 an amount of Rs. 747.45 crores has been disbursed in 280 cases.

Renewal of Certificates of Export Houses

737. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Import and Export policy for 1988-91 is applicable for renewal of Export House Certificates which were granted during 1987-88 and expired on 31-3-1991; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Export House Certificates issued during the policy period 1987-88 being valid for 3 years are not automatically valid beyond 31-3-91. However, as per the provisions contained in the Import-Export Policy 1990-93, requests from such exporters for renewal of the certificate for a further period of one year were considered even in case where they did not qualify for renewal on the basis of normal provisions, provided they were eligible for such renewal on the basis of relevant provisions as contained in the Import-Export Policy 1988-91.

Setting up of a Bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum

738. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Govern-

ment to set up a bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this bench is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In their letter dated 2-4-1985, the Government of Kerala stated that they had not taken a final view regarding the setting up of a bench of the Kerala High Court. No further communication has been received from the State Government in this regard.

Construction of National Highway from Parur to Edappally

739. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the National Highway from Parur to Edappally in Cochin;

(b) whether the construction of Varapuzha bridge has not yet started;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to complete this section of the National Highway at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) National Highway No. 17 already connects Parur and Edappally except for a missing bridge across Varapuzha River. Construction of this bridge will be taken up

after land for approaches on both sides has been acquired. The State Govt. is expediting the land acquisition.

Modernisation of Cochin Port

740. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for modernisation of the Cochin Port;

(b) whether the Dutch Consultancy report on Vallarpadam International Container Terminal is with the Government; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A number of projects aiming at modernisation of Cochin Port have been included in the Annual Plan 1991-92. Some of the important schemes are: procurement of container handling equipment (phase-II), procurement of Pollution Control Vessel, procurement of a dredger, procurement of two 30-35 TON BP Tugs, Extension of Q 5 berth etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No decision has so far been taken on the Consultancy Report.

[Translation]

Issue of Shares by Big Companies

741. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the big companies which are issuing their equity shares at present;

(b) whether there has been sharp decline in the share market during last six months; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

(a) There is no concept of big companies under the Companies Act, 1956. However, according to the information received from Securities and Exchange Board of India, the following companies with equity capital of above Rs. 10.00 crores have entered or are entering the market shortly:—

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Name of the Company</i>	<i>Type of Issue</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Date of Opening</i>
1	2	3	4
1. Synthetics & Chemicals Ltd.	Convertible Debentures	25.00	17-6-91
2. Rallies India Ltd.	Partly Convertible Debentures	20.01	17-6-91
3. Usha Martin (I) Ltd.	Partly Convertible Debentures	18.37	July, 1991

1	2	3	4
4. Tata Timken Ltd.	Equity and Partly Convertible Debentures	55.50	August, 1991
5. South India Viscose	Partly Convertible Debentures	30.00	August/September, 1991
6. Proctor and Gamble (India) Ltd.	Partly Convertible Debentures Non-Convertible Debentures/Equity	27.00	August, 91

Loans given under Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth

(c) the amount allocated for the same during 1991-92?

742. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the educated unemployed youth under Self-employment Scheme during 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) the number of persons who were benefited therefrom and the details thereof, State-wise; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) The amounts allocated under the scheme for providing Self Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) for the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 are Rs. 60 crores and Rs. 53 crores respectively. State-wise list of number of persons benefited under the scheme is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Rs. 57 crores.

STATEMENT

Statement showing State-wise number of beneficiaries under the Scheme for providing Self Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) for the years 1989-90 and 1990-91

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of persons who were sanctioned loans during	
		1989-90	1990-91*
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7387	7782
2.	Assam	3141	3067
3.	Bihar	10386	11036
4.	Gujarat	5084	2419
5.	Haryana	2418	2545
6.	Himachal Pradesh	769	870
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	223	..

*The data for 1990-91 is provisional.

1	2	3	4
8.	Karnataka	6010	5415
9.	Kerala	8430	6036
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7936	7777
11.	Maharashtra	8210	9027
12.	Manipur	749	750
13.	Meghalaya	90	..
14.	Nagaland	57	..
15.	Orissa	4344	4526
16.	Punjab	7690	6932
17.	Rajasthan	5127	5312
18.	Sikkim	17	28
19.	Tamilnadu	8692	7644
20.	Tripura	183	502
21.	Uttar Pradesh	13747	11619
22.	West Bengal	6209	41
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	20	19
24.	Arunchal Pradesh	16	22
25.	Chandigarh	90	27
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	26	20
27.	Goa	124	199
28.	Mizoram	109	..
29.	Pondicherry	230	305
30.	Lakshadweep	20	12
31.	Daman & Diu	12	12
TOTAL		107546	93944

National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

743. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways in Madhya Pradesh and their length;

(b) whether the length of the National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is adequate keeping in view its area;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to declare the Indore-Harda-Baitul road as National Highway, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are nine number of National Highways (*viz.* 3, 6, 7, 12, 16, 25, 26, 27 and 43) in Madhya Pradesh, aggregating to 2946 kms.

(b) No comparison is possible in this respect as National Highways are declared *not* on the basis of any considerations of area, but keeping in view certain norms such as recommendations made by the N.T.P.C. (National Transport Policy Committee), *inter-se* priority attached to individual roads on an All-India basis, fulfilment of the prescribed criteria for new N.Hs, availability of funds for the purpose, etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The N.T.P.C. (National Transport Policy Committee) has not recommended this road for inclusion in the National Highway grid and consequently, it does not command priority as a new National Highway.

[*English*]

Seizure of Foreign Fishing Trawlers

744. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to prevent the foreign fishing trawlers going near the Indian Coasts; and

(b) the details of the seizures of such trawlers made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a)

The Indian Coastline and the Exclusive Economic zone are kept under surveillance by the Indian Coast Guard vessels and aircraft and all steps are taken to prevent unauthorised fishing by foreign fishing trawlers in the Indian waters.

(b) The details of unauthorised foreign fishing trawlers apprehended during the last three years are:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of apprehensions</i>
1988	31
1989	36
1990	39
1991	21

(till date)

Seizure of Gold, Silver and Heroin at Airports

745. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the quantity and value of smuggled gold, silver and heroin seized by customs authorities at various airports in the country during the year 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): The quantity and value of contraband gold and silver and quantity of heroin seized by the Customs authorities at the international airports located at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Amritsar, Tiruchirapally, Patna and Varnasi during the financial year 1990-91, *i.e.* April, 1990 to March, 1991 are given in the table below:—

	<i>Quantity (in kgs.)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
Gold	2759.947	9233.10
Silver	285.941	19.28
Heroin	227.880	No precise value of heroin can be estimated since it depends on its purity, place of origin etc.

Jute Corporation of India

746. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to further expand the activities of the Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for the monopoly purchase of raw jute by the Jute Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to ban the use of synthetic fibres in the manufacture of sackings; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Government are of the view that the interests of the traditional jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of them should co-exist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Benches of Allahabad High Court

747. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up benches of Allahabad

High Court at various places in Uttar Pradesh, including Bareilly;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these benches are proposed to be set up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission recommended establishment of a permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two Circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun. Specific recommendations of the Commission were referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in October, 1986 for views and comments to be given in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. Definite views and complete proposal have not yet been received from the State Government.

[*English*]

Import of Usable Tyres as Scrap

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news item captioned 'Government loses Rs. 160 crores in revenue' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated 24 June, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of cases of clandestine imports of usable tyres in the form of scrap tyres under OGL which have come to the notice of the Government and the action taken against the persons involved;

(c) the loss of revenue incurred thereby; and

(d) the measures taken to tighten the rules to check such modus operandi in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Government is aware of the news item.

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

Advance from Japan against Exports

749. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to acquire an advance of one billion U.S. dollars from Japan against long term exports; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Bharat Business International Ltd. (BBIL) at one stage was contemplating getting an advance from Japanese trading companies against exports to be made through them. Nothing concrete could, however, emerge on this.

Kozhikode-Palghat National Highway

750. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary work of Kozhikode-Palghat National Highway has been completed;

(b) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) the amount already spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Kozhikode-Palghat road is a State Highway and not a part of the National Highway network. As such, the State Government of Kerala are responsible for its development.

[Translation]

Construction of Bye-Pass Outside Agra City Linking National Highways

751. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road linking Delhi-Calcutta National Highway to Agra-Bombay National Highway and Agra-Jaipur National Highway to Agra city is very narrow and passes through densely populated area of Agra city thereby causing great rush of vehicular traffic and difficulties for the vehicles crossing these highways and often resulting in accidents;

(b) if so whether the Government have any scheme to construct a bye-pass outside Agra city to link the above National Highways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Bypasses are being given low priority vis-a-vis other developmental works in view of the general financial constraints.

[English]

Development of Oak Tasar Industry in Garhwal Region

752. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set up any Regional Tasar Silk Research Station in Garhwal region for extending necessary research and development and extension support to the oak tasar industry in the region:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the works undertaken by it so far;

(c) whether the Central Silk Board has conducted any survey to identify specific villages for development of oak tasar cultures in the region:

(d) if so, the salient features of the survey: and

(e) the action taken thereon and the programme chalked out for oak tasar silk development in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in order to explore the potential of Oak tasar culture in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a Regional Tasar Research Station at Bhimtal. Besides undertaking several experiments, this Station has introduced a modified seed crop rearing schedule.

(c) to (e) Central Silk Board has assisted the Department of Sericulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh in a survey undertaken by them to identify specific villages for development of Oak tasar in Garhwal region. This survey was undertaken in 4 districts of Garhwal region consisting of 25 Block and 282 villages. Total tasar forest area available in the 4 districts of Garhwal region is 4325 hectares.

The Central Silk Board can take further action for development of oak tasar culture in this region, after the basic problems affecting the sector, such as multiplication of seed in different altitudes, stabilisation of commercial cocoon crops, synchronisation of rearing schedules etc., are overcome through R&D work and an effective commercially viable technology is developed.

Bank Branches in Pauri-Garhwal Area

753. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks working in Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Nainital and Almora districts; and

(b) the number of bank branches/extension counters proposed to be opened in these districts during the next two years to remove the imbalance, district wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As on 30-6-1991, 320 branches of Public Sector Banks were functioning in Pauri-Garhwal, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Nainital and Almora Districts as per details given below:—

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
Pauri Garhwal	60
Chamoli	33
Tehri Garhwal	46
Uttarkashi	22
Nainital	98
Almora	61
Total	320

(b) The opening of branches of banks is a continuous process, governed by licences issued by RBI in this regard. As such, it is not possible to project the number of branches of Public Sector Banks to be opened during the next two years. However, 11 licences in Pauri Garhwal, 3 in Chamoli, 4 in Tehri Garhwal and 1 in Uttarkashi are pending with banks. The validity period of these licences has been extended upto 31-3-1992.

Plan Funds to Judiciary

754. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allocate plan funds to the judiciary for its modernisation and development; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The proposal to allocate Plan funds to judiciary for its modernisation and development was considered by this Department in consultation with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission are, however, of the view, that requirement of upgradation of services, including judiciary, have to be met from the non-plan side only.

[Translation]

Deposits in Nationalised Banks of Uttar Pradesh

755. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of term deposits and other deposits in various nationalised banks of Uttar Pradesh during 1990-91;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the investment of money out of the deposited amount by nationalised banks in any State; and

(c) if so, the amount invested in development works out of such deposits in Uttar Pradesh during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India, total amount of deposits of all public sector banks in Uttar Pradesh as at the end of June, 1989 (latest available) were Rs. 13831 crores including Rs. 7428 crores as term deposits.

(b) and (c) The resources mobilised by the public sector banks including deposits raised from the public are deployed to finance various sectoral activities, demanding credit support from banks. The banks also invest in securities of the State Governments, local bodies and public sector undertakings of the State concerned. In the case of Uttar Pradesh, the following table will give the details of the deposits raised by public sector banks and the bank credit in that State for the last three years:

(Rs. in crores)

	Deposits Rs.	Credits Rs.
December, 1988	13436	5680
December, 1989	15163	6578
December, 1990	17368	7664

[English]

Setting up of Sea-food Procurement Centre at Portonovo in Tamil Nadu

756. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a sea-food procurement centre at Portonovo in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu to promote sea-food exports;

(b) whether the Government also propose to advance loans and grants to fishermen to promote export oriented fishing; and

(c) the other schemes under the consideration of the Government to promote sea-food export from Portonovo?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Credit for fishing activity is available through normal banking channels. Government also implements various schemes through Marine Products Export Development Authority for promoting sea-food industry to augment export of marine products.

(c) No separate scheme to promote sea-food export from Portonovo alone is under consideration.

Imports through Replenishment Licences

757. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of import in terms of rupee through the replenishment licences during January-June, 1991;

(b) the quantum of replenishment (REP) licences and special kind of REP licences issued during the period;

(c) the items covered under the special kind of replenishment licences; and

(d) what type of control the Government envisage as far as replenishment licences are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Import statistics are compiled commodity-wise. Therefore, it is not possible to provide figures separately in respect of imports through the REP licences:

(b) As per the data available the following licences were issued during January-March, 1991:—

	<i>No.</i> <i>(Actual)</i>	<i>Value</i> <i>(Rs. crores)</i>
(i) Advance Licences	2629	668
(ii) Special Imprest Licences	79	103
(iii) Imprest Licences	165	471
(iv) Additional Licences	295	219
(v) Duty Free Licences . . . . .	..	..
(vi) REP Licences	23282	1303
Total	26450	2764

(c) (i) REP Licences are valid for import of Limited Permissible items and non-sensitive canalised items. These are also valid for the import of certain restricted items relevant to the product exported as specified in Appendix 17 Part-III, to a limited extent;

(ii) Additional REP Licences are valid for import of OGL items of raw material/components etc. in Appendix 6 List 8/Part-I, OGL Capital Goods, Limited Permissible items, Non-sensitive canalised items, Technical Designs, Drawings and other Technical Documentation, subject to the conditions laid down;

(iii) Advance licences and Special Imprest Licences are valid for the import of raw materials, components and consumables etc. as are relevant and actually required for the manufacture of resultant product for export/supply. Diamond Imprest Licences and DTC Imprest Licences are valid for the import of Rough Diamonds for export production.

(d) No control on replenishment (REP) licences is envisaged. These licences are freely transferable in accordance with the ordinary law.

Incentives for EPZs and EOUs

758. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new packages of incentives proposed by the Government for the Export Processing Zones and Export Oriented Units;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A package of proposals for Export Processing Zones and Export Oriented Units is under consideration.

Merger of Scheduled Banks

759. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for sharp fall in the deposit growth of scheduled banks;

(b) whether the Government propose to amalgamate a few banks to reduce the expenses and get better returns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the percentage increase in the deposits over the previous year of the commercial banks was 18.96 per cent and 16.74 per cent for the financial years 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. Some of the reasons for the fall in the growth rate of deposits of banks are availability of certain other avenues of investment to public such as National Savings Scheme of 1987, National Savings Certificates, Public Provident Fund, Units of Unit Trust of India, Mutual Funds, Debentures/ Shares, company deposits etc. which not only provide better interest rates but also enable the investors to secure certain concessions in Income-Tax.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Credit-Deposit Ratio of State Bank of Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

760. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present credit-deposit ratio of the State Bank of Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the amount of advances/overdrafts and other advances made by the bank to the borrowers and the amount outstanding/overdue in these

accounts as on June 30, 1991 to the importers/exporters, industrial units in these States, during the last three years, branch-wise; and

(c) the number of units financed by the bank in these States which are sick/closed and the amount of locked up capital therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India the Credit: Deposit Ratio of State Bank of Indore in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as on 31-3-1990 was 68.5 per cent and 40.6 per cent respectively.

(b) and (c) As on 30th June, 1991, State Bank of Indore had 289 branches in Madhya Pradesh and 7 branches in Uttar Pradesh. The consolidated information pertaining to these and branches in the two States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Return of Gold Ornaments from Portugal

761. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have finalised the matter relating to the return of gold ornaments and other safe custody articles of Goans presently held with Banco National Ultramarino, Lisbon, Portugal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the matter is likely to be finally settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) With

the approval of the Government of India, an agreement was signed at New Delhi on 14-2-1991 between the Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI) and Chairman, Banco National Ultramarino (BNU) Lisbon, for repatriation of sealed packets containing valuables pledged against loans and safe custody articles;

(b) and (c) In terms of the said agreement, BNU would transfer en-bloc to State Bank of India all outstanding credits, securities and safe custody articles against lump sum payment of principal outstanding, interest thereon and a fixed service charge. A team of SBI officials has left for Lisbon for verification of the sealed packages and taking delivery thereof.

[*Translation*]

National Highways in Bihar

762. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Patna-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Miththmore road, Sitamarhi-Sonvarsa road, Saidpur-Pupari-Surspubela road and Pupari-Chaurat-Madhavapur road in Bihar as National Highways.

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on each of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Lateral Road on Nepal Border in Bihar

763. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a lateral road

passing through Runisaidpur, Pupri, Sursund, Parigaon and Bela in Bihar adjoining Nepal from security point of view:

(b) if so, when: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No.
Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Defence oriented funds are utilised only for the construction of roads of operational importance.

Loans to Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers

764. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued directive to the nationalised banks to give loan upto Rs. 3000/- to small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers on their personal surety; and

(b) if so, the number of such families to whom such loans have been given during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) In terms of Reserve Bank of India guidelines issued to all banks for lending to priority sector, banks should not obtain collateral security by way of mortgage of land/charge on land or third party guarantee for crop loans upto Rs. 10,000 and term loans upto Rs. 10,000 where moveable assets are created. However, primary security by way of hypothecation of crops and/or moveable assets should be taken.

(b) The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the State-wise outstanding amount of advances given by all scheduled commercial banks to small and marginal farmers for the last three years ending December 1987, December, 1988 and September 1989 (latest available) is given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

Sr. No.	States/U.Ts.	Amount		
		(Rs. in lakhs)		
		Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	Sept. 1989
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	14730	16203	16902
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2758	3059	3369
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1189	1354	1368
4.	Punjab	24817	27398	28873
5.	Rajasthan	13080	16228	17004
6.	Chandigarh	893	691	697
7.	Delhi	458	459	508
8.	Assam	2858	3788	4747

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Manipur	220	319	370
10.	Meghalaya	356	825	863
11.	Nagaland	365	280	941
12.	Tripura	670	846	1030
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	31	96
14.	Mizoram	41	167	123
15.	Sikkim	190	166	176
16.	Bihar	22633	27186	32300
17.	Orissa	15720	17863	17985
18.	West Bengal	18504	21159	23145
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	56	42	55
20.	Madhya Pradesh	19981	22961	25127
21.	Uttar Pradesh	45243	51683	53570
22.	Gujarat	16270	17424	17597
23.	Maharashtra	32879	28855	41407
24.	Goa, Daman and Diu	557	984	892
25.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	15	15	25
26.	Andhra Pradesh	63969	68647	75779
27.	Karnataka	39466	40759	45122
28.	Kerala	33548	34397	40848
29.	Tamil Nadu	60459	53845	77064
30.	Pondicherry	1238	769	1465
31.	Lakshadweep	27	36	8

[English]

Appointment of Officers Nominees as Directors in Nationalised Banks

765. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment of officers nominees as Directors on the
15—15 LSS/ND/91

Boards of all nationalised banks has not been done for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the procedure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) No officer employee director could be appointed on the Boards of public sector banks for quite some time in view of the pending litigation in the matter in various courts. Pursuant to the judgement delivered by the Sup-

reme Court in August, 1989, it has been decided by the Government to appoint officer employee directors from among the office-bearers of the majority all India bank officers' association of the bank, with first preference being given to the General Secretary of the association; and in case he suffers from any disqualification, to the President or the Vice-President of the association in that order. Already officer employee directors have been appointed by the Government on the Boards of Bank of India, New Bank of India and Corporation Bank. Such vacancies existing in other banks will also be filled up very soon.

Cash Dealings in Bank Drafts

766. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SMT. MAHENDRA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued any directives to banks to stop cash dealings in Bank Drafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases where the newly opened current accounts with banks in fictitious names were used to deposit large sums in cash, which were subsequently withdrawn for payment against drafts purchased from the same or the other banks during the last two years till date, bank-wise;

(d) the number of cases where goods were purchased by securing demand drafts against cash payment in the name of fictitious persons operating from unidentifiable or fictitious addresses during the above period, bank-wise; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently advised all banks that demand drafts, mail transfers, telegraphic transfers and traveller cheques for Rs. 50,000 and above should be issued by banks only by debit to customers' account and not against cash payment. Similarly such payments for Rs. 50,000 and above are to be made through banking channels and not in cash.

(c) and (d) The present data reporting system does not generate the information asked for.

(e) In order to prevent opening of account in benami and fictitious names with banks, RBI has already issued a number of circulars wherein banks have been advised to obtain proper introduction before opening any account. Banks have also been advised by RBI to carefully monitor all transactions with unusual characteristics.

[Translation]

Per Capita Amount of Central Grant to Bihar

767. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount of Central grant to States during the last five years. State-wise;

(b) whether the per capita amount of Central grant to Bihar is comparatively less than other States;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar has requested the Union Government to increase the per capita amount of Central grant to Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) A Statement indicating the State-wise per capita grants from the Centre to States is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

*Statewise amount of Per Capita Grants from the Centre to States**(Figures in Rupees)*

<i>States</i>	1986-87 <i>(Actuals)</i>	1987-88 <i>(Actuals)</i>	1988-89 <i>(Actuals)</i>	1989-90 <i>(R.E.)</i>	1990-91 <i>(B.E.)</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	73	70	85	81	76
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2186	2588	2507	2963	2972
3. Assam	175	215	230	265	245
4. Bihar	56	56	76	56	78
5. Goa	577	360	460	442	540
6. Gujarat	57	119	101	77	112
7. Haryana	114	103	107	118	105
8. Himachal Pr.	564	691	688	749	779
9. Jammu & Kashmir	488	499	618*	670	578
10. Karnataka	62	61	75	74	70
11. Kerala	66	65	74	109	98
12. Madhya Pr.	68	79	98	81	186
13. Maharashtra	68	72	83	82	68
14. Manipur	953	1046	1199*	1374	1368
15. Meghalaya	823	970	1050	1250	1402
16. Mizoram	1095	1798	2735	3258	291
17. Nagaland	2056	2448	2266*	2207	2145
18. Orissa	110	129	162	196	252
19. Punjab	74	63	101	162	123
20. Rajasthan	121	154	153	121	203
21. Sikkim	1982	2048	2251	2147	2318
22. Tamil Nadu	54	70	81	60	61
23. Tripura	712	791	981	1110	1246
24. Uttar Pr.	58	73	87	83	165
25. West Bengal	73	89	104	79	89

R.E.: Revised Estimates.

B.E.: Budget Estimates.

*Relates to revised estimates.

Source: Reserve Bank of India, Bombay.

[English]

Infiltrators and Exfiltrators Intercepted by Army in J&K

768. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infiltrators and exfiltrators intercepted by the Army across the line of actual control in Jammu & Kashmir during 1990-91 quarter-wise;

(b) the number out of them killed in the course of interception;

(c) the number of sophisticated weapons, item-wise captured from the

infiltrators in the process of interception during 1990-91, and

(d) the overall trends as gauged from the pattern of infiltration and exfiltration?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

1. The number of infiltrators and exfiltrators intercepted by the Army across the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir during 1990-91, quarter-wise, is as under:—

Sl. No.	Quarter	Infiltrators	Exfiltrators
1.	Jan—Mar 90	5	77
2.	Apr—Jun 90	140	182
3.	Jul—Sep 90	274	100
4.	Oct—Dec 90	317	108
5.	Jan—Mar 91	1	—
6.	Apr—June 91	105	56
	Total	842	523

464 infiltrators/exfiltrators were killed in the course of interception.

2. The following recoveries were made from the infiltrators:

Rifles AK 47/56	—	591
Machine guns	—	73
Pistols	—	318
RL/RPG	—	68
Grenades	—	849
Mines	—	242

3. The following aspects are noticeable:

(i) The largest number of incident of infiltr/exfiltr were in the months of April—October, 1990.

(ii) In 1990, Kupwara, Northern Gallies and Uri sectors were

the most frequently used routes of infiltration/exfiltration. Lately, routes over difficult terrain are also being used.

(iii) As compared to last year, the militants apprehended in recent months are far better trained.

DTC Buses on Inter-State Routes

769. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has been plying its buses on Inter-State routes;

(b) if so, the names of these routes;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure punctual

running of the DTC buses on these routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the DTC proposes to ply its buses on some more Inter-State routes; and

(f) if so, the details of routes proposed to be covered during the next five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) The Delhi Transport Corporation has been taking adequate steps to ensure punctual running of DTC buses on inter-state routes. The steps taken towards this include;

- (1) Deployment of new and healthy fleet;
- (2) Fleet manned by selective crew;
- (3) Counters at ISBT are being manned by the time keepers who regulate the service properly. Time keepers are deputed on some outstation points also to maintain punctuality of services;
- (4) By enforcing better administrative and operational control.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

STATEMENT

Names of the Inter-state routes operated by DTC

HARYANA

1. K. Trml.—Bahadurgarh
2. K. Trml.—Palam Vihar
3. K. Trml.—Badli
4. Delhi—Balabgarh

5. Delhi—Faridabad
6. Faridabad—Gurgaon
7. A.I.I.M.S.—Faridabad
8. S.J. Hospital—Gurgaon
9. K. Trml.—Faridabad
10. Lajpat Nagar—Faridabad
11. Delhi—Hodal
12. Delhi—Jind
13. Delhi—Pehwa
14. Delhi—Patla
15. Delhi—Panipat
16. Delhi—Narnol (via Sohna)
17. Delhi—Narnol (via Maheshar)
18. Delhi—Yamuna Nagar
19. Ajmeri Gate—Sohna/Gurgaon
20. Shivaji Stadium—Gurgaon/Sohna
21. Delhi—Bhiwani
22. Delhi—Hissar
23. Delhi—Kaithal
24. Delhi—Kalka
25. Delhi—Kharkhoda

HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. Delhi—Baijnath
2. Delhi—Chamba
3. Delhi—Devi Darshan
4. Delhi—Dharamshala
5. Delhi—Hamirpur
6. Delhi—Mandi
7. Delhi—Shimla

JAMMU & KASHMIR

1. Delhi—Jammu
2. Delhi—Katra

MADHYA PRADESH

1. Delhi—Gwalior

PUNJAB

1. Delhi—Amritsar
2. Delhi—Banga
3. Delhi—Bela
4. Delhi—Bhatinda

5. Delhi—Chandigarh
6. Delhi—Dhuri
7. Delhi—Hoshiarpur
8. Delhi—Kapurthala
9. Delhi—Ludhiana
10. Delhi—Machiwara
11. Delhi—Patiala
12. Delhi—Pathankot
13. Delhi—Talwara
14. Delhi—Malerkotla
15. Delhi—Sangroor
16. Delhi—Bias

RAJASTHAN

1. Delhi—Alwer
2. Delhi—Ajmer
3. Delhi—Bharatpur
4. Delhi—Balaji
5. Delhi—Bikaner
6. Delhi—Ganga Nagar—I (via Sangaria)
7. Delhi—Ganga Nagar—II (via Abhor)
8. Delhi—Jaipur (via Alwer)
9. Delhi—Jaipur (via Kotputli)
10. Delhi—Jhunjunu
11. Delhi—Khetri
12. Delhi—Kotputli
13. Delhi—Mahavirji
14. Delhi—Sahapura
15. Delhi—Pilani
16. Delhi—Puskerji
17. Delhi—Siker

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Delhi—Agra (via Kosi)
2. Delhi—Agra (via Hathras)
3. Delhi—Aligarh
4. Delhi—Almora (Delux)
5. Delhi—Anoopsher
6. Delhi—Haldwani (via Tanda)
7. Delhi—Haldwani (via Pant)
8. Delhi—Bareilly
9. Delhi—Bullandsher

10. Delhi—Badaun-I (via Moradabad)
11. Delhi—Badaun-II (via Narora)
12. Delhi—Dehradum
13. Delhi—Etha
14. Delhi—Farukhabad (night via Kayamganj)
15. Delhi—Farukhabad (via Raja ka Rampur)
16. Delhi—Ghaziabad/Dujana
17. K. Trml.—Ghaziabad
18. Nehru Place—Ghaziabad
19. Shivaji Stadium—Ghaziabad
20. Shivaji Stadium—Mohan Nagar/Air Force Station (Hindon)
21. Delhi—Dadri
22. Shivaji Stadium—NTPC (Dadri)
23. Pragati Maidan—Vijaynagar.
24. Delhi—Goverdhan
25. Delhi—Haridwar
26. Delhi—Hastinapur
27. Delhi—Kishanpur Bral/Bagpat
28. Delhi—Khurja
29. Delhi—Kotdwar
30. Delhi—Kasganj
31. Delhi—Lucknow
32. Delhi—Mansoorie (Delux)
33. Delhi—Moradabad
34. Delhi—Meerut
35. Delhi—Mathura
36. Delhi—Mainpuri
37. Shahdra—Mandola
38. Delhi—Muzaffar Nagar
39. Delhi—Nainital (via Tanda)
40. Delhi—Nainital (via Pant Nagar).
41. Delhi—Naziba Bad.
42. Delhi—Pilibhit.
43. Delhi—Ram Nagar
44. Delhi—Rishikesh
45. Delhi—Saharanpur
46. Delhi—Sahjabad.
47. Delhi—Sikohabad
48. Delhi—Tanakpur
49. Delhi—Kanpur
50. Delhi—Varindavan.

Increase in Number of Buses on Routes having Heavy Traffic Potential

770. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Delhi Transport Corporation to increase the number of buses on a particular route where there is a heavy traffic potential; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the routes where such increase has been made during 1990 and 1991 till June?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Periodic surveys are carried out by the DTC on routes having excessive passenger loads and also to ascertain the viability of the route if increased number of buses are provided. Additional buses have been provided on Route Nos. 509, 1, 143, 934, 735, 958, 66 and 984 during 1990 and till June, 1991.

Performance of Public Sector Banks

771. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of foreign banks in India and the deposit growth rates in these banks is more impressive as compared to public sector banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the performance of the public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Performance of foreign banks in India in terms of profitability and deposit growth rate is more impressive as compared to that of public sector banks.

(b) The better performance of foreign banks may be attributed among other things, to their concentration in metropolitan and port towns, their overseas network enabling them to attract more NRI deposits, mechanisation and computerisation of operations, lower priority sector lendings and high level of non-fund business.

(c) Government and Reserve Bank of India have already taken a number of steps to ensure the viability and improve the performance of public sector banks. The measures taken include strengthening of the capital base, rationalisation of service charges and interest rates structure and containment of staff growth. The banks have also been advised to ensure better credit management, raise productivity and effect economy wherever possible. To provide the competitive edge to banks, new money market instruments like certificates of deposits and commercial papers have been introduced and rates of interest on term deposits have been enhanced. Banks have also been permitted to diversify their activities.

[*Translation*]

Proposal to include Jodhpur Bye-pass in Strategic Road Programme

772. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jodhpur bye-pass between Nasirabad to Pokhran in Rajasthan is of strategic importance;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for inclusion of the above bye-pass in the strategic road programme; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH

TYTLER): (a) to (c) Sir, the information cannot be disclosed in public interest.

Conversion of National Highways into Expressways

773. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to convert some National Highways into Expressways; and

(b) if so, the names of such National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) No. Sir. However, an Expressway No. NE-1 is presently under construction from Ahmedabad to Vadodara along an altogether new alignment.

[English]

National Highways in Rajasthan

774. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan submitted some proposals for declaring certain roads as National Highways and also for construction of bridges on Inter-State roads during 1989, 1990 and 1991 (upto 30 June);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the proposals, out of the above, which have been sanctioned so far;

(d) the time by which the remaining proposals will be sanctioned; and

(e) if no proposal has been sanctioned, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating both the requirements is attached.

(c) to (e) At the behest of the State Government of Rajasthan, the Manoharpura-Dausa Road link was included in the National Highway grid in February, 1989. However, the balance proposals for new National Highways, and the projects proposed so far under Inter-State or Economic Importance Scheme, can be considered only after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan depending upon inter-se priorities, funds available etc.

STATEMENT

(A) *Proposals for new National Highways received in 1989-90:*

- (1) Manoharpura—Dausa Road link.
- (2) Ajmeer—Bhilwara—Chittore—Indore Road.
- (3) Dausa—Sawaimadhapur.
- (4) Extension of 11-A from Manoharpura to Bagru via Chomu.

Proposals for new National Highways received during 1990-91 upto June, 1991.

- (i) Bikaner—Merta—Ajmer—Bhilwara—Chittorgarh—Ratlam—Indore.
- (ii) Gurgaon—Alwar Sariska—Dausa—Sawai Madhopur—Shivpuri.
- (iii) Kosi—Kama—Deeg—Bharatpur—Roopwas—Sepau—Dholpur.
- (iv) Extension of NH. 11(A) from Chandwaji (on NH. 8) to Chomu (on NH. 11) and Chomu to Bagru (on NH. 8).

(B) *Proposals under Inter-State or Economic Importance during 1989-90;*

- (i) Bridge on river Parvati on Chhabra-Dharnavada road (Cost: Rs. 350.00 lakhs)
- (ii) Bridge on river Ujhar on S.H. No. 19 District Jhalawar (Cost: Rs. 75.00 lakhs)

Proposals under Inter-State or Economic Importance during 1990-91 upto June, 91.

- (1) Construction of H.L. Bridge across river Parvati on Chhabra-Dharnaoda road (Cost: Rs. 350.00 lakhs)
- (2) Construction of H.L. Bridge across river Parvan on Baran Khanpur Jhalawar road in KM. 21 (Cost : Rs. 360.00 lakhs)
- (3) Construction of H.L. Bridge across river Ujhar on Indergarh Itawa Baran Khanpur Jhalawar Bhawani Mandi Dag Agar road (Cost: Rs. 96.00 lakhs)
- (4) Construction of H.L. Bridge across river Kunu on Kota Baran Shahbad Shivpuri road (Cost : Rs. 150.00 lakhs).
- (5) Construction of High Level bridge across river Jagar on Bharatpur Bayana Hindaun road at Km. 69 (Cost : Rs. 180.00 lakhs).
- (6) Construction of High Level bridge over river Dheel on Bonli Newai road in Km. 14 (Cost : Rs. 220.00 lakhs).
- (7) Construction of High Level bridge across river Jeewat in Km. 16 of Gangapur Bhadoti section of Bayana Hindaun Gangapur Bhadoti road (MDR-2) (Cost : Rs. 270.00 lakhs).
- (8) Construction of High Level bridge across river Bandi on Chaksu Fagi road SHW No. 2 (Cost : Rs. 250.00 lakhs).

- (9) Construction of High Level bridge across Gambhir river on Hindaun Dhawan Dholeta road in Km. 14/15 (Cost: Rs. 250.00 lakhs).
- (10) Construction of High Level bridge across river Morel on Bhadoti Gangapur road (Cost: Rs. 600.00 lakhs).
- (11) Construction of High Level bridge near Jaitpura on Raniwara Mander road SHW No. 11 (Cost: Rs. 165.00 lakhs).
- (12) Construction of High Level bridge near Karaunti on Sirohi Revdar Mandor Deesa SH No. 27 (Cost: 200.00 lakhs).
- (13) Construction of High Level Bridge over river West Banas on Sirohi Pindwara Abu road near Taleti (Cost : Rs. 200.00 lakhs).

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Gold and Silver

775. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the smuggling of gold and silver since 1989-90;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) and (b) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate whether there has been a spurt in the smuggling of gold and silver since 1989-90. However, the figures of the quantity of gold and

silver seized during the last two years increasing trend in the case of silver as given in the table below show an but not so in the case of gold.

Year	Quantity (in kgs.)	
	Gold	Silver
1989	8215	99332
1990	5596	220313
*1991 (upto 15-7-1991)	3064	123046

*Figures are provisional.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the land borders, coastline and the international airports and seaports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in detection and prevention of smuggling. Sophisticated equipments like X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors, night vision binoculars are being increasingly used.

Debt Relief given under Agricultural and Rural Artisan Debt Relief Scheme

776. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt relief provided by the nationalised banks under the Agricultural and Rural Artisan Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 during 1990-91 State-wise;

(b) whether debt relief has been given under this scheme to all those persons, who have been paying back their loans regularly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is proposal to extend this scheme to small artisans in the small scale industry sector in urban areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The total amount of debt relief provided under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme as on 1-7-1991 by all public sector banks including nationalised banks was Rs. 2759 crores. The corresponding State-wise position with regard to the waiver of loans effected under ARDR Scheme to eligible borrowers is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) The benefit of debt relief will be available to the following categories of borrowers:

(a) Non-wilful defaulter farmer by the "Annewari System" applied on the village basis. The farmer who has defaulted in payment of his loan for two or more bad crop years on the basis of the Annewari system, will be treated as a non-wilful defaulter eligible for debt relief.

(b) defaulter farmer, artisan and weaver with 'chronic overdues' i.e. overdues which remained unpaid for more than three years at the cut off date i.e. 2-10-1989. The concept of Annewari does not apply in this category.

(c) The surviving family of a deceased borrower on whom the liability has devolved on 2-10-1989.

(d) The farmer who had filed insolvency petitions or who has already been declared insolvent on or before 2-10-89.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make any changes in the Scheme.

STATEMENT

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41,345
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64
3.	Assam	5,784
4.	Bihar	19,598
5.	Goa	282
6.	Gujarat	13,803
7.	Haryana	8,232
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2,148
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	439
10.	Karnataka	27,610
11.	Kerala	6,642
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15,738
13.	Maharashtra	25,635
14.	Manipur	434
15.	Meghalaya	644
16.	Mizoram	98
17.	Nagaland	618
18.	Orissa	12,111
19.	Punjab	7,682
20.	Rajasthan	15,493
21.	Sikkim	268
22.	Tamil Nadu	23,112
23.	Tripura	794
24.	Uttar Pradesh	28,976
25.	West Bengal	16,856
26.	Chandigarh	74
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15

1	2	3
28. Daman & Diu		11
29. Delhi		452
30. Lakshadweep		3
31. Pondicherry		725
32. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		36
Total		2,75,922

Or Rs. 2759 Crores

[English]

Indian Banks Functioning Abroad

777. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Banks functioning abroad, countrywise;

(b) whether the capital base of Indian banks abroad is still low;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the performance of Indian banks abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) At present 9 Indian banks are operating 115 branches abroad. Bank-wise and

country-wise break-up is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the capital requirements, wherever prescribed by the regulatory authorities of respective countries, have been met by Indian banks.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various steps have been taken in the last few years to monitor and improve the operations of overseas branches which inter-alia include strengthening of personnel policy and prudential norms in regard to lending limits and country exposures, reinforcing of internal and supervisory control, promoting co-operation and co-ordination among the Indian banks, portfolio inspection of international divisions, closure of non-viable branches, review of problem credits etc. The important developments of overseas branches are also discussed in detail by Governor, Reserve Bank of India in his Action Plan meetings.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16. Panama	1	..	..	1
17. South Korea	1	..	..	..	1
18. Sri Lanka	2	2	1	..	..	5
19. Singapore	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	3	7
20. Seychelles	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
21. Thailand	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
22. U.S.A.	1	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	7
23. U.K.	11	13	..	1	..	..	5	1	2	33
24. UAE	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
25. F.R. Germany	1	..	..	1
TOTAL	48	25	1	1	3	6	23	1	7	115

Fulfilment of International Obligations by SBI

778. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the State Bank of India has not been able to fulfil its international payment obligations and raise loans in foreign currency;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :
(a) No Sir. State Bank of India has been able to fulfil its international payment obligations and has been able to raise loans in foreign currency.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Special Courts

779. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special courts constituted during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to wind up the special courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction and Encroachment on Military Land Around Mahatma Gandhi Park, Kanpur

780. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been large scale unauthorised construction of buildings and encroachment of the military land in or around Mahatma Gandhi Park, Kanpur;

(b) whether the office of the Central Command of Indian Army and other Army Authorities had not sanctioned any plan of construction of the buildings;

(c) whether the LAO had also objected to the proposal of the Cantt. Board in this regard as early as in 1984;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether any inquiry was ordered into the matter?

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Plans for the construction of buildings within cantonment areas are sanctioned by the Cantonment Board.

(c) and (d) Local Audit Officer raised an objection of a technical nature regarding the conversion of 7 units of Malis quarters into shops by the Cantonment Board, 'inter-alia', stating that this action amounted to a change of purpose in respect of a portion of land vested in the Cantonment Board as Public Garden (Mahatma Gandhi Park) into commercial use without the requisite sanction. The Cantonment Board and Defence Estates authorities have initiated action for obtaining the required sanction to regularise the matter.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dwarka Nath Das to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: One after the other.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): I am on a point of order. (Interruptions)

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): This is a very important and a sensitive issue. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you later on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: The Government of Karnataka has issued an ordinance which is very much against the Constitution of India. (Interruptions) It is very important. Tamil Nadu People are suffering a lot. This is a very serious matter. (Interruptions) We demand from the Prime Minister that he should come with a statement. (Interruptions) It is unfortunate that a ordinance is issued against the Constitution of India. They have no right to issue a such ordinance. We want a statement from the Prime Minister today. We want a firm reply from the Government now. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want any response?

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Promulgation of this ordinance is unconstitutional. (Interruptions)

SHRI M. R. JANARTHANAN (Thirunelveli): It is a challenge to the Constitution of India. (Interruptions) It is a question of life and death for the people of Tamil Nadu. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats first. Well, I have decided to allow you to express your views; but you can do it one after the other. You cannot do it at one and the same time. I have called out the name of one gentleman. One hon. Member from here will speak first and then I will call out your names also. Shri Dwarka Nath Das.

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS (Karim Ganj): Sir, the working of the Post and Telegraph system is in a bad state in Barak valley of Assam. May be it is due to shortage of staff or may be for other reasons. For example, one letter takes at least eight to ten days specially in rural areas to cover a distance of 50 kms. Sometimes telegrams are sent just like ordinary post cards because it is a common feature that most of the time the telegraph line remains dead, not to speak of telephone whose working is the worst at present.

Will the hon. Minister of Communications be pleased to look into the condition of this system in Barak valley soon, particularly that of Karim Gani District of Assam in these respects?

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, yesterday the Karnataka Government.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): Sir, I am on a point of order. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please take your seats. I have said that I will

allow you to speak and I will allow you also to speak. Everything you are doing at this point of time is out of order. It is not according to order and that is why you cannot raise points of order at this point of time.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: The Karnataka Government yesterday promulgated an ordinance.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I am on a point of order and I want your ruling Sir. No State subject can be discussed here. He is creating a bad precedent.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: They have created a bad precedent. They cannot challenge the authority of the Government by nullifying the Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal's interim order. The Ordinance promulgated by the Karnataka Government is unconstitutional and illegal. It is an attempt to nullify the interim order of the tribunal and to prevent Tamilnadu to get water. It is an open challenge to the authority of this Government. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. This is not the way and I will allow you also to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, for 22 years, discussions were going on, but nothing has come out of that. Therefore, hereafter there shall be no negotiations. I demand that the Central Government and the Prime Minister should immediately intervene in the matter and find out a solution for that. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Anbarasu says, goes on record.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, they should honour the Award of the Tribunal. One more thing is there.

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The Chief Minister of Karnataka is playing a political gimmick to consolidate his position. The people of Karnataka are very good. He should honour the Award. The Central Government should immediately intervene and give directions to the Government of Karnataka to obey the Award, to honour the Award and to allow the people of Tamilnadu to get water. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR (Dharwad, North): Sir, the statement made by the hon. Member from Tamilnadu is in respect of the ordinance issued by the State Government of Karnataka. Sir, you are aware that under the federal structure of the Constitution, a State has the power to legislate, in respect of matters listed in the State List and the Concurrent List. Now that ordinance—whatever may be its effect, either on the order of the tribunal or otherwise—cannot be discussed on the Floor of this House. So, ordinance or legislation of the State cannot be discussed here. It is an independent authority. (*Interruptions*) No reference can be made to the ordinance or legislation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: The ordinance itself is illegal and unconstitutional. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR: A reference has been allowed to be made in this House now. So, I seek your ruling on this as to whether the ordinance can be discussed here or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Naikar, it may be very difficult for you to have a ruling from me. You please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what does Central Government want? (*Interruptions*) In one of the States their supporting party is in power and in the other state, their own party is in power. Sir, it is a very serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the very ordinance of the Karnataka Government is illegal and it is unconstitutional. It is against the very interests of the Indian Constitution itself. One State cannot issue an ordinance against the Central Government So, I am afraid, whether the Karnataka Government is within the Union of India or not. A Constitutional question arises today. Another thing is that the interim Award of the Tribunal is issued in favour of Tamilnadu and is valid according to the Constitution. After the direction from the Court, the Award was passed; the Award must be totally accepted by the Central Government. I seek the indulgence of the Central Government and the Prime Minister to come out with a statement in this regard. I also demand from the Central Government, to pass an order directing the State Government of Karnataka to release water immediately as per the interim Award of the Tribunal.

I seek your indulgence and I demand this from the Government, through you. Sir. The Prime Minister must come out with a statement since it is a serious matter and thousands and thousands of people of Tamilnadu are suffering because of this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had the privilege of being in this House since 1977. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please direct

the Central Government to come out with a statement in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I know how the highest forum of democracy was functioning all these days. It is the right of any State Government to issue or promulgate an ordinance. Whether it is right or wrong, it cannot be discussed on the Floor of this House. We have maintained this tradition; we have maintained this convention. But, it is most unfortunate today that we have allowed some hon. Members of the other State to speak. We should not have done that. We have opened the flood-gates and we have created a bad precedent. (*Interruptions*) We should be very careful. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: He is misleading the House: misleading the facts and mis-interpreting the facts. It is not true. (*Interruptions*) An ordinance could be issued only on a State Subject and not on a Central Subject. The State Government has no business to issue an ordinance on this subject. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the relevant question is that the matter is now pending before the Tribunal. The Tribunal is seized of the matter. The Tribunal has passed an interim order. In fact, the Tribunal has no right to pass any such order. In the history of any such Tribunal constituted so far, such order has ever been passed.

The holding capacity put together for all the reservoirs constructed by the State of Karnataka is only 120 TMC whereas the Tribunal by its interim order has directed the Karnataka State to ensure presence of 205 TMC of water in Mettur dam. It is highly impossible and not practicable.

In Karnataka, we are now growing only one dry crop by making use of the Cauvery water whereas in Tamil Nadu, they are growing three paddy crops in a year. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: You do not know A, B, C, D of Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: There is no drinking water for greater Bangalore city. The people of greater Bangalore city are suffering due to shortage of drinking water. So, my submission is that the ordinance issued today by the Government of Karnataka is well within the provisions of the Constitution. Any elected Government will have to come to the rescue of the people of the State. The Government of Karnataka has done the right thing.

The Central Government must take interest. It must see that whatever dispute is there, it should be amicably resolved. It must, call both the parties for negotiations. They should sit across the table and come to an amicable settlement so that such problems do not arise hereafter anywhere in the country. So, my submission is that whatever has been done by the Karnataka Government is correct. And it cannot be questioned now here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, yesterday, Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury raised this matter. When the *bandh* has been called in both the States, this is a matter which should be amicably settled. But it is very unfortunate I am not blaming any Hon. Member or any State because obviously the feelings are running high. Therefore, it was essential that the Government should have taken note of the matter which was raised yesterday. The Prime Minister is expected to have called a meeting. There is an Inter-State Council now. The Inter-State Council should be called. That is the proper forum for all these questions to be resolved amicably. We want a united India where

every State's problems should be looked into objectively and a solution should be arrived at. Therefore, I appeal to all sections of the House that we should look into this matter from that point of view.

I request through you that the Hon. Prime Minister should immediately convene a meeting of the Inter-State Council, sit with them for this matter immediately so that a solution is found out. Mutual recrimination will not help. Every State has its problems. Therefore, on the floor of the House, we shall be only trading charges or accusations. I am sure, the Hon. Members would not impute any motives to anybody. But in view of the demands of the States, it is bound to arise. The feelings will be more intensified. Therefore, this is an important matter. I hope you will make an observation so that the Prime Minister immediately responds.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that it is but natural that the Member representing a particular State would keep the interest of his state in mind while expressing his views. As such the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu were very much excited yesterday and today the hon. Members belonging to both the States Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are presenting their view-points. We had been expecting the Prime Minister since yesterday to take initiative in this regard and find some way to resolve this tangle so that the call for *bandhs* in Tamil Nadu as well as in Karnataka would have been abandoned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised today that such an ordinance is against the Centre is not correct in my opinion but the Central Government should clarify the position. The hon. Members from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka cannot make a statement on this matter. I agree with the views expressed by Shri Somnath

Chatterjee and I understand that instead of raising this issue in this august House, the Congress Party should take it up in its party forum and the Prime Minister should invite the Chief Ministers of both the States for a dialogue and come to an amicable settlement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the proposal and sentiments expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. Whenever the issue of a state is raised it is quite obvious on the part of the hon. Members from that State to express their concern. If they talk about their rights it is nothing wrong. However, it is for the Government to ensure that all the States in India should enjoy equal rights, because all of them have equal rights. As such the proposal to convene a meeting of the Inter-State Council has been made. We would also urge the Prime Minister to convene a meeting and resolve this issue. Allegations and Counter allegations cannot solve the problem.

[English]

SHRI M. R. JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker Sir, the august House must understand that the people of Tamil Nadu were negotiating for the past 20 years. So many negotiations were there but they turned futile and they gave us no fruits. Afterwards, just a year back, it was left to the Tribunal which happened after a very long time. Even now, if the Karnataka Government is not accepting or honouring the award, then it is a disgrace to the people of Tamil Nadu. It is not only a disgrace to us but we cannot tolerate it also. Cauvery basin is the only rice basin for six crores of Tamilians. Tanjore district is wholly dependent on the Cauvery basin. An hon. Member from Karnataka said that we are growing three crops in a year. Sir, this is not a fact. Sir, if Tanjore goes dry without water in the Cauvery river, then Tamil Nadu will become another Sahara desert. Therefore, I

request the Central Government to come forward immediately and intervene to solve the problem. The mistake done is that the Central Government did not notify the award in the Central Gazette. When we announced a *bandh*, they announced a counter-*bandh*. Then, all of a sudden, the promulgation of the ordinance came as a shock to us. Do you want Tamil Nadu to go the ULFA and Punjab way? But we do not want to become like Punjab and ULFA because we are Tamilians. We are for united India and it should be Union of India. It should not be United States of India. I would like to ask the hon. Members from Karnataka as to whether India is going to be Union of India or United States of India. Sir, they have built 28 reservoirs even without the clearance of the Central Government. Therefore, I plead with the hon. Prime Minister to come forward to solve the issue. Otherwise, it will lead to untold chaos between so many linguistic castes which cannot be subdued by the people of Tamil Nadu. So, the Prime Minister must come forward and notify the award in the Central Gazette and the award should be honoured. Our brothers from Karnataka must also come forward to honour the award which is also necessary. Only then, we can hold talks. Sir, this is our only request to you.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court held that the Tribunal has powers to pass interim order. On the direction of the Supreme Court, the Tribunal has passed the interim order. It is a judicial forum which has been constituted by the Government of India on the direction of the Supreme Court, in accordance to the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Now, the Karnataka Government had issued an ordinance to nullify the order of the Tribunal. This is violative of the Constitution. As per Tamil Nadu's requirements and legitimate right of Tamil Nadu, we require more than 300 TMC of water for one year. But

we have accepted the order of the Tribunal just to obey the order of the Tribunal. But the Government of Karnataka is not above law. It is not functioning in accordance with the law and it goes against the Constitution. So, the Prime Minister should intervene at this stage and issue an executive directive as per article 256 of the Constitution.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Sir, every State would like to pass a legislation or issue an ordinance to protect their own interest. Accordingly, what the Karnataka Government had done is justified. But if, as Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has said just now in the House, the Prime Minister intervenes and call the Inter-State Council, then I think, it will be acceptable to both the parties and they can come together to hold talks.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM (Tindivanam): Both the Government of Karnataka and the Government of Tamil Nadu are parties before the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. The Tribunal's order was given in spite of the Government of Karnataka questioning the tribunal's authority before the Supreme Court. The Tribunal has given the interim order on the direction of the Supreme Court. So, the Tribunal's order is binding on both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. But, when the order has been given, the Government of Karnataka has now come forward with an ordinance, which nullifies the very order of the Supreme Court and the Tribunal. The State Government has disobeyed the orders of the Supreme Court and the Tribunal and this should be viewed very seriously.

Apart from this, we the people of Tamil Nadu are the sufferers. Interstate discussions can take place at any time, but our sufferings must be taken into account now itself. The Government of India should take it very seriously and I want to request

the Prime Minister to come before this House and make a statement.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Over the last few days, a lot has been said about the killing of innocent Sikh pilgrims in Pilibhit. After this matter was raised in this House, it was agreed by the Government that the Home Minister would make a statement in this connection. But I am sorry to say that no statement has yet been made. Along with other members, I personally visited Pilibhit. We have seen that it was an absolutely cold-blooded murder of the Sikh pilgrims by the police...*(Interruptions)* I do not know why Shri Khurana is getting agitated. On 29th June, these pilgrims went to Patna Saheb, Karnataka and Maharashtra and while returning, they were apprehended in a bus on the 13th July. They were taken out of the bus and they were killed in a fake encounter...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I allowed you to make your point. Now please sit down.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. You cannot continue like that. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law and order situation in Gujarat is deteriorating day by day and has reached a point as if there is no Government functioning there. The crowd of two thousand people in Baroda town surrounded the police station, pelted stones and created a fury. In this incident ten persons were killed and fifteen injured. Similar is the state of affairs in Bharuch. Five or six persons succumbed to their injuries, people are being ki-

led and a police constable was also murdered. The situation in the entire Gujarat State has gone from bad to worse. I request the Government through you that the efforts should be made to improve the situation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Shri Brinsh Patel...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I have allowed Shri Patel.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Patel speaks, will go on record.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Sir, my name is Brishin Patel, not Brinsh Patel.

MR. SPEAKER: I will learn your name correctly.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, incidents of kidnapping are being reported from Deoria in Uttar Pradesh and also from Betia, Motihari and Gopalganj areas of Bihar. These abductors are known as Jungle party. Through you I would like to inform the Central Government that thousands of people were kidnapped and out of them many have lost their lives. As such I would like to urge upon the Central

Government that a special task force should be set up with the assistance of the State Government and try to curb this growing menace so that the people of these areas may feel secure.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Assam should be dealt with strongly and the Government should give up the policy of appeasement.

During the last few weeks, the Government had to hold prolonged talks with the extremists in a bid to secure release of Shri Doraiswamy in Kashmir and the persons kidnapped by ULFA extremists in Assam and in the process the Government had to accept the various odd conditions laid down by the extremist and terrorist elements. This has brought the Government to ridicule as Government surrendered and bowed down before the anti social elements. Consequently the traitors and terrorists feel emboldened and they have not kept their word and are making fresh demands every day. It is creating a sense of distress and disillusionment among the para military forces. In this way, they are being demoralised. Hence the Government should discard this policy of appeasement and should curb these secessionist forces by adopting a firm attitude. This will enable the Government to win the public faith and dispel the wrong notions created in the minds of the people.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The Government should come out with a statement informing whether Shri Doraiswamy is alive or dead.

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, two Division Benches of Bombay High Court have already been start-

ed; one at Nagpur (Vidarbha) and other at Aurangabad (Marathwara). 20,000 cases arising from the districts of Pune, Sholapur, Satara, Kolhapur and Nopar are pending in Bombay High Court. There is an urgent need to establish a Division Bench at Pune to sort out the cases arising out of the Western Maharashtra. Therefore I appeal to the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Last night I got some information from my constituency that during the Muharram procession four persons were killed; three of them were Muslims and the other one was a Scheduled Caste *Chowkidar*. According to my information this was not a communal problem. I will not go into the details of it just now. Three persons were shot dead by the police. Just a few days ago, on 12th June, seven persons were killed in the same area; five of them were again Muslims. All the seven persons killed; were poor people and in this case also the *Chowkidar* and the other four persons killed were poor people. On 12th of June all those people were killed by the *gundas* hired by the Congress candidate. He was the famous person,* the then Chief Minister. This time also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): He has mentioned the name of a person who is not present in the House to defend himself. It should be expunged.

SHRI P. M. SAYFED (Lakshadweep): The name should not go on record. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The name that he has mentioned will not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): It should not go on record.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: This murder also, as I have been told over the telephone after enquiry by the Government, has been to avenge the electoral defeat of the Congress Party, to teach the poor Muslims a lesson, who in majority, did not vote for the Congress Party.

I wish that the Government of India should hold an Inquiry on this issue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: What is your State Government doing there? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Law and order is a State subject.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Anyway, I wish that the Government should make a statement so that this may not take a communal turn. My apprehension is that this may take a communal turn. That is why I am requesting the Government to make a statement. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): Kabini—which is there in the Mysore City of Karnataka—is full of water. On both sides of the river, a number of coconut, areca-nut and sugarcane gardens are there. There is an apprehension that the Kabini reservoir may be breached or damaged at any time.

The Government of Karnataka is also receiving a number of threatening letters. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that they should give proper protection to the reservoir. In the absence of it, thousands and thousands of people will be washed away and damage will be caused to the standing crops. Therefore, I request the Government to take appropriate steps in this regard.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sambalpur is having a Doordarshan Relay Centre with limited recording and production

facility. It was the first place in Orissa to figure in the Doordarshan map of India under the Satellite scheme in early seventies. Since then, there is a growing demand for establishment of a full-fledged Doordarshan Kendra with necessary studio facility there. But instead of fulfilling this long standing and genuine demand of that region—it is a matter of surprise and regret—the authorities are stopping the present arrangement of recording and production there. This is causing a serious resentment, discontentment and anguish among the people of the region.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India to look into this matter sympathetically and not disturb the present arrangement and instead upgrade this as a full-fledged Doordarshan Kendra with modern studio facility there, as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Sir, through you I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister towards the pitiable condition of the five crore population living at Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Balia and Azamgarh areas. This area with a population of five crore is a very backward area. Not a single big industry exists in this area. Long back in 1964 the Central Government had set up a Patel Commission which submitted its report stating that the biggest ordnance factory, aluminium and paper industry should be set up in this area. Twenty five years have passed but the recommendations of the Patel Commission are yet to be implemented. Sir, kindly issue instructions from your side to set up large industries in these five-six districts of 'poorvanchal' which has a population of 5 crores. In the absence of industries in the area, the people go to Calcutta and Bombay in search of their livelihood. On account of unemployment, incidents of crimes are increasing manifold. As such, some

big industry should be set up there so that the people may lead a prosperous life.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to invite the attention of the Government and the concerned minister. This bottle in my hand.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot bring this. This is not allowed in the House.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: This is not coloured water. This is the sample of drinking water being supplied in many areas of my constituency, Chandni Chowk in Delhi. This water contains so much filth. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowed to bring such items in the House without permission.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: The people get black water full of germs and filth to drink. It is playing with the lives of people. Thousands of people have fallen ill due to this. What is the solution to the problem when the Government or the Delhi Corporation fails to supply properly treated water despite repeated complaints?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say one thing about water. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: I would like to make one more submission...(*Interruptions*) If properly well treated water is not supplied, I shall sit here on dharna and resort to hunger-strike on Monday. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not allowed. You should desist from it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): We all know that thousands of people have migrated from the Kashmir Valley due to the situation that is prevailing there. Now, it is more than one year. Many of them are in Jammu. Some months ago—when we were on the Committee on Kashmir Affairs—we visited their camp. The situation was very bad at that time. After the passing of so many months, it has become worse.

A delegation of these people came to Delhi and met us. They have given a representation to us and asked us to raise this issue in the House. The Jammu & Kashmir Sahayata Samiti came to us. They made many demands. These are to be looked into by the Government very urgently. What are the demands? A commitment was made that there will be a semi-township for them in Jammu; and till they return to the Valley, basic amenities will be provided for them so that they live a human life.

Then there is a problem of education for their children. Then there is a problem for the employees who cannot go to the Valley and report for duties. Then there is a problem for those employees who are on the verge of retirement. How will they be able to get the benefits of retirement and all that? The Accounts Offices are in the Valley. It is not their choice to come out of the Valley. There are so many issues.

The HMT employees have reached an agreement with the Home Minister and the Management. Some of the political leaders were present there. It was committed that they will be given salary and other amenities. But, now, they are only given 75 per cent of the basic pay plus D.A.; and that too has been stopped after some time. Now, what is going to happen to all these things? It is a very serious issue and it requires the attention of the Government so that

it is not further exploited in a very bad way.

You ask the Government. For long, nobody has visited there from the Government side. I urge upon the Government to arrange for an All-Party delegation to visit there and decide about what should be done for them so that they could lead a normal life.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given to you in writing that two and a half lakh hapless migrants have migrated to Jammu, Delhi and other areas of the country during the last two years and out of them nine thousand and eight hundred have been provided accommodation, that too in tents and camps. Nine thousand in Jammu and eight hundred in Delhi have been provided accommodation, as many as three families in one tent during the last two years. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Jammu, fifty persons died of sun-stroke in summer. Now the rains have set in. It will wash away all the tents. Then there is a problem of education of their children in schools and colleges. People have broken open the houses they left behind and entered into them. Their bank-accounts have been seized. It seems that this Government too is apathetic to them. We have been making requests to as many as three Prime Ministers. We made requests in the Ninth Lok Sabha, we also did so during the Eighth Lok Sabha to at least visit their camps to see their conditions there. Neither any Prime Minister nor any Union Minister visited their camps either in Delhi or in Jammu to see their conditions. This government has become so apathetic. I want to know, where is their Minorities Commission, where is their Human Rights Commission which can pay visit everywhere but cannot go in their camps to look into their conditions as to how they have been ruined and how their temples have been burnt

there. No one is ready to look after them, who are wandering as refugees here and there in their own country for the last two years. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you to direct the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to pay a visit to these places himself to see their conditions.

A cell must be constituted immediately to solve their problems. After all, everything has a time-limit, even there is a limit of tolerance. They are leading an infernal life for the last two years. I request to the Government to have mercy on them and find out an immediate solution to provide relief to them.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised just now from this side has some specific implications, so we want to know Government's response. So far as employees are concerned, there are many employees of the Central Government Undertakings also. This is a very serious situation if the written agreement reached with them is not implemented. During the last some days the representatives of the Defence employees, working in the civil side, met me. They demanded that the agreement reached with the H.M.T. should be applicable to them also. In this context, I am surprised to find that the Government has made several statements in relation to the economic situation and in relation to the problems of various sections of the population during the last days but not a single word about this section of the population has been stated by them either in the Budget or in the Budget speech or in the economic survey. Nothing has been said about them as if this two and a half lakh population just does not exist at all. This is a matter of great sorrow. I hope the Government will react to the submissions made by this side. The Government should make it clear as to what step it would take about the feelings expressed from this side.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Has this Government become dumb and deaf? Will it not say anything? (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (**SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD**): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had gone to Jammu a few days back. Our brothers have migrated from Kashmir to Jammu, Delhi and other States of the country. This is certainly a matter of great sorrow. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Has he visited their camps? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Yes, I did. I have had a long discussion with their delegations also. This is a very serious matter ... (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me at least. This is serious and worrisome indeed for the whole country. The happenings in Kashmir cause disappointment in the whole country. The condition of the migrants, whether they are Hindus or Muslims or belong to other religions, living in the tents is miserable. They are living in miserable condition in Delhi and Jammu. Actually, they are not acclamated with the heat. Just a month has gone by since this Government assumed office. While our friends were there in the previous Government which lasted for one and a half year. So, it is not correct to say that we did nothing for them as the previous Government also did nothing even in one and half year.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Only assurances were given.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: How could you expect everything from this Government just in 20 days whereas they did nothing in one and half year. There are many other serious issues and problems before the Government. I would like to tell for his information that Shri Rajiv Gandhi had formed a Committee

under A.I.C.C. through which we sent tents for them. *(Interruptions)* We made full efforts even being in opposition. *(Interruptions)*

We listened to him silently, when he was speaking. Let me speak please. Earlier, they were asking me to speak. And now when I am speaking, they are not ready to listen to me. If he is speaking just for the newspapers, let him speak continuously for two years *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. L. SHARMA 'PREM' (East Delhi): They can send two thousand units of blood to Saddam Hussain but they cannot send even ragged blankets for the people of Kashmir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): We had not sent blood, nor shall we do that now.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Is the Minister responding as a Minister or on behalf of the Congress Party?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I have come here because of the Congress Party. I first belong to the Congress Party and then I am a Minister for your information...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised an important issue, so let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will not raise again and again. Discussion cannot go on in this way.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please listen to me at least.

MR. SPEAKER: No. In case you do not allow anyone to speak, I shall not allow you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, let me assure the hon. Members that this Government is much more concerned than any other political party as far as the refugees of Kashmir are concerned. This Government will try to do its utmost for their rehabilitation...*(Interruptions)* You could not do it for the last one and a half years. How do you expect us to do it in just twenty days? You were a part and parcel of the then Government.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister should at least inform the House whether the Government intends to send a delegation there or not. The Government should at least inform as to what it intends to do about this problem. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur): Sir, the Minister is creating unnecessary provocation. He is talking about the last one and a half years. Who supported Shri Chandrasekhar's Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Who supported Shri V. P. Sing's Government?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is this a party matter? Why do you make it a party matter? Please do not do that.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: How can you expect us to do it in twenty days?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The allegation that their houses have been broken into is totally baseless. I completely disagree with it. You should rise above party level. Their houses are fully protected. You have alleged that temples are being destroyed there. I haven't read about anything like this anywhere. It is baseless.

[English]

Please do not make it a political issue. I agree that they are our brethren and they should be treated well as much as possible. Please do not make it a political issue.

[Translation]

That people have broken into their homes and that their temples are being destroyed, are groundless allegations. I do not agree with it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You see, so far as facts are concerned, whether it be about the destruction of temples or of breaking into houses, the hon. Members are free to raise them. However, I am happy because the Government has at least given an assurance that necessary steps would be taken for their relief and rehabilitation. I had raised a specific issue that the assurances given to the H.M.T. employees, the State Government employees and the civilian employees of the Defence Ministry, have not been fulfilled so far. I have got a memorandum with me which gives details about their problems. I would like to know the Government's response to it.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: If any assurance has been given, if any agreement has been entered into, then we shall certainly endeavour to fulfil it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Government of India constituted a National Industrial Tribunal to examine 'equal pay for equal work' for the employees of the regional rural banks of our country. This Tribunal gave its award on 30-4-1990. After one year, the Government issued the order to implement the award of this National Industrial Tribunal. This order of the Government for the implementation of the award is a partial one. The Tribunal categorically stated that the officers and employees will be entitled to claim parity with the officers and employees of such banks in the matter of pay scales, allowances and benefits and that the award shall be given effect from September 1, 1987 with further direction that RRB employees will be entitled to claim all allowances and benefits as per State Government rules upto August 1987. A recent order has been issued by the Government which is a clear deviation from the award of the National Industrial Tribunal. So hundreds of employees of RRBs are demonstrating at the Boat Club today. They are demanding that the award of the National Industrial Tribunal should be implemented *in toto* and there should be no deviation. The recent order issued by the Government which is a deviation from the award of the National Industrial Tribunal, should be withdrawn and the award should be implemented *in toto*.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is concerned about the recent acquisition of M-11 Missiles by Pakistan. Tension has gripped the border areas, especially after hearing the reply given by the hon. Defence Minister in the Rajya Sabha, yesterday, in this regard. According to him the said Missiles can inflict heavy damages and cause immense destruction in Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

My humble submission is that the hon. Minister should inform the Lok Sabha also whether the lives of the people living in the border areas, including Rajasthan, are safe, now that Pakistan has acquired these lethal M-11 missiles. As a question raised during the zero hour, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Defence as to how these border areas would be protected if Pakistan chooses to use these missiles.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through the Speaker regarding the matter of great urgency that the Government has slashed coal supplies to industries in western and southern India by over 50% severely hitting the major coal consuming industries in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The drastic cut which was to the extent of 70% from the allotted quota in January and somewhat eased to 20% by the end of June has put the cement, rayon, textile and heavy chemicals industries in a very critical position. This is specially so in the western region.

Sir, despite the policy of maintaining regular coal supply to the core industries, such as steel, fertilisers and cement, the private sector units in the core segment have been left out of the priority list.

Sir, the situation in Karnataka due to the cut in coal supply has virtually affected almost all the industries. Therefore, I urge the Government to take immediate steps for restoring the full quota for coal supply to Karnataka particularly to Raichur Thermal Plant.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Late Rajiv ji, after his first visit to Lakshadweep, constituted an Island Develop-

ment Authority for the overall development of Lakshadweep and Andamans. Now, the first casualty of this Government was this Island Development Authority. ...*(Interruptions)* The result was a total standstill of the development of the Lakshadweep. Now, as you know, an underground organisation is also functioning there as the Lakshadweep Liberation Front. Employment opportunities are in an acute shortage. Therefore, I requested the hon. Prime Minister also to revive the Island Development Authority so that things can be taken on a war footing. I request the Government to come forward with a revival of this Island Development Authority.

13.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Merchant Shipping Amendment Rules, 1991 Annual Report of and Review on the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): On behalf of Shri Jagdish Tytler, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage Measurement of Ships) Amendment Rules, 1991 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 84(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 1991 under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-135/91]

- (2) 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 on the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-136/91]

Notification under Companies Act 1956 etc.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): On behalf of Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) S.O. 3052 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 1990 declaring Messrs St. Mary's Funds Limited, Piravom, to be a 'Nidhi'.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 241 published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 1990 declaring the Fairdeal Investment Mutual Benefit (India) Limited, New Delhi, to be a 'Nidhi'.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 514 published in Gazette of India dated the

18th August, 1990 declaring Messrs Kanchi Mutual Benefit Fund Limited, Madras, to be a 'Nidhi'.

- (iv) G.S.R. 515 published in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 1990 declaring Messrs Thirumangalam Janopakara Permanent Fund Limited, Madras, to be a 'Nidhi'.
- (v) G.S.R. 782 published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1990 declaring Messrs Gilnagar Benefit Fund Limited, Madras, to be a 'Nidhi'.
- (vi) G.S.R. 783 published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1990 declaring Messrs the Kerala Permanent Fund Limited, Ernakulam, to be a 'Nidhi'.
- (vii) G.S.R. 784 published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1990 declaring Messrs Sreevari Benefit Society Limited, Madras, to be a 'Nidhi'.

- (2) A copy of the Cost Accounting Records (Mini Steel Plant) Rules, 1990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 574 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1990 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (3) A copy of the Punjab Horticulture Corporation Limited and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Limited (Amalgamation) Order, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 605(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 1989 under section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-137/91]

Life Insurance Corporation of India class III and class IV employees (Promotion) (Amendment) Rules, 1991. Notifications under Banking Companies (Acquisition and transfer of undertakings) Act, 1970 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV employees (Promotion) (Amendment) Rules, 1991 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 229(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1991 under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-138/91]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. 2/19/89-NS.II (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1991 making certain amendments to Notification No. 2/19/89-NS.II dated the 12th December, 1990.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-139/91]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:—

- (i) The Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 1989 published in Notification No. 1126/S/0090/PD/IRD(O) in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1989.

- (ii) Notification No. 75/AS 0090/KVOSP(A) publish-

ed in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 1991 containing corrigendum to the Hindi version of the Notification No. 50 dated the 15th December, 1989.

- (iii) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) Amendment Regulations, 1990 published in Notification No. CO/IRD/1193/90 dated the 10th March, 1990.

- (iv) The United Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 1989 published in Notification No. 2/90 dated the 6th April, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-140/91]

- (4) A copy of the Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) First Amendment Regulations, 1990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1377 in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 1990 under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-141/91]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Bombay, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-142/91]

- (6) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Report of the Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh, for the

Year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-143/91]

- (ii) Report of the Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-144/91]

- (iii) Report of the Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Valsad, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-145/91]

- (iv) Report of the Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-146/91]

- (v) Report of the Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-147/91]

- (vi) Report of the Thane Gramin Bank, Thane, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-148/91]

- (vii) Report of the Vidur Gramin Bank, Bijnor, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-149/91]

- (viii) Report of the Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sultanpur, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-150/91]

- (ix) Report of the Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-151/91]

- (x) Report of the Chhatrasal Gramin Bank, Orai, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-152/91]

- (xi) Report of the Etah Gramin Bank, Etah, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-153/91]

- (xii) Report of the Sri Rama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-154/91]

- (xiii) Report of the Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-155/91]

- (xiv) Report of the Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991, together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-156/91]

- (xv) Report of the Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank, Gurdaspur, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-157/91]

- (xvi) Report of the Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-158/91]

- (xvii) Report of the Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Berhampore, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-159/91]

- (xviii) Report of the Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with

Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-160/91]

- (xix) Report of the Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hissar, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-161/91]

- (xx) Report of the Mewar Aan-chalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-162/91]

- (xxi) Report of the Dungarpur Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dungarpur, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-163/91]

- (xxii) Report of the Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-164/91]

- (xxiii) Report of the Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar, for the year ended the 31st March, 1991 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-165/91]

- (7) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English

versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 9 of 1991)—Union Government (Defence Services—Air Force and Navy).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-166/91]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 4 of 1991)—Union Government (Revenue Receipts—Indirect Taxes).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-167/91]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 7 of 1991)—Union Government (Posts and Telecommunications).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-168/91]

Notifications under Customs Act, 1962 regarding revised rate of exchange etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) S.O. 88(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Danish Kroners, Dutch Guilders, Norwegian Kroners and Swedish Kroners into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (ii) S.O. 89(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Austrian Schillings into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (iii) S.O. 101(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Belgium Francs into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (iv) S.O. 128(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Singapore Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (v) G.S.R. 65(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (vi) S.O. 144(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Australian Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (vii) S.O. 154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Canadian Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (viii) S.O. 157(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Japanese Yen into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

ange for conversion of Canadian Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (ix) G.S.R. 173(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian Currency of vice-versa.
- (x) S.O. 203(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xi) S.O. 211(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Austrian Schillings and Hong Kong Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xii) S.O. 219(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Italian Lire and Swiss Francs into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xiii) S.O. 226(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 234(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xv) G.S.R. 292(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 137/90-Cus., dated the 20th March, 1990.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 300(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.
- (xvii) S. O. 333(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.
- (xviii) S.O. 355(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Singapore Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xix) S.O. 391(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Japanese Yen into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xx) S.O. 378(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Malaysian and USA Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.
- (xxi) S.O. 391(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.

ange for conversion of Hong Kong Dollars into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-169/91]

Report of the CAG of India for the year 1990: Annual Report of the Trade Development Authority, New Delhi for the year, 1989-90 etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1990—Union Government No. 3 Commercial—of 1990—Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-170/91]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report of the Trade Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Trade Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-171/91]

- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90.

- (5) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-172/91]

- (6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Trade Fair Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the Trade Fair Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (7) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-173/91]

13.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

**Requests of some Coal Producing
State Governments for increase in rate
of Royalty on Coal**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, some of the Hon'ble Members raised the subject of increase of rates of royalty on coal. I am accordingly making this statement for the information of the House.

2. Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to levy as also enhance the rates of royalty on minerals. Before February, 1987 the rates could be enhanced once in four years. Subsequently the Act has been amended and rates of royalty can now be enhanced every three years.

3. The rates of royalty on coal were last revised in February, 1981. The next revision could have taken place in February, 1985. However, the rates have not been revised upto now because most of the coal producing States were levying very high rates of cesses on coal. These cesses differed from State to State and the yield to State Governments from these cesses was more than eleven times the yield from royalty.

4. Since the rates of cess were very high, some petitioners approached the courts. In a judgement dated 26-10-89 in the case of India Cements versus State of Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court held that State Govts. are not competent to levy a cess on minerals or mineral rights. Following this judgement, other courts have also been striking down the cesses levied by other States.

5. Since the income from cesses to the State Governments was quite sub-

stantial the finances of coal producing State Governments were affected adversely by these decisions of the courts. They have, therefore, approached the Central Government to enhance the rates of royalty.

6. A decision on these requests involves complicated legal and financial issues. While some cesses have been struck down others are being still levied. Levy of royalty on coal is related to prices of a number of commodities and full implications of problems have to be studied in consultation with the Ministries, Departments concerned and the State Governments concerned. All these matters are under examination of the Government. We are aware of the difficulties being faced by the State Governments and a decision in the matter will be taken very shortly.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-174/91]

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, there is a demand that the royalty be paid *ad valorem*. Over ten years, the prices of minerals have been raised at least three times... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): The States do not want assurances, but royalty. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just one clarification. I had given a notice in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[English]

Hon. Members know that in this House we do not allow the questions to be put on the statements made by

the Ministers. If it is necessary to discuss this matter, I will consult all concerned and we will fix up a discussion

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, may I draw your attention to a Rules Committee's decision that such clarifications with the discretion of the Chair will be allowed? I was a member of the Rules Committee...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Just one clarification, you had permitted earlier also. You had allowed me to seek a clarification in this very session itself. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If I permit you, it will create problems for you only. I am thinking in terms of your interest only.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to move a Privilege Motion against the hon. Minister. I would like to seek a clarification because in the Oral answer to a starred question given on 26-02-1991 what the then hon. Minister of Energy had said, I would like to read it before you...

MR. SPEAKER: Now, see, it is turning into a regular speech.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am not making a regular speech, I am just saying that the then hon. Minister had promised that a decision on increasing the royalty would be taken by 31st March, now the present Minister is saying that the matter is under consideration of the Government. I would just like to read out the answer given on 26-02-1991 by the then hon. Minister...

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you are again talking of reading out something.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The hon. Minister had said in his reply, "So far as the question of increasing the rates of royalty on coal is concerned, the matter is under consideration, and a decision in this regard would be taken very soon so as to compensate the State Government for the loss it is suffering on account of cess and this shall be done by 31st March." The then Government had given an assurance in this very House that this would be done by 31st March. The then hon. Minister had talked about 31st March, now it is end of July and even then the hon. Minister is saying that it is under consideration of the Government. No doubt, the Government and the Ministers have changed, but the commitment made by one Government should be adhered by its successor. The previous Government had said that a final decision in this regard would be taken by the end of the financial year and now this Government says that the matter is under consideration of the Government. On account of delay in taking decision, Bihar Government has so far suffered a loss of Rupees 500 crores. It has suffered a loss of rupees 500 crores, despite the Supreme Court verdict..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Paswan, now you conclude. I am not allowing like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Through you, I would like to know from the Government, whether it is not true that the previous Government had assured this very House on 26-02-1991 that a decision on increasing the royalty would be taken by the end of the financial year, that is, March 31.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, similar is the case with Madhya Pradesh. The State Government has requested the Central Government to increase the royalty.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, one clarification...
(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will just seek clarification, I will not deliver any speech.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no please. I have said that if it is necessary, we can discuss it, not now. Now if I allow Paswanji. I have to allow you, I have to allow others also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I was a member of the Rules Committee. You remember, Sir, that you have been allowed this discretion.

MR. SPEAKER: I know.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. It is not correct. If I allow you, then how can I disallow others also?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, in other States, the cess is there; it has not been struck down. Will the Government try to protect it? That is the first clarification. The second clarification that I want to seek is whether they are considering an *ad valorem* royalty. These are the two clarifications I am seeking; I am not delivering any speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that the rules are not only to help the Presiding Officers, they are meant to help you also. Supposing you raise this thing, then other matters cannot be taken up. And that is why, as far as possible, we have to follow the rules strictly. If you want, you can change the rule. You can do that. But then it becomes an unending affair.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sangma, it seems that the Chief Minister of Bihar has declared certain things. That is why I have allowed Shri Paswan. If you are interested, you can respond to that question only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What about my clarification? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give some information.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated, no need of any information etc. You can give it later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Mr. Speaker. Sir, the assurance that has been referred to by the hon. Member was given on the floor of this House—as per his version, which he has stated now—by the previous Government. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sangma, please address the Chair.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I have stated the actual position of the case. We have some difficulties because the rates of cess differ in some States. Some High Courts have followed the Supreme Court ruling and struck down the Cess Act. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been the issue of discussion throughout India. It was discussed for the whole day.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): You can change the law. By one simple amendment that can be changed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Minister does not know anything about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: We are looking into this. A decision will be taken as soon as possible. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Through you, I would...

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order, which procedure has been violated?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You had allowed me to seek clarification....(*Interruptions*)..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I rule it out. It is not a point of order. Do not stretch it beyond a certain limit. Because your Chief Minister was involved, I allowed you to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The clarification I wanted to seek was whether the Government had given an assurance or not that the decision to increase the royalty would be taken by the end of the financial year....(*Interruptions*)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please take it as point of information...(*Interruptions*) What was the reply? I would like to produce the proceedings of the House before you.

MR. SPEAKER: Not in this manner.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Which article of the constitution has been violated?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is limited only to this point that at that time Shri Kalyan Singh Kalviji had said in reply to a question that by taking a decision in this House itself it would be implemented within the current financial year. Is it a fact or not?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Then what else is it?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a point of disorder.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Minister had said that.....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you have made your point sufficiently. I have again said that if necessary it can be discussed. You cannot go beyond that.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole work of Bihar Government is at a standstill

because of lack of funds. The outstanding amount is Rs. 500 crores... (Interruptions)... and you are talking of decision. It won't go on like that... (Interruptions)..

MR. SPEAKER: Be seated, please. You have taken up this issue at a time when it is to be decided whether a statement etc. is to be given or not on this issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. You should not do like that repeatedly. When I have already said, if it is necessary, we will allow a discussion on this. Even then you are saying that you will ask questions after the statement and want reply also. It is not possible...

(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Sir, we are interested to discuss it today itself. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I am thankful to you that you have considered it. We wanted that government should consider it seriously, instead the Government showed its negligence. It is a matter of regret. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When I am cooperating with you, you should also cooperate with me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, on the one hand the government is giving assurance to provide funds positively but on the other hand even the amount of arrears is not being paid; What to speak

of increasing the royalty? The decision of the previous government is not even being implemented... (Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point sufficiently.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not appreciate Shri Paswan's behaviour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, if the Government fails to fulfil any assurance given on the floor of this House, then what is the alternative for the Members?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not carry on this kind of a discussion with the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer is facilitating you. You do not get anything from the Presiding Officer. I have said that if it is necessary, you can discuss it. When I have said this, there is no point in just carrying on a discussion like this. If he has not answered, what can I do?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point was raised that the Chief Minister of Bihar had said that from 29th he was going on a fast unto death and in view of its seriousness it was allowed. Now the government is breaking even its own assurances. For this they are not even prepared to say that they would call the Chief Minister of Bihar and would discuss the matter with him. All the resources have been exhausted there. There is nobody to take care even after the decisions of the High Court and the Supreme Court... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the assurance was given by the previous Government stating that it would be done before the 31st of March, 1991. This was the assurance given by the previous Government and not by our Government. Our Government has come to office only towards the end of June. So, how can we fulfil that assurance when that date is already over? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, is it a Government of the people of this country or not? We are not here to talk about this Government or that Government. (*Interruptions*) If an earlier Government reaches an agreement with a foreign country, then the next Government cannot say that this was done by the previous Government and so we are not liable for this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I am on a point of order. Our Constitution does not contemplate party Governments so far as the discharge of the duties and the functions that the Constitution imposes on the Government of India is concerned. Therefore, no Minister can try to avoid responsibility by saying that a particular party Government has taken a particular decision and so another party Government cannot abide by that decision. This is a question of constitutional impropriety. Can the obligation be disowned because another party forms the Government? The Congress Party Government should have the minimum sense of political morality to abide by the decision of its *benami* Government headed by Shri Chandra Shekhar. Who had put up that Government? They gave an undertaking to the President to support that Government unconditionally. So, they are bound by that decision. Can they deny that? This is a question of constitutional impropriety. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was listening to

the whole debate. The Honourable Minister has said 2-3 times in the House that it was the assurance given by the previous government. It is very correct but which government was it. It was the government supported by the Congress party. It is a secondary question and I am not raising this matter. I do not know whether it comes under the purview of point of order or not but I am raising a question of propriety.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the House is aware of the fact and it has given its recognition to the above fact that government is a continuous process, it goes on continuously. If some government makes any commitment to a State Government about its economic condition, is it not obligatory on the part of the next Government to fulfil that commitment. I do not want to put you into any trouble in this connection. I only want to submit whether it is correct for a Minister to stand up in the House and say that this commitment was made by the erstwhile government. I just want to know if this commitment was made by the previous government, should it not be fulfilled by the present government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an important question. Suppose a particular government makes a promise or gives an assurance and that too about the financial condition of a State Government, won't the subsequent government fulfil that promise? Today, Bihar Government is not able to meet its daily expenditure and the Chief Minister of that State says that he will go on fast unto death from such and such day. You did well by giving frequent chances of discussion on this topic. I would like to know under a question of propriety whether it is not the duty of the present government to fulfil the promises given by the previous government? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am

[Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Pradesh yesterday and he asked me to raise the matter of royalty here and urged that we insist on the Government for an early decision. If a Chief Minister threatens to go on hunger strike it would create a new crisis. In case another Chief Minister also threatens to go on hunger strike what will happen and how long will it go on? I would, therefore, submit that the Government should take an early decision in this matter and fix a date by which it would be done.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He said "Very Shortly."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How short is shortly?

MR. SPEAKER: I think Shri Sangmaji understands the meaning of 'Shortly' very well.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): It is not shorter than Shri Sangmaji.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: It is very difficult to understand what is short and what is tall. Some people say I am short. Some people say I am tall. I assure that this will be done shortly. I am trying my best.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Minister must give a firm date.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Achariaji please sit down. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not giving a ruling. One thing is very clear from the sentiments expressed by all the hon. Members in the House and that is there is a consensus on the matter. There is no need to speak on it. The Government is a continuing factor and

even they agree to it. Now the question is about date. The point is that the hon. Members from Bihar are concerned about the difficult situation in their state and want an early solution. Similarly, Members from other states are also seized of the matter which is creating problem in their State and want a solution at any cost.

The hon. Minister has said that it would be done 'shortly'. This means as early as possible and in the least possible time. I don't think he can give a particular date. If he gives a date and is not able to give a solution by that time, it would not be good. I hope he would bear in mind your sentiments. I think 'shortly' should mean 'shortly' and nothing else.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): This is a very serious matter. You must try to understand this problem. This matter has been raised many times in the House. The Government of India is deliberately neglecting this.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a letter from Shri Advani Ji.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It will be an ugly sight if a Chief Minister of a State goes on hunger strike to pressurise the Centre. We should try to avoid such a situation. All that we want from the House is that the hon. Minister should give a date. It may not be 29th. It could be 31st July. We can dissuade the Chief Minister from going on hunger strike against the Centre. It is this that we want Shri Sangma to understand and he should respond.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government of India is deliberately neglecting Bihar. The Government of India is trying to take a political line. (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The State should not collide with the Centre.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, there are non-Congress(1) Governments. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vajpayee has rightly said that he can at least say that the Chief Ministers are being invited for consultations. When the Chief Ministers are being invited he can say that the meeting is being held on so and so date. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government will have to fix the date. We can't foresake the Chief Minister of Bihar and let him die. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, there are two issues involved in this matter. What about the Cess Amendment Bill? Are they going to bring forward that Bill in this Session or not? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to reassemble at 2.30 P.M. today.

13.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirtyfour minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE** *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had

raised the matter of royalty on coal. We had urged the hon. Minister, Shri Sangma, who is sitting here, to fix a date by which a decision in this matter would be taken because the Chief Minister of Bihar has threatened to go on a hunger strike. This is a serious matter and therefore, we appeal to the hon. Minister to increase the royalty on coal and fix a date in consultation with the Chief Minister of the concerned States by which the royalty on coal could be increased.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, there are two issues that are involved; one is the announcement of royalty and the other issue is about the Cess Amendment Bill. So the Minister should categorically say this. 'Shortly' as no meaning at all. We have been listening to him. Royalty enhancement is pending with the Government of India for the last 10 years. It is already overdue; the Bihar Chief Minister has given a notice that he will go on fast; the Orissa Chief Minister has already had a discussion but still the matter is pending with the Government of India. There should be a categorical answer from the Minister as to when the Government of India is going to take a decision in respect of enhancement of royalty and about the Cess Amendment Bill. We would like to know whether this Bill is coming in this House, in this session or not. The Minister should state this categorically.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: When are you going to give Rs. 500 crore which is due on this account?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Thanjharpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the royalty on coal was increased way back in 1981 and since then there has been no increase. Bihar is passing through financial crisis

[Sh. Devendra Prasad Yadav]

and coal is the only source of income for the State. In States where petroleum products are produced, like Maharashtra and Assam, royalty is increased from time to time but royalty on coal is not increased. This proposal is pending consideration of the Central Government. No time limit has been fixed by the Government Sir, this is a matter of public importance and so I would ask the Government to stipulate a time limit within 2-3 days.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I had decided to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the coal producing states including the Chief Minister of Bihar, within a week's time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Alright, the Government has decided to call the Chief Minister of Bihar. The present Government has said that the matter regarding increasing royalty is under consideration. The previous Government said that a decision would be taken by 31 March. 31st March has already passed. The hon. Minister says that he was not Minister on that date. This morning Shri V. P. Singh spoke to the hon. Prime Minister for the information of the House and the hon. Minister, I would like to say that the hon. Prime Minister said that this was a serious matter. A Minister who belongs to Bihar is present here and he is aware of the situation there. A similar situation exists in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Floods are playing havoc in Bihar.

The royalty money is pending towards the Central Government but the Bihar Government has no funds

to make payments to its employees. The Central Government should release the sum of Rs. 500 crore which is due from it according to the last agreement. The Government should fix a date for its release. It can be 31st August or 30th July, but one date should be fixed upto which the amount of royalty will be increased. This will benefit the Bihar and other concerned State Governments.

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Honorable Members have requested that a meeting of the Chief Ministers should be convened. I have decided as I said, to call the meeting of the Chief Ministers within a weeks' time. I cannot call it earlier than that because the communication has to go to various Chief Ministers and within a week's time, I have decided to call the meeting of the Chief Ministers and all matters connected with these issues will be discussed with the Chief Ministers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, regarding this matter, hon. Minister Shri Thakur who is from Bihar is present here. He should please help us in this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Sir, Bihar as well as other states should get financial assistance due from the Centre and other sources also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: One Minister says that they should get it immediately and in due proportion. I am also saying the same thing. I am just saying that ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that should satisfy you now.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): This is a serious matter, Sir. The Chief Minister of Bihar has declared that he will undertake fast from 29th of this month. Some message must go from this House and that should be initiated by the Minister saying that things will be taken up in right earnest and it will be decided soon and that he should not undertake fast. What is wrong in his saying that?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I don't like anybody going on fast.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Why can't you request him not to undertake fast?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Since I have said that I am convening the meeting of Chief Ministers including the Chief Minister of Bihar within a week, I will appeal to the Chief Minister of Bihar not to go on fast.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that should satisfy you all. Now Shri K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy to move the motion regarding constitution of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

14.41 Hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

Motion re. Constitution of Committee

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from

amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote:

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be—

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "committees" (other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred) and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;
- (ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;
- (iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters:

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha:

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee:

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relat-

[Sh. K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy]

ing to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote:

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be—

(i) to examine the composition and character of all existing "committees" (other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;

(ii) to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by

it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;

(iii) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters:

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modification as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

14.44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to instruct Haryana Government for early completion of the portion of Link Channel on Ganga Canal falling under its jurisdiction**

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganga Nagar): The 'Gang Canal' in the Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan is a very important canal that has been in existence for the last 60 years.

This canal, which has a capacity of 2750 cusecs, is badly damaged in the Punjab region. Water is not flowing upto the full capacity of the canal. The Rajasthan Government has diverted its share of water into the Indira Gandhi Canal and constructed a link channel on R. D. No. 500 near Mohgarh and this would be connected to the primary head of the Ganga Canal at Sadhuwali. The Rajasthan Government has already undertaken the repair work, falling under its jurisdiction, and it is nearing completion. A part of this link channel falls under Haryana's jurisdiction. The Rajasthan Government had already deposited the required money for repair work two years ago but the Haryana Government has not started the work so far.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to immediately instruct the Haryana Government to complete the work at the earliest so that farmers are not deprived of water for irrigation and repair work is started once again.

- (ii) **Need to provide more infra-structural facilities at Trivandrum airport**

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): The people of Kerala are extremely happy and grateful on

declaration of Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport. However Government have not so far taken necessary steps for providing the required facilities which are essential for an International Airport. Kerala is often said to be the Kashmir of the South and there is great potential for development of tourism. Kerala could attract a large number of tourists from countries like Japan, Singapore, Malaysia as also from the Gulf countries and could earn the much needed foreign exchange. There are also a number of foreign Airways companies willing to operate their services. Recently the Gulf Air has started service which is undoubtedly the beginning in International flights from the Airport. It is, therefore, requested that all the infrastructural facilities required for an International Airport may be provided to this Airport and permission granted to the foreign Airways willing to start their services from there.

- (iii) **Need to prevent deforestation in the coastal areas of Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh**

DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI (Srikakulam): Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh has a coast line of about 200 km. facing the Bay of Bengal in Indian Ocean. It is frequently inflicted by cyclones and tidal waves and consequent havoc and disaster. In addition to the various short term remedial measures, some preventive measures were taken by the State Government with the assistance of the Central aid. One such is the development of green belt along coast line. With much difficulty and huge spending, since 1982, the Forest Department nursed casuarina Topes in thousands of acres, along the entire sea shore. Now the trees grew up, but the unlawful elements began to deforest unabated and unchecked in the disguise of naxalite activities. It is a project to protect the poor, innocent and ignorant people living in the coastal belt, mostly fishermen. So, I suggest suitable action must be taken to

[Dr. Viswanatham Kanithi]

protect the villagers and their properties in the shore. One such measure is to lease the land to the interested parties of the locality of not more than one acre for a family and allow them only to grow the Green Belt, so that the purpose for which the green belt is grown, will be served.

- (iv) **Need to take steps to check the growing unlawful activities in border areas of Nepal**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a matter under Rule 377. I am drawing the attention of the hon. Home Minister towards the northern part of Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh. The northern part of this district lies at the Bihar-Nepal border. Every year the floods in the Barhi Gandak cause huge devastation in Deoria district. Large areas of land are lying vacant on the banks of the river. These areas are occupied by the anti-social elements of the Jungle Party. Incidents of kidnapping of local people for the purpose of getting lakhs of rupees as ransom have become very common on the borders of Deoria district. People in the northern part of Deoria district and other parts of Bihar are terrorised by the Jungle Party elements. Since these areas are on the border of two States i.e. U.P. and Bihar as well as Nepal, it has become difficult to check the terrorist elements.

In this situation I would urge the hon. Home Minister to deploy a Special Police Forces for the safety of the people so as to protect them from the unlawful activities of the Jungle Party. This area is spread over 150 kilometres. If such measures are not taken the situation will continue to remain disturbed and protection of the local people will not be possible.

- (v) **Need to establish a University in Purnea, Bihar**

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, North East Bihar, which consists of seven districts—Kishanganj, Araria, Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Madhepura and Sapoul—has a population of nearly ten million but almost no institution of higher education is there except a few post-graduate departments in some degree colleges. The region has no medical, engineering, agricultural or teachers' training college. It is presently served by the Mithila University in Darbhanga which is nearly 300 kms. away from Purnea, with no direct rail or road link. The region has remained educationally and technologically backward because it is poor and cannot afford distant education.

Considering the average population served by a university in the country as a whole or in the State of Bihar, the region has a legitimate claim to have a university of its own with faculties of arts, science, commerce, humanities, social sciences, engineering, medicine, agriculture and education.

The legitimacy of the claim has been conceded by successive governments of Bihar in the past but paucity of funds, the ban by the University Grants Commission and the wrangle over the site have held up progress of implementation.

Equality of educational opportunity is a sacred right and an imperative for development. I request that the Central Government and the UGC extend full cooperation to the State Government in establishing the university in Purnea which is logistically the most suitable place, in order to enable the youth of the region to progress educationally and to contribute to nation-building.

(vi) **Need to allocate adequate quota of fertilizers to Orissa and Madhya Pradesh through the Marketing Division of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation**

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the management of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has decided to close down its marketing set-up in Orissa region. The marketing set-up of Madhya Pradesh region has been closed recently. The management's plea is that adequate stock of fertilizer is not available for sale to these States.

Since 1968-69, these Regional Marketing Offices are in operation. There is a Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division which is engaged in educating farmers in balanced and scientific use of fertilizers thereby creating effective demand for optimising productivity.

Our country imports around 30 lakh tonnes of fertilisers to meet our requirement. The marketing infrastructure of HFC had been selling a share of this imported quota.

The closure of the Regional Offices, one after the other, will severely affect the smooth flow of fertilizers to the farmers of these States and will also render about 200 employees of Marketing Division jobless.

The need of the hour is to allocate adequate quota of fertilizers to these Regions through the Marketing Division of HFC from the imported pool and also from other sources in public and cooperative sectors.

(vii) **Need to take steps for protection and beautification of Jhansi Fort and Palace of Rani Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Sir, I am raising the following matter under Rule 377:—

I would like to inform the hon. Minister in charge of the Archaeological Department that the historic fort of Maharani Lakshmi Bai in Jhansi and her palace situated in the centre of the city are in a very dilapidated condition. With a view to beautify this fort of national importance and develop it as a resort of tourist attraction, many acres of land was acquired around this place by the Archaeological Department.

The existing condition of the fort and the palace is very poor. The land acquired for tourism purposes has been encroached upon in an unauthorised manner.

The Central Government should take immediate steps for the beautification of this fort which is remembered for a number of memorable activities of great freedom fighter, Maharani Lakshmi Bai and the unauthorised encroachers on the acquired land should also be got vacated.

The antiques preserved in the palace of the Maharani would get transferred to the proposed museum after its construction. So the Government should make it clear as to how the palace of the Maharani would be developed by the Archaeological Department so that misgivings among the people could be removed.

There is a lot of resentment among the people over the Government's neglect of the Maharani's memorials. Concrete measures should be taken immediately to remove the resentment among the people.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next Items are General Discussion on Budget (General) and Demands for Grants on Account (General). These are to be discussed together. I am told by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that he wants the Demands for Grants on Account to be passed now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): To whom are you addressing this question Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go on now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The matter is being discussed with just five minutes to Private Members' Business.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, you will have to demand.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is not the point. You addressed a question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, we had a discussion in the Speaker's Chamber while the Parliamentary Affairs Minister was also present. And there was an understanding generated that the vote on Demands for Grants on Account can be passed without discussion now and the rest of the time be consumed on that item itself. Mr. Kumaramangalam is present here. Am I interpreting you correctly? ...*(Interruptions)*... So Sir, there is just no point in trying to initiate the General Discussion on the Budget now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want? Do you want that to be passed now? Unless the Government wants it, why do you raise it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not like that Sir. It is not a question of what the Government wants. It is a question of what the House wants.

The Government cannot move in this House without the consent of all of us. So, please put it correctly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But somebody must demand now. That is the work of the Government.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am demanding if you give me a chance. If you keep on talking, then I cannot even demand. I have been demanding. Now, there are two minutes left to the Private Members' Business. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had been in consultation with us and with the Speaker himself. This consultation has been going since yesterday. What we are submitting is we are ready, all of us are ready to pass the Demands for Grants on Account without discussion now, in the next ten minutes or so. And thereafter, the discussion on the Budget can be taken up in a more meaningful fashion starting from tomorrow morning at 11 AM and go on till Tuesday evening. So, we have got three full days of discussion and 15 hours have been allotted for discussion. I hope the Government will give its consent to this proposal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): We have no objection at all since all the parties have been suggesting that it will give them a little easiness in regard to the guillotine timing which we will have to go through. We can have the vote on Demands for Grants on Account passed now and then we will have the discussion on the Budget completed by Tuesday evening. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, if you want to put the matter to the sense of the House, postponing the Private Members' Business by ten minutes will enable the Treasury Benches to properly

word the Vote on Accounts. You can move a Motion in that ten minutes time and without discussion, this House can pass the vote on account so that the Finance Minister does not suffer from palpitation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: There is no problem from our side. The Chair has to put it to the vote of the House. We are waiting for the papers to come. It is an administrative exercise. You have to give the office some time.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): If you require 15 minutes, we have no objection. You can have it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I have a proposal. At 5.30 after the Private Members' Business is over, we can take up the Vote on Account and put it to the vote of the House immediately. Then we can start the Half an Hour Discussion.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Bihar): You may adjourn the House for 10 or 15 minutes.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: There is no requirement to adjourn the House. We can take it up at 5.30 PM.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 3 O'clock. Shall we go to the next item?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: There is something that I would draw your attention to. The mover of the Resolution regarding religious shrines, Shri Zainal Abedi is receiving letters repeatedly threatening his life for moving that Resolution in the House. We have already talked to the Speaker and we have also submitted copies of those threatening letters to the Speaker. As members of this House, we certainly need the protection of the Speaker. But we

also want to convey to the House just one point. On any subject being discussed in the House, cannot we take a view that no threat, whichever source it may emanate from, will cow down this House in discharging its duties?

These threats are in post cards, envelopes and inland letters.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have followed you. Please take your seat.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will this message go round the country through you that nothing can silence the voice of a Member of Parliament in the House whoever he may be, whichever religion or complexion he has? Undaunted, we will pursue the point which serves the country. This message must go from the House. I want that this sentiment is seconded in one voice by all parts of the House, whether it be Right or Left. We should have a unanimous resolution. We must resolve that such threats will not silence the House and we all condemn it. This is all that I request you and all sides of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an established parliamentary privilege that every member should have a right to speak here fearlessly and no threats can be given from anybody outside or inside the House. Therefore, his complaint is correct. I have been asked by the Speaker to convey that the member concerned should be given all protection in this respect and Government should take necessary steps in the matter.

Now, let us take up the next item.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, I seek a clarification on one point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is closed now. We cannot discuss everything again and again.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, usually the custom in the House is that Resolutions and Bills are taken up on alternate Fridays. But I find that during the last three consecutive Fridays, the House is discussing the Resolution only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discuss this point with the Speaker in his Chamber.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discuss this long long time, we have this custom. I just want to know why this custom is now violated.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let me clarify. The reason is that Bills are yet to be introduced.

15.05 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE
CHAIR

(b) Transaction of Private Members' Business

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have some announcement to be made on behalf of the Speaker. He says—

Let me explain the reason why Private Members' Bills cannot be taken up today. The first Friday was allotted for the transaction of business relating to Private Members' Resolutions, as usual. Also there was no Bill pending, as all Bills had lapsed with the dissolution of last Lok Sabha. Accordingly, the first Friday, that is,

the 12th July, 1991, was allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Resolutions.

The second Friday, that is, the 19th July, 1991, was allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Bills as also Resolutions. On that day Bills, which fulfilled the relaxed period of notice were introduced. The House will appreciate that the Bills could not have been taken up for consideration immediately after introduction as the ballot is required to be held to determine their *inter se* priority. The date for ballot had been announced before the beginning of the sessions in Bulletin-Part II, dated the 29th June, 1991. Therefore, on the 19th July, 1991 rest of the time available was utilised for the discussion of the part—discussed resolution on the agenda. A ballot for the Bills introduced on the 19th July, 1991 was accordingly held on the 22nd July, 1991 and the result of ballot notified in the Bulletin-Part II of that date. The Private Members' Business relating to Bills cannot be taken up today, the 26th July, 1991, due to constraints of procedure requiring Members to give notice for consideration of their Bills, which had gained priority at the ballot held on the 22nd July, 1991, within a specified period, that is, upto the 25th July, 1991. The List of Business of Private Members' Business is also required to be circulated to Members at least two days before the actual day on which the Private Members' business is to be taken up.

The Private Members' Bills will now be taken up on Friday, the 2nd August, 1991.

15.07 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. STEPS FOR MAINTAINING STATUS QUO OF RELIGIOUS SHRINES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP—Contd.

[English]

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHARY (Serampore): Sir, while I was participating in this debate on the Private Members' Resolution moved by my friend, Shri Zainal Abedin, I tried to stress one point that is, that the communalism poses the biggest danger and damage to the unity of the common people and to the unity of toiling masses, who are fighting against the poverty, hunger and destitution. This is why communalism is a weapon in the hands of power that be in our country, in our semi-feudal society. If one community of toiling people can be alienated from, can be separated from another community of toiling people in the name of religion, it would only benefit upper strata of the society who would like to see the down trodden divided. And this is why any fundamentalist party that upholds communalism or obscurantism is at the same time champions all anti-people policy economic or otherwise. This is the reason why the so called Economic reforms initiated at the overt or covert directives of the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank is considered by such parties, which is otherwise thoroughly backward in thinking and perception, as reforms as steps in the right direction. That we have already held in this House.

Sir, the reverse is also true. If any party pursues anti-people economic policies, it cannot fight whole-heartedly against communalism. It would rather compromise with and even surrender to fundamentalist parties whether of Hindu or of Muslim variety. All of us in this House should be cautious about this. This is the reason why—where there is a conscious

attempt, organised struggle against feudalism, movement for land reforms we could contain communalism. That is our experience in West Bengal. Thanks to the persistent struggle of Kisan Sabhas and other mass organisations and bold initiatives that were taken by the successive Left Front Governments on land reforms we could contain communalism there.

It is indeed surprising that while it is claimed that Ram Rajya fights poverty and hunger but not a single slogan against these evils was raised during Rath Yatra, last year. Instead we have heard—we have collected from Press Reports—that inflammatory slogans were raised like Mohamadans have got only two places to go *Kabristan* or let them go to Pakistan. Only when the elections came nearer, questions of *Roti* and *Insaaf* were invoked, just to give Ram a human face. Under the circumstances, I firmly believe that the fight against communalism is closely inter-woven with a fight against communalism. You cannot fight in one front and at the same time capitulate in the other front. But apart from taking such stand, certain legal, formal and constitutional steps should immediately be taken in view of the fact that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had already said that they are going to construct Ram temple in coming November, at the disputed site.

The BJP's open support to Vishwa Hindu Parishad's move is dangerous. I will not go into the past that the Babri Masjid was very much alive and functional till the night of 22 or 23 December, 1949, when the idol of Ram miraculously appeared at the site of the Mosque. Every one knows the real facts regarding such miracles. I just want to stress that Ram Janmabhoomi dispute is to be solved within the framework of our Constitution, in a peaceful way. To say that this particular issue is out of bounds of Court of law is dangerous, for the very concept of secularism for the very concept of judicial independence

[Sh. Sudarsan Raychaudhary]

which are part and parcel of any thought of liberal democracy.

Secondly who authorised the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the BJP to represent the entire Hindu community? The way they are confining Ram in a particular piece of land... (Interruptions)

Why are you shouting? Is this the way to behave? (Interruptions). The way they are confining Ram in a particular piece of land, I am sure would not be liked by any sensible Hindu.

May I quote Poet Rabindranath Tagore?

He wrote: "The truth is what you yourself construct Ram was not born in the forest of Ayodhya. He was born in our mind the poet's mind."

I have heard that BJP also likes it. (Interruptions) You challenge Rabindranath Tagore. Why challenge me? I am just quoting Tagore. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the way to behave. Let him speak.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHARY: BJP considers Rabindranath Tagore was a great poet. There is nothing knew in it. All of us so consider. But the BJP considers Rabindranath Tagore as a great Hindu poet. So, I would request the BJP to follow the concept of their great Hindu poet at least and shun the path of inciting violence and inciting communal passion to gain political mileage and having narrow political gains.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Although you may have opposite views, you must listen.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: We have limited time. We had already two sessions for discussing this Resolution. Today is the third session. I do not know how long it will take. I think the House should decide how much time we are going to allot to this Resolution. There should be a time limit for this Resolution. (Interruptions) Otherwise, you know what happened the other day in the House. I would suggest that half of the time should be given to those who are in favour of this Resolution and half of the time should be given to those who are against the Resolution. This is not the Government's Resolution; this is the Private Member's Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. This is your suggestion.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): There should be a time limit for every speaker. Some speaker takes one hour while other speakers do not get time. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give only 10-15 minutes to every speaker.

[Translation]

MAHANT ABEDYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for offering me an opportunity to present my views on this resolution. Sir, the resolution presented by the hon. Member contains two parts. The first part reveals that the Ram Janmabhoomi Babri Masjid issue may be resolved through negotiation and goodwill.

Sir, as far as this part of the resolution is concerned we have ne-

ver spoken against resolving this issue through negotiation. During the tenure of the former Prime Ministers Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar, concerted efforts to tackle this issue through negotiations were made. Sir, Shri Chandra Shekhar, while initiating an excellent measure to find a solution to this issue, had asked for evidence from both sides.

On the basis of the literary, historical and archaeological evidence, produced by us and keeping in view the actual state of things, it can be categorically stated that Babri Masjid was built after demolishing Ram Mandir. Similarly, scores of muslim brethren have announced that they would accept and give this site to the Hindus if it is proved by them that Babri Masjid was constructed after demolishing Ram Mandir.

Sir, all the evidence relating to this issue have been produced. Now it is to consider that if Lord Ram was not born there, how could there be a place of worship of another religion at the entrance of the mosque. If you personally visit Ayodhya, you will find that the site in front of so called Babri Masjid is worshiped as Ram Janmabhoomi and this fact has been accepted even by the entire Muslim community. That place has been recognised as the birth place of Lord Rama and if it is in the premises of the mosque, it is certain that Lord Ram was born there before Babar and that place definitely existed before Babar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, moreover, it is necessary to consider that magnificent temples of Lord Ram at the cost of crores of rupees are built in the entire Ayodhya. Therefore, keeping in view the religious and historical facts, that is the only place where Lord Ram took birth. Only a raised platform of 4' x 4' exists in the name of Lord Rama whereas this

site has been recognised as the most sacred place from both historical and religious points of view. Sir, we should think that no caste would struggle for an insignificant thing or cause for thousands of years, burn themselves like a moth and sacrifice their lives.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a hundred of years old dispute, not of today. There are evidences about it. Leave aside the British and Hindu historians, the Muslims historians themselves have accepted the fact that Babri Masjid was built by Babar by demolishing the Ram Janmabhoomi temple. Aurangzeb's grand daughter had accepted this fact and the father of eminent scholar of Muslim community Ali Mian, who is at present a resident of Lucknow, acknowledged this fact in his book also

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: He has never said such a thing. (*Interruptions*)

MAHANT ABEDYA NATH: We will produce evidence in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not proper. Please sit down. It is not proper that as soon as a Member speaks something which you do not like, you go on interrupting. It is not proper, please.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MAHANT ABEDYA NATH. They know that they have no reply to our arguments and hence they are not allowing us to speak. Sir, if Goa could be retrieved after 400 years.....

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, we are all Members. We are neither representing Babri Masjid Action Committee nor Vishwa Hindu Parishad... (Interruptions) Are you representing Vishwa Hindu Parishad? (Interruptions)

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM (East-Delhi): We are representing Ram Janam Bhoomi... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: There is an attempt to communalise the whole debate here. Please do not do that. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAHANT ABEDYA NATH: If the lost independence could be gained after a thousand years, why can't we get our sacred place of worship back which had been demolished and mosque built there during those 400 years of slavery when we were helpless, weak and dependent... (Interruptions)... Sir, it is said and you are also well aware about the fact that many of our temples have become a part of Pakistan after partition and in India also injustice is being done with Hindus. The signs of temples are retained on the mosque to humiliate Hindus. Similarly, I would like to express my views on the second part of this resolution. This part speaks of preserving and maintaining the *status quo* of all religious shrines and places of worship as on August 15, 1947. Sir, due to policy of appeasement male members of a particular community are allowed four marriages. Article 370 in the constitution is only to appease minorities. Similarly, today also, this resolution for preserving and maintaining *status quo* of all religious shrines and places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947, is being brought to appease that particular community. I want to say that if you are in favour of maintaining the

status quo of all religious shrines and places of worship, first of all bring about the unification of India and Pakistan. If you wish to maintain *status quo*, you have the right to make such a claim only when you restore the temples which are now in Pakistan or Bangladesh. If this resolution is passed, Hindus will not accept it and they will revolt... (Interruptions) As such, the movers of this resolution do not want peace in the country. Will the Somnath temple be handed over to Muslims? Will the idols worshipped in Ayodhya since 1949 be removed from here after the bill is passed? Do you think that such a move would restore peace in the country? The passing of such a bill can never bring peace. Peace can be restored only when a law is enacted to this effect that those temples which were demolished and mosques built on those sites be given back to the Hindus. Otherwise, you are aware that after the formation of Pakistan many mosques were demolished in Haryana and Punjab and Gurdwaras were built on those sites. Have you courage to demolish those Gurdwaras and reconstruct mosques there? Such things are not in the interest of the country and you cannot establish unity between Hindus and Muslims in this way. If the Muslims brethren are in favour of establishing Hindu Muslims unity in right earnest, for them the need of the hour is to accept reality and on the basis of historical, circumstantial and archaeological evidence, they should accept our demand for Ram Janmabhoomi. In ancient times thousands of temples were demolished but we are not making any demand for them. Our demand is solely confined to those temples whose remains are still intact on the sites of mosques. (Interruptions). In Varanashi the remains of Vishwanath temples, which was demolished and a mosque constructed on that site, remind the Hindus of their plight in this independent India. Even today the signs of slavery exist on the temple of Lord Rama who is worshipped by crores

of Hindus. The plight of Hindus living in this country is similar to that head of a family who is tied to a free members of his family are being raped in his presence but he is helpless. The Hindu community will continue their struggle to fight against this embarrassment. You say that I am a member of Vishwa Hindu Parishad but all the elected representatives have full right to express their views here. No Member can check the same. *(Interruptions)* As such, I would like to say that no such Bill should be moved in this august House in the name of secularism which is a blow on the sentiments of eighty per cent Hindus living in this country. There is a move to divide and humiliate the Hindus for creating vote bank. They are being divided on the basis of castes and in consequence it is causing ham to the unity between Hindus and Muslims.

With these words, I would request you not to compel the Government to move such a bill.....

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHURY (Katwa): After seeing what is happening in the House. I want to revive the old proposal that the proceedings of Lok Sabha should be telecast so that the people of this country should have the opportunity to know how we are behaving in this House *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wonder whether this is, in fact, a Chamber of Parliament of India. All that has happened and that is happening in the course of this Debate gives rise to a doubt whether this is one Chamber of our sacred Parliament of India or outside the Parliament a gathering of a particular region or community. So, I am really

sorry. As you said, this is definitely a controversial subject and in a subject of controversy, controversial views, diametrical opposite views will, of course, be there. But, what is the harm in expressing those views on this subject also in a very cordial atmosphere. Such controversy or scene does not give a good impression of our conduct as hon. Members of sacred Parliament.

As I said that this is a controversial issue. But, I think the Resolution, as suggested by the hon. Member Shri Zamal Abedin, is non-controversial. The Resolution, the wording, the suggestion given, is not controversial. According to me there can be no controversy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, I entirely agree with hon. Member, Shri Panigrahi, that this is a matter, which even though it is a controversial, it should be possible for the House to discuss the issues and its pros and cons. Every one knows that our attitude and the attitude of some other Members of the House is different on this particular issue. I would point out

15.36 hrs. [RAO RAM SINGH in the Chair]

also that till now two Members have spoken from my party. Shri Shreesh Chandra Dikshit and Mahant Abedya Nath. Both of them have tried to present the point of view of our party in a logical, rationale manner with which someone may agree, some one may not agree and it was the interruptions that created a different kind of climate. Then once Shri Dikshit and Mahant Abedya Nath were interrupted in this manner, the tendency is to respond in the same coin. I do not approve of it. I do not think that totally a different point of view can be expressed—Shri Abedin or any other Member can

[Sh. Lal K. Advani]

express. But, unless we are willing to hear each other, this is bound to happen. And, therefore, I would plead with the whole House that hereafter let this debate continue in a proper manner, points of views be expressed and then whatever be the decision of the House will have to be accepted...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I entire agree with what Shri Advaniji has said. I think we are all mature people. We should discuss this very very important national issue in a very logical and mature manner. There is no room for showing emotions and also, I must say, that there is no room for shouting slogans in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: May I submit something, Sir? I am entirely in agreement that this is House. In fact, there were slogans in this House when the oath-taking was taking place, and at that point of time I had pointed out to my colleagues that when the House meets for the Joint Session, let us maintain complete decorum and no chanting of slogans of any kind should be there. And there was perfect order. But here in this House, when from the other side provocative remarks are made, interruptions are made and an affront is made...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Please do not interrupt. I will give chance to every hon. Member to put forth his views in a calm and collected manner. But I would request you that everybody has got a right to speak, and when a senior Member like Mr. Advani is speaking, I would kindly request you not to interrupt.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not agree with his views. I promise you I shall give you adequate

time to reply and to say whatever views you have got to put forward. Now, Mr. Advani was on his legs and I would request not to interrupt till he has finished.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have nothing more to add except that if for what I am saying at the moment, I am sought to be shouted down by those benches, then the reaction from this side is bound to be there. Therefore, this attempt at shouting down Dikshitji, shouting down at Mahant Abedya Nathji is the root cause of the disturbance that has taken place during these three sessions. Otherwise this would not have happened.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, we have great regards for our colleague Shri Advaniji and respectfully we listened to him. But this is not fair, because he is a senior Member, to just charge us that it is because other Members were interrupting. When Mr. Zainal Abedin was moving this Resolution, you must have noticed that time and again he was interrupted, and when our friend from the other side was just speaking, the same thing happened. I totally agree with you that there should be full freedom of expression. We must maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. We should allow the Members to speak, unless and until there is anything where you feel that with your permission somebody wants to say something. I think this is a very sensitive issue. We all agree to this. Therefore, I will request you Advaniji to please ask your Members also not to shout. It is not that our side is doing and they are not doing it. Nobody should interrupt.

MR. CHAIRMAN: O.K., thank you. I think there is no harm in a little bit of friendly bent of that kind. But I would request everybody to keep his or her emotions

within check. Although I do not like to say, because Mr. Advani is a very senior Member, but because there was a precedence of slogan shouting at one time or the other that does not give any licence for slogan shouting to be continued. So, I would, with folded hands, request all sections of the House that please let us not indulge in any slogan shouting in the House.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Thank you, Sir. I think with this, good sense will prevail and we will have a very cordial atmosphere in this House over this debate.

Sir, this is no doubt a sensitive issue and this has sparked off controversy in the form of communal riots claiming 564 lives in police firing. Communal riots had sparked off because of this Babri Masjid-Ram Janam Bhoomi controversy and the resultant police firing killed an estimated 564 people within a brief period from 1st September to 20th November, 1990. There were as many as forty major riots all over the country. The consequence of this was so serious.

It is all a meaningless controversy. Why should there be such a controversy over this sensitive issue? It is better if all of us, atleast political parties, develop proper attitude and proper approach to this because as you know, all political parties are committed to communal harmony, communal amity and they are also committed to promote secularism. Of course, in this respect some of us are doing something else. But we take oath under the Constitution and in our very Preamble to the Constitution we have this provision of secularism and we are committed to it. When this controversy is there and communal riots do take place, it also has its repercussions outside India. We find reaction in other countries

also. When we are engaging ourselves in this, I would say that it is a petty, narrow issue and we are indulging in it as if there are no national problems. In fact, we have our very solidarity, integrity and national unity being threatened and if this sort of controversy is allowed to develop, that would further aggravate the situation. Our attempt to divide the country along caste lines and along communal lines would further aggravate and endanger our national unity and national solidarity. Therefore, Sir, it has to be resolved, through mutual discussion as early as possible.

I am not going to the origin of this controversy, it has been dealt at length by some previous speakers. Of course, I wonder because in history, I may be ignorant about it but what we read is that Babar advised his son to respect all religious sentiments and religious places of all communities irrespective of their religion. This is what we used to read when we were students in High School or even earlier. How can such a person be blamed today for the demolition of a mandir, I wonder. If our friends on the other side have a convincing proof, well, I think there is some forum and I think that forum is still open for the evidence to be adduced or for placing the documents etc. They claim to possess records about all these things, but we have read in our student days that Babar was a liberal administrator, a liberal king, and so he advised his son to behave this way. (*Interruptions*). Of course, you can come with your proof or evidence etc. whatever you have.

So, it has to be resolved and as you know, the secularism that I was referring to is the cornerstone of our nationhood. Secularism in our country, as you know, is the pivot of our ancient culture and its unity in diversity. It is our responsibility to strengthen the national unity and integrity irrespective of different castes, religions and ethnic minorities.

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

We are following the path of our great Congress leaders for strengthening the unity of the country. Several great leaders of Congress have sacrificed their lives for putting off the fire of communalism. It is very easy to whip up communalism, to arouse communal passions, but we should remain far away from that. In our country it is very difficult to do so. Ours is a country where Buddha, Asoka, Gandhi and Jawaharlal were born and they were the torch bearers of peace and non-violence not only in India, but in the world at large and in such a country, now violence is overtaking us threatening our unity and integrity. So, now we should calmly address ourselves to this problem and there is no problem without a solution. No problem is there which is beyond a solution. There is a solution; there could be a peaceful solution. Therefore, as Shri Zainal Abedin has suggested, this problem can be settled through mutual discussions. I was told that such discussions were fruitless and futile exercises were going on for a long time. If it was left half way, I think, we can again start it. If there is no solution through mutual discussions, then naturally we have to depend upon the court of law. We have the rule of law and it is not a lawless jungle. So, we have to abide by the Court decision.

Sir, Shri Dixit went on harping that right from the beginning they are abiding by the decision of the Court and they had never ignored the Court decision. We welcome this stand. If our friends are abiding by the Court decision right from the beginning, why can they not abide the last decision also? The matter is now pending in the Allahabad High Court. So, they should abide by the final verdict of the Court.

Then, Sir, I would really appreciate the stand taken by the BJP Member Shri Arvind Trivedi. In today's

Times of India, he has given an interview. In that interview, he says there are so many burning problems which need our immediate attention like problems of price rise, unemployment etc. He is a very good actor who had acted in the TV Serial *Ramayan* as *Ravana* and he is now elected on the BJP ticket. He said that this temple construction can wait. Further he has stated that this problem can be settled through peaceful negotiations. So, what Shri Arvind Trivedi has said is in the same spirit of the resolution. The Opposition Leader Shri Advani, while speaking earlier, said that they have got a mandate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the subject of the resolution. You kindly speak on the subject matter of the resolution.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, in this land, we are committed to promote secularism and without secularism we cannot move an inch forward in strengthening our national unity and integrity, which is the need of the hour. In a country of India's dimension, these kind of problems can be settled through peaceful negotiations. If negotiations fail, then we have to go by the Court decision. We have achieved our independence 44 years ago on 15th August, 1947. Now, we want to pass a law for maintaining the status quo of all places of worship, as they were on the famous day when we achieved our independence. What is wrong about it? We have our own problems. The world is changing. The society is changing. We have to keep running to keep in tune with the changing circumstances of the world. Otherwise, we will be left behind. There is a question of hunger; there is a question of backwardness. We have to fight regionalism which is also showing its ugly head. No religion is bad. It is not bad also to be religious. Secularism does not say that it is non-religious, but equal respect for all religions. It is bad to be communal. But it is

not bad to be religious. It is good to be religious. All religions basically stand for better human being, better life and humaneness. There is a serious conflict going on in everybody's mind and heart between the evil forces and good forces. It is the religion which helps the good forces to defeat the evil forces in this conflict. Those who want to create mischief with political motives, those who want to make some selfish gains try to interpret religion in a different way to suit their design and convenience. Therefore, what is needed in the present context is, we should separate religion from politics. It is being done in other countries also.

Let us be religious but let us not bring in religion into politics and pollute the Indian national atmosphere or nationhood.

With these words, I make an appeal to all concerned that let us rise above all these small things and try to be Indian first, Indian second and Indian last and also try to strengthen our unity, integrity and build up a strong united India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion moved by Shri Zainal Abedin Sahib. This is a Private Members' Resolution and is of national importance. It is linked with the question of security of the nation and safeguarding the principles of secularism. Sir, it is my humble submission that we should discuss this matter rising above party politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I believe that the way the facts are presented, arguments and counter arguments are made, it does not lead us to truth. So we should discuss this important problem in a peaceful manner. This is a national and a burning problem.

Communalism is the biggest challenge to the country these days. Sir, according to the Report of the Home Ministry, 831 people have lost their lives so far in the communal riots which were a result of Ayodhya Problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the biggest problem which the country is facing today and the people who create friction on the basis of trifling religious issues are mainly responsible for these tensions. Because of these communal clashes children, women and innocent people are killed. My submission is that this House should consider this problem very deeply.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, communalism starts in the name of religion. When the people of one community identify themselves as different from other communities, then communalism takes root.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when religion is operated by those people who have blind faith, it gives rise to communalism. When religion is associated with external ostentations and wrong standards the result is communal psyche. It is also the result of loss of human values and confinement of religion to stones, temples, mosques and customs. Whenever fundamentalism was rampant in this country, there were atrocities on communal lines and the society and nation became weak. Now-a-days the fundamentalist forces want to make political capital out of religion therefore they keep the countrymen away from the basic realities of religion and take them nearer to the systems of worship, idols, temples and mosques so that the people remain far away from the real problems of the nation, and help bring the person to power as a saviour of their faith. Now, nobody can deny this fact that politics is behind increasing communal tensions. But it will not serve any purpose by merely holding the communalists responsible for converting politics into communalism. We people,

[Sh. Devendra Prasad Yadav]

who are in favour of bringing changes in the politics of the country cannot shirk our responsibility because we have not been able to effectively combat this ideology which is knowingly or unknowingly allowed to function.

Some Hon. Members have just hinted towards it. When we were studying in the college, we were taught "Good conductor and bad conductor" in Physics. Now-a-days some political people in this country neglect the bad conductor and catch hold of good conductor in order to flare up communal frenzy and create communal tension in the country. If an iron rod is heated at one end, the other end also gets heated up. Likewise if riots and communal feelings flare up at one end it spreads to the other end also, i.e. it spreads to other parts also. Today, the people belonging to Vishwa Hindu Parishad are giving the slogan of "Jai Shri Rama", I want to tell them that this country does not belong to "Jai Shri Rama" alone. Poor people, downtrodden and exploited people are also a part of this country. Today, agitations to counter the problems of price-rise, unemployment and corruption are not given due importance. Now-a-days, if there is a struggle against price-rise and corruption in one part of the country it does not spread to another part but if the communal harmony between Hindus and Muslims is disturbed in one part it moves throughout the country. Some people give it a political colour and exploit it fully to gain political foothold and power, but nobody can tolerate it. India is a vast country. It is the land of Gandhi and Mahatma Buddha. Communalism will be crushed here. Some clever leaders are giving loud statements here. I wanted to speak on this topic at the time of budget and even now I will speak on this subject although it is a Private Member's Resolution...(Interruptions)...

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER:
Please speak on the subject alone.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Please listen to the subject...(Interruptions)... Mr. Chairman, Sir, Babri Masjid was constructed in 1528. What is the reason that till now there was no harm to Hinduism in spite of the presence of Babri Masjid? How did it change, all at once. Why after 40-42 years of independence Hinduism cannot exist if Rama Mandir is not constructed at the site of Babri Masjid? What kind of Hinduism is this? Who will decide it after 40 years of independence...?(Interruptions) Today Vishwa Hindu Parishad makes an announcement that they will construct a temple there after demolishing the mosque...(Interruptions)... That is why I want to say that now-a-days common men, Hindus and Muslims, want to live as brothers but deliberate attempts are made to divide them. The interests of minorities are undermined and their religious feelings are hurt. I was mentioning this because in this country...

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my religious feelings are hurt when the honourable Member speaks these words. (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: As far as hurting of religious feelings is concerned, the Rama Rath Yatra started in the name of Rama Mandir, was it for the good of 52 per cent backward people. It was a method adopted for blocking 27 per cent reservation for the backwards...(Interruptions)...We did not intend to say all this, but when you provoke us, we have to say these things. I want to say because...(Interruptions)...as far as the question of taking of the Rama Ratha Yatra to Ayodhya is concerned, it was...(Interruptions)...taken out not for the safety of Hinduism but to uphold the caste system only...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, a few minutes ago Shri Advani advised this House that there should not be any interruptions when a Member is speaking. Let it be maintained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a point of order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down. That hon. Member has raised a point of order. He will be given full opportunity to raise his point of order.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the person who occupying the chair before you had said that every person will speak for not more than 10 minutes. He has exceeded ten minutes. He did not allow honourable mahant Abedya Nathji. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have listened to your point of order. I feel the subject which is being debated at the moment is a very important subject, therefore, the time may be increased from 10 minutes to 20 minutes. That would be better. You allow him to speak. Now, your point of order is over. Take your seat, please.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is duality of approach in this country. There are some shrewd leaders in this country, they get wide publicity, and they are attractive also, that is why I want to mention all these things. When fight for social justice was going on in this country they issued a crafty statement that the implementa-

tion of the recommendations of Mandal Commission would be decided by court and the issue of Ram Temple would be decided taking into the sentiments of the people.

I would like to mention this thing because 52 per cent people are backward, 85 per cent are poor, depressed and exploited. If there is any question of the welfare of such people, it will be referred to High Court where it will remain undecided for long. Then there will be the decision of the court. Regarding Ram Mandir, neither court order nor the constitution nor the feelings would be accepted. Who will decide the case? As far as the general consensus and feelings are concerned, it should be discussed as to whose sentiments would be respected... (Interruptions)... I have mentioned this because I think that riots have not taken place in states where the administration acted in a non-partisan manner to maintain communal harmony. I would like to cite the example of Bihar in this regard. It has been proved beyond doubt in Bihar, particularly during the elections. Some political parties wanted to flare up communal frenzy in the name of construction of Ram temple but the people knew their game and remained united. That was the main reason why there were riots in other parts of the country whereas Bihar remained peaceful. There were no riots in the State. The Chief Minister of Bihar deserves to be congratulated for this. The 'Ram Rath' which flared up communal tension in the name of construction of Ram Temple... (Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATTIYAR (Faizabad): The hon. Member should speak on the related subject. He is side tracking the issue and just delivering a long speech. He does not know the facts about the controversy. He should speak the facts relating to the topic under discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of order.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, some parties have launched a campaign for the construction of Ram temple. I would like to point out categorically that the poor in our country...*(Interruptions)*...recite the name of Rama, but they adore the *Maryada Purushottam* Lord Rama and not the fake Rama...*(Interruptions)*...Mr. Chairman, Sir, the poor in the villages have a firm belief that Lord Rama will emancipate them from misery...*(Interruptions)*...Even when they fall sick they recite the name of Rama but these people are misusing the name of Rama...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution stipulates that the religious sentiments of no community should be hurt. Lord Rama is worshipped throughout the country and he is considered to be God. Fortunately the hon. Member is a Hindu but even then he has used words like fake Rama...*(Interruptions)*... This should be expunged from the proceedings of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The point of order raised by the hon. Member regarding fake Rama is not valid. He will not make such remarks about Lord Rama who is referred as god...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member never intended to hurt the religious sentiments of anybody. Now for that matter my name is Ram Singh. I can be a fake Rama. But this does not mean that Lord Rama is fake...*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER: The word 'fake Rama' should be expunged from the proceedings...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I accept your ruling. Whom did he want to refer

when he said fake Rama. We were discussing *Maryada Purushottam* Lord Rama here...*(Interruptions)*...It should be expunged from the proceedings. It is not an ordinary thing. Syed Shahabuddin is sitting here. Had anybody referred to Allah in this way...*(Interruptions)*. Lord Rama cannot be put to disgrace like this...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM (East-Delhi): We cannot afford to listen the word 'fake Rama'...*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he should withdraw the word 'fake'. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything which hurts the religious sentiments of somebody in that part of the proceedings, I would request the hon. Speaker to expunge it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I did not pass any remarks about *Maryada Purushottam* Lord Rama. I always speak with a sense of responsibility. I was referring to those who recite the name of Rama like

"Ek kilo Mein Nau So Gram, Jai Sri Rama Tolo Kam, Bolo Bam"

Not I alone but the entire country worships *Maryada Purushottam* Lord Rama. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadavji please close this chapter now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not justified that the hon. Members of one side are allowed to speak for two hours whereas the Members of the other side get very little time. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude. Members from both sides have enjoyed your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I do not believe in having two faces under one hood. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking on the subject under discussion and not side tracking. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I was submitting my view point but there were lot of interruptions in between.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Members to allow two more minutes to him to wind up and let the proceedings continue. If you do not allow him to speak the time of the House will be wasted.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cut-tack): These Members cannot dictate terms to the Chair. This is very unfair. The hon. Member who is on his legs must be allowed to make his points. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. Shri Devendra Prasad, please address the Chair and don't indulge in cross talks.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was making my point but I was interrupted repeatedly. I need your protection. Mr. Chairman, Sir, *Maryada Purushottam* Lord Rama invaded Lanka to kill demon Ravana who symbolised injustice. But we never heard invasion of Ayodhya in the name of Rama. Ayodhya is witness to it in recent times. The people of Vishwa Hindu Parishad..... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was submitting that if decision of the Court in

the matter is not accepted by these people, the religious sentiments of minorities and those who believe in secular principles would be hurt. Now they are saying that the construction work of the temple would commence at the disputed site in November. 'Mandir Waheen Banayenge' (the temple would be built there itself), they say. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue is not restricted to Ayodhya only, it involves 3,000 disputed shrines. If a temple is constructed at any of these disputed sites the country will be divided. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the country is on the brink of disintegration. 1946-47 witnessed the worst communal riots, the country was partitioned. That great humanitarian, Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest advocate of secularism stood for equality for one and all, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians etc. in the country. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, which force of our country snatched away Mahatma Gandhi from our midst at that time? Those very forces are today once again raising their heads in the name of the construction of the temple. *(Interruptions)* They snatched away our beloved Babu Gandhiji who sacrificed his life for the cause of human values. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you, not to interrupt him. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Do not interrupt him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly sit down. Now, I called Shri Mohan Rawle to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: If he is not allowed to complete, we will also not allow anybody to speak from this side. Is this the way to interrupt a Member? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called Shri Mohan Rawle to speak.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. What Shri Mohan Vishnu Rawle say will only go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded. Kindly sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I am on my feet, you should sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded unless you sit down.

Now, there is a point of order. Shri Kapse.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): My point of order is this. The present speaker spoke in so many words about who murdered Mahatma Gandhi and other things. Mahatma Gandhi murder case was decided long back and it was decided that only Godse was responsible for that and no other force was working with him. A charge was made during his speech and there was nothing to prove his charge. So, I request you to kindly look into the matter and that his words should be expunged.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into the matter and the Speaker will also look into the matter.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, please take your seat. You are crossing the limits.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, I have given you sufficient chance. Now, Shri Mohan Rawle.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN VISHNU RAWLE (Bombay South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, some hon. Members of the House have demanded that evidence in support of Rama Janambhoomi be produced before the House. The hon. Member, who has just now concluded his speech said that the Babri Masjid was constructed in 1528. We have evidence with us of that period too, to prove our claim. If the Babri Masjid was constructed in 1528 A.D., then let me add here that the struggle for the

restoration of the Rama Janambhoomi temple has been going on since then, and it will continue till the goal is achieved. Lord Rama is India's ideal. People, both at home and abroad were reminded and made aware of *Maryada Purushottam* Rama's ideals, through the popular television serial 'Ramayana'. Mahatma Gandhi dreamt of establishing a 'Rama Rajya' in India, we too are committed towards that goal. But in order to establish 'Rama Rajya', it is imperative to re-construct Rama temple at the original site. Now I will place before you the evidences, we have in this regard.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): Sir, during the election campaign, they had been saying that if they come to power, they would remove Mahatma Gandhi's statue and in its place would install Nathuram Godse's statue. What are they talking about Mahatma Gandhi's *Ramrajya*? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN VISHNU RAWLE: Let me quote from page No. 22:

[English]

"In 1528 AD, Babar came to Ayodhya (Aud) and halted for a week. He destroyed the ancient temple (marking the birth place of Rama) and on its site built a mosque, still known as Babar's mosque..... It has two inscriptions one on the outside, one on the pulpit; both

are in Persian and bear the date 935 AH. This date may be that of the completion of the building."

[Translation]

The so called Babri Masjid is in fact the original site of the Rama Temple. Every mosque has within its precincts, a tank, which the worshippers use for washing their hands before offering prayers. This is the case with mosques all over the world, but in the Mosque at Ayodhya, it's not there. Moreover, the idols of Gods and Goddesses are there on the walls of the so-called 'Mosque'. There is not a single Mosque in the world where prayers are offered to anyone other than Allah, but in this particular structure, people pay obeisance to Lord Rama. Not only this, this mosque has no minarets and there is no evidence to prove that 'Namaz' was offered here. Wonder of wonders, the sanctum sanctorum (Garbha Griha) has a 'Parikrama' around it. Further, had it been a Mosque, the western side wall should have been plain. The temple of Lord Rama was closed for worship and locked in 1949, but later on, the temple was thrown open to the public for the purpose of worship under the orders of the court of law. Mahmood Ghazni was responsible for the destruction of the Somnath temple. Our First President Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, on whom "Bharat Ratna" has been conferred, took active part in the re-construction of the Somnath shrine. The rejuvenation and the re-construction of that temple took place with the express consent of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the stalwarts of the Party, which is occupying the treasury benches today. We had hoped that in continuance of that legacy, they would allow us to construct the Rama temple also, unfortunately, they did not. Then we moved the Court. Prayers are being offered there since 1949 to date and the Priest performs the 'Archana' under police protection. In 1986, the temple gates

[Sh. Mohan Vishnu Rawle]

were formally unlocked. It is most unfortunate that we are being dubbed as communalists. When the temple was thrown open to the public for worship in 1986, under the orders of the court of law, riots took place and atrocities were committed on us. Not only this, riots took place in Pakistan too and Hindu shrines were desecrated and destroyed. What do we speak of Pakistan, in independent India itself, more than 40 temples were badly damaged and destroyed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, these very people are accusing us of being communalists. I would like to know from them, whether there is a single mosque in the country, which has even slightly been damaged. The answer is a flat no. We regard Lord Rama as our idol, he never did injustice to anyone, we too are not doing that. We are not for constructing a temple over some mosque. We are just demanding the site which originally belongs to us.

Today, those very people, who speak of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (that the whole Universe is one family) are opposing the construction of this temple in the name of religion and they are fanning communalism in the country. When we say that Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians are all brothers, I wonder why we don't have a uniform law for everyone? It is most unfortunate. These people are cowards just now, one of the hon. Members said that this problem should be settled according to constitutional provisions, then certainly we should have a uniform civil code too, as per the constitution, but they are not prepared for that because they don't want to lose their vote bank and they want the people to remain divided on communal lines. The national song 'Vande Matram' is sung throughout the country. Literally speaking, the song is an obeisance to Mother India, but unfortunately one of the important leaders of the ruling party declared during the election campaign for the

Bombay Municipality, that Members of his community won't sing that song. They are opposing that very slogan of 'Vande Mataram', which inspired a number of our Muslim brethren to lay down their life for the country. They are opposing it in the name of religion. It was this very slogan that inspired millions of our countrymen to sacrifice their precious life for the country. It is our national song and we should have respect for it. Religion should in no way come in its way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the subject matter of the Resolution.

SHRI MOHAN VISHNU RAWLE: I am saying all this because they are accusing us of being communalists. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Please do not use this august House for anti-religious propaganda.

SHRI MOHAN VISHNU RAWLE: 'Vande Mataram', written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is the glory of our nation. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, he does not know who penned the poem. Forgive his ignorance, but expunge those remarks..... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI MOHAN VISHNU RAWLE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, those people who divided the country on religious lines and who were responsible for the creation of Pakistan are today preventing the community from joining the national mainstream in the name of religion. It is my humble submission that India can remain as one entity, only if the temple of Lord Rama, our national idol, is reconstructed. It

is our demand that the Government should allow the construction of the temple, at its original site itself. I request you do agree to it. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SMT. VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA
(Guna): Sir, I feel that the manner in which this important issue was being debated a short while ago in this august House, was creating nothing else but bitterness and this kind of bitterness would certainly hurt those who are sincerely interested in the unity of the country. I think what I am going to say will not be liked by either of the sides. I would like to present a bitter truth before you. Instead of dragging this issue, which is before us, it is important for us to peep into ourselves and find out whether we are really interested in unity, integrity, peace, brotherhood and goodwill of the country? If we are, I feel that this is not the way to achieve it. This is an important issue. What request should I make? It is fair neither for this side nor that to drag the name of Lord Ram into any dispute because I think, Ram is a national figure. He is my God or almighty and is considered so by lakhs and crores of people but in this august House we are taking this issue as a national issue.

Sir, every community, society and nation has its own honour, glory and culture and no one can break relationship with one's culture which one has inherited. Our ancient culture does not belong to any particular religion. Hinduism, Islam or Christianity but it belongs to every person living in this country and Lord Ram is a symbol of 'Maryada Purushottam' to us. Will any one, whether he is a Muslim or a Christian or follower of some other religion, say that he does not recognize him as 'Maryada Purushottam'? Can any one refuse to accept him as a national figure? Were Ram and Krishna not our ancestors? Was Babar our ancestor? I would like to

say that this issue is not of a temple or a mosque, which are built of bricks, stones, lime and cement but it is a national issue and if we are keen to achieve national unity and are in favour of restoring peace, goodwill and cordial relations with each other, all of us should look at this issue from national point of view.

No caste or nation can survive with self respect by separating itself from its culture or glory. I would like to say whether we are Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Buddhists or followers of any other religion, we cannot deny the fact that Lord Rama and Krishna were outstanding figures of this country's culture and were the worthy sons of mother India. Irrespective of the religion, that the people of this country follow, is it not a matter of pride for them that these worthy sons are remembered even today after thousands of years? I would like to submit that you may not take Ram as incarnation of the Almighty but you cannot deny or negate the fact that Ram was a national personality.

Sir, this august House is the most prestigious institution of our country where laws are enacted. I remember that during the course of a debate on this issue one of our friends had said that this House was neither a mosque nor a temple, it was a House of Lok Sabha. But Sir, in my views this House is a mosque, a temple, a church, a Gurdwara and as a matter of fact everything for us. In this august House we make laws in the nation's interest and as such whatever is said here should be honourable and dignified and we are the Members of such a prestigious House. A few days back we took oath. Sir, some of us took the oath in the name of God whereas others in the name of truth but I think whether you take the oath in the name of God or in the name of truth it is one and the same thing because truth is also a form of God. As such this House is a temple, a mosque, a church or whatever you consider it to be and the person seat-

[Smt. Vijayaraje Scindia]

ed on the speaker's chair can be regarded as 'Poojari' or a priest or a Maulvi. You are placed in a prestigious position and we are all here to find solution to the problems of the country.

Friends, I would like to submit that we cannot depart from our ancient culture, glory and honour. The society which distances itself from its ancient culture and its glory for the simple reason that they have changed their religion, is a wrong attitude. Religious conversion is something else. Religiosity is a personal matter. But the nation's dignity, glory and its cultural heritage belongs to all of us irrespective of the religion one follows and the same blood flows in our veins. Our ancestors were one and we should be proud of our forefathers to whom we the existence of this country.

As such we should adopt emotional approach to solve this issue. For this country emotional integration is absolutely essential. If we want country's unity, we should first be emotionally united and as all of us are the progeny of Mother India, we should live cordially as one family. We can differ in ideologies whether we belong to Bharatiya Janta Party or Communist or Congress Party. Everyone has full right to follow any ideology. We have right to express our views in this House but we do not have any right to obstruct anybody. It is against the decorum of this House.

As such I request you not to forget your past dignity and glory whether they are my Muslim friends or Christians and with folded hands I would like to tell them that if they forget the past glory of this country they would restrict themselves and remain confined to their limited thoughts whether they are Hindus or Muslims or Christians. I believe that it is not possible to find solution to any of the problems in the event of our confining ourselves to a limited sphere and seeing the world from a narrow attitude.

Today our country is surrounded by many problems. There are economic problems. Apart from this, various secessionist forces are threatening us. The situation is so deteriorated that one day our economic position will so worsen that it will be very difficult to regain it. That day is not far away. Let us come together and solve this issue by mutual understanding and move forward with the belief that Lord Ram is a national figure. Let us not forget that during the age of Lord Ram there were no religions. At that time humanity was the religion. Hence, on the basis of that humanity I would make an appeal to recognize the glory of our country and see Ram temple from that angle. I would also like to request my own countrymen to understand that friction will lead us nowhere. I realize that you are unhappy from the core of your heart, your feelings have been injured and you are unhappy over the fact that for the sake of a great personality, like Lord Ram, we are struggling and fighting so much.

I request you all to go through the pages of history in order to know the fact. We can never make progress and amend our ways by leaving history aside. There was a time when invaders equipped with swords came to our country from outside and forcibly removed sacred threads of our ancestors, cut their *chotis* (braids) and forcibly converted their religion. In that hour of terror and shock, our ancestors met a very harsh treatment at the hands of their own kith and kin. When they sought shelter in their own society, they were treated mercilessly. Naturally, when the man is in trouble he looks to his near and dear for love and sympathy. So, at that time they also looked to their families with a great hope. But doors were closed for them and they were harshly asked to go out because they were supposed to be out-caste then. They did not find shelter in their own houses. I would like to ask whether it was proper to do so? How bitterly would

have they felt then and how bitterly would have they wept when they stood before their houses and the doors of which had been closed for them and no one was there to accept them? Just imagine. After weeping a lot, when they would have come to their senses, they would have departed from there after taking a vow never to come back there even by mistake. Since a man cannot live without a religion or a faith had they embraced another religion in those circumstances, then whose fault it is? It is ours. So, this is the need of the hour to create a conducive atmosphere in which we can rectify our mistakes, embrace our own people and learn to respect religious sentiments of others. I expect the same from that side that they respect Rama. They should extend their co-operation in the construction of Rama temple at Ayodhya by rising above this controversy. At present, there are many complex problems in the country. An easy solution to all those problems will come out if we unitedly construct Rama temple there. We should work together to bring emotional integration among the members of the different communities in the country. We should embrace one another and tell that Rama belongs to we all be they Hindus or Muslims or Christians. He does not symbolize any particular community or religion. He is above everything. He is the symbol of the nation. He is acknowledged not only by we Indians but by humanity as a whole as the Maryada Purushottam. As you know, Sir, that even our Arya-samaji brothers consider Him as a grand personality of high ideals though they do not take him to be an incarnation of God. Whenever I go to Ayodhya, I do not forget to pay a visit to a small Gurudwara adjacent to the Ram-Janam Bhoomi where Guru Gobind Singh had spent his time in devotion. I bow my head there in Gobind Singh's honour who is acknowledged as a great Guru. And it is Guru who ultimately enjoins us with Gobind i.e. God. When I had gone there to bow my head, somebody told me that Guru Gobind Singh, after

completing his dedication and devotion, had once liberated the Ram-Janam-Bhoomi there. After liberating it he made all the proper arrangements there. But a clash broke out there again after his departure from that place. There has been blood shed from time to time over the centuries in which many people have lost their lives. This issue is not new one, rather this has been going on since the Masjid was constructed there. I praise and give credit to the Muslims of Faizabad and Ayodhya, who never raised such a controversy at least since 1936 over offering their Namaz in that very Masjid.

I appeal to all my Muslim, Christian and other friends not to separate themselves from the name of Lord Rama. Lord Rama belongs to we all. He presents a high ideal for each of us. He teaches us how to lead our lives. I would like to request all of you to tell me whether it is mentioned in any Granth (book) be it Veda or Purana that the word 'Hindu' existed at all during the period of Lord Rama. During that period there was neither Hindu nor Muslim in the country nor was there any Masjid on that place.

I like very much the first half of this Resolution but as far as its second half is concerned, I would like to say you all that there is danger of eruption of clashes again in case this is passed in toto because to my knowledge several Gurudwaras and Mandirs have been built after demolishing Masjids in Haryana, Punjab etc. even after 1947. So, why should we revive those controversies? we should only try to resolve this issue soon by creating conducive atmosphere in order to bring about emotional integrity in the country.

Sir, through you I appeal all of them to come and sit together and not to pay any heed to those who want to appease the people just for the sake of

[Smt. Vijayaraje Scindia]

votes. Let all of us have some searching. If we have no malice we shall certainly find out some solution to this issue. I say it quite confidently that there after if we are emotionally integrated we would be able to sort out all types of our problems.

With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): While rising to support this Resolution, I would start by saying that there are two parts of this Resolution. The second part of the Resolution, as a matter of fact, reiterates the proposal of the National Unity Convention held at Lucknow, in April 1950 and attended by many eminent Gandhians like Acharya Narendra Dev and Pandit Sunder Lal. The Congress Party apparently had forgotten about this Resolution for a very long time. However, in a welcome move, recently better late than never, let us say, they have included an almost identical resolution in their manifesto. It has also been included in the President's Address.

Therefore, for this Resolution, we do expect full support from the Congress(I). As for the first part of the Resolution, it is about Ayodhya; and apparently Ayodhya is seen as a special case. In the case of Ayodhya a peaceful settlement of the dispute was recommended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Now, I would say that Ayodhya is not a special case. It has been made into a special case. What had been a non-problem has been made into a problem, so that now with hundreds of problems of national status that we have, like whether we would take or not take IMF loan, whether we would liberalise or not

liberalise our industrial policy, now we have also to discuss whether or not to allow a temple to be built at Ayodhya. That is how, what had been a non-issue has been made into an issue.

This process started from 22nd/23rd December, 1949 when presumably the diety Ram Lala made his appearance within the precincts of the Babri Masjid. One may well ask why he had waited for all those years. Why not earlier? Why only on that particular night of 1949? But may be, I am a non-believer, may be it will be a sin on my part even to ask such a question. I am refraining for the moment from asking the question. But anyway, Shri Lal K. Advani himself had the grace to say that. I am quoting from the *Hindustan Times* dated 24th September, 1990:—

“Since at least 1949 the idols have been installed there and worship is going on.”

Again,

“There is no such thing as Babri Masjid now. It might have been there till 1936.”

There is a slight anomaly in this. At one time he talks of 1949 as being the cut off date, at another point of time, of 1936. But at least he leaves it open. Whether it is 1936 or 1949. Shri Advani's statement leaves it open that before 1949 or at least before 1936 it might have been a mosque even if now some people may think that it is not a mosque, but a temple. So, if before 1936 or 1949 this structure had been a mosque, then the question arises, “How did it get converted into a temple after 1949 or after 1936? How did it get converted?” Or did it happen in 1986 when the locks were opened.

Well, it was done by the same process which is rightly condemned by our BJP friends when it happened in some of our neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

namely forcible occupation of places of worship of a minority community. That is how it was eventually converted *de facto* into a temple after 1986. So, how is something that is acknowledged to be wrong, when it happens in Bangladesh or Pakistan, how is it justified, or become right when it happens in India? This is the question that I would like to ask my BJP friends.

Some of our BJP friends and the Shiv Sena friends have given evidence claiming that at an earlier point of time there had existed a temple at that place and they also gave certain proof regarding its possible demolition.

Now, I would not go into the details. I can only say that all the historical and archaeological evidence that we have of this, exists in the dubious after-thoughts of one archaeologist, Prof. B.B. Lal. It has been largely rejected by the academic community, by the community of archaeologists and by the community of historians.

17.04 hrs. [SHRI P. M. SAYEED
in the Chair]

There is no evidence of the existence of a temple in any of the Sanskrit texts except one on *Ayodhya Mahatmya* in *Skand Puran*. And all scholars know that *Skandapurana* is relatively a late text, which included interpolations upto the 18th century. So, that is no evidence. Nor is there any evidence in *Tulsi Ramayan*. *Tulsidas* wrote his *Ramayan* at a time which would be very close to the time when the temple was supposed to have been demolished and he was rather worried about Muslim invasion in India. So, is it not strange that he does not write anything about the demolition of a temple at this site? On the other hand, history has been distorted at a subsequent date,

as a matter of fact, it is being distorted very recently. The evidence of that is to be found in a recent near the place where the idol has been put—mural of Babar's soldiers destroying the temple and killing Hindus. And again archaeologists and historians in one voice have said that this is spurious and people who have etched that mural on the wall of the Babri Masjid and defaced it would have much to answer for to the future generations for having distorted history in this manner.

However, let us for argument's sake accept for the moment that such a temple did exist, even that such a temple was demolished at the time of Babar. Even if such a thing did happen, does that justify the conversion of a mosque into a temple in 1991? Does that justify the demolition of a temple? No, it does not.

As a matter of fact, in earlier times, we have found both Hindu rulers and conquerors and Muslim rulers and conquerors have been equally ruthless when places of worship have been seen to be repositories of wealth or of political domination. Even Hindus have destroyed Hindu temples. We found evidence of that in *Kalhana's Rajtarangini*. There is a plenty of evidence of Buddhist monasteries being destroyed by Hindus, being pilfered by Hindus and images of Buddhist deities have been converted into Hindu deities. And if it comes to that, what about the Hindu images that were pilfered by the British? And many of which are now resting at the British Museum. I would ask our friends from the VHP and the RSS first to launch a movement for the restoration of these images which have been physically carted out from India, taken away from our country. Why do they not launch a movement about this? That should be done.

In 1949, with the forcible occupation of the mosque premises, there

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was a serious apprehension that the law and order situation may deteriorate. This is precisely why this place was locked and the Order of status quo was passed. So, the contention that has been made by some of the hon. Members that no one said anything at that time about the installation of the idol is not right. Namaz could not be offered at the site since 1949 for the same reason. Then, on February 1, 1986, it was unlocked... (*Interruptions*) All right, you will have your chance. Let me have my say.

It was unlocked by the Order of the District Judge of Faizabad, who said that he was doing it in order to allow darshan to the Hindus. However, this is a decision that was contested and the matter is now pending before the Special Bench of the Allahabad High Court. Earlier one hon. Dixitji said that they have—that is, I suppose, he meant BJP and also VHP, etc—abided by the law. Now is it only the decision of the law that is likely to be favourable to them that they are willing to abide by and a decision that is not likely to be favourable, they are not willing to abide by that? That is not the spirit. It must be remembered that even now the disputed premises remain attached. It is in the hands of the receiver. Four title suits are pending. Is this a religious dispute? It is not a religious dispute. It is a land dispute. It is a dispute on landed and property. There are other claimants to the land. What about the Nirmohi Akhara? They too have suits pending in the law court. As I have said, I am a non-believer. But I regret to say that the VHP and RSS, who are presumed to be believers, have turned Ram Lala, who is regarded as a god incarnate by millions of Hindus, into a petty landlord. What have they done? What does Ram Lala care for that little plot of land if he is a god? I think it is a desecration of the deity for the believers.

Now they are saying that the Government may acquire the land and allow the VHP to construct a temple in the name of Ram Lala. Ram Lala has not been a party to the litigation. So now he is to be made a party in the litigation. So Ram Lala is being made a party to a benami transaction of land. Not only that, his name has been used for certain very large transactions of money. We are told—I am not sure whether it is authentic; there may be people who may answer—that 45 crore coupons not worth less than Rs. 5 were printed by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Delhi. Presumably many of these coupons were sold. But where is the money? What has happened to it? Ram Lala did not use a pie of it. Ram Lala has no use for that money. But it was raised in his name. Again Vishwa Hindu Parishad and RSS have never made it clear what they want to do with the structure. There is a great deal of ambiguity about this. At first, they said that they were only interested in the site and not in the construction. What was to be done with this structure? First they used to say quite openly that it would be demolished. I was rather shocked to hear hon. Abedya Nathji again mentioning the word 'todna'. However, they do not say it any longer, not very much. Then it was said that it should be shifted brick by brick. Now this is a very sophisticated technology as all archaeologists know. Do our VHP friends know how much such re-construction of a mosque would cost? Think of the economic crisis that our country is going through. Can we afford this? Where does the money come from for shifting the mosque physically from one place to another? Also why should it be shifted at all? That is the real question.

Much has been said about *bhavana*, emotion. It is interesting that the religious sentiment, a very high thing, I admit, does not seem to inhere in the very sublime, very poetic concept of

incarnation of God becoming man. I am a non-believer, but even I can see the poetry of that concept. But for some people religious sentiment does not seem to inhere in this concept of incarnation but rather in a mere piece of land. Now, Finally we are told No, it is not a mosque, it is not a mosque at all. There is a temple. Actually, we have been moving towards this surreptitiously since 1949. Step by step, we have come to a position where after 1986 after the unfortunate opening of the lock, the place was *defacto* turned into a temple. So, now what is happening is that both site and structure are sought to be appropriated. First, it was only the site. Now, both site and structure have to be appropriated.

Only the other day, Shri Advani was talking of the mandate. I do not know what made him to talk of a mandate. But my interpretation was that because BJP had won the elections in Uttar Pradesh and had formed a Government there, Advaniji is under the impression that may be the people had elected them in Uttar Pradesh to come to power because they promised them to build a Ram Temple there. That is my interpretation, I do not know. Anyway, BJP had not won on the slogan of Ram alone. They added the slogan of *Roti, Insaaf* to Ram. So, how does Advaniji knows that people voted for them because they talked of Ram? May be they voted for them because they talked of *Roti* and *Insaaf*. I do not know whether they will be able to bring *Roti, Insaaf* and Stability to the people. But may be people have voted for them precisely under that impression.

Now you see this temple is the VHP-RSS platform. It is the VHP and the RSS who have been raising the slogan of Ram Mandir. That has been their single platform. So, why are the VHP and RSS using BJP's election victory to make it an

occasion for the building of the Ram Temple. This is a question, I would like to ask. Anyway, whose mandate is Advaniji is talking of? He is talking of the mandate of Hindus. The Temple controversy, now is not a matter of UP alone anymore, it has become a national issue. It was made into a national issue. That was precisely the reason why the Rath Yatra—which will make Advaniji immortal to future generations—was undertaken; precisely to make Ram Mandir issue a national issue. So, now it is a national issue. But what is the percentage of Hindus in the total population of our country and what is the percentage of votes out of that totality that the BJP got? Does it show that the Hindus have a mandate for building a temple there? Now, I think, they are aware of this and they know that it would not do, living in India, one could not ignore the minorities particularly the Muslim minority who are somewhat stronger in number. So, now, there is talk of emotional integration. Earlier they were the self-appointed guardians of Hindus. Now they are trying to turn themselves into self-appointed guardians of Muslims also. We have heard of emotional integration. With great respect, emotional integration cannot be achieved through fear. You cannot take a rod and go to a person and say, "I am going to build this temple here; let me see what you can do", and then talk of emotional integration.

I think really that the BJP friends are not in a very happy state over Ayodhya. They are in great difficulty over Ayodhya and this is why again and again the BHP and RSS slogans about Mathura and Varanasi are being used as bargaining counters to achieve Ayodhya. And even that is not enough. They are not secure even with Mathura and Varanasi. From time to time, there have to be more wild slogans about thirty thousand temples that have been demolished. I think that this is just a sign that our BJP friends are not feeling very comfortable in their pre-

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sent position. May be, they would be very happy if they could get out of the whole thing simply after having managed to get that disputed site in Ayodhya somehow. May be, that is the signal that they are trying to give because now they are in a position from where it is very difficult for them to retract. But let us put it to them that retraction is difficult now for them, may be, it will be even more difficult for them later to retract. So, I think that this proposed legislation is the last chance that they have, and I think that our BJP friends also should be urged upon to accept this Resolution and thus earn the gratitude of the people and not their fear and hatred.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North-Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Private Member's Resolution. Of course, the broad structure of the Resolution is to be welcomed very much. We may not agree with all the details which are mentioned in the Resolution but it really touches the very sensitive issue which is before this country for the last so many years. It may be understood that really speaking, this Resolution seeks to put an end to this long drawn controversy. The Resolution merely suggests that the Government should take early steps to peacefully settle the dispute regarding the shrine at Ayodhya. I was glad when I heard Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindiaji, when she said that she accepts the first part of the Resolution. And I was wondering as to how this different stand has been taken by this leader apart from the stand of the BJP and the other Members of your Party.

AN HON. MEMBER: No difference. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Then why not pass the Resolution? (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly don't interrupt him.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: She not only said that she agrees with this part of the Resolution, the first part of the Resolution, but she also went on, on this subject by saying that Ram is not the Hindu religious leader, but is the cultural historical figure. *Rasgriya purush* of this country. And if this approach is there, then I think there are great chances of this dispute being settled peacefully.

Now, Sir, on this sensitive issue we cannot afford to have confrontation in this country at all. As has been said by Shrimati Bhattacharya, when so many economic issues and difficulties are there before this country, we cannot afford to have this confrontation between these two religious communities and say that 'No, we should have no negotiations at all, no negotiated settlement, but we should construct the temple, we should demolish or remove the mosque from that part of the site'. I also do not understand how without demolishing that mosque Ram Temple can be constructed at the place as you are desiring and when you say that 'we do not want to demolish, but we want to remove'—sometimes it was said that brick by brick it will be removed and sometimes, if I am right, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said, 'Don't you know the technology in Russia? We can remove or move the building itself.' (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE (Lucknow): Andhra technology, not Russian.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Therefore, the real demand appears to be originally to demolish the mosque and to construct the Temple, and that would create, really speaking, a great confrontation in this country and particularly in Uttar Pradesh. And as Shrimati Bhattacharya suggested, they are in power in Uttar Pradesh now and perhaps they are

also in a dilemma. Then at one stage they said, 'There is a mandate now and we will do it.' It was easy to tell others to do it, but when you are in charge of the matter, it has become a dilemma before you and perhaps that explains the speech of Rajmata. And I suspect that some background is being created to take some turn in the policy. That is also welcome if that is being contemplated by the BJP at this stage.

As far as this issue is concerned, this has been made unnecessarily so much sensitive in view of so many historical things which have come to light. As far as these idols are concerned, it has been an admitted fact that they were installed between 22nd and 23rd of December, 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is over now. So, the hon. Member may continue on the next Resolution day.

17.30 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

(ii) Cancellation of sitting

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: In deference to the views expressed by several Members and leaders of the parties, if the House agrees, the House may not sit on Saturday. The business of Saturday would be transacted on Monday and we will give more and more time to Members to speak on the Budget. The issue of Shri Shanmugham's death also would be discussed on Monday at 5.00 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:
Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may make the statement regarding the Government business for the week commencing from 29th July, 1991.

17.31 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 29th July 1991, will consist of:

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
- (2) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1991.
- (3) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1991.
- (4) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1991.

[Sh. Ghulam Nabi Azad]

- (5) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Jammu & Kashmir Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Jammu & Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment (Second Amending) Bill, 1991.
- (6) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1991, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (7) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1991, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (8) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and consideration and passing of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1991, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, usually we give notices for matters under rule 377 on the last day of the week. We thought we can give notices for the same tomorrow since tomorrow being the last day of the week. Now, there is no sitting tomorrow and so we are deprived of the opportunity to give notices for matters under rule 377.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As has been stated by me earlier, the business which was to be transacted on Saturday would now be taken up on Monday and matters under rule 377 would also be taken up on Monday.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, normally, the notices which are given till 10.30 a.m. on the last day of the week would be considered for matters under rule 377 for the next week and tomorrow being the last day of the week, we have been asked to give our notices tomorrow. The time for submitting Notices under rule 377 was fixed for tomorrow between 10 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Now tomorrow being holiday, this may be extended up to Monday 10 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. The time for submitting Notices under rule 377 may be fixed for Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever business we are going to transact tomorrow, that business would be transacted on Monday. When you are going to lose Saturday, the business fixed for Saturday would be shifted to Monday. In any case, you are going to lose one day.

Are you going to sit tomorrow?

You do not want to sit. Therefore, the business listed for tomorrow would be shifted to Monday.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when will the submissions be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On Tuesday.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: When will be the ballet held therefor without which they cannot be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not be taken up on Monday as for that day Saturday's business is stated.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Notices are received on the last working day and it was yesterday... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Therefore, it will be resumed on Monday. 17.40 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: 10 minutes of the Half-an-hour discussion have been wasted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What could be done as Members from your side speak.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: The submissions may be allowed on Monday.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There are two types of submissions. One is daily submission during Zero Hour and another one is submission made once a week. After the statement made by the hon. Minister about the next week business, we make submissions that the following items may be included in the next week business. That should be allowed on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you take up Matters under rule 377, then submission for the coming week business would not be there. Both will not be there.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Let us have submissions on Monday and Notices for receiving matters under rule 377 may be extended upto Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That means, from Tuesday onwards, there will be Matters under Rule 377. Is it clear now?

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION
Delegation of Powers to CCI & E

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is clear, I think. We will take up Half-an-Hour Discussion. Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya to speak.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had asked a question on 22nd February from the Minister of Commerce.

[English]

“Whether the Union Government had delegated the powers to make provision for controlling imports and exports under Section 3 of the Import and Export Control Act, 1947.”

[Translation]

The reply I have received is:

[English]

“The matter regarding delegation of powers under Section 3 of Imports and Exports Control Act, 1947 to the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports is under active consideration.”

[Translation]

After that I had asked the same question on 12th July. I got the same answer again. I am reading it out.

[English]

“Refer to the reply given on 22nd February, 1991 to Unstarred Question 132 regarding Delegation of Powers.”

[English]

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report (7th Report) presented on 2nd May, 1986. Page 22 Para 26:—

“The Committee notes with satisfaction the valuable opinions of Attorney General, November, 1983 tendered by the Attorney-General for India on certain points referred to him by the Secretariat of the Committee, on 30th November, 1985 when a statement of the case dated 31st October, 1985 was referred to him by the Ministry of Law & Justice.”

The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry of Commerce/Textiles to undertake a thorough re-appraisal of the whole matter in the light of the advice of the Attorney-General for India in order that the various Control Orders, Public Notices, Annual Import-Export Polices, etc. that have a bearing on the imports and exports of the country, could be brought harmoniously within the parameters of the law as laid down in the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947.”

[Translation]

One thing that is clear from all this is that the action being taken by the Ministries under the Import Export order is invalid. If anyone takes recourse to the judicial process and challenges the decisions taken so far, then it would give rise to innumerable disputes. Even today, the reply given by the hon. Minister is evasive. His reply is that:

[English]

The powers of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Additional Chief Controller of Imports and Exports to hear appeal against the decision of the order passed under the Imports and Exports Act, 1947 have not been delegated....”

[Translation]

Some cases had come to the notice of the Attorney-General in which objections were raised and he was of the opinion that whatever had taken place was not correct.

I would like to read out a portion of the Report presented by this committee. On page number 38, it is mentioned.

“The Committee observe that the Government has made in clause 2 of the Exports (Control) Order, 1977 unauthorised alteration/enlargement of the definitions...”

[Translation]

As I said earlier, they enlarged the Original definition of the Chief Controller to include Deputy Chief Controller, Additional Chief Controller, the Steel Controller etc. To quote it:

[English]

Chief Controller means Deputy Chief Controller. Additional Chief Controller, Steel Controller...” Again, I quote:

“The Committee observe that the Government has made in clause 2 of the Exports (Control) Order, 1977 unauthorised alteration/enlargement of the definitions of the terms ‘Chief Controller’ and ‘Deputy Chief Controller’ as given in section 2 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947. During evidence before the Committee, the Secretary (Commerce) agreed that it would have been better and more elegant to have amended the Act itself instead of putting a different definition in the ‘Order’.”

[Translation]

Even after this, they issued another ‘order’. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that

[English]

“The matter is still under consideration.”

[Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya]

[*Translation*]

I feel that the hon. Minister has not been properly briefed about it, otherwise, he would not have given such an answer. Through you, I would like to raise this important matter. It is stated at the end of page number 71 of the Committee's Report that—

[*English*]

"I am of the view that a subordinate legislative authority cannot enlarge the definition. A definition in an Act can be enlarged or amended by an amendment of the Act alone. The statute may confer powers upon authorities mentioned and defined under the Act..."

[*Translation*]

Now that the position is clear, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to under which Act or legislation, the concerned cases were dealt with, so far? The Attorney-General is of the opinion that the Government was not empowered to issue orders and it obviously means that the Government had no power to delegate powers and authorise some officials. By doing so, the Government has made the matter an illegal one.

I would like to submit that now it is the year 1991. 44 years have passed since 1947 but no one seems to be interested in amending it to meet the present needs. They have all along been saying that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. They said the same thing two years ago and repeated it some months earlier also. Even today the same thing is being repeated. How many more years will you take to consider it to plug the loopholes and make it relevant? Decision on many appeals were taken by unauthorised officials who were authorised against the provisions of the Act. If those decisions are challenged in courts of law, then I am certain that the Government would face rough weather and would suffer for its past mistakes. The whole

matter may be reopened and a never ending process may start.

I understand that the Government still has time to take a decision in the matter making up for all the discrepancies that have crept into this Act and remove them and update the Act that has become outdated.

With these words I urge the hon. Minister to take an immediate decision in the matter, and answer the questions, points etc. raised.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am obliged to Dr. Pandeya for raising this discussion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gangwarji, after this, you can seek clarification.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If anyone wants to say anything, he should say now, I think, before I reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are four Members to speak.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: They should all speak first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Then I will call them first.

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, everything has been said in detail and I do not want to repeat the same. I just want to say one thing. When there could not be proper application in the last 44 years, will the Government review the decisions taken during this period? Obviously the decisions taken with the approval

and consent of and verification by the Minister incharge will be valid and cases decided by others will not be considered valid. I want to submit that you could not do anything in the past 44 years. Have you considered the fall out on the numerous cases so decided in the past and the effect on the department and all the concerned parties. Will the hon. Minister review all the decisions taken during the past 44 years and see that such a thing does not happen in future. Will he make a categorical statement in this regard?

[English]

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Pandey has mentioned about the position of the Act and the discrepancies that have arisen out of the Government order issued some time back. I will not repeat what he has already said. But I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister.

The Government had given the same answer in reply to questions dated 22nd February and 12th July 1991. That means, the Government is also under confusion.

While taking the necessary steps to bring forward an amendment, if necessary, to remove the discrepancies which were earlier crept in, let the Government also come forward in the near future, simplifying the export-import policy to tide over the present balance of payments critical position. The hon. Minister is well aware that the procedure are very stringent now. At present nearly 25 pre-shipment export documents have to be prepared by exporters for every export transaction to fulfil the demands of different Government departments. Let the Government come forward with a new proposal simplifying the procedure and also to give encouragement to the exporters for increasing our export and meet the present si-

tuation. The role of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports should be that of a guide and a friend and not of a regulator. I hope, the hon. Minister will make necessary changes for the betterment of the economic situation of this country. I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister in this direction.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, forty four years have passed. I do not want to say much on this. I could have read it out for the hon. Minister, but the time is short. As such I would like to ask a direct question on paragraph 17 of the report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation because it is a very important subject. The hon. Minister may kindly state:

[English]

Whether the power to hear appeal under Section 4M of the Act can be delegated to an officer subordinate to the Additional Chief Controller of Imports & Exports and, if so, whether is the authority for the same. Copies of such delegation orders may please be placed on the Table of the House.

Thank you.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much of the valuable time of this House, in view of the opinions given expression to by the hon. Members. But may I submit here Sir, that this Act of 1947, many of the provisions of this Act have now become redundant in view of a new policy announced by the hon. Minister. I would like to request the hon. Minister to bring in some amendments wherever it is necessary, especially with a view to simplifying the present cumbersome procedure which stands in the way of promotion of exports. Even now our exporters are finding it extremely difficult and

[Sh. E. Ahamed]

they have to do a lot of paper work. There should be some limit or where there should be some "cutting the edges" of this delay. I hope, the Minister would clarify the position and as to what he would like to say in this matter. I would also make a suggestion that any amendment or any decision in this respect, whether for amending the orders already passed or modifying, may also be consulted with the Attorney-General of India, in the light of views expressed by the hon. Member Dr. Pandey.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to Dr. Pandey and other hon. Members for raising this brief discussion, arising out of an answer furnished first to an unstarred question No. 132 and which I find, I have repeated on the 12th of July, 1991. I must confess at the outset that on the 12th of July, 1991, I was advised that the matter is under consideration and therefore, I should tell the House truthfully that the matter is under consideration. It was under consideration by the officers, by the legal Advisor and by others. But since then Sir, I have applied my mind to it and I am still not clear what the problem is. But I am afraid, I have to first convince my officers that what I am saying is correct before I can come here and carry out that assurance. As I understand the scheme of the Act, it seems to me fairly straight forward and simple and I am quite confident that the views that I will record eventually after taking the benefit of your questions and comments, will be upheld by the Law Officers of the Government. But whatever view is finally taken by the Government, I shall place it before the House. You would kindly permit me to just explain it as I see it. There is an Import and Export (Control) Act of 1947. That Act, under Section 2 defines Chief Controller and the Deputy Chief Controller. But those definitions are for the purposes of certain sections of the Act. The crucial section of the Imports & Exports

(Control) Act, 1947, is Section 3 and Section 3 enables the Central Government by order published in the official Gazette to make provision for prohibiting, restricting or otherwise controlling in all cases or any specified classes of cases and subject to such exceptions, if any, as may be made by or under the order, the import/export etc of goods of any specified description.

18.00 hrs.

The orders made under Section 3 are the Imports (Control) Order and the Exports (Control) Order. The orders currently in force is the Imports (Control) Order of 1955 as amended from time to time and the Exports (Control) Order of 1988 which has repealed the Exports (Control) Order of 1977. These two control orders are pieces of subordinate legislation. There is no gain-saying the fact that they are pieces of subordinate legislation. But these orders confer powers upon a large number of officers. For example, if you will kindly see the Imports (Control) Order, 1955 as amended, Clause 3, which is the crucial clause, says:

"Save as otherwise provided in this order no person shall import any goods of the descriptions specified in Schedule 1 except under and in accordance with the licence or a customs clearance permit granted by the Central Government or by any officers specified in Schedule 2."

So Schedule 1 specifies the goods and Schedule 2 specifies the officers. If you will kindly see Schedule 2 to the Control Order, you will find a list of officers starting with the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and includes any officer authorised by the Central Government and includes an Assistant Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

In my opinion there is no conflict between the provisions of the piece of subordinate legislation, namely

the Imports (Control) Order of 1955 and Section 3 of the parent Act.

Similarly, kindly see the Exports (Control) Order of 1988 which repealed the Exports (Control) Order of 1977. For example, the hon. Member referred to Page 71 of the committee's report; but that dealt with the Exports (Control) Order of 1977. There was perhaps some problem with the Exports (Control) Order of 1977 and the learned Law Officer whom we had asked for his opinion did point out that perhaps the order travelled beyond the section. But today the Exports (Control) Order of 1988, as far as I am able to see it, does not travel beyond the section. The Exports Control Order once again says in Clause 3:

"Save as otherwise provided in this order, no person shall export any goods of the descriptions specified in Schedule 1 except under and in accordance with the licence granted by the Central Government or by any officer specified in Schedule 2."

So while Schedule 1 specifies the list of goods, Schedule 2 specifies the list of officers. If you will kindly see the list, it starts with the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports and includes a large number of officers who fall under 15 categories.

Sir, in my humble opinion there is no conflict between the Imports (Control) Order of 1955 as amended and the Exports (Control) Order of 1988 with any provision of the parent Act. If the hon. Member wishes to have this recorded in writing, I shall certainly record it in writing, get it confirmed by the Law Officers and I shall send it to him.

The other point that was raised was, where do they have the authority to hear the appeals and adjudicate matters. The power to hear and adjudicate upon matters, in my humble opinion, arises out of Sec-

tion 4 k of the Imports and Exports Control Act which confers powers to adjudicate upon the Chief Controller or where he so directs by a general/special order, by the Additional Chief Controller and then subject to such limits as may be specified in this behalf by such other officer not below the rank of Deputy Chief Controller as the Central Government may notify.

The power to hear appeals arises out of Section 4(M) which confers appellate powers upon the Central Government and upon the Chief Controller. Since Section 4(K) and 4(M) occur in the Parent Act made by Parliament, there is no question of subordinate legislation coming into conflict with the Parent Act.

The last question which I believe the hon. Member raised was about the Apparel Export Promotion Council levying fees, which is entirely a different matter. That really does not arise out of the provisions we are dealing with.

I know that the Apparel Export Promotion Council is levying fees and collecting certain charges. If there is any problem as pointed out by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, it is now under the purview of the Ministry of Textiles and I am quite sure my colleague in the Ministry of Textiles is seized of the matter. But I shall certainly convey your views to my colleague and if he has not yet taken note of the views of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, I will request him to do so.

As far as matters fall within the province of the Ministry of Commerce, Sir, I am fairly and reasonably confident in my mind that there is no conflict between the Parent Act and any order; there is no transgression of the principles of subordinate legislation; there is no lacuna in

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

hearing adjudication or appeals. But since I cannot be the Law Officer advising myself, I shall certainly refer this question to the Law Officer and I shall get his confirmation. If my position is wrong; I will stand corrected and if I am right, I will get it confirmed; and I will convey this answer to the hon. Members.

If I would have to fulfil an assurance, I will fulfil that assurance in a very short period of time. I have applied my mind since I gave the answer on 12th July and I am clear in my mind that there has been no violation. Thank you.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Can any definition be changed by an order after it is passed?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: With great respect I would say this. I think, the hon. Member is once again referring to the Exports (Control) Order of 1977 which according to the Late Mr. Kakkar, the Law

Officer travelled beyond the definition in the Act. But Export (Control) Order of 1977 has been repealed and it has been replaced by the Export (Control) Order of 1988. In the Exports (Control) Order of 1988, I have not seen any definition travelling beyond the definition in the Parent Act, nor have you brought to my notice today any definition travelling beyond the definition in the Parent Act. If there is any definition travelling beyond the definition in the Parent Act, please write to me, I shall look into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again on 29th July at 11 a.m.

18.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
July 29, 1991/Sravana 7, 1913
(Saka)*