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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Friday, March 4, 1994/
Phalgun, 13, 1915 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Value based advance Licences

*141. SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the complaints about the misuse by the Exporters of value based advance licences under Duty Exemption Scheme causing loss of revenue to the Government worth crores of rupees;

(b) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has detected a number of cases in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against such exporters;

(e) whether the Government propose to scrap the scheme in view of its misuse by exporters; and

(f) if not, the remedial action being taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (f) A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in the Ministry of Finance have investigated some cases involving the misuse of this Scheme. A list of these cases is given in the Annexure. Show Cause Notice (SCN) has been issued by the DRI in respect of case at Sl. No. 7 of the Annexure while the remaining cases are under investigation by the DRI.

(e) and (f). The objectives of Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme have by and large been achieved. Therefore, the Government do not presently have any proposal under consideration for withdrawal of the Scheme. However, corrective measures have been taken by the

Government by adding a number of additional items in the sensitive list on 14-9-1993 and subjecting value based

licences, issued prior to 14-9-1993, to the limitation of the sensitive list as presently notified.

ANNEXURE

List of cases of misuse of value based advance Licence Scheme detected by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

S. No.	Name of the party	Present status of the case
1.	M/s. Akshay Industries, Pondicherry.	Under investigation.
2.	M/s. Akshay Industries, Pondicherry.	-do-
3.	M/s. Ram Agro Chemical Industries, Madras.	-do-
4.	M/s. Bacca Leather Exports, Madras.	Investigation completed. Report submitted to Customs Madras for further action.
5.	M/s. Century 21st Hi-tech Industries Ltd., New Delhi.	Under investigation.
6.	M/s. Manisi Corpn., Bombay.	Investigation in progress.
7.	M/s. Dimple Overseas Ltd., Delhi.	SCN issued.
8.	M/s. Exotic Fashions, New Delhi.	Under investigation.
9.	M/s. Galaxy International, New Delhi.	-do-
10.	M/s. Seth International, Bombay.	-do-

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:

Would the hon. Minister inform the House about the foreign currency earned during

April 1993 to December 1993 through the Value Based Advance licensing scheme and total loss of revenue incurred on the import made in place of it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): So far as the loss of revenue is concerned, it is notional because the scheme itself is to allow the duty free import. Therefore, if the goods are imported for the purpose of exports, the loss of revenue from that point of view would be difficult to assess. But if assumed notionally, then the value of the import for the whole year would be roughly about Rs. 6,200 crores. For the period between April to October, i.e. six months, it may be roughly about Rs. 3,100 crores; and assuming the duty at the rate of 85 per cent, it may be roughly about Rs. 2,000 crores.

If we come to sector-wise; so far as plastics are concerned that would be about one-third of the total import, so roughly it may be about Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 crores.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Whether the Government would like to inform that it has suffered a revenue loss of about 7 crore rupees due to the value based advance licensing scheme by the Dimple Overseas limited, Delhi, while the value of the net foreign currency earned was about Rs. 3.5 crore only? If so, whether the Government would enquire into the matter to recover the amount of scam, which was occurred due to the misuse of this scheme and would such people be punished as per law of the land?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so, far the penalties and punishments are concerned, there are two angles. One is

from the revenue angle and examination takes place from the revenue point of view.

In fact the DRI has investigated about 10 companies including the Dimple Overseas Ltd. which the hon. Member has referred to. It is in the process of investigation and naturally the case which will be studied by the DRI, will also be looked into by them. There is a set procedure of how the Director-General of Revenue Intelligence deals with these cases.

So far as the Commerce Ministry is concerned, if an exporter is found guilty because of violating the provisions, from the export point of view there are certain other actions like black listing and other things we take, but duty realisation and other penal action as a result of the duty evasion or fraud on the duty that is being taken care of by the DRI and these cases are under investigation.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether it is a fact that the value of the export of readymade garments of silk during the period April-November 1992 was Rs. 517.56 crore and which was reduced to 404.12 crore during April-November 1993? The export was less during this period. Silk was imported too. This is the reason that the silk producers are suffering losses and they are getting less prices for their produce. The Central Silk Board has recommended that the import of raw silk should be reduced. Whether it is a fact that the hon. Member Shri Loknath Choudhury has requested to the Central Government in this regard. If so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the import and export policy is concerned, the hon. Members will have to wait till the 31st March when the new policy will be announced and I am aware of the problem that some import of raw silk has taken place through the route of the value based advance licensing. We review the policies and the import of the materials which may sometimes take place through other routes and if it has an adverse impact on the indigenous production, we take note of it. So far as raw silk is concerned, we have received some representations from individuals, hon. Members and also from the Silk Board. They are under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it has been stated in the reply that the objectives of the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme could not be achieved and therefore the export is continuously decreasing under this scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he would accept the proposals given by different representatives/delegations. Besides this, whether the recommendations of the Silk Board regarding the export of raw silk would be accepted or not.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This question relates to the value based advance licence and under the value based advance licence scheme hundreds and thousands of goods are imported. So we cannot just particularly pinpoint one particular item. This item I remembered, that is why I responded.

So far as the scheme is concerned, it has served the purpose. It is not correct to say that the value based advanced licensing scheme has not served the purpose. Value addition has taken place. So far as this particular scheme is concerned, it has been going on for quite some time. First it was introduced in 1976-77 when my colleague Shri Mohan Dharia was the Minister of Commerce, at that point of time. That was quantity based. Now the value based advance licensing scheme has been introduced from 1-4-1992 in the EXIM policy of 1992—97. This is to provide for incentives to the exporter and if you look at and compare between the earlier scheme and the new scheme then according to the statistics which have been given to me, the value addition has increased substantially. In quantity based advance licences the value addition was 84 per cent and on the basis of the value based advance licences the value addition was 188 per cent. Therefore, keeping that in view, the scheme has been successful.

So far as the problems of the import of raw silk are concerned, I have already replied to the Supplementaries of the others. It is under our consideration.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, value added products are to be exported; that is the principle behind the advance licence scheme. But it is being misused to a very great extent and it is alarming to know that ten cases had been detected. I am sure that there will be many other cases which go undetected. Now the primary producers like farmers are greatly affected by such types of indiscriminate imports by some of the exporters. For example, cloves, which are produced in India. The price of cloves has gone down from Rs. 400 to Rs. 80 per kilo and the

farmers cannot continue with it. There were cases of misuse of advanced licence in large scale imports and later on they got back their property after paying some fine and they misused by selling it. So, I would urge upon the Minister to take a very vigilant view and to take stern steps against such importers, not only levying fine by also taking strict action of not releasing the imported items to them in any manner. I can quote another example also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, another example is not necessary. You put only a pointed question.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member should appreciate the rationale of the Value Based Advance Licence scheme. The Value Based Advance Licence Scheme was introduced to ensure that the exporters get the raw materials at the international price and they get access to the availability of the raw material so that they can be competitive. In the earlier days certain types of incentives like cash compensatory support, which the exporters were entitled to have, have now been withdrawn. It was thought that if we want to give priority to the exports, some incentives ought to be given to the exporters. This is one such scheme. It is wrong to say that this scheme has been brought to misuse. This wrong impression should not go.

Even the ten cases, which the hon. Member has referred to, are under investigation. No definite conclusion has yet been arrived at. They are under investigation. So far, show cause notice has been issued to one party. The investigation is going on. So, I would not like to comment on them. But if you add the total value of export concerned here, it is about

Rs. 17 crore. When the total exports of the country are about Rs. 70,000 crore and there is misuse in certain items worth about Rs. 17 crore, surely you cannot say that it is very high. So far as cloves are concerned, they are not permitted to be imported under VABAL. So, the hon. Member should be assured that it is not within that scheme.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the hon. Minister indicate the estimated loss of revenue which had been caused due to the misuse of VABAL scheme?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already replied to the first questioner itself about calculation of loss. So, I need not repeat that.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Value Based Advance Licence Scheme had some clause and the exporters and the importers are misusing this scheme. In the newspapers, many instances of alleged misuse of this scheme were given. This misuse has started when the list of permissible exports has been augmented. I would like to ask the Minister whether the list of permissible exports contain items like broken plastic buckets, broken ball point pens, bricks (because some ships had been caught exporting bricks) and masoor dhal which is also a banned item for export, and which had also been caught. I want to know whether there is a pressure to expand the list of permissible list of items which would help certain sectors of industry.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far the misuse of the scheme is concerned, when the allegation of misuse and abuse of this scheme came to our notice not only through the Press but also

through the representations from various Ministries, we immediately took action. And in fact, on receipt of representations from two manufacturer associations in respect of plastic raw material manufacture, we immediately took some action and a number of items were put under sensitive list.

These items were banned and put in the sensitive list. Naturally, the import is restricted. In addition to that in January, I directed the officers of the DGFT to look into the whole scheme and to come out with their recommendations as to whether any overall change or amendment in the scheme is needed for. After getting their observations, we will surely like to examine it.

One information I would like to share with this House. We received a number of complaints. I have asked the officers of the DGFT to look into them. From October onwards, they have examined 37 cases and from those 37 cases, they have not found any misuse about the genuineness of the exports and genuineness of the imports. They have found that they are correct. From the revenue angle, the investigation is initiated by DRI. I have already furnished that information. They have looked into ten cases. In one case, they have issued the show-cause notice. Others are in the process of investigation.

So far as misuse is concerned, it can take place and when it takes place, we always take prompt action.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has accepted that so many licences have been misused... *(Interruptions)*... an enquiry is going on. I would like to know

about the total amount of revenue loss suffered by the Government by it. As it has been mentioned that the enquiry is going on so would you fix a time limit for this enquiry and how much time it will take?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already answered this question earlier while replying to the first Supplementary. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I would like to know upto what time the action will be completed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is a continuing process. Whenever the complaint comes, we examine it and if we find that there is no reason to take any action, we do not take.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Is it time bound? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: If you want to have the information, you should have the patience to listen to me. Otherwise, you go on talking.

Now, I can answer to Shri Nitish Kumar. I told you that there are two investigations. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister's reply is that the export is only Rs. 70 crores while in fact it is less than that. It does not matter. It is neither here nor there because in the areas where this Rs. 70 crores are being granted that can have very intensive impact on those particular areas. It does not matter whether it is a small fraction of the total exports or not. But the problem is

that there is not a single year when the Comptroller and Auditor General of India have no occasion to report all these kinds of duty exemptions and misuse of that. The problem arises because there is no administrative machinery to check all these things. The imports are from one port but the exports are from many ports and the administrative check is at various levels. In fact, PAC has recommended that if you cannot administer a scheme, it is better to do away with the scheme.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

Firstly, the hon. Member has totally misunderstood. I have said earlier that I am not condoning even the revenue loss of Rs. 17 crores. The hon. Member did not care to listen to the Supplementary as to whether it is a gross misuse or not. I can say that in an overall transaction of Rs. 70000 crores, if the misuse is to the extent of Rs. 17 crores, I cannot admit that it is a gross misuse.

Now, I come to the second question of the hon. Member. So far as this scheme is concerned, as I mentioned to you, advance licensing scheme was in operation on the quantity basis from 1976-77.

So far as the value based licence is concerned, the scheme has been introduced from 1-4-92, not much earlier.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: But the problem remains the same.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is a totally different issue. If that is the problem, then you address it to the Finance Minister. You should know that the Duty exemption is being given by him...*(Interruptions)*. Don't get excited.

Now I come to the question of Mr. Nitish Kumar. When he asked his ques-

tion, at that time half a dozen Members got up, so I sat down. In fact, parallel investigations are going on. One set of investigations is being taken care of by the DRI from the point of view of the revenue loss, and I inform you that they are in the process of investigation. In one case they have given the show cause notice and in others they will do the same. They will take their own time. I cannot just give them the time frame by which they should be able to take care of it. And when somebody is found guilty, whatever action is called for from the Commerce Ministry side, I will like to take that.

[Translation]

Air India Routes

*142. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has allowed some foreign airlines to operate on certain air routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the airlines operating on these routes;

(c) the amount of royalty received by the Air India in lieu thereof;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to hand over these routes to the Indian Airlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Traffic rights to foreign airlines are granted under bilateral air services agreements on the basis of reciprocity. In cases where our national carriers are unable to provide services on any particular route, a commercial agreement with the other carrier is entered into. A list of foreign airlines operating to India from their respective countries under commercial agreement is Annexed.

(c) The royalty received during 1992-93 by Air India amounted to Rs. 36.96 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Air India and Indian Airlines are co-ordinating with each other to ensure optimum utilisation of their capacity. they are also operating joint venture flights to a number of countries in the Gulf region.

ANNEXURE***Names of airlines operating to India under commercial arrangements.***

1. Air Lanka.
2. Air Mauritius.
3. Alyemda.
4. Bangladesh Biman.
5. Bulgarian Airline.
6. Druk Air.
7. Egypt Air.
8. El-Al.
9. Emirates.
10. Ethiopian Airlines.

11. Gulf Air.
12. Iran Air.
13. KLM.
14. Kuwait Airways.
15. Malaysia Airlines.
16. Royal Jordanian.
17. Royal Nepal Airlines.
18. Russian Airlines.
19. Saudia.
20. Singapore Airlines.
21. Swiss Air.
22. Syrian Arab Airlines.
23. Tajik Air.
24. Yemen Airways.
25. Zambia Airways.

SHRI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the surplus capacity available with the Indian Airlines is utilised first before any route is handed over to foreign airlines? Also, may I know whether there is any other country in the world which charges royalty?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, as I have just now said in reply to parts (e) and (f) of the question, the Air India and the Indian Airlines are coordinating with each other to cope up with the situation to ensure the optimum utilisation of their capacity. But I would like to mention a few steps which the Aviation Ministry and the Air India and the Indian Airlines have taken in the past few months, may be in the past four months. One is the joint ventures. The Air India and the Indian Airlines are operating jointly twelve services

to the Gulf region,—four services per week from Calicut to Dubai, four services per week from Calicut to Abu Dhabi and four services per week from Calicut to Muscat. These flights are being operated with the Indian Airlines aircraft—a few with Air India numbers—and the profit is shared by both the Airlines. Apart from these, the Indian Airlines has also been designated to operate in the neighbouring countries and they are operating, at the moment, to about thirteen destinations. Very lately, in this very year, in the month of February, 1994, we have taken some more steps to utilise the services of the Indian Airlines. We have started hub and spoke services between the Indian Airlines and the Air India. Passengers can go from Ahmedabad to Bombay and then from Bombay they can go to any part of the world. They can also go from Hyderabad to Bombay and again they can go from Hyderabad to any part of the world. From Amritsar also we have done this very recently. Now we have the Air India service from Amritsar as a hub and spoke policy. It is operating from Amritsar to Delhi and from Delhi they can get connection to as many as seven countries. Similarly, from Ahmedabad also they can go to Delhi and then from Delhi to the rest of the world. So, these are some steps which we have taken as far as part (a) of the question which the hon. Member has asked. As far as part (b) of the question is concerned, I would like to mention that paying of royalty is an international practice and it is not that only India charges the royalty. We are also paying royalty to some countries where we do not operate.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Sir, May I know the terms of agreement with the countries with whom India has bilateral agreements? And which are the airports where international

airlines are operating in India? Then, how many countries are there where Air India is operating and how many passengers does it carry?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, we have bilateral agreements with as many as 70 countries and about 38 international airlines are operating in India and from India only from the international airports and not from the domestic airports. As far as the passenger carrying capacity of Air India is concerned, from 1989 to 1992-93, it is fluctuating from 20 to 22 lakhs. In 1992-93, the Air India carried, to and fro, about 22 lakh passengers.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason for Air India not operating direct flights from Madras to United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan and other Gulf countries. For the welfare of Tamil Nadu I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to introduce direct flights from Madras to other foreign countries.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, this is a continuous process and direct flight depends on the load factor which is very important. As far as the load factor is concerned, Bombay is still the number one airport in the country both as a choice for international operations as well as for international passengers. That is why, we are trying to give as many connection as possible to the foreign airlines to have the second point beyond Bombay and beyond Delhi like Madras so that the people from Madras can get the connection or they can go directly via Bombay or via Delhi.

DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM: Sir, Madras is a very important city in the country, but there is no

direct flight. At least the Minister can divert one direct flight to Madras.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, it cannot be done in the near future, because as I have already said, that depends on the traffic. As far as Air India is concerned, they are very big aircrafts, jumbo jets, and unless we have the capacity to fill them at least upto 70 per cent to 60 per cent, we cannot operate a direct flight.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that both Indian Airlines and Air India are coordinating with each other to see that their optimum capacity utilisation is done. He has also mentioned three important services from Calicut to three places in the Gulf countries. But within our country, we are facing a lot of trouble to go from one place to another, because the aircrafts are not available and sometimes they are being cancelled also. I would like to know the steps taken for the full capacity utilisation of the aircrafts by the joint venture within our country.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I think that there is no problem for providing more aircrafts within the country wherever we have the traffic. Well, my hon. friend might be talking about extra frequencies in some parts of the country. But it is business. Indian Airlines and Air India are operating on business. It depends on how much traffic we have. If we have traffic on a particular route, we do provide the aircraft because we have to earn money. But we cannot provide many aircrafts on a particular route where we do not have the traffic.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know

whether Government or airlines have ever considered about the conditions on which some foreign airlines are allowed to operate on certain Air India routes, because there are certain foreign airlines like Tajik Airlines, that carry passengers from London to Delhi on a fifty percent fare; but this airline is least bothered about safety and welfare of passengers. Hundreds of passengers were forced to face such an ugly situation as on 28th of last month. Two Indian passengers were booked by Tajik Airlines on fifty percent fare; but later on, the flight was cancelled. They do not ensure the safety and welfare of passengers, especially the Indian passengers. One can not be allowed to play with the life of passengers because of charging less fares. Whether safety and welfare of passengers is ensured while allowing any foreign airlines to operate in Air India routes and also passengers cannot be left on their own fate while to travel through foreign airlines.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The Government have a bilateral agreements with several countries. It is the responsibility of the Government to designate a particular airlines on long haul flight for certain countries, we employ only Air India and Indian Airlines on short-haul flights. It, however, depends upon the other countries to designate the airlines of their choice. As the hon. Member has raised the matter of a particular airlines, the Government will talk to the authority of foreign airline. We cannot do anything on our own.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: A man feels elevated when he fly in the sky, but the matter is all the more different when wine is served in airlines. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government have given permission to serve wine in private airlines with a

view to attract passengers. I would also like to know whether passengers have created nuisance after drinking while travelling in these airlines. Domestic flights have a maximum duration of two to three hours, is it necessary to serve wine during this short period. Does it not hurt the sentiment of those passengers who do not take wine? Will the hon. Minister put a check on that practice and issue directions to serve fruit juice in place of wine?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: This question was also raised on two days in Rajya Sabha. So far as the Aircrafts Act is concerned, there is no provision of prohibiting serving the wine; but there is a provision taking action against an intoxicated person.... (*Interruptions*)

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: When one drinks he is bound to be in an intoxicated mood. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: What is meant by this intoxicated mood. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: You are not interested in listening the reply. What can I do if you are not ready to listen the reply?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When the hon. Minister is answering, you may differ with him, but there is a change for you to put any other supplementary. How can the hon. Minister answer if you all were to rise and speak?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is when the hon. Minister is on his legs, you are not expected to rise and disturb the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: The Open Sky Policy does not mean that they can have open questions on airlines any time. This question does not arise out of this. But just for the benefit of the House—as I had already said—I may tell the House that there is no provision as such in the Aircrafts Act. But there is a provision that there should not be any intoxicated person or passenger inside the aircraft. One case has come to the notice of the Director General of Civil Aviation where a particular person was found drunk and he misbehaved with his co-passengers. A complaint was lodged. The Director General of Civil Aviation has already sent him a show-cause notice and action will be taken.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, now we are all very well aware that Karnataka is attracting more and more international tourists especially in this Year of Tourism. It has been highlighted also. There was a proposal to start an international airport at Bangalore, Karnataka. And our hon. Minister has once or twice promised on the floor of the House that that would be taken up. When is it going to be taken up?

Secondly, some of the aircrafts are twenty years old and they are not viable. They should be revitalised, revamped and renewed so that the services would be better for the international tourists. When Karnataka and the neighbouring States are attracting more national and international tourists, if we improve the catering services also to that level, it will be better.

Have they got any policy in this regard? Are they examining it? I want a categorical answer from the hon Minister

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD The question does not arise out of the main question. But since our hon Deputy-Speaker is also from Karnataka apart from the hon Member I may say that as far as Bangalore Airport is concerned I had said it earlier also that we are equally interested in strengthening the Bangalore Airport and we have already sanctioned Rs 13 crores to make it of international standard. Actually we had drawn up the drawings and everything. We were ready with that. We had drawn up the drawings for the aero-bridges. As the House may be knowing this airport does not belong to the Airports Authority of India or for that matter it does not belong to the International Airport Authority. It belongs to the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). They have some reservations in converting this particular airport into an international airport (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS I would like to know whether the alternate suitable land is available

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD According to them if once we put up aero-bridges it might create some obstructions for them. I had a review meeting only the other day and we have decided about that. We are rushing the Chairman of the International Airports Authority and the National Airport Authority to Bangalore to have a discussion with the HAL.

As far as the alternate airport is concerned, we have already identified the site for the international airport.

But the task is very big. It costs us about Rs 600 crore and it is beyond our

capacity to spend Rs 600 crore on alternative arrangement. So, we will first try to complete this particular airport and make it an international airport. Of course, this will be done with the cooperation of the Defence Ministry.

Madam what was the second part of your question?

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS It relates to providing better services and also about phasing out of more than twenty years old aircrafts.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD About the old aircrafts we have started a fleet renewal programme. Last year, I have already grounded four 737 aircrafts which were more than 20 years old. So, within ten years time we would like to have new aircrafts and we would rather like to keep those aircrafts which are less than 15 years old. So the fleet renewal programme has already started (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER We have taken a lot of time on this question. So kindly permit me to go to the next question. We have taken 25 minutes just on this one question.

[English]

Cooperative Textile Mills

*143 SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI
SHRI GAYA PRASAD
KORI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Central Finan-

cial Institutions to grant long term loans for setting up of cooperative textile mills in their States:

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

(c) the action taken thereon?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). The Financial Institutions (FIs) have received intimation from the Government of Maharashtra of their intention to set up 50 co-operative spinning mills in the State. 12 applications for financial assistance have since been received by the FIs so far.

(c) No assistance has been sanctioned by the FIs so far.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in response to my question that from the entire country only 12 applications for setting up of Co-operative Spinning Mills have been received from Maharashtra State Government. I would like to know whether these applications have been accepted or rejected. If these have been rejected, what are the reasons therefor. If these are pending, when these will be cleared? Perusal of information reveals that maximum injustice has been done to Gujarat. Once Karnawati, the capital of Gujarat was considered as the Manchester of India in the production of cotton textile; but now the position is that many Cotton Mills are closed there and a

lot of workers have become unemployed. Several workers have committed suicide as a result thereof, yet the State Government have not done nothing to sanction long term loan from Central financial institutions for the purpose of setting mills in co-operative sector in the State. Whether the Union Government propose to provide financial assistance by setting up of co-operative society of the workers of closed mills.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said in reply to the main question that Financial Institutions have received requests from the Government of Maharashtra for the setting up of 50 Co-operative Spinning Mills. The list of those 50 units are with me. Applications of 12 units have been received in the requisite proforma. Out of those 12 applications nine have been received by IDBI and eight applications have been received by I.F.C.I. Five are common but none of them have been sanctioned loan so far. The reason behind it is that a large amount of loan is already outstanding against the existing Spinning Mills of Maharashtra. The I.D.B.I. has written a letter in this regard to the Government of Maharashtra on 6th July. Here, I am having a copy of that letter. If you permit, I would read out that letter here or would send it to the hon. Member. It has been stated in the letter that the outstanding overdue on the working units should first be cleared. Moreover, modernisation work should be carried out in these units and there is sufficient scope for improvement in their management. They should try to improve their management. The Hon. Member has asked second question regarding Gujarat. The financial institutions have received no loan application from Gujarat so far.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: That is what he was trying to say.

SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI Sir, would like to ask a second supplementary question on the basis of the reply given by the hon Minister All the five cooperative mills located at Bharooch, Surat, Veerpur, Limdi and Himmatnagar in Gujarat are incurring losses and are on the verge of closure The Himmatnagar cooperative Spinning Mill in my Parliamentary constituency is also in a critical condition I would like to know whether the Union Government plans to extricate all these five mills from the clutches of this economic crisis by providing financial assistance and whether the sales tax on their products will be abolished and some other such facilities should also be provided to promote the export of their products I would also like to know whether the Government is planning to inquire into the loss incurred by these mills due to corrupt practices adopted by the Board of Directors of the mills which are under the cooperative sector and also their involvement in certain scams

DR ABRAR AHMED Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, out of total 1062 textile units, 270 are sick and 150 has been closed down till 5th November, 1992, 1.79 lakh labourers were affected by it In the context of these five specific units mentioned by the hon member I would like to say that if they apply for loan then it would be given to them by any financial institutions or bank on the basis of viability But at present it is difficult to tell any scheme in this regard

SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier weavers in the country were highly skilled and they used to weave very fine clothes. The muslin of Dhaka was very famous The quality of cloth prepared in mills could be better today but the cloth woven in rural region is inferior So I would like to know

whether the Government will give permission to those cooperative Committees who wish to set-up Textiles Mills in the rural areas

DR ABRAR AHMED As I have told earlier that financial institutions can give loan only in case it is recommended by the State Government As far as clearance to set-up any mill or quality of cloth is concerned, it does not concern to my ministry

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA The pace of the implementation of new Textile policy is so slow that all old textile mills are being closed down Millions of labourers have been rendered jobless Several schemes have been sent to Union Government for setting up of new mills As you also know that the textile Mills are comprised of N T C Mills and Private Sector Mills and the decision to set up new mills and the closure of old ones is taken by the BIFR, which functions under Finance Ministry No mill can run if this institution declares that it is not viable and the future of thousands of labourers become dark and they reach at the verge of starvation I think the Government might have received some proposals to run the textile mills of Ujjain, Indore, Ratlam and all those other mills in Madhya Pradesh which are in crisis in cooperative sector There is no co-ordination among the industrial, labour and financial institutions of the Government

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Have a pin-pointed question You need not give any explanation You seek information from the Minister

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: I would like to know what measures the Government is going to take regarding the proposals received from Madhya Pradesh on the co-operative basis.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: The hon. Member has tried to link cooperative units with the sick units. I would like to tell that cooperative units do not come under BIFR. In respect of the modernisation of sick industries I would like to tell that during 1986-93, for 209 sick spinning units, Rs. 455 crores were sanctioned and for composite units Rs. 416 crores were sanctioned. Thus a sum of Rs. 871 crore has been sanctioned for this purpose.

Hon. Member has referred N.T.C. A scheme worth Rs. 533 crore was prepared for its modernisation, out of which Rs. 414 crore were to be taken from financial institutions and rest was to be given as budgetary support. But in 1992 during the review of this modernisation scheme, the amount reached upto Rs. 2005 crore and Government is thinking over it. In 1992-93 budget the working capital of NTC was Rs. 132 crore and in the budget of 1994-95, the provision of Rs. one crore has been made for it.

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about a year and a half back, the Government of Saudi Arabia had shown a lot of interest in the cooperative spinning mill sector of this country. They had also indicated their interest to the Government of India for being panelled under the Saudi Development Fund. Accordingly the Government of India had got proposals from various States for being considered under the

Saudi Development Fund as per the Government of India's directions. I want to know the latest position in this regard.

[*Translation*]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no information regarding the interest shown by Saudi Arabia which is mentioned by the Hon. Member. Textile Ministry may have such information and I will inform the hon. Member after collecting the information from Textile Ministry, if available.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawle had sent to me in writing. I will call his name now and then I will call your name, Shri George Fernandes.

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not mean that everybody should sent it in writing. I know that Shri Nitish Kumar will always raise a technical point. Shri Nitish Kumar, it is not done like that. It is not the custom and it is not the tradition.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today 70 thousand labourers have become unemployed due to closure of mills in Bombay city. They are willing to run these mills on cooperative basis but they do not have money. Whether the Government's policy is against workers or will the Government give equity capital to workers if they come forward to run the mill on cooperative basis.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: The Hon. Member has mentioned that Government's policy is hostile to workers but I would like to tell that the Government has always tried to provide employment to the labourers. Hon. Member has said that some cooperative institutions are ready to set up mills in Bombay; As earlier also, I told that these institutions owe money to IDBI, IFCI and some other financial institutions and Government do not want to increase their overdues further. The mills cannot run while incurring losses. (*Interruptions*). There are already several cooperative mills which have overdues and are incurring losses. They have been told to improve their management and modernise it to make them viable, only then the plan to set-up new mills will be meaningful. It will not be proper to set-up new mills if the existing mills are incurring heavy losses and are going to be usurped by the management. This point was mentioned by financial institutions. We will try our best and financial institutions have readily agreed to provide loan for cooperative mills which are going to set-up in near future.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the reply to the question hon. Minister has told that a provision of Rs. 136 crores was made for modernisation of NTC during 1992-93 and in the budget for 1993-94 NTC has been allocated only one crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether holding company i.e. NTC has informed that the Government is not in a position to provide money to all the subsidiary companies and there is no arrangement for salary of workers after the 1st April and now you are going to provide. I do not know what amount of money, you are going to provide for new cooperative mills, for sick units in private sector and new mills to be set-up in private sector. If the

Government is ready to allocate funds for such items then why not to NTC, which is a Government organisation. One lakh and sixty thousand workers of NTC are being rendered to be jobless. The amount allocated for its modernisation has been reduced to almost zero. I would like to know whether the Government has made any alternative arrangement for them. What will be the consequences if the workers will not get their salaries after 1st of April. Is the Government going to take some concrete measures regarding the issue of the salary of workers?

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A package was framed for the purpose of modernisation of some of the mills. Some viable units were identified. Steps were to be taken for that purpose. But no action has been taken. What does the Government propose to do? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHMED: I want ask one thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly excuse me. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR ABRAR AHMED: Perhaps the hon. Members have not seen the original question before asking the supplementary. I have given this additional information as I was prepared for it.

The original question is that whether some State Governments have applied for long-term loans from central financial institutions to set up cooperative textile mills? And if so, the details thereof. The point raised by the hon. Member has no link with the original question. But even

then it was related to textile industry and I have shared the available information with the hon. Members. In context of the point raised by Mr. George Fernandes I would like to tell that a scheme worth Rs. 533 crore was prepared for modernisation of NTC Mills during the Eighth Plan, out of which Rs. 414 crore was to be given by financial institutions and rest was to be given through budgetary support. In revised scheme the amount has been increased upto Rs. 2005 crore and it is being reviewed. I would also like to tell the hon. Members that 33,000 workers of NTC have been benefited under the voluntary retirement scheme, in textile industry, under the voluntary retirement scheme a provision of Rs. 689 crore has been made in which 80,000 persons comprising with 73,000 workers and 7,000 officers will be benefited.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have asked about the arrangement made for their salaries of coming months and you are telling about their voluntary retirement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, reply to the question must be given. I would like to know whether the ministry has made any arrangement for their salaries of next months.

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: How many cooperations are there under the Ministry of Textiles?

Secondly, how are these corporations helping the cooperative spinning mills?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Sir, the hon. Member has asked that how many corpo-

rations are under the Ministry of Textiles. I am telling about the views of the State Government which were put forth about the financial assistance being provided by the Finance Ministry. I want a separate notice in this connection.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Smuggling of Heroin

*144. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:
SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is becoming a major originating centre for heroin smuggling;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed be taken by the Government to check the growing influence of heroin cartels; and

(c) the counter measures being initiated to prevent smuggling of opium out of the cultivation points scattered in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MUTRHY): (a) Intelligence reports received and seizures made by various enforcement agencies in Delhi indicate that Delhi is being used as transit point by drug traffickers for out

smuggling of heroin of Pakistan Origin. The indigenous heroin is also being brought to Delhi in small quantities by drug traffickers from opium growing areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The seizure of heroin made in Delh during the year 1991, 1992 and 1993 is as under:—

1991	1992	1993
67 Kgs.	28 Kgs.	139 Kgs.

(b) Instructions have been issued to all enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in the various Acts. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. A part of Indo-Pakistan border has been fenced. Vehicles and communication equipment has been provided to enforcement agencies.

Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical for manufacture of heroin has been declared as a 'Controlled Substance' under the NDPS Act and a regulation order has been issued to regulate the manufacture, distribution, sale, imports, exports and consumption of Acetic Anhydride. Controls have been imposed on the movement of the chemical within 50 Kms. of Indo-Pak Border and 100 Kms. of Indo-Myanmar Border under the Customs Act.

(c) Production of opium in States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is regulated under strict licensing control and supervision by the Central Government. Various law enforcement agencies keep strict vigil over poppy cultivation and stringent penal measures are taken under the NDPS Act for any violation.

Women Labour

*145. SHRIMATI SAROJ
DUBEY:
SHRI RAM BADAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of women labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the women labourers are paid the minimum wages; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government for their upliftment and to check their exploitation by the employers?

THE MINSTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The findings of the survey have been published by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in the Union Primary Census Abstract 1991. State-wise numbers of women workers are indicated in the attached *Statement*.

(c) The Government have enacted laws to ensure payment of equal wages to men and women. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 fixation equal minimum wages for men and women in different employments is prescribed. The equal remuneration Act, 1976 further prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex between men and women workers in the same establishment or employment and for the same work or work of similar nature.

(d) Whenever any instances of violation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 come to the notice of the Government, necessary steps are taken immediately to rectify the situation. Periodic monitoring of the enforcement activities is carried out. Various programmes for the upliftment of women labourers are also being carried out by the Government.

STATEMENT

Statewise number of Female Labourers (1991 Census)

S.No.	India/ State/U.T.	Total female workers including marginal workers
	INDIA	89,767,563
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11,252,643
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	149,789
3.	Assam	2,324,535
4.	Bihar	6,116,974
5.	Goa	117,977
6.	Gujarat	5,180,886
7.	Haryana	821,299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	888,985
9.	Karnataka	6,472,816
10.	Kerala	2,347,268
11.	Madhya Pradesh	10,430,890
12.	Maharashtra	12,617,454
13.	Manipur	350,134
14.	Meghalaya	302, 853
15.	Mizoram	143,964
16.	Nagaland	215,722
17.	Orissa	3,241,991

S.No.	India/ State/U.T.	Total female workers including marginal workers
18.	Punjab	418,646
19.	Rajasthan	5,744,129
20.	Sikkim	57,790
21.	Tamil Nadu	8,236,872
22.	Tripura	184,333
23.	Uttar Pradesh	8,019,310
24.	West Bengal	3,662,855
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	16,584
26.	Chandigarh	29,443
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32,944
28.	Daman & Diu	11,584
29.	Delhi	314,076
30.	Lakshadweep	1,906
31.	Pondicherry	60,911

Note:— Census was not held in Jammu & Kashmir in 1991.

[Translation]

Heritage Hotels

*146. SHRI RAM SINGH
KASHWAN:
DR. RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have
taken a decision to convert some histori-
cal buildings into heritage hotels;

(b) the number of such buildings classified as heritage hotels so far; and

(c) the estimated increase in the number of tourists likely to take place and the estimated additional foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The Government has introduced a voluntary scheme whereby buildings constructed prior to 1950 such as forts, palaces, castles, havelies, etc. if converted into hotels can be classified as heritage hotels, thereby providing a new dimension to tourism to the country. So far 20 hotels with 629 rooms have been classified under the heritage category.

(c) It is not practical to estimate the impact of the scheme on tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings separately as tourist traffic is guided by a number of factors. There is no doubt however these grand buildings do appeal to the imagination of foreign tourists.

Import of Gold

*147. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from which gold has been imported during the last three years and the quantity thereof;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to discourage import of gold during the last year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Anti-dumping action

*148. SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURY:
SHRI HARADHAN ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed any anti-dumping duties on any foreign products during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the anti-dumping action taken against Indian products by foreign Governments during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). On 18th January, 1994 anti-dumping duties have been imposed on import of Poly Vinyl Chloride Resin White Free Flowing Powder of all grades (other than paste, battery or emulsion grade) originating from the following countries at the rates indicated against each country:

Country of origin	Rate of duty (Rs. per tonne)
Brazil	2036
Mexico	1619
Republic of Korea	1253
U.S.A.	504

Margin of dumping of 23% on import of Bishphenol-A from Japan has been determined by the Designated Authority in the final findings in the anti-dumping investigation concerning import of Bisphenol-A notified on 18th February, 1994.

(c) Since April, 1993 U.S.A. has imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of stainless steel wire rods and stainless steel flanges; and Australia has imposed anti dumping duty on import of Sodium Cyanide from India.

Improvement of Indian Airlines

*149. SHRI S.M. LALJAN
BASHA:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plan to improve functioning of the Indian airlines to enable it to compete with the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce fares of the Indian Airlines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The following are among the, major steps taken to improve the functioning of Indian Airlines:

(i) Product Improvements

Improvement in service both on ground and on board.

— Improvement in passenger comfort by increasing seat pitch in Economy Class of A-300.

— Introduction of Business Class in A-320 aircraft

(ii) Pricing and Distribution Strategies.

— Incentives/concessions introduced for customers and agents.

— Setting up of Sales Forces to generate more business.

(iii) Organisational improvements

— Changes in the organisational structure and systems to enable a speedy and cohesive response to the environment.

— Closer consultation with the employee Unions/Associations to foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

(iv) Increased fleet utilisation as a result of introduction of productivity linked schemes of remuneration.

(v) Increased international operations to usefully deploy available capacity.

(vi) Tie up with Air India in several areas, like joint venture operations in the Gulf countries, hub and spoke operations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Large-scale reduction in fares will make the operations economically unviable.

Price Rise

*150. SHRI K.T. VANDAYAR:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of wholesale and consumer price indices of essential commodities during the last four months;

(b) the weekly rate of inflation on point to point basis during the above period;

(c) the reasons for continuous rise in the price index;

(d) the impact of increase in the prices of petroleum and petroleum products on inflation rate; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check and to contain the rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The particulars of wholesale and consumer price indices of essential commodities during the last four months are shown below:

Month	Essential Commodities Price Index	
	WPI (1981-82=100)	CPI (W) (1982=100)
October 1993	262.4	257.4
November 1993	262.6	257.4

Month	Essential Commodities Price Index	
	WPI (1981-82=100)	CPI (W) (1982=100)
December 1993	260.2	NA
January 1994	257.1	NA

(b) and (c). The annual rate of inflation, on point-to-point basis, for each week during the last four months as shown below, does not indicate continuous rise in the inflation rate:

Week-ended	Annual (point-to-point) Rate of Inflation (per cent)	
2.10.93	8.8	
9.10.93	8.7.	
16.10.93	8.5	
23.10.93	8.3	
30.10.93	8.2	
6.11.93	8.7	
13.11.93	8.7	
20.11.93	8.4	
27.11.93	8.5	
4.12.93	8.7	
11.12.93	9.0	
18.12.93	8.8	
25.12.93	7.7*	
1.1.94	8.1*	
8.1.94	8.4*	
15.1.94	8.4*	
22.1.94	8.2*	
29.1.94	8.2*	
5.2.94	8.5*	
12.2.94	8.5*	
(*Provisional)		

(d) The direct impact of increase in petroleum and petroleum product prices on the latest inflation rate is estimated at 4.4 per cent.

(e) For moderating the price rise, the Government's intervention has been primarily in augmenting supplies of essential commodities. Increasing allocation through PDS, open market sales of wheat and rice by the FIC, authorisation of import of 1 lakh tonne of edible oils, and higher monthly releases of non-levy sugar are some of the steps taken to stabilise the prices of essential commodities.

Closure/Merger of Bank Branches

*151. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL
BHARGAVA:
SHRI RAMDEW RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have submitted proposals to the Reserve Bank of India through the State Government for closure or merger of their unviable branches;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State wise;

(c) whether discussions have also been held with the trade unions of the banks in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the branches of public sector banks proposed to be closed or merged during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED: (a) and (b). It is only in respect of closure or merger of rural branches that public sector banks are required to submit proposals through the State Government to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI have reported that they have received only one proposal from Government of Haryana for shifting of Punjab National Bank's Rampura Dhillon branch to Jamal and for merging it with the existing branch (of erstwhile New Bank of India) at Jamal.

(c) to (e). Finance Minister held a meeting with leaders of various trade unions in January, 1994 to discuss a "Discussion Paper on Public Sector Commercial Banks and Financial Sector Reform: Rebuilding for a Better Future". At this meeting, the apprehensions of the trade union leaders as regards closure of branches were allayed. It was stated that the total number of branches likely to be closed during the current year on account of non-viability would be approximately 100.

Child Labour

*152. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government regarding the number of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the number of child labour in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any scheme for their economic and educational rehabilitation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time bound action plan prepared for elimination of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (e). Authentic data regarding the number of working children (Child Labour) is available through Census which is conducted every ten years. The state-wise number of Child Labour in the country according to 1981 Census, is as presented in the Statement attached.

2. Schemes of the Labour Ministry for welfare and rehabilitation of child labour include setting up of National Child Labour Projects under the National Child Labour Policy, 1987 in areas of concentration of Child Labour and financing of non-Governmental Organisations for undertaking action oriented programmes. In these projects children withdrawn from work are provided with inputs like Education, Nutrition, Health Care, Stipend, Vocational Training etc. Similar programmes for the welfare of Child Labour are implemented under the International Programme on Elimination of child labour (IPEC) which is an ILO assisted programme.

3. Complete abolition of child labour in the short run, being considered not feasible due to socio-economic conditions, the policy of the Government is to eliminate it progressively. Employments in addition to those in which Child Labour is already prohibited are notified for expanding prohibition under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 from time to time. State Governments which are also to secure implementation of laws relating to child labour have been directed to strictly enforce in the laws. Governments of States/UTs having large number of child labour have been asked to draw up integrated strategy plans for tackling

the problem of child labour. Ten States/UTs having lesser incidence of child labour have been requested to do so in a time bound manner, Two national child labour project areas, namely Jaggampet in A.P. and Mandsaur in M.P. have been indentified for total elimination of child labour.

STATEMENT

Statement showing state-wise Distribution of Child Workers (0-14 Age Group) According 1981 Census

Sl. No.	States/ Union Territories	Workers in the age group 0-14 1981 Census
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,951,312
2.	Assam	**
3.	Bihar	1,101,764
4.	Gujarat	616,913
5.	Haryana	194,139
6.	Himachal Pradesh	99,624
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	258,437
8.	Karnataka	1,131,580
9.	Kerala	92,854
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,698,597
11.	Maharashtra	1,557,756
12.	Manipur	20,217
13.	Meghalaya	44,916
14.	Nagaland	16,235
15.	Orissa	702,293
16.	Punjab	216,939
17.	Rajasthan	819,605
18.	Sikkim	8,561
19.	Tamil Nadu	975,055
20.	Tripura	24,204

Sl. No.	States/ Union Territories	Workers in the age group 0-14 1981 Census
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1,434,775
22.	West Bengal	605,263
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1,309
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	17,950
25.	Chandigarh	1,986
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3,615
27.	Delhi	25,717
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	9,378
29.	Lakshadweep	56
30.	Mizoram	6,314
31.	Pondicherry	3,606
TOTAL		13,640,872

** 1981 Census could not be conducted in Assam due to disturbed conditions prevailing there then.

Export of Cotton

*153. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently put a ban on the export of cotton;

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

(c) the extent to which the ban is going to reduce the prices of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). The Government has recently suspended the export of cotton in view of the abnormal increase in the prices of raw cotton which are in the range of 65% to 116% above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) level as against 8% to 44% above MSP in the corresponding period of the previous year. A large number of powerloom/handloom units in various regions in the country have reportedly been forced to stop production due to sudden spurt in price of cotton and cotton yarn.

(c) The suspension of the export of cotton has been able to arrest the steeply rising prices of cotton.

[Translation]

Trade Delegation from Israel

*154. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade delegation from Israel visited India to study projects to make their investment therein;

(b) if so, the details of projects studied by them and the projects in which they are likely to make investment; and

(c) the value of trade likely to take place between the two countries during 1994?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There have been several trade delegations from Israel to explore business possibilities in India. The reference here presumably is to the delegation consisting

of representatives of about 40 companies in Israel, which visited India for three weeks from 22nd January, 1994. The delegation was sponsored by the Israel Export Institute (IEI). The delegation had a series of meetings with the representatives of a large number of Indian companies in Bombay and New Delhi. While there are possibilities of joint ventures in various areas, 'electronics' and 'metals and machinery' appeared to be high priority areas from the Israeli point of view.

(c) India's trade with Israel during 1992-93 was about Rs. 660 crores and during 1993-94 it is likely to cross Rs. 1000 Crores.

Air India and Indian Airlines

*155. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA
KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

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

(a) whether the Government have converted the Air India and the Indian Airlines into public limited companies;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to float public issues of the Air India and the Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the public issues are likely to be floated?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). In accordance

with the Notification issued by Government in pursuance of Air Corporations (Transfer of Undertakings and Repeal) Ordinance, 1994, the undertakings of Indian Airlines and Air India have been transferred to and vested in Indian Airlines Ltd. and Air India Ltd. respectively with effect from 1.3.1994. With the restructuring, Indian Airlines Ltd. and Air India Ltd. will be able to increase their equity and raise resources from the capital market.

(c) to (e). The equity base of these companies would need to be widened in future by issue of fresh equity to meet growth requirements of the airlines. It is not possible right now to indicate any time frame.

[English]

Securities Scam

*156. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken follow up action on the findings, observations and recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on securities scam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Joint Parliamentary Committee presented its Report to Parliament on 21.12.1993. The Report has been discussed in both the Houses of

Parliament The 'Action Taken Report' by the Government is under preparation and will be laid on the Table of the House

[*Translation*]

Export of Tea

*157 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the demand for Indian tea in foreign countries has declined during 1993 as compared to 1992

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to maintain popularity of Indian tea in foreign countries and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) No, Sir Exports of tea from India during January 1993 to December, 1993 are estimated at 180.06 M Kgs valued at Rs 1155.86 crores compared to the estimated exports during January, 1992 to December, 1992 at 170.82 M Kgs, valued at Rs 942.04 crores indicating thereby an improvement in demand of Indian tea during 1993 in the overseas market as compared to 1992

(c) and (d) Steps taken to boost exports of teas include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, (ii) media cam-

paigned to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea, (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Tea Board budget. Tea Board have also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo Campaign in U.K. to popularise classic Indian teas.

Public Sector Banks

*158 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to accord autonomy to the public sector banks and make them more accountable

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Public sector banks have full autonomy in all operational matters. To make them more accountable, nationalised banks have entered into agreements with the Reserve Bank of India in terms of which commitments have been obtained relating to their performance in certain key areas such as reduction in non-performing assets, improving profitability and technological upgradation to enhance productivity.

(c) Does not arise.

Tourism Between India and African Countries

*159. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether there are great possibilities for increasing tourism between India and African countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up tourism promotion centres of Indian in South Africa and of South Africa in India to boost tourism between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). Direct airlink has been established between the two countries with the operation of Air-India flight between Johannesburg in South Africa and Bombay w.e.f. 2nd October, 1993. The Air India flight touches Durban also. Trade delegation and a high level Ministerial delegation have visited South Africa to promote tourism. From South Africa also delegations have come to India.

(d) and (e). It is proposed to set up a Government of India Tourist Office at Johannesburg shortly. South Africa Government is keen to open an office at

Bombay to facilitate movement of tourists between the two countries.

[English]

Indian Airlines Pilots

*160. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR
YADAV:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) the number of pilots recruited in the Indian Airlines during each of the last three years;

(b) whether, at the time of joining service, pilots are to execute a bond for serving the Airlines for a minimum period and are required to pay compensation for the training they received if they decide to leave before the stipulated period;

(c) if so, whether a large number of pilots trained by the Indian Airlines have left the organisation without paying the statutory compensation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken against the erring pilots and recover the compensation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The number of pilots recruited by Indian Airlines in 1991 and 1992 are 2 and 14 respectively. No pilot was recruited in 1993.

(b) Yes, Sir. From September, 1985, the requirement of execution of a bond has been made obligatory.

(c) to (e) Of the 116 pilots who submitted their resignations in the period from January 1991 to February 1994, 35 were under bond. Proportionate amounts have been recovered from the settlement of 3 pilots. Letter/legal for recovery have been issued to the remaining 32 pilots.

UNDP Funds for Environment Projects

1511 SHRI R SURENDER REDDY Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme announced funding for the two environment related projects in India from the Global Environment Facility,

(b) if so, the details of the projects proposed to be funded by the UNDP indicating the names and location of the projects, and

(c) the amount proposed to be provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) to (c) The Project Review Committee of UNDP has approved two projects for India in January 1994 under the Global Environment Facility. Detailed project documents are not finalised.

Investment in Polish Public Sector Undertakings

1516. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Polish Government has invited Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Polish Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether liberal foreign investment laws in Poland have also created new opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs there, and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) At the meeting of the Indo-Polish Joint Business Council held in October 1993 in Warsaw, the Polish side invited Indian entrepreneurs to invest in their public sector companies, in pursuance of their policy of direct investment from abroad. The Polish side conveyed that 6000 State enterprises and some collaborations were on Poland's list for privatisation.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Poland, with a population of 38.3 million, the largest in Central Europe, is a big market and in close to the markets of European Countries. It has an Association Agreement with the European Community and a Trade Agreement with the EFTA, under which a large number of products from Poland are exported duty free to these countries. At the afore-mentioned JBC, the Polish side pointed out that Poland welcomed foreign investment particularly in priority sectors, and the privatisation was a high priority of the Government.

The Government are, as a part of the trade promotion strategy for the region, encouraging and facilitating investments in these countries including in Poland.

Wage Board for Child Labour

1517. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering for setting up a minimum wage board for child labour;

(b) whether there is any proposal to ban bonded child labour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Bonded labour, including bonded child labour, is already banned under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

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

World Bank Loan

1518. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has deferred seven proposed loans under negotiation allegedly due to slow pace of economic reforms;

(b) if so, the number and brief particulars of these loans under negotiations;

(c) the measures that the Government propose to adopt in order to expedite the finalisation of these loans; and

(d) the value of loans already sanctioned by the World Bank but not drawn as on December 31, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Undisbursed credit/loans from approved World Bank projects as on 31.12.93 are US\$ 4134.085 million and US\$ 4682.267 millions respectively.

Strikes in Share Markets

1519. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether business could not be conducted because of strikes in Share Bazzars during 1993 and particularly during January-February, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expected loss to exchequer, share holders, brokers and the public in each strike;

(d) whether the Government have taken any decision on the demand made by brokers during these strikes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The members of Stock Ex-

changes at Bombay, Calcutta Ahmedabad and New Delhi and refrained from trading for a few days during the year 1993. There was no such instance during January-February, 1994.

(b) The reasons for the boycott of trading related to protest against the suspension of ten members of the Ahmedabad Stock Exchange by SEBI for non-payment of registration fees, attachment of shares by the Income Tax Department and the directive of SEBI to the Stock Exchanges at Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and New Delhi that all transactions in securities shall be settled at the end of each settlement period by delivery and payment and that no carry-forward of transactions shall be allowed except for the purpose of liquidating existing carry-forward business positions.

(c) It is not feasible to make such an assessment particularly since trading was going on in other Stock Exchanges in the country when there was no trading in the Exchanges referred to in reply to (a) above.

(d) to (f). Government have been vigilant and sensitive to the issues raised, and have acted in the best interest of protecting investors, ensuring Stock Exchanges transparency and insisting on prudential norms of trading.

Export to Russia

1520. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a good scope to increase export to Russia;

(b) if so, the possibility explored by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the proposals considered for increasing export to Russia during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government has been making efforts, on an ongoing basis, for the promotion of trade with Russia which inter-alia include:

- (i) opening of new Consulates General at Vladivostok and St. Petersburg;
- (ii) conclusion of a new bilateral framework agreement on trade and economic cooperation, switching over to trade in hard currency and providing for mutual Most-Favoured-Nation treatment;
- (iii) reaching agreement with Russia, and finalisation of corresponding arrangements, for India's repayment of State credits granted by the former USSR through Russia's import of goods and services from India;
- (iv) establishment of inter-banking arrangements, including through conclusion of correspondence agreement, promotion of a joint venture bank;
- (v) promotion of counter-trade, consignment exports, and creation/leasing of warehousing;
- (vi) promotion of joint ventures, and mutual investments, including joint trading ventures, joint ventures on production-sharing basis, and joint ventures for third country exports;
- (vii) measures to facilitate easier availability of export credits;

- (viii) promotion of air cargo traffic;
- (ix) promotion and encouragement of direct business level contacts, inter-alia, through opening of representative offices;
- (x) extension of technical assistance in areas such as trade, marketing, management, banking and training of personnel.

Investment made by Air India in Banks

1521. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of investment made by the Air India in different banks during last three years;

(b) whether the investment has been made in accordance with the provisions of the Air Corporations Act, 1953;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Total amounts of investments made by Air India during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 in different banks is indicated below:—

1990-91	Rs. 560.83 crores
1991-92	Rs. 1260.65 crores
1992-93	Rs. 1582.42 crores

(b) and (c). Some of these investments, which were in the form of Portfolio

Management Scheme deposits in the Citibank, deposits in the Indbank Merchant Banking Services Ltd., "Ready Forward" transactions etc., were in contravention of the provisions of the Air Corporations Act and instructions issued thereunder.

(d) Government's displeasure has been conveyed to Air India in this regard, and its Chief Executive was asked to ensure that all investments were strictly in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act. Action has also been initiated by Air India to fix responsibility for the irregular investments.

Tourism Development in Sunderbans

1522. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for the development of tourism in Sunderbans; and

(b) if so, the details along-with the amount earmarked therefor during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The following projects have been sanctioned for development of tourism in Sunderbans:

- (i) Cruise Vessel for Sunderbans.
- (ii) Tourist Lodge at Piyali.
- (iii) Tourist Lodge at Kaikhali.
- (iv) Wayside facility at Dhamkhali.

(b) Funds are sanctioned for specific projects. Funds are not earmarked for development of areas.

Foreign Aid for Earthquake Victims

1523. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign aid received in cash and kind with their equivalent value in Rupees from various countries for earthquake relief in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the aid has been fully transferred to Maharashtra;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed for early transfer thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The total amount of assistance and offers of assistance (including in cash and kind) received as on date for earthquake relief in Maharashtra, including offers from Canada, USA, Germany, Sweden, Norway, U.K., Japan, Netherlands, EEC, UN bodies and the World Bank amounts to Rs. 894.52 crores.

(b) to (d). At this stage it is not possible to quantify the amount of aid actually received by the State Government as some of the offers are at various stages of processing and as in addition, assistance is also being provided through other sources including Non-Government Organisations.

Benami Share Transactions

1524. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether shares worth crores of rupees have been found involved in benami share transactions as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated December 29, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the investigations in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken against the persons involved in these deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Income-tax Department had undertaken protracted investigations starting from July, 1992 in the matter of benami shares of Harshad Mehta Group. They have discovered about 36.5 lakhs shares in 35 companies cumulatively valued at about Rs. 298 crore as on 22.2.1994 s benami share holdings of Harshad Mehta Group. A list of benami share discovered by the Income-tax Department is given in the *statement* enclosed.

(c) The Assessing Officer has filed a Miscellaneous Application No. 53 of 1994 dated 31st January, 1994 before the Special Court constituted under the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992, at Bombay bringing various facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Court. In this application, it has been prayed, *inter-alia*, that the Court may declare the shares held by about 610 benamidars as belonging to Harshad Mehta Group, these properties may be vested in the Custodian and Shri Harshad Mehta may be directed to disclose all his assets including the benami assets.

STATEMENT*Details of Benami Shares of HSM Group**(Valued as on 22.2.94)*

Sr. No.	SCRIP	No. of shares	Rate Rs.	Value Rs.
1.	ACC	5,15,429	3,670	1,89,16,24,430
2.	I.T.C. Agrotech	2,16,000	350	7,58,10,000
3.	J.P. Industries	2,19,125	100	2,19,12,500
4.	Excel Industries	9,000	905	81,45,000
5.	Saw Pipes	1,87,900	560	10,52,24,000
6.	RIL	6,80,740	398	27,09,34,520
7.	Tata Tea	1,30,035	820	10,66,28,700
8.	Mazda Industries	2,45,921	171	4,20,52,491
9.	Apollo Tyres	1,27,275	205	2,60,91,375
10.	Indo Gulf Fertilizers	72,100	125	90,12,500
11.	Indian Rayon	8,635	632.50	59,61,637.50
12.	ITC Classic Finance	6,400	325	20,80,000
13.	Bombay Dyeing	52,706	410	2,16,09,460
14.	Century Textiles	964	10,100	97,36,400
15.	Orkay Industries	37,475	36.50	13,67,837.50
16.	Castrol	2,500	1,100,	27,50,000
17.	United Phosphores	30,370	1,260	3,82,66,200
18.	Sesa Goa	1,70,450	650	11,07,92,500
19.	Essem Catalyst	1,22,700	30	36,81,000
20.	Mahindra & Mahindra	2,500	310	7,75,000
21.	Colgate	1,850	537.50	9,94,375
22.	Oswal Fats	16,300	115	18,74,500
23.	Vikrant Tyres	7,600	30	2,28,000
24.	Arvind Mills	1,150	260	2,99,000
25.	I.T.C.	68,600	745	5,11,07,000

Sr No	SCRIP	No of shares	Rate Rs	Value Rs
26	Gujarat Fertilizers	3 435	275	9,44,625
27	Gujarat Narmada	2,08,750	92 50	1,93,09,375
28	NOCIL	800	845	6 76,000
29	Mazda Enterprises (Packaging)	1 06 400	90	95,76,000
30	Zuari Agro	3,500	400	14,00 000
31	VIP Industries	11 000	COST	3 58,30,000
32	Bajaj Auto Ltd	2 600	1,140	29 64,000
33	J K Industries	40,050	180	72 09 000
34	Glaxo India	38 550	462 50	1 78,29,375
35	Madras Cement	6 230	9 000 00	5 60 70 000

Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy

1525 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representations against the implementation of new long term Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) to (c). Government have received various types of represen-

tations from the trade including some conflicting representations on different aspects of the new Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy. These representations relate to permitting direct transfers between registered exporters without the medium of Registered Quota Agents increasing the base period of calculation of Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) and Non Quota Exporters Entitlement (NQE) from one year to two years, earmarking certain percentage of annual level for the FCFS system, change in the definition of new Manufacturer Exporters, restricting transfer of entitlements during June-September period to 50% of the entitlements etc. Government had already acted upon the representations relating to direct transfer of entitlements between the exporters and restriction on transfer of entitlement during June-September period.

Hike in Fee for Foreign Aircraft

1526. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Airports Authority has hiked the fee for foreign aircraft which fly over India;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether the National Airports Authority proposes to upgrade facilities at major airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). With effect from 1-2-94, National Airports Authority (NAA) have increased Terminal Navigation Landing Charges, Route Navigation Facility Charges and Landing Charges by about 47%.

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

NAA have undertaken the following major projects:—

- (i) Modernisation of Air Traffic Control Services at Bombay and Delhi airports;
- (ii) Procurement and installation of Airport Surveillance Radar/Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar;

(iii) Procurement and installation of Instrument Landing System; and

(iv) Development of Model Airports.

[Translation]

Bank Frauds/Dacoities in Madhya Pradesh

1527. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incident of frauds/dacoities in the public sector banks in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(c) the amount involved in each of these incidents and the loss suffered as a result thereof;

(d) whether some bank employees were also found involved in these incidents;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (e). The present data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information re-

garding State-wise incidents of frauds. However, the total number of frauds reported by public sector banks in India to

RBI during 1991, 1992 & 1993 (upto March) and the amount involved therein are given below

(Rs in lakhs)

Year	No of frauds	Amount involved
1991	1535	6265 06
1992	1702	11978 80
1993 (upto March)	509	1642 76

The amounts involved in the cases of frauds do not necessarily represent the actual losses which the banks may have to ultimately suffer. The banks generally have some securities to cover advances made by them. Banks also file civil and criminal suits and seek appropriate relief. Besides, banks take insurance cover

Available information in respect of employees convicted awarded major minor penalties and removed/discharged from service for their involvement in fraud cases reported by the public sector banks during the years 1991 and 1992 are given below

	1991	1992
(i) No of employees convicted	82	51
(ii) No of employees given major/minor penalties	829	849
(iii) No of employees out of (ii) above conceived/discharged/removed	289	275

Information regarding incidents of robberies/dacoities which took place in the public sector banks in the State of

Madhya Pradesh during the years 1991-92 & 1992-93 is given below

Sl No	Name of the Bank/ Branch	Date of Occurrence	Amount involved (Rs in lakhs)	Employees involved & action taken against them
1.	Bank of India, Madan Mahal branch, Bhopal (M P)	22-4-91	3 45	Nil

Sl No	Name of the Bank/ Branch	Date of Occurrence	Amount involved (Rs in lakhs)	Employees involved & action taken against them
2	Central Bank of India Narela Shankar, Distt Raisen (M P)	25-4-91	1 41	Nil
3	State Bank of Indore, Amana branch, Distt Dewas (M P)	12-12-91	0 85	Nil
4	Central Bank of India, Cash looted on way from Guna to Anandpur (M P)	9-4-92	0 38	Not known However Manager and the Guards were suspended and departmental enquiries are in progress

(f) Government/RBI and Banks have taken several steps from time to time for prevention and prompt detection of frauds

RBI has issued circulars giving comprehensive guidelines wherein banks have been advised to strengthen the control mechanism with a view to eliminate scope for malpractices. Fraud cases are reviewed by RBI and in ingenious cases, modus operandi and required safeguards are advised to banks for initiating action to prevent their recurrence.

RBI has also impressed upon the banks for proper training of operational personnel so that they appreciate the implications of laxities in following laid down procedures and take needed care in actual working.

RBI has set up a Special Investigation Cell (SIC) for undertaking investigation and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in identified fraud prone areas.

RBI also issues caution notices for information of chairmen of all commercial banks whenever serious irregularities/fraudulent transactions are observed in the conduct and operation of a borrowal account and advising them to make detailed and indepth enquiries before granting/renewing any facilities to such parties.

Banks have also been impressed to clear arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to

prevent frauds in these areas. The steps taken by banks and the improvement is reviewed by the RBI.

Implementation of recommendations made by the Ghosh Committee which enquired into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in the banks is monitored.

Depending on the risk factor involved, such as location, cash handled, law and order situation, banks have taken several measures to strengthen security at their branches like provision of armed guards, installation of alarm systems etc. In order to motivate employees, police and general public to resist robberies and dacoities, a scheme for giving reward is also in operation.

[English]

Export of Cotton from Maharashtra

1528 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of cotton exported from Maharashtra during the last two years and the current year,

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to explore new markets for the export of cotton, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) The quantity of cotton exported by Maharashtra Federation during the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 is NIL, 4 190 lakh bales and

0 345 lakh bales (upto 25th February, 1994) respectively

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise

Closure of Public Sector Undertakings

1529 SHRI V S VIJAYARAGHAVAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has recommended closure of some Public Sector Undertakings, and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has recommended winding up of the following Public Sector Undertakings to the concerned High Courts —

- 1 AP Scooters Limited
- 2 Karnataka Implements and Machinery Co Ltd.
3. Sahyadri Glass Works Limited.
4. National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.

[Translation]

Export of Sugar

1531. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
RAI:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar exported during 1992-93;

(b) whether the sugar industry had to suffer loss as a result of this export;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). The Indian Sugar and General Industries Export Import Corporation Limited (ISGIEIC), an apex body representing and sugar mills in the country has been entrusted with the responsibility of exporting sugar under provisions of the Promotion Act, 1959. While entering into contracts with prospective importers of sugar ISGIEIC is expected to exercise its commercial judgement for the export of sugar. The loss/profit, is, therefore, worked out by the exporting agency, i.e. ISGIEIC, with reference to the price paid to the factories administrative expenses, etc., and sales realisation. ISGIEIC has intimated the f.o.b. cost and realisation dur-

ing 1992-93 as under:—

Year	FOB Cost Rs./MT	Realisation Rs./MT
1992-93	8950	8440

During 1992-93, 3.76 lakh MT of sugar was exported.

[English]

Production of Silk

1532. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of the silk in the country during 1992-93 and 1993-94, State-wise and variety-wise;

(b) the domestic consumption of silk in the country during the above period:

(c) the quantity of China silk imported during the above period:

(d) the reasons for importing China silk; and

(e) the target fixed for export of silk during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) A statement indicating State-wise/variety-wise production of silk in the country during 1992-93 is enclosed. However, the similar data for

the year 1993-94 will be compiled on receipt of reports from the State Sericulture Departments after the expiry of the year

(b) The raw silk produced in the country is largely utilised to meet the requirements of domestic sector

(c) During the year 1992-93, a total quantity of 2918 metric tonnes of raw silk was imported from various countries including 1906 tonnes from Chinese Taipei & Peoples' Republic of China. The import data for the year 1993-94 will be available only after the expiry of the year

(d) Under the Advance Licensing Scheme of the EXIM Policy, the exporters have been allowed the facility to import their raw silk requirements for export production, at international prices, from various countries including China. However, in exceptional circumstances, when there is an acute shortage of supply in the domestic market causing distress to the weavers especially of the handloom sector, limited imports of raw silk are allowed under close supervision

(e) The VIIIth Plan target for export of silk textile products is about Rs 3000 crores

STATEMENT

State-wise Production of Raw Silk (in Metric tonnes) during 1992-93

State	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total
Andhra Pradesh	3139	1	-	-	3140
Assam	20	-	389	60	469
Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	5	-	6
Bihar	43	265	31	-	339
Gujarat	1	-	-	-	1
Himachal Pradesh	9	-	-	-	9
Jammu & Kashmir	23	-	-	-	23
Karnataka	7285	-	-	-	7285
Kerala	Neg.	-	-	-	Neg.
Madhya Pradesh	4	20	-	-	24
Maharashtra	2	2	-	-	4
Manipur	39	1	139	-	179
Mizoram	1	Neg.	1	Neg.	2
Meghalaya	1	-	137	-	138
Nagaland	1	Neg.	18	Neg.	19
Orissa	4	71	1	-	76

State	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total
Punjab	Neg.	-	-	-	Neg.
Rajasthan	Neg.	-	-	-	Neg.
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	1342	-	-	-	1342
Tripura	2	-	-	-	2
Uttar Pradesh	19	2	-	-	21
West Bengal	1064	20	6	-	1090
Total	13000	382	727	60	14169

Sale of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

1533. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have banned the sale of both basmati and non-basmati rice by the rice export oriented units in the domestic tariff areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the import of basmati, paddy and brown rice by these units has been prohibited; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it has helped in maintaining the balance between domestic and export requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON-
SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRI-
BUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Sale of rice in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) is not allowed as there is zero percent Custom Duty on rice and the 100% EOUs which are able to procure all their capital goods on duty-free basis could be placed in a position of unfair advantage relative to other rice mills in the DTA.

(c) and (d). Such imports are not considered in the best interest of the image of Indian basmati, nor in the interests of the basmati growers, and are, therefore, not allowed.

Changes in GATT Agreement

1534. SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-
TACHARYA: Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether before the GATT Agreement is finalised at the ministerial meeting scheduled for March, 1994, efforts are likely to be made to introduce suitable changes in the draft in order to take care of the concerns aired by environmental experts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) A Group on Environmental measures and International Trade has been working in GATT since 1991 to explore the interface between the two areas

A draft decision is being discussed for the Ministerial Conference of the Uruguay Round in April 1994 to draw up a programme of work to identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures to promote sustainable development and to make recommendations on whether and modifications of the provisions of the multi-lateral trading system are required

Area under tea plantation

1535 DR SAKSHIJI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total area under tea plantation in hectares at present in the country,

(b) whether the Government have increased the area to boost tea export, and

(c) if so, the area which has been brought under tea plantation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) The total area under tea plantation in India is estimated at around 4,23,000 hectares in 1992

(b) Tea Board has been encouraging entrepreneurs for undertaking activities of extension planting by providing long term loans and interest subsidy on bank loans under these schemes being operated by the Board since 1962 in order to increase production and also generate sufficient exportable surplus

(c) During the course of last three decades nearly 88 thousand hectares of land has been brought under extension planting of tea in various tea growing States

Export of flowers

1536 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether different kinds of flowers are being exported to different countries

(b) if so the details thereof,

(c) whether Indian flowers particularly mogras have great demand in the middle-east and Gulf countries, and

(d) if so the steps taken to increase the export of such flowers to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and (b) Exports of cut flowers during 1991-92 and 1992-93 were as follows

Year	Exports (in Rs lakhs)
1991-92	683 30
1992-93	844 37

Source Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority

(c) Indian flowers including mogras have a good demand in West Asia and the Gulf countries.

(d) Floriculture has been identified as a thrust area and steps have been initiated to take advantage of increasing world demand, including introduction of air freight subsidy on exports of cut flowers.

[*Translation*]

Externally aided projects

1537. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign aided

central projects running behind schedule, State-wise;

(b) the extent and the reasons for the delay in implementation thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of each project and the likely escalation therein; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the speedy implementation of those projects to avoid further escalation in cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d). A *Statement* is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT*Externally Aided Central Sector Projects in the Country*

S.No.	Name of the project	Original/ Revised Date of Completion	Reasons for delay	Original Cost/ Revised Cost	Measures taken to avoid further cost escalation
1.	NARP-II (World Bank) AP, Assam, Bihar, Guj., Hary., HP, MP, Kar., Kerala, Maha, Or., Pun., Raj., TN, UP, WB & J&K.	30.6 1993/ 30.6 1994	Slow progress made by agricultural universities of Himachal Pradesh & Bihar	Rs 133 12 cr	State Governments asked to take necessary steps/measures
2.	Tourism Infrastructure Dev. Project (IDP-54) (Japan) - Bihar, UP & Central Component	20 1 1994/ 20 1 1996	Delayed start because of infrastructure problems and problems because of availability of funds by the State Governments	Yen 9244 million/ Yen 9244 million	Min of Tourism advised to monitor implementation on a regular basis
3.	Railway-I (LN. 857-IND) (ADB) Central	30 1 1993/ 31 3 1997	Delay in finalising contracts for procurement of locomotives	Rs 524 cr	The contract for procurement of locomotives has since been finalised and no escalation cost is expected except due to exchange rate adjustment The project is now running satisfactorily

S.No.	Name of the project	Original/ Revised Date of Completion	Reasons for delay	Original Cost/ Revised Cost	Measures taken to avoid further cost escalation
4.	1st Telecom (ADB) Central	28.2.1993/ 30.6.1995	Change in scope of the project due to development of indigenous technology and delay in finalisation of contracts for procurement.	Rs. 322 cr.	The entire project is expected to be completed by the loan closing date 30.6.95. The project is now running satisfactorily.
5.	2nd Telecom (ADB) Central	31.12.1992/ 31.12.1994	Delay in finalising contracts.	Rs. 380 cr.	The project is expected to be completed by the closing date of 31.12.94
6.	Private Voluntary Organisations for Health-II (USAID) Multistate	30.9.1995/ 31.8.1997	(i) Expansion of project scope. (ii) Delay in construction activities. (iii) Delay in procurement of equipment. (iv) Poor response from private organisations under PVOH II.	US \$ 13.41 mln. US \$ 13.41 mln.	Project authorities requested to review the project activities on regular basis so as to adhere to the time schedule.
7.	Plant Genetic Resources (USAID)	30.9.1995/ 30.9.1997	(i) Expansion of project scope.	US \$ 21.66 mln./ US \$ 23.95 mln.	Project authorities requested to review the project

Central Project - Situated in Delhi	(ii) Delay in construction activities. (iii) Delay in procurement of equipment.	activities on regular basis so as to adhere to the time schedule.
8. Tehri Hydro Power Complex (2400 MW) and Associated Transmission System (800 KV) (USSR) - UP	June 1996/ 1998-99 With the disintegration of the Soviet Union in December, 1991, the availability of the credit is not clear. Hence the project is affected for want of funds.	Considering the constraint of funds and escalation of cost, it has been decided to take up initially Tehri Stage-I at a total cost of Rs. 2963.66 crores.
9. Koraput Rayagada Railway Line Project. (Saudi Fund for Development) Orissa, MP.	30.9.1990/ 31.12.1993 (Extension being sought)	Adequate steps such as increase in rates of contractors have been taken to complete the work.
10. Ramagundam Terminal Power Project Stage-II - AP (Saudi Fund for Development)	The implementation of the project was slow initially.	Adequate steps have been taken to improve the speed of the implementation of the project and the project is in completion stage.

S.No.	Name of the project	Original/ Revised Date of Completion	Reasons for delay	Original Cost/ Revised Cost	Measures taken to avoid further cost escalation
11.	Gas Pipeline (IDP-37) (Japan)	18.12.1993/ 17.12.1995	Because of court case between GAIL and the consortium of Foreign companies.	Yen 18904 million/ Yen 18904 million	GAIL asked to expedite court cases.
12.	Cement Industry (L.N. 2660-IN) (World Bank)	30.6.1992/ 30.6.1994	Delay in implementation of project by beneficiary cement companies.	Rs. 495.34 cr./	All the project components are expected to be completed by the loan closing date of 30.6.94.
13.	Rolling Stock Modernization Workshop Prj. (IDP-66) (Japan) TN, Bihar	27.3.1995/ 27.3.1996	Non-conclusion of consultancy contract with the foreign company.	Yen 1256 million/ Yen 1256 million	Matter being followed up with OECF and Railway Board. Consultancy contract likely to be concluded shortly.
14.	Uri Hydro Electric Project (SIDA) - J&K	28.11.89/ 21.11.95	The project is slightly behind schedule due to political situation in J&K.	Rs. 1632.62 cr./ Rs. 3424.40 cr.	Efforts are being made by the project authorities to implement the project within schedule.
15.	National Family Welfare Programme (IV India Population Project) - West Bengal	31.8.93/ 31.3.94	Scope of the project has been widened to cover more project activities.	Rs. 107.47 cr./ Rs. 117.12 cr.	Project scheduled to close on 31.3.1994.

16. NCTPP - Dadri (Unit-4) May, 1993/
(World Bank) - UP June, 1994
- i) Delay in civil works by Rs. 1063.60 cr./
M/s. NBCC and other Rs. 1669.21 cr.
agencies
- ii) Delay in supply and erection by BHEL/Sub agencies.
- iii) Delay in availability of land for Rly. siding work.
- Steam Blowing under progress. Expected synchronisation by June 94 as per schedule.
17. Kahaigaon STPP (Unit-2) Jan., 92/
(Russian Aid) - Bihar April 94
- Delay in supplies from Russia and I.R. problems at site.
- Steam blowing completed on 22.02.94 formalisation is in progress.
18. Kahaigaon STPP (Unit-3) July 92/
(Russian Aid) - Bihar June 95
- Due to delay in the supply of Russian materials and IR problems at site the contractors sought higher rates for balance works and This slowed down the work. Rs. 884.16 cr.
necessitated re-tendering of one of the major packages viz. HP piping. Rs. 1928.45 cr.
- Boiler erection and welding works are in progress.
19. Kahaigaon STPP (Unit-4) Jan., 93
(Russian Aid) - Bihar March, 96
- Due to delay in the supply of Russian materials and IR problems at site the contractors sought higher rates for balance works and slowed down the work. This
- Boiler erection work is in progress.

S.No.	Name of the project	Original/ Revised Date of Completion	Reasons for delay	Original Cost/ Revised Cost	Measures taken to avoid further cost escalation
			necessitated re-tendering of one of the major packages viz. HP piping.		
20.	Dadri Gas (Unit-6) (West Germany) - UP	Jan., 93 March 94	Delay due to major modification work of Bypass state Poor mobilisation by sub vendor of BHEL for TG.	Rs. 692.44 cr./ Rs. 960.35 cr.	Boiler erection work is in progress.
21.	Chamera H.E. Project (Stage-I) - HP (Canadian Assistance)	March, 1990 March, 1994	Delay in drawal of agree- ment with the Canadian Firms, Delay in obtaining Forest clearances, land acquisition, adverse geological conditions in underground works etc.	Rs. 809.29 cr./ Rs. 2400 cr.	The progress of the progress is being monitored and remedial measures are being taken.
22.	Dulhasi Hydro-electric project in J&K. (French Assistance)				The contract for turnkey execution of the project was awarded in September 1989 to a French consortium of firms led by M/s. Cegelec. The project was scheduled to be completed and commissioned in 57 months from the date of order to commence work which was given in October, 1989. The French Consortium suspended construction of works in the project in mid - 1992

- due to deteriorating security conditions in the project - area.
At present, Govt. of India is having dialogue with the French consortium to resolve this issue.
23. HBJ Gas Pipeline (French Assistance) Maharashtra, Delhi, UP, MP, Gujarat
- Gail had awarded in May, 1986 a contract to a consortium led by M/s. Spie Capag of France, which also consisted of Toyo Engineering and NKK of Japan for construction of the HBJ pipeline project. The contract price amounted to approximately US \$ 568 million. A commercial dispute arose between the GAIL and the French consortium, due to which implementation of the project has been suspended for the time being. The issue is being sought to be resolved through negotiations between the concerned parties.
24. Northern Region Transmission System for Nathpa Jhakri Power Prj., HP, Punjab
- Apr. 96/
Mar. 98
- Project re-scheduled due to delay in commissioning of the generation project.
- Rs. 1402.82 cr./
Rs. 1402.82 cr
- Transmission system planned in such a way that it will be available in time matching with the evacuation requirement of the generation project.
25. Transmission System-Kathalguri Gas Based Power Prj. — Assam
- Mar. 92/
May 95/
- (i) The Prj. implementation rescheduled due to non-availability of adequate funds in time from the Govt. & delay in commissioning of Kathalguri Power Project.
(ii) Law & Order Problems.
(iii) Difficult site conditions.
- (i) Transmission Project will be available for evacuation of power in time.
(ii) Matter taken up with the concerned State authorities from time to time to provide adequate security to the project authorities.

S.No.	Name of the project	Original/ Revised Date of Completion	Reasons for delay	Original Cost/ Revised Cost	Measures taken to avoid further cost escalation
26.	Transmission System- Farakka-II- Durgapur- Jhamshepur 400 KV line West Bengal	Jun. 92/ Mar. 94	(i) Law & Order Problem (ii) Cutting of erected tower parts and theft of strung Aluminium Conductor (iii) Poor performance by contractors.	Rs. 190.76 cr./ Rs. 252.47 cr.	(i) Matter taken up with the concerned State authorities from time to time. (ii) Additional security being provided by the local Police authorities. (iii) The entire system for one line which is primarily meant for providing reliability of the system.

[English]

Sick Companies

1538. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose structural changes to expedite liquidation of sick companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof along-with their present status;

(c) the time frame by which the proposed changes are likely to be finalised; and

(d) the implications of the proposed structural reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d). The Companies Bill, 1993, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 1993 proposes inter-alia the following changes:

- (i) To do away with the provisions of winding up subject to supervision of Court;
- (ii) To prescribe provision to enable appointment of professionally qualified persons as Liquidators for expeditious completion of winding up proceedings;
- (iii) Provision for empanelment of authorised auctioneers to help expeditiously realise assets of the companies in liquidation;

(iv) To provide for acceptance of entries in the books of accounts being admitted in evidence; and

(v) To authorise voluntary liquidators to file misfeasance proceedings without the need to report to Central Government with a view to cutting short the existing cumbersome and lengthy procedure.

Overseas Joint-Ventures

1539. SHRI PRAKAS V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey relating to the performance of overseas joint-ventures with Indian firms;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the weaknesses/shortcomings of Indian Joint-Ventures abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Although functioning of Indian Joint Ventures abroad has resulted in net inflows of foreign exchange, analysis of some larger Indian Joint Ventures revealed that repatriation projections made at the time of application have not been fully met by actual performance.

(c) In order to promote Indian Joint ventures abroad and to facilitate their operation, Govt. have liberalized procedures for establishment of Indian Joint Ventures and introduced greater flexibility in their functioning.

[*Translation*]

**Foreign Assistance for Development
Projects in Madhya Pradesh**

1540. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved foreign assistance for some development projects in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which this assistance is proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The details of ongoing projects approved by the Government in Madhya Pradesh with foreign assistance are given in the attached *statement*.

STATEMENT

List of Ongoing Projects Approved with Foreign Assistance in Madhya Pradesh

(*In Million*)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Sector	Loan	Donor Agency
1.	Indra Sarovar Hydro Electric Power Project	Power	US \$ 44.4	WB
2.	Strengthening of disaster Management Institute Bhopal	Industry	NOK 1.95	Norway
3.	Rewa Hospital Project	Health	US \$ 10.00	OPEC
4.	Health Care Project Ph. II	Family Welfare	DKR. 62.9	Denmark
5.	M.P. Women in Agriculture	Agriculture	DKR. 12.6	Denmark
6.	M.P. Water Supply Ph. II	Urban	DM 45	Germany
7.	Dam Safety Project (Multi-State)	Irrigation.	US \$ 154.37	World Bank
8.	National Water Management Project (Multi-State)	-do-	US \$ 127.27	-do-
9.	Population VI Project (Multi-State)	Social	US \$ 119.08	-do-
10.	National Aids Control (Multi-State)	Health	US \$ 84.0	-do-

(In Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Sector	Loan	Donor Agency
11.	Child Survival & Safe Motherhood (Multi-State)	Health	US \$ 214.5	World Bank
12.	Technical Education-I (Multi-State)	Education	US \$ 218.21	-do-
13.	National Leprosy Eradication Project (Multi-State)	Health	US \$ 85.0	-do-
14.	ICDS-II (Multi-State)	Social	US \$ 194.0	-do-
15.	Indore Slum Improvement Proj.	Urban	£14.4	UK
16.	NARP-II	Agriculture	US \$ 78.93	World Bank

*[English]***EOUs Scheme**

1541. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Oriented Units (EOUs) Scheme has become less attractive following the liberalisation and many of them have sought permission to opt out of this scheme and change to Domestic Tariff Area Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Growth of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) has generally maintained a positive trend.

A few units have sought permission to opt out of the Scheme for reasons such as technological obsolescence, fluctuations in the international market and financial/management problems. Some of the steps taken to improve the performance of EOUs include simplification of policy framework, reduction of duty on domestic sales, higher access to the local market for agro-based products and delegation of powers to Development Commissions of EPZs in respect of EOUs.

Foreign Visits

1542. SHRI RABI RAY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Secretaries of all the Min-

istries/Departments not to associate themselves with symposia, seminars and exhibitions abroad without the clearance by the Screening Committee of the Secretaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Secretaries, with the approval of their Ministers, had communicated acceptance of invitations for their visits abroad to participate in symposia and seminars organised by those organisations that had dealings with their Ministries; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). According to extant instructions, proposals for foreign visits by officers of the level of Secretaries and Additional Secretaries to the Government of India require prior approval of the Screening Committee of Secretaries. While considering such proposals, it came to notice recently that some Secretaries had accepted invitations for visits abroad to participate in Symposia, Seminars, etc. Instructions were, therefore, issued that Secretaries/Additional Secretaries should not accept any invitation for participation in Symposia, Seminars, etc., without prior clearance from the Screening Committee of Secretaries.

World Bank Assistance for integrated Rural Water Supply and Environment Project

1543. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent the Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environment Project for World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the number of villages to be covered under the proposed project; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 447.2 crores.

(c) The project is expected to cover about 1200 villages in 12 districts of Karnataka.

(d) The Government of India had posed the project to the World Bank and an agreement was signed on 4-6-93 for IDA assistance of \$ 92 million for the project.

Horticulture Exports

1544. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
DR. D. VENKATESWAR RAO:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI ANANTRAO
DESHMUKH:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

1990-91 as per compilation of DGCI&S were as under:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the India's share in the world trade of horticulture products;

(b) the total quantity of horticulture product exported and foreign exchange earned there from during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any new scheme or action plan to boost the export of horticulture products;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the private sector has desired to invest in this sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have received any foreign assistance for the development of horticulture; and

(h) if so, the details of the projects identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) India's share is less than 1% of the world trade.

(b) Details of export of fruits, vegetables and floriculture products since

Year	Exports (In crores)
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1990-91	221.12
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1991-92	363.79
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1992-93	374.64
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1993-94 (Apr.-Nov.)	256.56
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(c) and (d). Government (Ministry of Agriculture) has formulated a comprehensive scheme for the promotion of production of horticulture crops with an outlay of Rs. 1000 crores, during the 8th Five Year Plan. With the increased availability of horticulture produce, enough surplus will be available for export purposes.

(e) and (f). Exports of horticultural produce (with the exception of a few products like onions, which is canalised for export), are allowed on a decontrolled basis. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has a number of schemes to encourage investment in post-harvest handling and market development for export of horticulture products. The private sector has also availed of the benefits of these schemes.

(g) and (h). UNDP has expressed its willingness to help in the development of exports of horticulture produce including spices from India. No final decision in the matter has been taken.

Foreign visits by Central Ministers

1545. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Union Ministers who visited foreign countries to promote bilateral trade and co-operation during 1993 and 1994, so far, alongwith the names of the countries visited;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of those visited by the Union Government and the Indian Missions in those countries separately; and

(c) the outcome of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Sub-Committee on N.T.C.

1546. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-committee of the Special Committee on N.T.C. has submitted its report;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The Sub-Committee of the Special Committee on NTC matters submitted its report to the Special Committee on NTC matters. The main recommendations of the Sub-Committee are as follows:—

1. The reports given by the Research Institutions show that the NTC mills can be made viable by modernisation.
2. The Sub-Committee, therefore, accepts the proposal of modernisation of the mills. But the restructuring with modernisation has to be done at each unit level.
3. If the composite character of certain mills is not possible, then they should be made viable by running spinning units. Surplus land may be disposed off to utilise the interest free fund for modernisation, working capital and to make them viable.
4. Modernisation/rationalisation without tears therefore should be carried out in consultation with the unions.
5. Professional management should be introduced both in the Holding

Company and at the subsidiary levels and representation of trade unions should be ensured upto Board level for effective participation of workers in management at all levels from unit to Holding Company level.

The Special Committee on NTC has not yet finalised its report.

Spinning Mills in Maharashtra

1547. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for setting up of spinning mill projects forwarded by the Government of Maharashtra during the last two years pending clearance with the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to those projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). No proposals for setting up of cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra have been pending for clearance. As per information given by National Cooperative Development Corporation out of 5 projects forwarded by Government of Maharashtra to National Cooperative Development Corporation for posing them before International Funding Agencies, 4 have been referred to Ministry of Finance.

It is difficult to indicate the time by which funding is secured for those.

Note Printing Project

1548. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDLWAL:
SHTI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India's note printing project has taken a new dimension with a third bidder claiming to have a cheaper and better technology;

(b) if so, the technology and bidder selected;

(c) the estimated cost of the project, particularly its foreign exchange component and its proposed location; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to start printing of notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). There are only two parties in the field for supply of plant and equipment for the new note press project.

(c) The estimated cost of the project would be about Rs. 1,500 crores with a foreign exchange component of about Rs. 1,000 crores. The proposed location of the two plants are Mysore in Karnataka and Salboni in West Bengal.

(d) Initial line of production is expected to become operational in 18 months after placement of order and the entire presses will come on stream in 39 months after placement of the order.

World Bank Loan for Earthquake Victims

1549. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM.
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank loan for the earthquake relief for Maharashtra has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and the amount of loan/assistance provided/likely to be provided by the World Bank;

(c) the rate of interest to be charged by the World Bank and the rate of interest to be charged by the Union Government from the State Government;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any request from State Government to cut the rate of interest; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e). Government of Maharashtra had requested that the proposed World Bank credit be passed on to the State Government on the same terms and conditions as it is received by Government of India. However, State Government have been advised that this may not be advantageous to them as such a system would necessitate the State Government bearing the exchange risk for repayments over the amortisation period.

Smuggling in Eastern Coast

1550 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of arms and drugs has increased in the Eastern Coast,

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected in the Eastern Coast during 1993; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it cannot be categorically stated whether it has increased or otherwise.

The number of cases relating to arms and narcotics detected by anti-smuggling agencies of Ministry of Finance

on the Eastern Coast during 1993 are as follows:—

	No. of cases
Arms	3
Narcotics drugs	74

(c) Anti-smuggling activities have been intensified along the coastal areas, including the Eastern Coast. Ships coming from sensitive ports are rummaged, thoroughly. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all Central and State agencies concerned with detection and prevention of such smuggling.

I.F.A.D. Loan

1551. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Fund for Agricultural Development intends to give loan for development of projects in rural areas;

(b) if so, the total amount offered by I.F.A.D. to the Government of India;

(c) the projects in which the Government propose to utilise these funds, State-wise;

(d) the proposed allocation of funds, State-wise; and

(e) the mode of repayment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The total quantum of IFAD assistance to India so far is \$ 261.3 million. Out of 9 approved projects, 5 projects have closed and 4 projects are under implementation. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the quantum of assistance likely to be made available to India by IFAD in the near future or the details of the projects wherein these funds would be utilised.

(e) The loans are to be repaid according to the standard terms and conditions as laid out in the Loan Agreement.

Thanjavur Civil Airport

1552. SHRI K.T. VANDAYAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far on development of the Thanjavur civil airport;

(b) whether flights are being operated from the airports; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Thanjavur airport was handed over by National Airports Authority to Indian Air Force in September, 1989 to meet their operational requirements.

[Translation]

Bank Frauds

1553. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of malpractices and frauds in various banks of the country have increased considerably,

(b) if so, whether the exporters are facing great inconvenience due to these frauds in the banks

(c) whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps to obviate the inconvenience being faced by the exporters,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) The number of cases of malpractices and frauds in Public Sector Banks reported to RBI in 1991, 1992 and 1993 (September) were 1559, 1717, 1612 respectively

(b) The incidents of frauds, inter-alia may have caused inconvenience to the customers including the exporters

(c) and (d) Some of the major measures taken to obviate the inconvenience being faced by exporters are as follows

- (i) It has been decided to set up with the help of State Governments and other organisations, State Level Export Promotion Committees (SLEPC), to exclusively deal with matters relating to exports
- (ii) RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks to pay compensation stipulated in terms of circular issued by Foreign Ex-

change Dealers' Association of India in April, 1992 in lieu of delay in affording credit in respect of credit advices complete in all respects to the exporter without waiting for a demand from him

- (iii) RBI have also advised the banks to have a fresh look at the systems, procedures, organisational arrangements and delegation of powers so as to ensure that adequate credit is available to the export sector without delay

(e) Does not arise

[English]

Tea Production in West Bengal

1554 SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of varieties of tea which are being produced in West Bengal,

(b) the average quantity and quality of tea being produced, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to improve the quality, quantity and marketing of tea produced in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Three types of teas viz. CTC, Orthodox and Green tea are produced in West Bengal. Estimated production of these

varieties of tea in West Bengal during 1993 has been as under:

Type	Production (M.Kgs.)
CTC	151.41
Orthodox	13.04
Green Tea	3.57
Total:	168.02

(c) In order to increase production and improve quality of teas, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. Under these schemes tea gardens are provided financial and technical assistance for overall development. Nature of assistance include term loans, capital subsidy, interest subsidy on bank loan, grants-in-aid etc. for various developmental activities. Besides these grants, are also being provided to the Tea Research Association for strengthening research activities and in turn augmenting tea production by improving the quality, and productivity. Having regard to the uniqueness of the Darjeeling tea, a special scheme has been formulated for an integrated development of the tea gardens in Darjeeling. Under this scheme, the gardens are allowed to take loan from a single window under refinance scheme of NABARD. The interest on the Bank loan is subsidised by Tea Board @ 5.1% p.a. Secondly, in order to promote quality image of Darjeeling tea in the international market, a logo has been introduced by the Tea Board as a mark of identification of 100% pure Darjeeling tea.

Loan to Farmers

1555. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan disbursed by Public Sector banks to farmers in the country during 1992-93 and 1993-94 so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of farmers benefited in each State;

(c) whether the farmers have to face a lot of difficulties in getting the loan in time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). The State-wise disbursement of advances to agriculture and allied activities by Public Sector Banks is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e). Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for simplifying and liberalising lending procedures. These guidelines provide for:

- (i) Prescription of scale of finance for crop loans. These scales of finance are reviewed annually to take care of escalation of cost.
- (ii) Disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.
- (iii) Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan

applications are sanctioned at branch level itself

- (iv) No collateral security is to be taken by way of mortgage of land/charge on land or third party guarantee on crop loan upto Rs 15 000/- and term loan upto Rs 15 000/- where moveable assets are created. The limit is Rs 5000/- in cases where immovable assets are created.
- (v) No margin is required for agricultural loans upto Rs 10 000/- for short term, medium/long term loans.

Production of Cotton

1556 SHRI H D DEVEGOWDA
DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA
SHRI GUMAN MAL
LODHA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
RAI
SHRI SIMON MARANDI
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH
SHRI RAMCHANDRA
VEERAPPA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of cotton produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of cotton required for domestic consumption during the above period,

(c) the prices of cotton in the world market as compared to Indian market during the last three years,

(d) the quantity of cotton exported during the above period alongwith the names of the countries to which it was exported, and

(e) the target fixed for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) and (b) The quantity of cotton produced in the country and its consumption during the last three years is as follows

	(Qty in lakh bales of 170 kg each)		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Production	117 00	119 00	135 00
Consumption	115 50	111 09	125.01

(c) and (d) A *Statement* is enclosed

(e) No target fixed for cotton export

STATEMENT

(c) Prices of some important domestic varieties of cotton and their equivalent international varieties prevalent in February'94 and in the corresponding month in 1992-93 and 1991-92 respectively.

Unit:-	Indian variety Rs. per Kg FOB Foreign variety Rs. per kg c 18		
	Feb. '92	Feb. '93	Feb. '94
1. a) Indian variety J-34(SG)	38.18	22.36	41.34
b) Foreign equivalent variety Orleans Texas	32.68	42.12	55.67
2. A) Indian Variety-H4 MP	36.56	26.29	43.87
b) Equivalent foreign variety Kelif Arizh	35.67	43.96	56.70
3. a) Indian variety-Shankar-6	41.06	29.53	47.80
b) Equivalent foreign variety Kelif Akala	38.53	41.64	58.61
4. a) Indian variety DCH-32	64.11	46.11	67.49
b) Equivalent foreign variety American Puma	65.07	64.19	72.61

(d) The quantity of cotton exported during the period 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as under:—

1990-91 Qty. in lakh bales of 170 kgs
Value: in crores rupees.

Sl. No.	Name of country	Qty.	Value
1.	Taiwan	1.11	58.11
2.	Hongkong	2.26	127.30
3.	Bangkok	0.35	20.48
4.	Japan	1.81	93.40
5.	Singapore	0.12	6.13
6.	Malesia	0.165	7.77
7.	Germany	0.077	4.64
8.	Poland	0.215	10.79
9.	Lespezia	0.08	3.95
10.	Italy	0.12	6.73
11.	Sri Lanka	0.178	9.80
12.	Indonesia	0.32	18.62

Sl. No.	Name of country	Qty.	Value
13.	Bangladesh	0.09	4.66
14.	Spain	0.43	23.13
15.	Belgium	0.28	13.60
16.	Thailand	0.24	11.92
17.	England	0.93	50.81
18.	Czechoslovakia	0.17	9.42
19.	Rumania	0.12	6.46
20.	South Korea	0.74	38.53
21.	U.S.S.R.	0.80	26.86
22.	Switzerland	0.15	17.24
23.	Vietnam	0.54	28.73
24.	Others	0.571	21.46

Year	Name of Country	Qty.	Value
1991-92	1. Lahare	1729	0.87
	2. Belgum	7091	3.48
	3. Bremah	2028	1.03
	4. U.K.	2770	1.36
	5. Italy	2595	1.24
	6. Japan	54383	27.01
	7. Nepal	4484	2.81
	8. Others	2020	0.95
1992-93	1. Taiwan	7181	410.27
	2. Japan	203037	11076.72
	3. Malesia	14839	848.09
	4. Thailand	171402	8116.64
	5. Sri Lanka	24105	1362.94
	6. Bengladesh	30692	1417.36

Year	Name of Country	Qty.	Value
	7. Indonesia	147191	8945.78
	8. Hongkong	387799	19248.01
	9. Phillipines	82740	4315.28
	10. England	42021	2276.40
	11. Brazil	128286	7455 06
	12. Nepal	9597	554.69
	13. Turkey	6000	358.77
	14. Romania	37457	2160 94
	15. Switzerland	11037	606 33
	16. Belgium	38174	1720 96
	17. Singapur	21765	996 56
	18. Others	13295	666.40

Finance to IRD Loanees in Orissa

1557. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks are very much reluctant to finance the I.R.D. loanees in Orissa in the name of less recovery achieved in this sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). There is a physical target of 1,65,479 families to be assisted

under the Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Programme in the State of Orissa during the year 1993-94. Out of this 54,343 families were assisted upto December, 1993. Noticing some reluctance on the part of some public sector banks to finance IRDP loanees particularly the districts of Bhadrak and Balasore in Orissa due to poor recovery performance, RBI has recently issued instructions to all scheduled Commercial Banks advising them to review the position of target fixed for the banks vis-a-vis achievements and to gear up the machinery to ensure proper implementation of the programme.

Financial Assistance to priority Sectors in Gujarat

1558. SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance/loan through bank provided to the rural employment oriented sections in Gujarat like Khadi Village Industry, Cottage Industry, Agro-Industries pumping sets and agricultural equipment in Gujarat during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 so far, and

(b) the amount of financial assistance/loan proposed to be provided during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for in the Question. However, the amount of financial assistance for various sub-sectors under annual credit plans (ACPs) for the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 for Gujarat State, are as under

<i>(Rs in crores)</i>			
Sectors	1991-92 (as on 31 3 92)	1992-93 (as on 31 3 93)	1993-94 (as on 30 6 93)
Agriculture & Allied activities	766 88	877 17	370 25
Small Scale Industries	176 72	244 53	43 72
Services	85 61	87 22	12 93
	1029 21	1208 92	426 90

[Translation]

Development of Civil Aviation in Madhya Pradesh

1559 SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the target fixed and funds allocated for development and construction work in the field of civil aviation in Madhya Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) The National Airports Au-

thority have allocated Rs 35 20 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan for upgradation and modernisation of airports in Madhya Pradesh

[English]

Loan for Banking Sector

1560 SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV
SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA)
SHRI NITISH KUMAR

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the World Bank has offered loan for reforms in the country's banking sector,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the World Bank and IMF have also expressed their disappointment with the pace of reforms in the country's banking sector,

(d) if so the basic deficiencies pointed out by the World Bank and IMF in this regard

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government for reforming the financial sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) Discussions have been held with the World Bank on a possible loan connected with Financial sector reforms. This matter remains under discussion

(c) No Sir

(d) and (e) The basic deficiencies in the country's banking sector have already been pointed out by the Narasimhan Committee which has also made its recommendations on how to address them. The Government propose to undertake reforms in this Sector in a phased manner based on these recommendations

(f) The measures taken by Government for reforming the financial sector in the country include reduction of statu-

tory liquidity and cash reserve requirements, development of Government securities market, rationalisation of the interest structure, strengthening of banking supervision and encouraging competition through entry of new private sector banks. The broad approach to further reform in this direction being considered by the Government are contained in Discussion Paper titled "Public Sector Commercial Banks and Financial Sector Reforms, Rebuilding for a Better Future", copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library

Export of Bananas

1561 SHRI VILASRAO NAG-NATHRAO GUNDEWAR Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of bananas exported and the foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years, country-wise,

(b) the target fixed for the year 1993-94,

(c) the extent to which it has been achieved,

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to increase the banana production in the country, and

(e) the States leading in banana production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) Export figures of bananas for the year 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given below:—

Commodity/ Countries	Unit of Qty.	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
BANANAS, including plantations, fresh or dried	Kgs.						
Austria		-	-	-	-	-	-
Baharain IS		16893	143	10348	174	5185	67
Bangladesh		-	-	6016	36	3000	16
GFR		700	10	2150	30	96516	1328
CIS		-	-	-	-	244523	5031
Israel		-	-	15480	241	-	-
Hong Kong		-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece		-	-	-	-	46440	795
Kuwait		-	-	30392	313	12029	80
Maldives		-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal		251633	305	470457	768	816148	2124
Mozambique		-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherland		-	-	-	-	99940	930
Oman		-	-	120	1	-	-
Qatar		2554	19	4333	50	6906	75
Saudi Arab		15104	124	101912	996	18873	184
Switzerland		-	-	-	-	-	-
U.A.E.		3317	33	6281	58	2610	34
U.K.		25	-	205	4	-	-
U.S.A.		-	-	-	-	780	1
U.S.S.R.		-	-	2000	23	-	-
		290226	634	655694	2693	1352890	10665

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta).

(b) and (c). No separate target for export of bananas has been fixed.

(d) Government of India is implementing a scheme of Integrated Devel-

opment of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zones Fruits with an outlay of Rs 74 40 crores during the 8th Plan This scheme includes various fruits including banana Under this scheme, it is proposed to lay Banana Demonstration Plots (124 Nos) expand area under banana plantations (5598 Hecs) The programme includes training to farmers for increasing productivity in fruits

(e) The leading banana producing States are Maharashtra Tamil Nadu Gujarat Madhya Pradesh Andhra Pradesh and Assam

Setting up of Export Promotion Cell

1562 SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Export Promotion Cell in each Ministry

(b) if so the objectives thereof and

(c) whether the Government are considering to appoint export professionals to head such cells in each Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) to (c) Yes Sir The Govt has decided to create One-man export promotion Desk/Cell in each Ministry to look into and follow up all complaints/grievances/problems/suggestions relating to exports The Cell is to be headed by an officer not below the rank of Director

Fashion Designing Institute

1563 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more fashion designing institute in the country on the pattern of NIFT and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) and (b) Government are examining the feasibility of setting up a few more institutes of fashion technology in important garment manufacturing centres by involving the concerned state governments as well as industry in raising the required resources and in managing the institutes

[Translation]

Subsidy for non-Banking FIs

1564 DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA SHRI NITISH KUMAR

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned subsidy for non-banking FIs may be scrapped appearing in Telegraph dated February 1, 1994,

(b) if so, whether the Government have been providing subsidy to non-banking financial institutions for the last several years,

(c) if so, the reasons and criteria fixed therefor,

(d) the amount of subsidy provided to these institutions during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93

(e) whether it is also a fact that financial assistance was sought by these institutions

(f) if so the basis on which assistance was sought and

(g) the reasons for not giving loan to these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) Yes Sir

(b) to (d) There is no scheme of providing subsidy to the All India Financial Institutions by Government or from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) However in the case of Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) the excess of expenditure over income till the year ended March 31 1991 was to be met by receivables from the Government of India The reimbursement provided to IRBI on this account during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 was Rs 2 crore, Rs 5 crore and Rs 5 crore respectively

(e) to (g) RBI has reported that under the various provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, some of the All India Financial Institutions can seek financial assistance from them Normally, the financial institutions assess their resource requirements based on their lending policy, sanctions approved, percentage of recovery, resource gap and ap-

proach RBI for assistance as also tap the capital market for long term borrowings and money market for short term funds requirement

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure

1565 SHRI RAJNATH SONKER
SHASTRI
SHRI ANKUSHRAO
RAOSAHEB TOPE
DR Y S RAJASEKHAR
REDDY
SHRI CHITTA BASU
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO
SHRI SHIBU SOREN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether an economy drive was launched to bring down wasteful expenditure in the Government offices,

(b) if so when was that drive started and the results achieved so far,

(c) the number of Union Ministers who had visited foreign countries in each of the last 12 months and how does that compare with the preceding 36 months,

(d) the steps taken to curb these visits, and

(e) the fresh initiatives being taken/proposed to be taken to curb wasteful expenditure by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a), (b) and (e). Keeping the Government expenditure under control is a continuous process. Instructions relating to various

economy measures, such as, reduction in posts at various levels, ban on air travel by first class, ban on accommodation in hotel suites while on tour, reduction in consumption/expenditure on petrol/diesel, restriction on expenditure on OTA, surrender of telephone lines, restriction on conferences, seminars and purchase of vehicles etc., have been issued from time to time. Information in regard to savings on account of these measures is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d). Foreign visits are undertaken by Ministers only when it is essential in discharge of their official duties. The information regarding the foreign visits of Central Ministers is not centrally compiled.

Hosiery Export

1566. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope to increase hosiery export from the country;

(b) if so, the details of the hosiery exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the hosiery export during Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a great scope to increase hosiery export from the country.

(b) The details of the hosiery exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are as follows:

Value in US Million \$

1991	542.40
1992	751.00
1993	1052.72

Source: Apparel Export Promotion Council

(c) Introduction of a unified market determined exchange rate system, convertibility of the rupee current account, facilitating import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production increased availability of exports credit, permission to retain the Foreign Exchange receipts to the extent of 25%, in Foreign Currency account, encouraging participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller Meets, Fairs, Exhibition etc. are some of the steps taken by the Government to increase exports including hosiery exports.

NTC Mills in Gujarat

1567. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills run by the National Textiles Corporation in Gujarat;

(b) the number of mills out of them running in losses;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to run those mills in profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) 11 Textile mills are being run by National Textile Corporation in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) All these mills are incurring losses on account of old and obsolete machinery low productivity, low capacity utilisation excess man-power, increase in the cost of cotton and other inputs etc

(d) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC including the mills of NTC in Gujarat The key elements of this strategy include selective modernisation financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce under Voluntary Retirement Scheme It is expected that NTC including its mills in Gujarat would be able to attain profitability in three years with the successful implementation of the Turn Around Strategy The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has been entrusted with the responsibility of the revival of the mills under NTC (Gujarat) Ltd under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985

[Translation]

**Jobless Workers of Closed Units of
M.P.**

1568 SHRI SATY NARAYAN JATIYA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the details of the industrial units closed down in Madhya Pradesh during 1993

(b) the number of workers rendered jobless due to the closure of those units, and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of the jobless workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P A SANGMA) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

**Bank Branches in Trans-Yamuna area
of Delhi**

1569 SHRI B L SHARMA PREM Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in trans-Yamuna area of Delhi bank-wise

(b) whether the people in this area of Delhi specially in rural areas are facing great difficulty due to shortage of bank branches and

(c) if so the details of the branches proposed to be opened in the above area during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) Bank-wise number of branches of Public Sector Banks functioning in trans-Yamuna area of Delhi is indicated below —

Name of Bank	No of branches
1 Allahabad Bank	1
2 Andhra Bank	1
3 Bank of Baroda	4
4 Bank of India	2
5 Bank of Maharashtra	2
6 Canara Bank	2

Name of Bank	No. of branches
7. Corporation Bank	1
8. Central Bank of India	6
9. Dena Bank	3
10. Indian Bank	1
11. Oriental Bank of Commerce	4
12. Punjab & Sind Bank	4
13. State Bank of India	22
14. Union Bank of India	2
15. United Bank of India	1
16. Vijaya Bank	3
17. Punjab National Bank	12
18. State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	2
19. State Bank of Patiala	2
20. State Bank of Saurashtra	1
21. Syndicate Bank	2
22. UCO Bank	2
23. State Bank of Travancore	1

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that they have not received any complaint from the people in the Trans-Yamuna area of Delhi about any difficulty being faced by them due to shortage of bank branches as such. However, the residents of Old Seemapuri had represented for opening of a Nationalised Bank in the colony. Under the Branch Expansion Plan, 1990-95, one centre each has been allotted to Corporation Bank and Oriental Bank of commerce for opening branches in Trans-Yamuna area and the necessary licences will be issued by RBI as and when the concerned banks approach after finalising the premises and other infrastructural facilities.

[English]

Balance of Trade

1570. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's balance of trade has sharply declined during the first ten months of the current year in comparison to the same period of last year;

(b) if so, the extent thereof indicating the import and export figures, in terms of rupees, SDRs and Dollars during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have achieved the export target fixed for 1993-94;

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap in our trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The details of imports exports and balance of trade during the first ten months of the current year and those for the corresponding period last year are given below:

In Rupee crores

	April Jan.	April-Jan.
	92-93	93-94
Imports	52206	57649
Exports	41922	55825
Balance of Trade	-10284	-1824

In US \$ Million

Imports	18256	18380
Exports	14660	17799
Balance of Trade	-3596	-581

In SDR Million

Imports	14255	13128
Exports	11447	12713
Balance of Trade	-2808	-415

(c) to (e). The ministry, in consultation with Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards, has fixed export target of US\$ 22.138 billion (Rs. 70842 crores) for 1993-94, which is about 20% higher than the actual exports of US\$ 18.537 billion (Rs. 53688 crores) during 1992-93. Exports during the first ten months (April-Jan. 93-94) are estimated at US\$ 17.799 billion (Rs. 55825 crores) registering an increase of 21.4%, in dollar terms, over the actual exports during the corresponding period last year. The export target for 1993-94 is likely to be achieved.

(f) The trade reforms introduced since July 1991 and strengthened in the

new Exim Policy 1992-97 have been further reinforced in the Budget for 1994-95. These are aimed at increasing export production, improving efficiency and sharpening the competitive edge of exports. It is expected that these measures will help reduce the trade deficit.

[Translation]

Pay Scale of LDCs and UDCs

1571. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:
DR LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revise the pay scales of LDCs and UDCs working in Central Government Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Proposal for revision of pay scales of LDCs and UDCs working in the Central Secretariat were received. The proposal pertaining to UDCs has been discussed in the Departmental Council of DOP & T. It has, however, not been possible to agree to the proposal. The matter has been referred to the Board of Arbitration and is pending. It has also been decided that the case of LDCs should be referred to the Fifth Pay Commission for their consideration.

[English]

**Sales Tax Evasion by Customs
Collectorate**

1572 SMT GIRIJA DEVI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Delhi Customs Collectorate has been found evading sales tax worth lakhs of rupees on sales from its disposal unit at the airport and other outlets including customs house

(b) if so the details thereof and the estimated amount of Sales Tax evaded

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard

(d) if so the findings thereof and

(e) the action being taken by the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b) There is a dispute between the Customs Department and Sales Tax Authorities Delhi on the leviability of sales tax on sale of confiscated goods which is pending decision before the Honble Sales Tax Tribunal Delhi

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

**Recovery of Income Tax and Corporate
Tax Arrears**

1573 SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA
DR CHINTA MOHAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a continuous increase in the realiable Income tax and Corporate tax arrears during the last three years

(b) if so the net realisable tax ar rears at present and at the end of the last three financial years

(c) whether the Government propose to take extra measures for timely and quick recovery of tax arrears

(d) if so the details thereof and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) Yes Sir The arrears have shown slight increase in the successive years

(b) The amount of cumulative ar rears of Income tax and Corporation tax for the last three financial years and upto January 94 s given below —

	<i>(Rs in Crores)</i>
1990-91	3936 42
1991-92	4219 02
1992-93	5149 33
1993-94 (upto Jan 94)	5924 60 (Prov)

These do not include demands stayed by Courts ITAT Settlement Commission, demand not fallen due and demands paid but pending verification Figure for 1993-94 include current as well as arrear demand

(c) to (e) High priority is given to the work of reduction of arrear demand

and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to reduce the same. In bigger cases, dossiers are maintained and the position is reviewed regularly. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of cases. Wherever the recovery proceedings are stayed by the courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures like attachment and sale of property, levy of penalty etc. are also taken by the Department in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand.

Improvement of Tobacco

1574. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to improve tobacco yields, grading practices and intrinsic quality of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the expenditure incurred on research and development and training of farmers alongwith the achievements made in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to improve the yield and quality of FCV tobacco and

grading standards by evolving high yielding varieties and improved cultural practices at the research stations and disseminating the research findings/recommendations to the farmers.

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

Export Growth

1575. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has advised India that rapid export growth required continued flexible management of exchange rate and further decontrol of restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). As a part of its strategy for balance of payment management and reform, since June 1991, the Government has initiated several measures aimed at rapid export growth. These include the introduction of Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (LERMS) in March 1992; unification of the exchange rate in March 1993 and further pruning of quantitative restrictions on exports in April 1993. The World Bank had

also, observed in its Country Economic Memorandum (CEM) dated 24th May, 1993 that continued flexible exchange rate management and removal of restrictions would be in the interest of export growth. More recently, in the Budget of 1994-95, full convertibility of the rupee on current account has been introduced.

Construction of Airports in Gujarat

1576. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to construct new airports in the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). No request has been received from the Government of Gujarat for construction of new airports in that State.

Losses in Cooperative Banks in Maharashtra

1577. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profits earned and losses incurred by District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) in Maharashtra during 1992-93;

(b) the reasons for incurring losses; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, by the Government to avoid such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The details of profits earned and losses incurred by District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) in Maharashtra during 1992-93 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c). The factors responsible for losses in two of the DCCBs include mainly the high level of overdues, high cost of management to working capital and insufficient interest margin spread. Action plans are formulated by the concerned DCCBs under active guidance of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank and the State Government to achieve breakeven point in the next few years.

STATEMENT

Details of profits earned and losses incurred by District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) in Maharashtra during 1992-93

(Rs. in lakhs)

No.	Name of Bank	Profit/Loss during 1992-93	
		Profit	Loss
1.	Maharashtra SCB	824.87	—
2.	Bombay DCCB	330.92	—
3.	Raigad DCCB	83.48	—
4.	Ratnagiri DCCB	106.41	—
5.	Sindhudurg DCCB	31.72	—
6.	Thane DCCB	128.19	—
7.	Ahmednagar DCCB	304.51	—
8.	Dhule DCCB	122.02	—
9.	Jalgaon DCCB	24.28	—
10.	Kolhapur DCCB	306.74	—
11.	Nasik DCCB	227.40	—
12.	Pune DCCB	4.04	—
13.	Sangli DCCB	201.83	—
14.	Satara DCCB	159.97	—
15.	Solapur DCCB	251.68	—
16.	Aurangabad DCCB	7.22	—
17.	Beed DCCB	20.27	—
18.	Jalna DCCB	—	114.73
19.	Latur DCCB	20.54	—
20.	Nanded DCCB	36.19	—
21.	Osmanabad DCCB	64.60	—
22.	Parbhani DCCB	52.36	—
23.	Akola DCCB	78.15	—
24.	Amravati DCCB	—	128.76
25.	Bhandara DCCB	31.56	—
26.	Buldana DCCB	21.92	—

(Rs in lakhs)

No	Name of Bank	Profit/Loss during 1992-93	
		Profit	Loss
27	Chandrapur DCCB	16 53	—
28	Gaochiroli DCCB	37 94	—
29	Nagpur DCCB	35 43	—
30	Wardha DCCB	15 80	—

Import of Textiles

1578 DR K D JESWANI Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of textile imported during 1993, category-wise and foreign exchange spent, and

(b) the measures proposed to be

taken to produce these goods in the country so as to save the foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) The details of total quantity and value of textiles imported during 1992-93 and April-November 1993 are as follows —

Item	Unit of Quantity	1992-1993		1993-1994 (upto Nov 93)	
		Quantity imported	Value (Rs crore)	Quantity Imported	Value (Rs crore)
Garments	Lac Pcs	6512 79	6 22	4544 75	4 64
Fabrics	Million Square Metre	24 17	144 56	21 26	127 43
Yarn	Tonnes	12436 00	169 51	12545 00	175 63
Made-ups	Tonnes	71905 00	150 94	42115 00	120 60
Knitted Fabrics	Tonnes	757 00	14 28	389 00	7.54

Source -DGCIS

(b) Most of the imports of Yarn and Fabrics are made under Advance Licensing Scheme for being used in export production. The Industrial Policy, the Trade Policy and the EXIM Policy, currently in force are designed to step-up production of all goods in the country including the goods referred to above.

[*Translation*]

Reforms in Loan Advancing System

1579 DR CHINTA MOHAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether a large number of cases of bad debts involving huge amount are pending in the courts

(b) if so whether the Government propose to bring reforms in the present system of advancing loans by banks and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) to (c) As at the end of September, 1992 (Latest available) the percentage of number of suit filed accounts and the amount involved in the same to their total advances was 1.94% and 3.06% respectively. The banks provide loans to credit worthy borrowers for taking up economically viable activity. At the time of sanction itself the cash flow is worked out and repayment schedule is fixed. Thus, the loans are sanctioned by banks only when they are satisfied about their repayment. However, in the operations of the account certain debts are likely to go bad for various reasons cre-

ating thereby overdues. With a view to identify the financial health status of various accounts and to take suitable remedial steps at the incipient stage itself of accounts which are in difficulty, the Reserve Bank of India has prescribed a uniform health code for all borrowal accounts of banks which become effective from 31st December, 1995. As per this scheme, each bank is required to monitor the health of its borrowal accounts and keep them in one of the 8 stipulated categories. Authorities in the banks are also expected to monitor more effectively their credit portfolio through this system. In the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Nationalised Banks with the Reserve Bank of India, the recovery of non-performing assets by constituting a Recovery Cell has been agreed to. The Cell is to be constituted at the Head Office which shall be under the charge of one of the General Managers. Branch-wise targets shall be fixed for recovery and reduction in non-performing assets and performance of different branches in recovery shall be monitored at Head Office level at periodic intervals by the Chief Executives.

[*English*]

Value of Rupee

1580 SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the purchasing value of rupee with base year 1960;

(b) whether the value of Indian rupee is constantly on decline; and

(c) if so, the extent to which it has declined during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The value of rupee in December, 1993 was 7.68 paise when measured as reciprocal of monthly Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with 1960 as base.

(b) and (c). The extent of decline in the purchasing power of Rupee during the last three years is shown below:

Period	Value of Rupee with 1960 as base year
1991 (average for whole year)	9.56 paise
1992 (average for whole year)	8.56 paise
1993 January	8.42 paise
1993 December	7.68 paise

Agreement with Singapore on promotion of Tourism

1581. SHRI ARVIND TULSIRAM
KAMBLE:
SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:

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

(a) whether India and Singapore have recently signed an agreement on promotion of tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir. An agreement on Tourism Cooperation was signed between India & Singapore on 24-1-1994 in New Delhi.

(b) The agreement provides that within the framework of existing laws and regulations the contracting parties shall strive for:—

- (i) Simplification of formalities required for trips.
- (ii) exchanging information on tourism industries & tourism development projects.
- (iii) exploration of possibilities of joint venture.
- (iv) exchange of professionals for tourism training.

[Translation]

Export of handloom clothes

1582. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Indian readymade garments is on increase in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any scheme to provide assistance to exporters or to encourage exports of readymade garments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (c). The demand of Indian Readymade garments is on the increase in foreign countries. In order to step up export of garments, Government have taken several measures which include introduction of a unified market determined exchange rate system, convertibility of the rupee current account, facilitating import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, increased availability of export credit, permission to retain Foreign Exchange receipts to the extent of 25%, in foreign currency account, encouraging participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller Meets, Fairs, Exhibition etc.

[English]

Banking reforms

1583. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT
SULTANPURI:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussions with All India Trade Unions in January, 1994 about banking reforms;

(b) if so, the details of unions which participated in the discussions;

(c) the important suggestions made by the trade unions; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The Finance Minister had convened a meeting with the representatives of the trade unions on 29-1-94 to discuss the paper 'Public Sector Commercial Banks and Financial Sector Reform: Rebuilding for a better future' prepared in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, with a view to ascertain their views. A statement showing list of the unions represented in the meeting is enclosed. A wide range of subjects were discussed in the meeting and the suggestions of the trade unions have been taken note of by the Government. The important issues discussed in the meeting were: strengthening the capital base of public sector banks through public contribution towards equity, strengthening of vigilance machinery, filling up of vacancies on the banks' boards, recovery of outstanding dues, setting up off recovery tribunals, profitability of banks/branches, restructuring of banks, role of private/foreign banks, etc.

STATEMENT

The following unions participated in the meeting of Finance Minister with trade unions on 29-1-1994:

1. National Front of Indian Trade Unions (NFITU)
2. Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
3. All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
4. National Labour Organisation (NLO)
5. Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)

- | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|---|
| 6 | Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) | 18 | Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) |
| 7 | United Trade Union Centre (LS)
UTUC(LS) | 19 | National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) |
| 8 | United Trade Union Congress (UTUC) | 20 | All India Bank Employees Association (AIBFA) |
| 9 | Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) | <i>[Translation]</i> | |

Internal and External Debt

- | | | | |
|----|---|--|---|
| 10 | Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC) | 1584 | SHRI BHAGWAN
SHANKAR RAWAT
SHRI SYED
SHAHABUDDIN |
| 11 | National Organisation of Bank Officers (NOBO) | Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state | |
| 12 | Indian National Bank Employees Federation (INBEF) | (a) the outstanding internal and external debt as on December 31, 1991, 1992 and 1993 and | |
| 13 | Indian National Bank Officers Congress (INBOC) | (b) the annual cost of debt servicing during these years, year-wise, separately for internal and external debts? | |
| 14 | Indian National Bank Employees Congress (INBEC) | THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) | |
| 15 | All Indian Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) | The total debt outstanding, on Government account, as on 31st March of each financial year is given below - | |
| 16 | All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) | (Rs in crores) | |
| 17 | National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW) | (Rs in crores) | |

	Outstanding at the end of		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
(i) Internal debt and other liabilities	282733	317414	359355
(ii) External debt (at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the year)	66314	109667	120979

(b) The details of debt servicing in the above years are as under:-

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
(1) <i>Repayment</i>			
Internal debt and other liabilities (excluding discharge of 91 days Treasury Bills, reserve funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions)	25132	31171	34151
External debt	2220	3301	4306
(2) <i>Interest</i>			
Internal debt and other liabilities	19665	23891	27546
External debt	1834	2704	3529
Total debt servicing	48851	61067	69532

Interest on internal and external debt forms part of the Revenue Budget while repayment of the principal forms part of the Capital Budget.

[English]

Branches of Foreign Banks

1585. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain foreign banks have applied for opening new branches in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of such foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have received applications for additional branches from the existing foreign banks in India. These applications are at various stages of processing by RBI. Their details are as under:-

Sl No	Name of the Bank	Place where additional branch is proposed to be opened	Remarks
1	Citi Bank	Hyderabad	Decision to issue licence kept in abeyance by RBI because of the involvement of the bank in irregularities in securities transactions
2	ANZ Grindlays Bank	Ahmedabad	do
3	ABN Amro Bank	Madras	do
4	Standard Chartered Bank	Pune	do
5	Banque National De Paris	Pune	In principle approval issued Advice from the bank about location is awaited Formal licence would be issued by RBI thereafter
6	do	Bangalore	do
7	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	Bombay	-do-
8	Mashreq Bank P S C	New Delhi	do
9	Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait	do	do-
10	Bank of America	Bangalore Poona or Baroda	Under Consideration of RBI
11	Hong Kong Bank	Hyderabad	-do-
12	British Bank of Middle East	New Delhi	-do-

Garment Export Quota

1586 SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 3, 1993 to Unstarred Question No. 380 and state

(a) whether the preliminary CBI enquiry in the matter of blackmarketing of Garment Export quota has since been ordered,

(b) if so the outcome thereof and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) to (c). Yes Sir Government have already asked the CBI to conduct a preliminary enquiry in the matter. The enquiry report is awaited

Avro Aircraft of Vayudoot

1587 SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the number of Avro aircraft being operated by the Vayudoot

(b) whether there is any proposal to stop the operation of these aircrafts, and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the alternative aircraft proposed to be used?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) There are 8 Avro and 8 Dornier aircraft in the fleet of Vayudoot

(b) and (c) Due to closure of Dart Engine shop of Indian Airlines and non

availability of spares, it is proposed to discontinue Avro operations after 31st March, 1994. No decision about the replacement aircraft has been taken so far

Jute Packaging Materials

1588 SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA
DR RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the total production of jute during the last three years

(b) whether raw jute had to be imported to meet the requirements of jute packaging materials

(c) if so the amount of foreign exchange involved in such imports during the last three years

(d) whether keeping in view the increasing demand of packing material the Government propose to review the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act 1987 which restricts the use of HDPE woven sacks/bags in packing of materials like foodgrains, cement, fertilisers, sugar,

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) Final estimates of raw jute production as released by Agr-

culture Ministry during last three years are indicated below:

(In '000 tonnes)

Year (July-June)	Production (In '000 bales of 180 Kgs.)	Equivalent Tonnage quantity
1990-91	91,03	16,39
1991-92	101,82	18,33
1992-93	89,88	16,18

(b) and (c). Raw jute was not required to be imported in recent past to meet requirements of jute packaging materials as domestic production was more than adequate.

(d) to (f). The relevance of Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 arises from the need to ensure a fair share of market to both jute and HDPE woven sectors so that both can co-exist in harmonious manner and because of this reason Government does not propose to review the Act.

Concessional Finance to Fish Farmers

1589. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concessional finance is provided for small marginal fish farmers;

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

(c) the amount of finance provided for fish farmers during 1992-93, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b); Development of fisheries in all its aspects from fish catching to the stage of export, financing of equipment necessary for deep sea fishing, fish breeding, etc. are considered as activities allied to agriculture. The interest rates have been rationalised with effect from 22 September, 1990 and they have been linked to the size of the loan. Hence smaller the loan amount lower is the interest rate. Further, with effect from 2 September 1993, the interest rates for crop loans and invest loans for agriculture including fisheries are the same. The following rates of interest are applicable presently for fishery loans, both short term and term loans:-

Loan Limit	Rate of interest p.a.
(i) Upto Rs. 25,000/-	12%
(ii) above Rs. 25,000/- and upto Rs. 2 lakhs	15%
(iii) above Rs. 2 lakhs	15% (Minimum)

Thus the rate of interest that the small and marginal farmers having credit limits upto Rs. 25,000/- will have to pay is 12 per cent per annum and it is concessional as compared with those borrowing higher amounts.

(c) State-wise data in respect of loans provided by commercial banks for fisheries during the year ended June 1992 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism

1590. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from tourism during 1993; and

(b) the steps taken to earn more foreign exchange from tourism in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The foreign exchange earning from tourism include improvement of infrastructural facilities in the country and strengthening of publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas markets to attract more tourists.

Amendment of Tobacco Board Act, 1975

1591. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring the country tobacco under the Tobacco Board;

(b) if so, the likely date by which suitable amendments are to be brought to the Tobacco Board Act, 1975; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) and (b) A proposal to bring non-virginia tobacco under the purview of the Tobacco Board is under consideration.

(c) Steps taken to protect the interest of tobacco growers include

- Planning the FCV tobacco crop size so as to match demand and supply with a view to ensure remunerative prices to the growers,
- Organising auction system for marketing of FCV tobacco which ensures correct classification, prompt weighment, competitive bidding and prompt payment to the farmers;
- Fixing of Minimum support Price for FCV tobacco.
- Negotiating with tobacco trade for fixation of Minimum Guaranteed price for FCV tobacco.
- Providing extension services for improving the quality of tobacco.
- Undertaking export promotion for improving marketability of tobacco grown.

**Amount Allocated to Maharashtra
Under IRDP**

1592. SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the Government of Maharashtra under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1993-94 so far;

(b) the amount released and utilised so far and the number of families benefited;

(c) whether the role and performance of the banks under the said programme in Maharashtra has been reviewed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Government of India has made a total allocation of Rs. 91.74 crores by way of subsidy to be shared equally by the Centre and the State Government of Maharashtra under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1993-94. The amounts the Central Government and State Government upto December, 1993 by way of subsidy are Rs. 26.72 crores and Rs. 10.96 crores respectively and the amount of loans disbursed by banks upto December, 1993 is Rs. 57.43 crores in respect of 107949 beneficiaries.

(c) and (d). A Committee has been appointed by Reserve Bank of India to review all aspects of the implementation of IRDP including the role and performance of banks.

Gradation of Public Sector Banks

1593. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a system of gradation of public sector banks based on the quality of customer services and bank management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief Executive Director of banks have signed Memorandum of Understandings with the Government promising to upgrade their customer service within six months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In connection with the allocation of capital for the year 1993-94, agreements have been signed by the nationalised banks with the Reserve Bank of India, containing, *inter-alia*, commitment on excellence in customer service and maintaining high level of efficiency in providing various services. The banks would evolve a system of evaluation of customer satisfaction by an independent outside agency. With the help of the agency, the bank would also quantify the parameters related to customer satisfaction. The exercise is required to be completed within the current financial year i.e. by 31st March, 1994.

[Translation]

R.R.Bs in Gujarat

1594 SHRI N J RATHVA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat and the locations thereof.

(b) the main objectives of these banks and the extent to which these objectives have been achieved during the last two years

(c) whether some of these banks are facing deep financial crisis

(d) if so the reasons therefor

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of these banks

(f) whether the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees in the aforesaid Regional banks is in accordance with the fixed reservation norms

(g) if not the reasons therefor, and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide sufficient representation to the candidates of SC/ST in these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) There are nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Gujarat having a network of 430 branches as at the end of March, 1993 with head-

quarters located at Bhuj, Jamnagar, Patna, Godhra, Surendranagar, Valsad, Bharuch Himatnagar and Junagadh

(b) The main objectives of the RRBs are to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas, to make available institutional credit to the weaker sections of the society, to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas to create supplementary channel for flow of credit from the central money market to the rural areas through refinancing to generate employment opportunities in rural areas, and to bring down the cost of purveying credit in rural areas

As of March 1993, as much as Rs 136 34 crores were mobilised by RRBs in 5 92 lac accounts in Gujarat. The credit support provided by these banks amounted to Rs 89 82 crores (outstanding) in 2 21 lac accounts. Thus over a period of time, the RRBs have achieved significant growth in taking banking services to the door steps of the rural power, providing them with institutional credit support and mopping up of hitherto untapped rural savings

(c) In the process of reaching to the weaker sections and fulfilling the broad socio-economic objectives, these RRBs have suffered financially. All the banks put together in Gujarat have incurred a loss of Rs 9 66 crores during 1992-93 and their accumulated losses stood at Rs. 32.30 crores as at the end of March, 1993. All the nine RRBs have completely eroded their share capital and reserves, leading to problems of liquidity and consequent reduction in lending activities. Poor recovery performance of the RRBs in the State has compounded the problem of liquidity

(d) The reasons for incurring losses by RRBs are attributable to several factors like restriction on the choice of client limited area of operation low interest margins, mounting establishment costs particularly after implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal etc

(e) With a view to improving their viability a package of measures have been announced in December 1993 for more flexibility in their lending and widening the scope of their allied banking services These measures include raising non-target group financing from 40 per cent to 60 per cent increasing non fund business freeing RRBs whose disbursements during 1992-93 were less than Rs 2 crores from service area obligations and permitting them to relocate loss making branches at places like Mandis Taluk/district headquarters agriculture produce centres and to open extension counters at premises of institutions for which the RRB is the principal banker The RRBs have also been permitted to install safe deposit lockers

(f) to (h), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that as at the end of March 1993 out of 1689 staff employed in the RRBs in Gujarat 381 employees were Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes which represents 22.5% of the total staff strength The RRBs are required to follow the instructions of Government in respect of recruitment of SC/ST candidates At the instance of Government, NABARD had advised all the RRBs on 17th September, 1993 to launch a Special Recruitment Drive for SC/ST candidates to fill up the back-log vacancies, if any

Opening of Bank Accounts

1595 SHRI GOVINDA
CHANDRA MUNDA
SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made photo compulsory for opening new accounts in public sector banks

(b) if so whether all the banks are following the above procedure

(c) if not the reasons therefor and the banks which are not following the above procedure

(d) the action taken against such banks and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to make photo compulsory for all the bank account holders to prevent fraud and corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised all banks to introduce with effect from 1st January 1994 the practice of obtaining photographs of the depositors/account holders who are authorised to operate the accounts at the time of opening of all new operative accounts

(b) to (d) The above instructions are mandatory and are required to be implemented by all banks No instance of

non-compliance with these instructions has come to the notice of the RBI.

[English]

Export of Wheat and Rice

1596. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
DR. P.R. GANGWAR:
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
SHRI D. VENKATE-SWARA RAO:
SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice and wheat with its value exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for the export of these items during 1994-95, item-wise and quality-wise;

(c) the countries which have demanded wheat and rice and the price fixed by the Government for the exports of these items; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) The total quantity of rice and wheat exported is as under:

Year	Rice		Wheat	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
			Value in Rs. lakhs)	
1990-91	505029	46157.2	139470	3113.47
1991-92	678463	75558.75	586519	12698.14
1992-93	606980	97193.03	37278	1017.58

(b) No such item-wise and quality-wise targets have been fixed.

(c) and (d). The markets of our rice and wheat have been Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan Singapore, U.K., CIS, Korea, Oman and UAE. etc.

The Government has removed the Minimum Export price (MEP) for basmati

rice to US \$ 200 per M.T. from US 225 per M.T. The MEP for durum wheat has been fixed at US \$ 160 per M.T.

Zero Tax Companies

1597. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several companies which make profits but do not pay any tax;

(b) if so, the names of the top twenty zero tax companies; and

(c) the reasons for giving such concessions to these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Section 115-J of the Income-tax Act, 1961 which provided for the levy of tax on the book profits of companies has been deleted with effect from assessment year 1991-92 and hence it is now possible that there are companies which have book profits but which do not pay any tax;

(b) With the deletion of section 115-J of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the income-tax department does not maintain record of the book profits of companies but keeps records based only on the returned income and assessed income both of which are based on the computation made under the Income-tax Act. Hence to locate a few companies which have book profits but which do not pay any tax, several thousand assessment records are required to be individually scrutinised, the time, effort and expenditure on which will not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved;

(c) Concessions are generally granted based on the importance of the activities of certain companies to the vital sectors of national economy like earning of foreign exchange through exports and tourism, generation of power, improvement of industrially backward areas, encouragement of scientific research etc.

Investments from Oman in Hotel Projects in Kerala

1598. SHRI R. ANBARASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from Oman for investment in hotel projects in Kerala;

(b) if so, the expected investment from Oman;

(c) whether these hotel projects have been cleared by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). Government is aware that Omani investors are interested in hotel projects in India.

No specific proposal has been received.

Export of Sea-Food

1599. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) India's share in the export of global sea-food market;

(b) whether Indian companies are exporting their raw products only as these companies do not have a feel of overseas consumer requirements, taste and food habits; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps being contemplated to tackle these problems to enable the country to emerge as a globally competitive player in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) India's share in the global sea food market was 1.31% in 1991.

(b) No, Sir. Indian companies are exporting raw frozen products, as well as value added products like IQF and cooked frozen products, depending upon the importers' preference.

(c) Processor exporters are being encouraged to set up individually Quick Frozen (IQF) plants for the production of consumer value added packs which has emerged as an attractive seafood item in major markets.

Calicut Airport

1600. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on the extension of the runway at Calicut airport has commenced;

(b) if so, the details of the works completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). At a meeting with

the Chief Minister and officials of the State Government of Kerala, it has been decided that resources required for extension of the runway for handling of wide-bodied planes at the airport would be financed by contributions of the public including Non-Resident Indians. A Society set up by the State Government would undertake the responsibility of mobilising the resources and providing the funds to the National Airports Authority as interest free advance to be repaid out of the earnings of the airport. The National Airports Authority would be in a position to undertake the project only after placement of adequate funds by the Society is firmed up.

Loans to State Governments

1601. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans owed by the States to the Centre as on December 31, 1993, State-wise and the estimated burden of servicing the outstanding loans during the current financial year;

(b) the additional loan likely to be received by the Government of Assam from the Centre during current financial year; and

(c) the estimated income of the North-eastern region of country for 1993-94 and 1994-95 excluding Central loans but including the Central grants, region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) A *Statement* showing the amount of loans owed by the States to the Ministry of Finance as on 31.12.1993 and the esti-

mated burden of servicing the outstanding loans during the current financial year 1993-94 is enclosed

(b) Government of Assam is likely to receive additional amount of loan of Rs 10 388 crores during 1993-94 as loan portion of Advance Plan Assistance of Rs 103 88 crores allocated to the State Gov-

ernment to cover their opening deficit for the current financial year

(o) A *Statement* showing the estimated income of the North Eastern States for 1993-94 excluding Central loans on the basis of the States budgets for 1993-94 is enclosed. It is not possible to furnish this information for 1994-95 as the States Budgets for 1994-95 for all the North Eastern States are yet to become available.

STATEMENT-I

(Rs in crores)

States	Amount of loans owed by the States to the Ministry of Finance as on 31st Dec 1993	Estimated burden of servicing the outstanding loans during the current financial year 1993-94
1 Andhra Pradesh	6537 75	800 20
2 Arunachal Pradesh	137 82	21 57
3 Assam	3144 76	517 34
4 Bihar	7041 45	948 00
5 Goa	672 13	63 09
6 Gujarat	6900 70	921 11
7 Haryana	2136 42	288 01
8 Himachal Pradesh	932 26	152 49
9 J & K	2377 29	363 66
10 Karnataka	4212 91	576 94
11 Kerala	2962 05	389 71
12 Madhya Pradesh	4567 42	623 25
13 Maharashtra	10739 64	1441 33
14 Manipur	160 07	37 74
15 Meghalaya	173 53	24 89

(Rs. in crores)

States	Amount of loans owed by the States to the Ministry of Finance as on 31st Dec , 1993	Estimated burden of servicing the outstanding loans during the current financial year 1993-94
16. Mizoram	89.88	14.83
17. Nagaland	185.51	36.33
18. Orissa	3207.04	444.22
19. Punjab	8145.10	1196.96
20. Rajasthan	4569.02	581.65
21. Sikkim	93.27	12.36
22. Tamil Nadu	5266.83	716.42
23. Tripura	283.66	47.58
24. Uttar Pradesh	14214.86	1872.90
25. West Bengal	7752.60	1007.73
Total	96503.97	13100.97

STATEMENT-II*(Rs. in crores)*

States	Estimated income of the North Eastern States excluding Central loans during 1993-94 as per States Budgets for 1993-94
1. Arunachal Pradesh	534.91
2. Assam	3730.10
3. Manipur	514.61
4. Meghalaya	612.39
5. Mizoram	461.77
6. Nagaland	670.20
7. Tripura	734.59

Outstanding Loans

1602. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan disbursed to private sector by the public sector banks and financial institutions during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the balances outstanding; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to realise the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER
OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the amount of outstanding advances and overdues in respect of public sector banks in all sectors as on March 1991, 1992 and 1993 is indicated below —

(Rs in crores)

Year ending	Amount outstanding	Amount overdue
March 1991	110002	17320
March 1992	116260	19901
March 1993	125954	22989

(c) Reserve Bank of India has issued various guidelines to the banks to minimise the amount of overdues and also to improve their recovery performance in respect of their advances to various sectors. Some of the important guidelines are as follows —

- 1 Banks have been impressed upon to institute a viable recovery system with a view to help recycling the scarce resources of the banks to the needy and productive sectors of the economy on the one hand and to improve the profitability and viability of the lending banks, on the other
- 2 Introduction of comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances for the purpose of their effective monitoring and follow up.

- 3 To keep a watch on the recovery of top sticky accounts
- 4 Taking corrective action where advances are found to have been sticky

In addition to above in the Memorandum of Understanding signed recently by the Nationalised Banks with the Reserve Bank of India the recovery of non-performing assets by constituting a Recovery Cell has been agreed to. The Cell is to be constituted at the Head Office which shall be under the charge of one of the General Managers. Branch-wise targets shall be fixed for recovery and reduction in non-performing assets and performance of different branches in recovery shall be monitored at Head Office Level at periodic intervals by the Chief Executive.

Foreign Assistance to Forest Communication Project

1603 SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have sent any proposal for foreign assistance for "Foreign Communication Project" in the State,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED). (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

1st April, 1994. The salient features of the PMRY are as under.—

[*Translation*]

Small Scale Industries

1604 SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have evolved any special self employment scheme to set small scale industries in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise,

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has also issued directives to the various banks to make available requisite funds to these industries and

(d) if so the details thereof and the reaction of the various banks thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) Government have introduced a scheme known as Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) for educated unemployed youth from 2nd October 1993. The Objective of the scheme is to provide sustained employment to about 10 lakhs educated employed urban youth in micro enterprises. These enterprises will cover manufacturing, service and business ventures. The scheme will cover only urban areas during 1993-94 and the whole of the country from 1994-95 onwards. The existing Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) will be subsumed in PMRY from

(i) All educated unemployed youth between the age of 18 and 35 belonging to families having total family income of less than Rs 24,000/- per annum from all sources would be eligible for assistance under the scheme

(ii) These educated unemployed entrepreneurs would be given a subsidy of 15% subject to a ceiling of Rs 7,500/- each for starting the micro-enterprises

(iii) They would be required to bring in 5% of the project cost as margin money

(iv) Each entrepreneur will be eligible for a loan upto a ceiling of Rs 1 lakh and this loan would not require a collateral guarantee

(v) The entrepreneur selected under the scheme would be provided training before the loan is disbursed

(vi) Matric (passed or failed) students, ITI passed youth and all persons who have undergone Government sponsored technical courses for a minimum duration of 6 months will be eligible for assistance under the scheme

(vii) Reputed Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) would also be associated in the implementation of the scheme

(viii) A reservation of 22.5% for SC/ST and 27% for Other Backward

Classes (OBCs) has been provided

[Translation]

- (ix) The beneficiary should have been a permanent resident of the urban area for 3 years

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued instructions to Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) on September 28, 1993 for implementation of PMRY. The banks also extend the need based credit to the small scale industries under the existing guidelines of RBI for advances to priority sector.

[English]

Restructuring in STC

1605 PROF PREM DHUMAL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are restructuring the working of State Trading Corporation and

(b) if so, the present stage of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient and re-structure it in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment.

Development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat

1606 SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the target fixed for the development and construction in the field of Civil Aviation in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan, and

(b) the total amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) The National Airports Authority have allocated Rs 40.57 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan for upgradation and modernisation of airports in Gujarat.

[English]

Handloom Development Centres

1607 SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK SHRIMATI DIPIKA H TOPIWALA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the locations of Handloom Development Centres to be set up during the 1993-94 and 1994-95;

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

(c) the present stage of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) Locations of Handloom Development Centres for 1993-94 have been approved.

(b) State-wise details is given in the attached *Statement*,

(c) A sum of Rs. 198.00 lakhs has so far been released for the implementation of Scheme during the current financial year.

STATEMENT

Approved Locations of Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing units to be set up during 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Setting up of	
		HDCs	QDUs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100	38
2.	Assam	39	10
3.	Karnataka	16	5
4.	Kerala	8	-
5.	Maharashtra	1	-
6.	Manipur	1	-
7.	Orissa	38	38
8.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3
9.	West Bengal	22	10
Total		228	104

Interest rate on Provident Fund

1608. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the interest rate on deposits in Employees Provident Fund from the existing 12% to 13% per annum;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). A representation from the INTUC was received for allowing at least 13% interest per annum to the EPF subscribers. The proposal has not been accepted as the existing rate of 12% interest per annum on the PF is considered adequate for the present.

[*Translation*]

Export of Khadi and Handloom Textiles

1609. SHRI RAJVEER
SINGH
SHRI SHRAVAN
KUMAR PATEL.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Khadi and handloom textiles exported during the last three years;

(b) the names of the countries to whom it has been exported;

(c) the details of the profit and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, separately; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of such clothes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). India's handloom goods are being exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, USA, member states of EEC, Japan and Australia are the major markets for our handloom textiles. The exports of cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups in rupee and dollar terms during the last three years have been as under:

	<i>Exports</i>	<i>Provisional</i>
	In crore Rs	In million Us \$
1991-92	692 22	284 759
1992-93	1033 31	356 422
1993-94 (April 93—Jan 94)	1052 10	330 415

(d) Government have been taking a number of steps to promote handloom textile exports such as sponsoring Buyer-Seller Meets, participation in fairs in major markets, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programme.

Assessment of Expenses in Providing Jobs

1610. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the annual expenses in providing jobs to every un-

employed youth on the basis of minimum wages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). No assessment about the annual expenses in providing jobs has been made with reference to the current levels of unemployment and under-employment among the youths.

[*English*]

Import of Wool

1612. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and quality of wool (apparel quality) imported by the Govt. during the last three years along with the names of the countries from where it was imported; and

(b) the percentage of the total consumption of wool which is being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Government does not import wool. However, wool is imported by the wollen industry. Apparel grade wool is mainly imported from Australia from where imports have been as under; during the last three years:—

1990-91	-	13765 MT
1991-92	-	13127 MT
1992-93	-	14683 MT

(b) To the extent of 46.9%.

[*Translation*]

Bihar Tea Development Corporation Ltd.

1613. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board has approved any scheme of Bihar Tea Development Corporation Ltd. to boost the tea production in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) So far no application has been received by the Tea Board for developmental assistance from Bihar Tea Development Corpn. Ltd.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Assistance to Coffee Growers

1614. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance in the form of development loan is made available to coffee growers through the Coffee Board;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance provided during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any amount is still outstanding against the coffee growers;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to waive the over-due interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes,
Sir

(b) The amount of development loan assistance provided to coffee growers by the Board during each of the past three years is as follows —

(in Rs lakhs)

Year	Amount
1990-91	374 26
1991-92	344 23
1992-93	409 52

(c) Yes, Sir The amount outstanding against the coffee growers is Rs 26 77 crores

(d) and (e) In respect of these loans, no decision has been taken to waive the overdue interest

Interim Relief to Government Employees

1615 SHRI CHETAN P S CHAUHAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the interim relief recently granted to the Central Government employees, concomitant to the setting up of the Fifth Pay Commission, is meant to compensate them for increased cost of living pending the report of the Commission,

(b) if so, whether the terms of reference of agreement negotiated with the

Central Government Employees Confederation envisage a regular review of interim relief till the submission of the report by the Commission, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) Interim Relief of Rs 100/- (One hundred) per month sanctioned to all Central Government employees with effect from 16th September 1993 is based on agreement reached at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery

(b) and (c) No Sir

Loan to Minority Community

1616 SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the nationalised banks have been providing loan to the minority community for development of small scale industries,

(b) if not, the reasons therefor

(c) if so, the number of entrepreneurs of the above community provided loan during the current year so far State-wise.

(d) the number of applications of the above category pending with the nationalised banks, State-wise, and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) The public sector banks have been granting advances to minority communities in priority sector which includes small scale industries also

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the present data collection system does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the number of accounts and amount outstanding in respect of priority sector advances by public sector banks to minority communities as at the end of March 1991, March 1992 and March 1993 were as follows —

Year ended	No of Accounts (in lakhs)	Amount outstanding (Rs in crores)
March 1991	54 31	4662 94
March 1992	55 98	5129 80
March 1993	56 96	5674 67

(e) The guidelines for advances to priority sector which includes the small scale industries also issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to all the banks stipulate that the applications for loans upto Rs 25 000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs 25 000/- within 8 to 9 weeks

Trade with CIS Countries

1617 SHRI RAMESH CHEN-NITHALA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts for the promotion of India's trade with CIS countries, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir The Government are taking measures on an ongoing basis, for the promotion of India's trade with CIS countries

2 Some specific measures are indicated below

- (i) establishment of diplomatic relations with each of the 15 new Republics followed by opening or upgradation of Missions
- (ii) conclusion of new and individual bilateral framework agreements on trade and economic cooperation
- (iii) setting up of inter-governmental bilateral Joint Commissions to promote commercial economic and scientific and technological cooperation
- (iv) establishment of inter-banking arrangements, including through conclusion of correspondence agreements promotion of joint venture banks *inter-alia* in Russia Kazakhstan Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan,
- (v) promotion of counter-trade, consignment exports, and creation/leasing of warehousing,
- (vi) promotion of joint ventures, and mutual investments, including joint trading ventures, joint ventures on production-sharing basis, and joint ventures for third country exports,

- (vii) consideration/conclusion of bilateral agreements on avoidance of double taxation and on mutual promotion and protection of investment,
- (viii) measures to facilitate easier availability of export credits
- (ix) extension of Government credit lines of a total of US \$ 55 million to the five Central Asian Republics,
- (x) identification and development of more viable transit routes for India's trade with CIS countries including the route through Iran for trade with Central Asian Republics
- (xi) conclusion of bilateral air traffic agreements and commencement of direct flights promotion of air cargo traffic
- (xii) promotion and encouragement of direct business level contacts, *inter-alia* through opening of representative offices establishment of bilateral trade chambers and joint business councils, exchange of business delegations, and participation in trade fairs,
- (xiii) extension of technical assistance to CIS countries in areas such as trade, marketing, management, banking and training of personnel

Non-Delivery of Dividend Warrants of UTI

1618 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of cases of fraud relating to non-delivery of dividend warrants of the Unit Trust of India have brought to the notice of the Government,

(b) whether there is an organised gang working within the UTI and in the Postal Services to defraud the investors of their dividend and the UTI of its money, and

(c) if so the steps being taken to deal with this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) Unit Trust of India has reported that more than 1600 cases, involving an amount of Rs 27 lakhs, have been detected, of fraudulent encashment of UTI's dividend warrants and cheques

(b) UTI has reported that a gang involved in fraudulently encashing dividend warrants of many organisations, including UTI has been identified by the police UTI has, however, reported that no involvement of UTI employees has hitherto come to its notice

(c) UTI has taken several steps to prevent the reoccurrence of such fraud which, *inter-alia*, include sending unit certificates and dividend warrants above Rs. 10000/- by registered post, making all cheques issued by UTI non-negotiable along with their being Account Payee, and advising its registrar to file an FIR whenever criminal activity is detected

*[Translation]***Import and Export of Pulses**

1619. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:
SHRI RAM PRASAD
SINGH:
SHRI D. VENKATE-
SWARA RAO:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capital consumption of pulses has gone down;

(b) if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether there is also a gap in demand and supply of pulses in the domestic market at present;

(d) the total quantity of pulses with its value exported and imported during each of the last three years;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for exporting of pulses during 1994-95;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (g). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Import of Dry Fruits**

1620. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of dry-fruits, particularly Almond, Kishmish and other varieties have been imported and the foreign exchange spent thereon during each of the last two years;

(b) the measures taken to produce the dry-fruits in the country with a view to save the foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Import figures of dry fruits for the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given below:—

	1991-92		1992-93	
	QTY.	Value Rs. (lakhs)	QTY.	Value Rs. (lakhs)
1. Cashew nut raw	106080	26668	134985	37633
	(MTs)		(MTs)	

	1991-92		1992-93	
	QTY.	Value Rs. (lakhs)	QTY.	Value Rs. (lakhs)
2. Almonds	9722978 (Kg)	3980	13340814 (Kg)	9505
Shelled Almonds	1379783 (Kg)	757	1864304 (Kg)	2054
3. Shelled Hazelnuts	700 (Kgs)			—
4. Pistachios	1018402 (Kgs)	342	1634207 (Kgs)	616
5. Others	127579 (Kgs)	30	33015	5
6. Dates (excluding wet dates)	8641297 (Kgs)	228	4858758 (Kgs)	131
Dates (wet)	30022529 (Kgs)	1568	20771732 (Kgs)	756
Dry Dates	54117676 (Kgs)	3123	23012023 (Kgs)	3092
7. Dried grapes	4404888 (Kgs)	1088	3922230 (Kgs)	2004
8. Other dried grapes	6215027 (Kgs)	1544	1604535 (Kgs)	479
9. Apricots	240804 (kg)	58	157232 (Kg)	34
10. Dried fruits	133278 (Kg)	39	96209 (Kg)	28
11. Other dried fruits	42027 (Kg)	9	69008 (Kgs)	13

(Source:- DGCIS, Calcutta)

(b) Cashew is grown as a horticulture crop and is the responsibility of State Governments in so far as the production relating activities are concerned. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has formulated a centrally sponsored scheme for

increase in production and productivity of raw cashew in the country during the 8th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 48 crores. With increase in production of grapes in the country production of Kishmish is also going up.

[Translation]

Note Printing Press

1621. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Note Printing presses at Devas and Nasik are incapable to meet the demand of currency notes of higher denominations of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The existing two Note Printing presses at Dewas and Nasik are able to meet only about 36.55% of Reserve Bank of India's demand for fresh notes.

(b) and (c). In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply, the following remedial steps have been initiated:—

- (i) Two new note printing presses are being set up by Reserve Bank of India—one at Salboni in West Bengal and the other at Mysore in Karnataka with a production capacity of 4950 million pieces each per annum.
- (ii) In consultation with RBI, Government is considering modernisation/expansion of the existing note

printing presses at Dewas and Nasik.

- (iii) RBI has put issuable soiled notes back into circulation by salvaging maximum number of re-issuable notes and re-cycling them.
- (iv) Government is considering to introduce new series of notes in reduced sizes which will increase the existing production of note-printing presses at Dewas and Nasik, by about 25%.
- (v) On the recommendation of RBI, a decision has been taken to coinise Rs. 1, 2 and 5 denomination notes in a phased manner so as to utilise the capacity so released for printing of higher denomination notes.

[English]

Rural Banking System

1622. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to streamline the Cooperative and Rural Banking System;

(b) whether the Cooperative Banking System is proposed to be merged with Rural Banking;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Cooperatives are a part of the institutional credit delivery system which comprise besides the co-operatives the regional rural banks and the rural branches of the commercial banks. The streamlining of the operation and functioning of the cooperatives and rural banking system is an on-going process, in the course of which a number of measures have been taken and the system has been reviewed by a number of major Committees besides their supervision and guidance by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD).

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

Menace of Narcotics in Assam

1623. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Menace of narcotics is increasing in Assam; and

(b) if so, the number of drug peddlers arrested during each of the last three years and the quantity of drugs seized during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Since sale and consumption of narcotics is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing in Assam or otherwise. However, available information about the quantity of drugs seized and the number of persons arrested in the State during 1991, 1992

and 1993 is given below:—

Drugs	(Quantity seized in Kgs.)		
	1991	1992	1993
Opium	2.390	5.185	1.556
Heroin	1 428	2.577	3.778
Ganja	5791	1822	8044
Number of persons arrested	132	223	117

[Translation]

Winding up of Vayudoot

1624. SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL.
SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK

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

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the services of the Vayudoot;

(b) if so, the places for which there are no air services available at present due to the withdrawal of the Vayudoot services;

(c) whether the Government propose to cater to the needs of these places through four new A-320 aircrafts, which the Indian Airlines is likely to receive shortly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Most of the Vayudoot stations have inadequate infrastructure for operating A-320 aircraft.

[English]

Setting up of Office of Rubber Board

1625. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up an office of the Rubber Board at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the location identified therefor; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government has no proposal to open Office of the Rubber Board at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.

(b) *Does not arise.*

(c) *The Rubber Board has already opened a Field Office at Siliguri for promotion of Rubber cultivation in the northern districts of West Bengal, parts of which are identified as suitable for growing rubber. The rubber plantation development in*

these areas is in its beginning stage. Only a few planters have come forward to grow rubber. The work to be attended is mostly of promotional nature. Opening of another office at Jalpaiguri is, therefore, not considered necessary at this stage.

World Bank Assistance for Upgradation of Hospitals in Karnataka

1626. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the project for upgradation and improvement of secondary level hospitals in Karnataka with the World Bank assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No proposal for upgradation and improvement of secondary level hospitals in Karnataka has been posed for assistance from the World Bank. Such a project has however been posed for German assistance and discussions are being held by the State Government with German authorities.

(b) Details regarding the size of the project, quantum and timing of assistance will be known only after the project is finalised.

Development of Tourism

1627. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation visited various countries in the recent past to explore the possibilities of developing tourism in India;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of proposals received in the recent past from various countries for development of tourism in India and decision taken thereon;

(d) the progress of the projects presently under execution with foreign assistance; and

(e) the special efforts made or proposed to be made to attract increasing number of foreign tourists with special reference to development of tourism in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism led a delegation to the following countries from 27th January to 6th February, 1994:—

- (1) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- (2) Oman
- (3) Bahrain
- (4) Qatar
- (5) Kuwait
- (6) Jordan

The programme comprised of an 'India Evening' presentation jointly organised by the Indian Embassy, Air India and the Department of Tourism. The target audience included the travel trade in the respective countries, Non-Resident Indians, local opinion makers and prominent people as well as other expatriates in the

respective countries. Wide media coverage through Television, Newspapers and Radio was organised. The effort was to generate closer inter-action between the travel trade and the travelling public in these countries and the Indian travel industry. It was also intended to generate confidence in the India as a safe and attractive destination. The special programme was done in the background of the steep drop in tourist arrivals in the aftermath of the events in Ayodhya and bomb blast in several parts of the country. The visit was part of the campaign which included several delegations to other countries in Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Southern Africa, Far East countries, etc. The delegation comprised of representatives and officials of Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation and has been very effective in creating a turn around in tourist arrivals resulting in record arrivals in the months of December, 1993 and January, 1994. Meetings also took place with important dignitaries including Heads of State and wide ranging discussions relating to Civil Aviation and Tourism were held. Tourism promotion is a continuing activity of the Department of Tourism.

(c) and (d). Government signed a Loan Agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan on 15th December, 1988 for financial assistance to the tune of 9,244 billion Japanese Yen for development of infrastructural facilities along identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Loan Agreement has been extended till 20th January, 1997. Major components of the project are strengthening and improvement of National and State High-ways, landscaping, improvement of water, electricity and telecommunication facilities and setting up of way side amenities etc.

Government signed another Loan Agreement with O.E.C.F. Japan on 9.1.92 for financial assistance to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen for conservation and tourism development of Ajanta Ellora region in the State of Maharashtra. Main components of the project are strengthening of State Highways, upgradation of Aurangabad Airport, afforestation, augmentation of water, electricity and sewerage facilities. The Loan Agreement will expire on 9th November, 1996.

(e) Continuous and concerted efforts are made by Department of Tourism in association with the State Governments and various segments of the travel industry to increase the tourist arrivals to the country. These include development of infrastructure, identification and promotion of new destinations, augmentation of tourist facilities and services and overseas marketing and publicity through Press, Media, Conferences, Seminars and Audio-Visual presentations. Special efforts were made by the Department of Tourism to enable charters to land and to take off from Goa Airport at night.

Strikes and Lockouts

1628. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes and lockouts reported during 1993 and the number of mandays lost as a result thereof; and

(b) the number of industrial disputes solved by taking timely action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) According to available in-

formation, there were 1050 strikes and lockouts in the central and state spheres during 1993 (January to November), resulting in loss of 15.46 million mandays. The figures are provisional.

(b) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 provides for timely intervention where any industrial dispute exists or is apprehended. The Act also provides that the Conciliation Officer should submit his report within 14 days of the commencement of any conciliation proceeding or within such shorter period as may be fixed by the appropriate Government. 3887 industrial disputes were settled by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) in the central sphere through conciliation, mediation and otherwise during January-November, 1993. In the result, the CIRM succeeded in averting as many as 807 threatened strikes and two cases of threatened lockout.

Export of Jute Fibre

1629. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of export of Jute fibre during the last three years;

(b) the export price of Jute fibre; and

(c) the countries to which such exports were made alongwith the quality exported to each such country during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Quantity and value of jute fibre exported during the last three years and the unit price realisation are given below:

Year (July- June)	Quantity (lakh bales)	F O B (Rs / crore)	Unit Price realisation (Rs /tone)
1990-91	0 55	10 18	10283
1991-92	0 11	1 53	7727
1992-93	0 60	7 54	6981

(Source: Jute Commissioner, Calcutta)

Export of raw jute during 1990-91 had taken place mainly to the East European Countries like the then USSR Romania Poland etc During the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 the exports of raw jute were mainly directed towards the General Currency Area Countries like USA UK Pakistan Russia etc

In view of surplus availability situation and need for price stabilisation export of raw jute consisting entirely of medium and inferior grades had taken place

Effect of Tourism on Indian Culture

1630 SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government regarding the effects of tourism on Indian culture, and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) The tourism potential surveys often being conducted in various states and tourist centres take into account the environmental and cultural impact of tourism development

[Translation]

Assistance to Madhya Pradesh by IDBI

1631 SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from various voluntary agencies of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected

(c) the financial assistance provided by IDBI to set up industries in the State particularly in backward areas during the above period

(d) whether the Government propose to direct IDBI to provide more financial assistance to the industrial units of Madhya Pradesh directly and

(e) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has received four applications for financial assistance from voluntary agencies in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years

(b) While three applications have been sanctioned assistance by IDBI, one voluntary agency was asked to approach the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for assistance as the activity

proposed was under the purview of SIDBI.

(c) The details of financial assistance sanctioned by IDBI to industrial units in backward areas of Madhya Pradesh during the last three financial years are as under:—

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Assistance Sanctioned
1990-91	315.5
1991-92	177.2
1992-93	221.6

(d) and (e). IDBI has reported that the decision to locate a project in a particular State vests with the entrepreneur who is in turn guided by the availability of infrastructure, incentives from the State Government, availability of raw materials, proximity to market etc. The project location is assessed by the institutions from the angle of its suitability to the project. It has been always the endeavour of financial institutions to support all viable projects irrespective of their location.

[English]

Duty Free Import of Cotton

1632. SHRI BAPU HARI
CHAUBE:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA
H. TOPIWALA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow duty free import of cotton to

make a easily available to handloom weavers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b). In the wake of recent abnormal increase in the price of cotton and cotton yarn, the Government has allowed duty free import of five lakh bales of cotton by the spinning mills to ease pressure on the domestic price situation and improve the overall availability of cotton.

[Translation]

Export of Coal to Israel

1633. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Israel for importing coal from India;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to supply coal to Israel; and

(c) if so, the quantity and the value of coal proposed to be exported to Israel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

branches of the above bank during 1993, bank-wise?

Public Sector Banks

1634. DR Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of each of the public sector banks as on December 31, 1993,

(b) the number of employees in each bank, and

(c) the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India for opening

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) to (c) The total number of branches of the public sector banks in the country as on 31 12 1993, the total number of employees in position in each of the above banks as on 31-12-1992 (latest available) and the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India for opening branches to each of the above banks during 1993 are given in the *Statement* enclosed

STATEMENT

Statement showing Bank-wise position of Public Sector Banks regarding total number of branches as on 31 12 93, number of licences issued during 1993 and number of employees in position as on 31 12 92

Name of Bank	No of bank branches as on 31 12 1993	No of employees as on 31 12 92 (latest available)			No of licences issued
		Officers	Clerks	Sub-staff	
State Bank of India	8679	59717	114893	51198	55
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	703	3316	7268	4090	20
State Bank of Hyderabad	722	3063	7382	3214	10
State Bank of Indore	336	1498	3645	1547	3
State Bank of Mysore	519	2376	6080	1873	9
State Bank of Patiala	599	2540	6409	3484	24
State Bank of Saurashtra	344	1828	4067	2191	9
State Bank of Travancore	611	2863	6646	2267	6
Allahabad Bank	1820	6611	10305	5453	16
Andhra Bank	959	5309	7563	3633	10
Bank of Baroda	2336	12676	21853	9424	48
Bank of India	2358	11140	29620	12366	29
Bank of Maharashtra	1128	4082	9499	5159	8

Name of Bank	No. of bank branches as on 31.12.1993	No. of employees as on 31.12.92 (latest available)			No of licences issued
		Officers	Clerks	Sub-staff	
Canara Bank	2072	12990	28860	10171	42
Central Bank of India	3043	16811	22871	15152	22
Corporation Bank	449	2661	5080	1296	18
Dena Bank	1098	4195	8143	4196	7
Indian Bank	1366	8601	12958	5565	33
Indian Overseas Bank	1312	7705	15567	5458	21
New Bank of India	-	3080	6405	2935	—
Oriental Bank of Commerce	559	3570	5089	2603	35
Punjab & Sind Bank	682	4192	5562	3455	1
Punjab National Bank	3672*	15106	30386	14510	39**
Syndicate Bank	1558	9369	22000	7143	11
United Bank of India	1323	5746	11375	6993	—
Union Bank of India	1866	9777	14857	8186	26
UCO Bank	1780	9271	17876	8493	5
Vijaya Bank	752	3787	7223	2723	31
	42646	233880	449468	172564	545

* Includes 601 branches of erstwhile New Bank of India since merged with Punjab National Bank

** Includes two bank branches of the erstwhile New Bank of India since merged with Punjab National Bank

BOT Schemes for Foreign Investors

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

1635. DR. (SMT) K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered opting for Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) Schemes for foreign investors involved in infrastructure industry in our country;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in favour of BOT system; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). The Government is not averse to any such proposal on merits and within the existing policy guidelines.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Bank Robberies

1636 SHRI SHIBU SOREN
SHRI SIMON MARANDI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a considerable increase in the incidents of bank robbery during 1993-94,

(b) if so, the details of bank-robberies of above rupees fifty thousand committed in various branches of nationalised banks State-wise during 1993-94 and

(c) the safety measures taken by the Government to check the occurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) As the financial year 1993-94 is not complete figures for the full year 1993-94 are not available. However, during the period from 1 4 93 to 30 9 93, as reported by public sector banks to Reserve Bank of India, 47 cases of bank robberies/dacoities took place as compared to 36 cases of bank robberies/dacoities during the corresponding period of previous year i.e. from 1.4.92 to 30 9 92.

(b) State-wise information of bank robberies/dacoities of above rupees fifty thousand which took place during the period from 1.4.93 to 30.9.93 is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) Depending on the risk factor involved, such as location, cash handled, law and order situation, banks have taken several measures to strengthen security at their branches like provision of armed guards, installation of alarm systems etc in order to motivate employees, police and general public to resist robberies/dacoities, a scheme for giving reward is also in operation

STATEMENT

Statement showing the state-wise information of bank robberies/dacoities of above Rs 50000/- which took place in various public sector banks during the period from 1 4 93 to 30 9 93

Sl No	Name of the State	No of cases	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Assam	1	22.58
2	Bihar	12	29.68
3	Meghalaya	1	1.29
4	Uttar Pradesh	5	22.01
Total:		19	75.56

Unemployment due to Closure of Mica Mines

1637. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers rendered jobless due to the closure of 162 mica mines in Bihar in April, 1992;

(b) the number of labourers among them provided with alternative employment; and

(c) the efforts made to provide alternative employment to the remaining labourers at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Payment of Dividend by Air India

1638. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has recently declared dividend for 1992-93 after a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such long gap of time;

(c) whether the Air India had declared any dividend in the past;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some measures to ensure that the Air India may continue to earn profits and thus may continue to declare the dividend in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). Details of

dividend declared by Air India during the last 10 years are as follows:—

Year	Rate of Dividend	(Rs. in crores)
1982-83	10%	7.24
1989-90	10%	7.44
1991-92	20%	15.85
1992-93	20%	15.85

(e) and (f). It is Government's endeavour to see that Air India runs as an efficient and profitable undertaking.

Sitting up of EPIP in Kerala

1639. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for establishing an Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in Kerala is awaiting clearance of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Government of Kerala have submitted two proposals under the Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme for setting up industrial parks at Ernakulam and Trivandrum. The Scheme is envisaged for implementation in 1994-95. Clearances, will be accorded on merits to enable projects to be taken up in the next

financial year. The scheme, however, provides that no State Government would be sanctioned a second park unless the first has been established and found to be operating successfully.

Advances by Commercial Banks

1640. SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount advanced by the Commercial Banks under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme during 1991, 1992 and 1993, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of DRI advances out of the total advances by Commercial Banks during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the goal of 1% of DRI advances out of the net credit has been achieved during the above period;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The outstanding amount of advances by all Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks (state-wise) under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme as at the end of March 1990, March 1991 and March 1992 are given in the *Statement* enclosed. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the information for the year ended March 1993 is not yet available.

(b) Information relating to percentage of DRI advances to total advances by commercial banks is not available state-wise. However, All India percentage of DRI advances to total advances in respect of public sector banks for the years ended 1991, 1992 and 1993 is furnished below:—

Year ended	Percentage of DRI advances to total Credit as at the end of the previous year
March 1991	0 68%
March 1992	0 69%
March 1993	0 63%

The banks are required to attain the target of 1% of advances under DRI Scheme in relation to their total credit as at the end of the previous year for the country as a whole and not separately for each state or region

(c) The banks have not been able to achieve the target fixed under DRI Scheme viz 1% of their net credit during the year 1991 to 1993.

(d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the main reasons for the banks failure to attain the target stipulated under DRI scheme are as under:

- (i) Preference of the target group to subsidy linked Government Programmes rather than DRI Scheme which offers only a concessional rate of interests.
- (ii) Implementation of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme 1990 resulting in recovery of over-due loans.

(iii) Difficulty in identifying eligible borrowers

(e) The implementation of the DRI Scheme alongwith the Government's other programmes is periodically reviewed at various fora like State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC)/District Con

sultative Committee (DCC) as also at the meetings convened by the Government of India which is attended by the representatives of the public sector banks and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) The banks are advised at these meetings to make greater efforts to increase their advances under DRI Scheme

STATEMENT

Statement showing balance outstanding under D R I advances by all scheduled commercial banks for the year 1990 1991 and 1992

Sl No	Name of State/ Union Territory	March 1990	March 1991	March 1992
1	Andhra Pradesh	8603 35	7584 27	8208 76
2	Assam	743 11	615 79	574 49
3	Bihar	4193 84	4194 34	3903 81
4	Gujarat	4552 40	3397 37	3370 18
5	Haryana	2389 94	1838 96	1578 91
6	Himachal Pradesh	1128 08	845 02	777 06
7	Jammu & Kashmir	300 40	364 99	333 73
8	Karnataka	8833 25	7646 57	6967 03
9	Kerala	3723 36	3513 46	3280 02
10	Madhya Pradesh	3489 50	2743 46	2511 55
11	Maharashtra	4385 16	4190 11	3981 69
12	Manipur	59 88	38 58	29 23
13	Meghalaya	98 35	91 71	99 17
14	Nagaland	37 83	40 86	34 07
15	Orissa	3382 97	2137 96	2093 81
16	Punjab	2340 55	2353 05	2330 11
17	Rajasthan	2531 37	2181 70	2762 94
18	Sikkim	90 80	66 85	57 71
19	Tamil Nadu	5627 32	5080 87	4487 62
20	Tripura	218 31	179 01	162 79
21	Uttar Pradesh	7265 47	7791 00	15257 63
22	West Bengal	4667 03	4189 43	4367 74
23	Andaman and Nicobar	7 86	4 36	5 64
24	Arunachal Pradesh	18 25	8 05	9.6

Sl No	Name of State/ Union Territory	March '990	March 1991	March 1992
25	Chandigarh	124 47	85 39	229 0
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0 69	0 38	0 4
27	Goa	555 34	534 69	523 5
28	Mizoram	14 51	8 26	11 6
29	Pondicherry	129 57	119 25	104 7
30	Lakshadweep	2 45	2 05	49
31	Daman & Diu	169 09	181 06	21
32	Delhi	1221 62	1098 13	2509 46
Total		70906 12	63126 98	70572 51

Source Reserve Bank of India

Air Transportation Board

1641 PROF K V THOMAS Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to form Air Transportation Board and regional advisory committees and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) Setting up of a Board of Air Transport is among various options under consideration of the Government

German Assistance for Ongoing Projects

1642 SHRI K H MUNIYAPPA
SHRI V KRISHNA RAO
SHRI K G SHIVAPPA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Germany have agreed to provide financial assistance by the way of concessional loan for the ongoing projects in the country recently

(b) if so the details thereof and

(c) the projects which are going to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) Yes Sir Under an agreement signed between Govt of India and Govt of FRG recently, Govt of FRG have agreed to provide concessional loan to the tune of DM 230 2 million to India. The loan would be available at an interest rate of 0 75% and is repayable over a period of 40 years with a grace period of 10 years

(c) The following project(s) are going to be benefited from the loan —

Project	Amount (DM Million)	Remarks
1. NABARD-VI	30.0	New Project
2. Financial Sector Structural Programme	60.0	New Programme
3. Fertiliser-III	60.0	Supplement to second tranche
4. Rourkela Steel Plant Modernisation	27.3	On-going project
5. NCL-I Expansion	37.7	On-going project
6. SIDBI-II	15.2	Supplement to 1st tranche
	230.2	

Disinvestment of PSUs

1643. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the list of PSUs selected for partial disinvestment during 1994;

(b) whether the Government have worked out a procedure to ensure that disinvestment generates maximum possible resources;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set a limit on the private participation in the equity of these PSUs, generally or undertaking-wise; and

(d) whether foreign institutional investors as well as NRIs shall be permitted to buy into the equity of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER
OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Private participation in the equity of PSUs including the shares held by public sector financial institutions and mutual funds, is restricted to 49% under the current policy.

(d) Whenever any auction is held for sale of equity in PSUs, all those permitted to buy, sell and hold shares of Indian companies including foreign institutional investors and NRIs to the extent permissible will be allowed to participate in the auction

Smuggling of Chinese Silk Yarn

1644. SHRI SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of Chinese silk yarn into India has been adversely affecting the development and production of silk industry in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to take effective measures to check the smuggling of silk yarn into India, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b) Government of Karnataka had represented about the difficulties faced by sericulturists due to misuse of advance licencing scheme and also through smuggling by unscrupulous elements. However available reports do not indicate smuggling of chiense silk into the country

(c) Various steps taken by the Union Government include preshipment inspection of silk textiles products exported under Advance Licencing Scheme, revision of input-output norms for import of silk under Advance Licencing Scheme and abolition of value based advance licences scheme for silk textile products

Besides anti-smuggling agencies remain alert to contain smuggling activities including smuggling of silk yarn. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all central and state government agencies concerned with prevention and detection of smuggling activities

[*Translation*]

Amendment in Trade Union Laws

1645 SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to bring amendment in the existing trade union laws in view of the new economic policy and liberalised industrial policy,

(b) whether the Government have received memorandum from any industrial sector/financial institutions in this regard, and

(c) if so the time by which the Government propose to announce its decisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P A SANGMA) (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations made by the Ramanujam Committee on New Industrial Relations Law and the deliberations held in various tripartite forums, and after taking into consideration the report of Inter-Ministral Group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926 have been formulated. These proposals are being processed further, and a Bill to this effect is likely to be introduced during the current Budget session of Parliament

[*English*]

Abid Hussain Committee

1646 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee set up to review the working of textiles industry has recommended universal support for handloom weavers and also suggested that it should not be based on membership of corporate or co-operative bodies;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation requesting for the implementation of the recommendations of the Abid Hussain Committee; and

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

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

(b) to (d). It was decided that the co-operative coverage in the handloom sector should be increased and at the same time support to handloom weavers would also be available to weavers outside the cooperatives wherever it is practically possible to do so. Government accordingly have modified some of the schemes presently implemented in the handloom sector. A representation on the above subject was received which has been suitably replied.

Assistance to Government of Mauritius in the Field of Airport Construction

1647. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered to assist the Government of Mauritius in the field of airport construction and management and also in hotel management;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the agreement, if any, signed between the two countries in this regard and also to promote tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). No such offer has been made by the Government.

[*Translation*]

Assistance for Tourism Development in Madhya Pradesh

1648. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourism in Madhya Pradesh during 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(b) the details of these projects/historical places for which such assistance has been provided.

(c) the names of places, out of them, which are located in the backward areas of Madhya Pradesh, and

(d) the details of such proposals pending with the Union Government for grant of financial assistance during 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Central Development of Tourism sanctioned and amount of Rs. 39.07 lakhs during 1992-93 for four projects/schemes in the State of Madhya Pradesh. During 1993-94, two proposals amounting to Rs. 9.35 lakhs were sanctioned. The details of the projects sanctioned to the State of Madhya

Prarjesh are given below, yearwise

1992-93

Sl No	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs in lakhs)
1	Tourist cottages at Mandu	21 43
2	Pilgrim sheds and public conveniences at Ujjain	4 66
3	Flood-lighting of Gahur Mahal Bhopal	4 98
4	Fairs & Festivals	8 00

1993-94

1	Printing of publicity literature	6 50
2	Tents for Orchha	2 55

(c) The central assistance for tourism projects is extended to the State Government on the basis of projects posed by the State Government. Their locations are determined by the State Government while posing the projects.

(d) The Department has yet to receive the project proposals from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the year 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Instructions for Safe Handling of Aircraft by Air Taxi Operators

1649 SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (D G C A) has issued some instructions the air taxi operators for the safe handling of their aircraft,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the other steps proposed to be taken by the D G C A in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) Yes Sir

(b) For safe operation of aircraft DGCA issues instructions from time to time in the form of Civil Aviation Requirements Air Safety Circulars etc. The instructions issued recently are as under —

- (i) Airworthiness & operational control of foreign aircraft leased by airlines and air taxi operators
- (ii) Fixing maximum permissible age and cycles flying hours of aircraft to be imported by air transport service operators
- (iii) Use of standard weight of crew and passengers for preparation of load and trim sheet
- (iv) Determination of correct Maximum permissible take-off and landing weights of an aircraft
- (v) Precautions to be observed during monsoon and poor visibility conditions
- (vi) Monitoring of flight recorders

(c) Apart from the measures already taken, DGCA has recently issued instructions for the installation of Mode-S Transponders on all turbine engine aeroplanes having All-up-Weight of 5700 kg or more and passenger capacity of more than 30 seats

[English]

Outstanding Overdues of Agricultural Loans

1650 SHRI PRAKASH V PATEL
SHRI RAMCHANDRA
VEERAPPÀ

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of outstanding overdues of agricultural loans advanced by commercial banks State-wise

(b) since how long they are overdue

(c) the total number of defaulters in this regard and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to recover the overdues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) to (c) Details of State-wise and Union Territory-wise overdues of direct agricultural loans advanced by commercial banks as on June, 1992 (latest available) is given in the Statement Age-wise these loans are outstanding from less than one year to over three years. The data reporting system does not generate the information regarding the number of defaulters

(d) Various steps have been taken to recover the overdues. These include joint efforts by banks alongwith the State Governments to improve the recovery position in respect of agricultural loans and field level contact programmes with rural borrowers. The monitoring of recovery is done by banks and by various State Level Bankers Committees on a regular basis. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also monitors the recovery efforts on a continuous basis.

STATEMENT

State-wise total amount of outstanding overdues of Agricultural loans advanced by Commercial Banks as on June 1992 (Latest Available)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S No	Name of the State/UT	Amount
1	Arunachal Pradesh	82.41
2	Andaman & Nicobar	119.39
3	Andhra Pradesh	53161.04
4	Assam	3671.09
5	Bihar	19761.92
6	Chandigarh	2603.63
7	Delhi	1259.96

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount
8.	Daman & Diu	30.44
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60.50
10.	Gujarat	24055.57
11.	Goa	1239.28
12.	Haryana	16496.48
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1653.94
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	331.37
15.	Karnataka	48347.18
16.	Kerala	13452.51
17.	Lakshadweep	9.25
18.	Manipur	266.34
19.	Meghalaya	551.51
20.	Mizoram	137.01
21.	Madhya Pradesh	30097.72
22.	Maharashtra	51061.37
23.	Nagaland	1130.63
24.	Orissa	11045.28
25.	Punjab	27121.76
26.	Pondicherry	867.45
27.	Rajasthan	25363.33
28.	Sikkim	144.59
29.	Tripura	237.06
30.	Tamil Nadu	42650.25
31.	Uttar Pradesh	36358.99
32.	West Bengal	13753.75

Disposal of cases by BIFR

1651. SHRI LOKANATH
CHOUDHURY:
SHRI RAMESH
CHENNITHALA:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI HARI KEWAL
PRASAD:
SHRI ARJUN SINGH
YADAV:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of sick industrial unit received by the Board for

Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during 1992 and 1993, separately, State-wise; and

(b) the number of cases finally disposed of by BIFR along with the recommendations made on such cases during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). The number of references registered by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) during 1992-93 Statewise and their disposal as on 31.1.94 are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT

Registered during 1992-1993 and disposal as on 30 1 1994

Sl. No.	State	No of Ref Regd & allocated		Scheme sanctioned u/s 18(4) of SICA*		Approved u/s 17(2) of SICA*		Dismissed as not maintain-able		Winding up recom-mended	
		1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	19	4	0	2	0	6	7	3	1
2.	Assam	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
3.	Bihar	8	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
4.	Goa, Daman & Diu	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
5.	Gujarat	11	9	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0
6.	Haryana	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3	4	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0
8.	Kerala	16	6	1	0	0	0	3	3	1	0
9.	Karnataka	13	11	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	7	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
11.	Maharashtra	21	26	0	0	1	0	7	5	2	1
12.	Nagaland	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
13.	Orissa	5	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0

Sl No	State	No of Ret Regd & allocated		Scheme sanctioned u/s 18(4) of SICA*		Approved u/s 17(2) of SICS*		Dismissed as not maintainable		Winding up recommended	
		1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
14	Pondicherry(B)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
15	Punjab	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
16	Rajasthan	6	8	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0
17	Tamil Nadu	6	12	1	0	2	1	0	6	0	0
18	Tripura	1		0		0	-	0	-	0	-
19	Uttar Pradesh	30	16	1	0	1	0	6	4	1	0
20	West Bengal	17	6	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
21	New Delhi		2		0	-	0	-	0	-	0
22	Dadra, Nagar Haveli		1		0	0	0	-	1	-	0
Total		177	152	10	0	8	3	40	52	10	3

*SICA - Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985

Customs duty on L.P.G.

1652. SHRIMATI MALINI
BHATTACHARYA
SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE
DR LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the customs duty on import of LPG has been reduced from 85 per cent to 25 per cent,

(b) if so, the extent of revenue loss on this account, and

(c) the benefits expected to be accrued through this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) The basic customs duty on LPG was reduced from 85% to 25% vide notification No 3/94-Customs, dated the 12th January, 1994. In the Budget for 1994-95, the basic customs duty on LPG has been further reduced to 15% with effect from 1 3 94

(b) The loss of revenue on account of reduction of customs duty on LPG from 85% to 25% is estimated at Rs. 175 crores in a full year at the current level of import.

(c) The reduction in customs duty on LPG is expected to encourage parallel marketing of LPG and stimulate the petrochemical industry depending on LPG as feed stock.

Opening of International Border in North-East region

1653 SHRI RABI RAY
SHRI ANANTRAO
DESHMUKH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether all the seven States in the North-East region have been demanding opening of an international border in their region for trade and transit,

(b) if so the details thereof.

(c) whether the North-East Council has prepared a status paper on this issue

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) Some States in the NE region have been demanding opening of the border trade from time to time and the same have been discussed in the NE Regional Ministerial Meetings. An agreement between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of the Union of Myanmar on Border Trade between the two countries has been signed. The border trade shall be conducted through the designated custom posts in accordance with the law, regulations and procedure in force in either country. The people living along the border on both sides will continue customary practices including barter mechanism in the specified commodities. The trade will be conducted in freely convertible currencies or in the currency mutually agreed upon by the two countries.

(c) to (e). The North Eastern Council has not prepared any status paper on this issue.

Economic co-operation with Israel

1654. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to establish and expand economic relation with Israel after the establishment of a diplomatic relations with that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Following the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel in January, 1992, it was decided to normalise trade with Israel in July, 1992, subject to prevailing regulations about inter-action generally with foreign countries. A Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Co-operation between India and Israel was signed on 17th May, 1993. An Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation was signed between the two Governments in May, 1993. An Agreement between the two countries for cooperation in the field of Agriculture was signed on 24th December, 1993.

SAPTA Implementations

1655. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether member States of SAARC have expressed concern over Pakistan's reluctance to cooperate in implementing the South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement to achieve higher levels of trade and economic cooperation in the region;

(b) whether the SAARC Chairman has taken a number of initiatives to ensure compliance with the declaration adopted at the Dhaka Summit in April, 1993;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to make the SAARC decisions implemented to the satisfaction of all its member countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) At the meeting of the Council of Ministers held in Dacca in December '93 all Member States of SAARC including Pakistan have underlined the need to operationalise SAPTA with due urgency and complete the negotiations on tariff concessions under SAPTA in the first half of 1994.

The process of exchange of lists of products of export interest and related information is currently underway as a first step towards negotiation of tariff preferences on a product-by-product basis. Government is participating constructively in this process.

[*Translation*]

Branch office of APEDA

1656 SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Bihar Government has requested the Union Government to open a branch office of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in the State,

(b) if so the details thereof and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) to (c) No, Sir However a proposal for opening a Regional Office of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) in Calcutta is under consideration This Regional office will look after the entire eastern region including Bihar

[*English*]

New variety of mulberry

1657 SHRI V KRISHNA RAO Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirapalli has developed a high-yielding mulberry variety suitable for drought-prone areas, and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Silk Board to propagate this

drought tolerant mulberry in States like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) and (b) No, Sir However, the Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirapalli have evaluated the mulberry species evolved by the Central Silk Board's research institutes and have found that S-13 & S-34, which are drought tolerant varieties, are performing well in Tamil Nadu

Under the National Sericulture Project the CSB has taken up large scale multiplication of S-13 & S-34 varieties of mulberry under the scheme Nucleus Farms in the CSB and the State Government Mulberry Farms of Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh

[*Translation*]

Blackmarketing of Janata Cloth

1658 SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KOUR (DEEPA)
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Janata Cloth which was manufactured for the poor has been sold in the black market leading to a fraud of crores of rupees,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) and (b) The distribution of Janata Cloth in various States is governed by a set of guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time Physical inspections carried out by the authorities of Central and State Governments in the implementation of Janata Cloth Scheme have revealed that there are no large scale irregularities in the distribution of Janata Cloth However a few instances of bulk sale of Janata Cloth have come to the notice of Government of India

(c) The implementing agencies who were held guilty of defaulting the guidelines were penalised through recovery of proportionate amount of subsidy released to them against such default Besides necessary modifications in the relevant provisions of the guidelines have also been made from time to time as a preventive measures

Manufacture of passenger aircraft

1659 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN
SHARAN SINGH

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

(a) whether India and China propose to manufacture passenger aircraft jointly

(b) if so the capacity of the proposed aircraft

(c) the time by which the manufacturing of the aircraft is likely to commence, and

(d) the estimated cost of manufacturing the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with M/S Daewoo Heavy Industries Limited of South Korea for conducting a feasibility study on manufacture of a medium size passenger aircraft jointly by Republic of Korea People's Republic of China, Singapore and India A decision on manufacture will be taken only after completion of feasibility study

(b) to (d) Does not arise at this stage in view of (a) above

[English]

Welfare of Tobacco growers

1660 SHRI S M LALJAN BASHA
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh for their welfare,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A group of tobacco growers from AP

and Karnataka visited New Delhi in December 1993 and represented *inter-alia* on the following:—

1. To extend credit to Russia to buy Indian tobacco.
2. To reintroduce MEPs for tobacco trade between Russia and India for better prices to farmers.
3. To firm up export orders before commencement of marketing season.
4. To continue crop regulation and licensing of growers.
5. Uniform reduction of crop to all farmers in the event of a sizeable reduction in crop size.
6. To provide irrigation facilities in case alternative crops are to be grown.
7. To give a statutory back up for the Minimum Guaranteed Prices.
8. Top leaf and jutti tobaccos to be brought under the purview of the Tobacco Board.

(c) The position in regard to these are given below pointwise:—

1. The Government of India, with a view to help farmers and to liquidate large quantity of stocks held by the farmers released an ad-hoc advance of Rs. 100 crores to Russia in 1993. Against Russia has so far imported tobacco worth only Rs. 70 crore.
2. Minimum Export Price (MEP) for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisa-

tion in the long term interests of the tobacco trade. It has been decided not to re-introduce MEP for tobacco particularly in the current scenario of over-supply in the international market.

3. Government organisations of the importing countries wherever involved in the import of Indian tobacco, are being persuaded to finalise their imports early in the marketing season.
4. Continued for the 1993-94 season.
5. Different crop styles produced in different soil regions have varying domestic and export demands. Uniformity in crop size in respect of all regions is not desirable and not feasible.
6. Board will render necessary help, in case of specific request from individual growers, by way of approaching banks etc.
7. Government is already declaring Minimum Support Price which has a statutory back up. Minimum Guaranteed Price is in the nature of an assurance by the trade for additional support.
8. These are already under the purview of the Board.

Factory Workers

1661. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the observations made by the

president of the International Commission for Occupational Health that toxic substance such as benzedine, manganese dust and asbestos fibre are slowly eating away the health of factory workers in the country, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P A SANGMA) (a) The observations said to have been made by the President of the International Commission for Occupational Health are being ascertained and the information in this regard will be laid on the Table of the House

(b) The Factories Act 1948 and the rules framed thereunder contain detailed provisions for regulating inter-alia aspects of occupational health in manufacturing process Industries. A new chapter (IV-A) exclusively for dealing with hazardous process industries has been incorporated in the Act in the year 1987. Permissible limits of exposure of certain chemicals and toxic substances including asbestos and manganese dust and its compounds have been laid down. Provision for medical examination of workers employed in hazardous processes and maintenance of their medical/health record have been made in the Act. Under the Model Rules framed under the Factories Act 1948 Benzedine and its salts have been classified as 'prohibited substances' except when these are present or are formed as a by-product of a chemical reaction in a total concentration not exceeding one percent.

2 The responsibility for compliance with the provisions of the Factories Act,

1948 lies primarily with the occupier of the factory. The respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are responsible for checking compliance by the Occupier from time to time and taking appropriate action in case of default.

Repayment of Debt to Russia

1662 SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have drawn any plan for repayment of credit given by erstwhile Soviet Union

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) whether the Government are also considering to bank upon Indian entrepreneurs for debt repayment to Russia

(d) if so whether any concrete programme of action has been initiated by the Government with Indian entrepreneurs in this regard

(e) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) In accordance with the agreement concluded with Russia in January, 1993, India is repaying in Rupees the State credits granted by the former USSR. Repayment of principal and interest is spread over 45 years as per an agreed schedule. The repayments are made into a central account maintained by Russia with the Reserve Bank of India and can be

utilised by the Russian side for import of any goods and services that are permissible for export under our Export-Import policy

(c) to (e) Exports are finalised through direct business negotiations between Russian importers and Indian exporters, subject to opening of Letters of Credit against debt repayment by the Russian Vnesheconombank (BFEA)

Computerisation of Tax Deposits

1663 SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided to computerise the operations of both Central Board of Direct Taxes and Central Board of Excise and Customs

(b) if so the details of the proposals in this regard and

(c) the time by which the process is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The Govt have decided to computerise the operations of both of Revenue Boards in a systematic and comprehensive manner Computerisation of Customs Houses was started in 1986 and most of these will be covered by 1995 Computensation of Central Excise also started in 1986 and all the Collectorates are likely to be covered by the end of 1994. Limited computerisation of the Income tax side has been started and bigger computer systems are

proposed to be installed in the large cities during 1994-95

(c) Computerisation is a continuous process

Debt Relief to Leather Manufacturers

1664 SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether leather manufacturers have been included under the category of rural artisans

(b) if so the debt relief provided to the leather manufacturers in Gujarat so far under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 by the Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks, separately and

(c) the amount for which the claims have been submitted by the Government of Gujarat in this regard and the amount actually disbursed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a) The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines for priority sector advances define artisans, as artisans (irrespective of location) engaged in utilisation of locally available natural resources and/or human skills, in villages and small towns with a population not exceeding 50,000. Accordingly, leather manufacturers would be under the category of artisans.

(b) and (c). The Government of India formulated the Scheme of

Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 for providing relief to the farmers, landless labourers and the artisans who were unable to repay their accumulated dues to the public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks. The State Governments also formulated similar Schemes for debt relief to the borrowers of cooperative banks. Government of India agreed to bear 50 per cent of the liabilities arising out of

such schemes and the balance was to be borne by the concerned State Governments. As a few State Governments faced resource crunch to meet their share of liability under the Scheme, it was agreed by the RBI to provide loans to the State Governments through NABARD. The details of number of rural artisans, farmers and other beneficiaries covered under ARDR Scheme in Gujarat are as under.—

	State Cooperative Banks	State Land Development Banks	Rural Banks (9)
1. Rural artisans (including leather manufacturing)	9,533	5	10,850
2. Farmers (Agriculturists)	655,750	114,441	20,384
3. Other beneficiaries	55,140	3,592	4,590
	720,423	118,038	45,824

The particulars of claims lodged by cooperative banks in Gujarat and the

amount so far released by NABARD under the Scheme are as under.—

(Rs in crores)

	Gujarat State Cooperative Banks	Gujarat State Land Development Banks	Regional Rural Banks (9)
I. Claims lodged	302.634	48,902	8,571
II. Amount sanctioned by NABARD			
(a) Grant	127.737	20,824	6,681
(b) Loan	127.737	20,824	—
(c) Total	255.474	41,648	6,681

Privatisation of STC and MMTC

1665. SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation;

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Government have not taken any decision to privatise the State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

Seizure of Gold Biscuits

1666. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India plane on the Abu Dhabi-Dubai-Bombay flight AI-700 was recently impounded by the Bombay Customs and gold biscuits worth lakhs of rupees were recovered therefrom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Gold biscuits weighing 13,298.1 gms. valued at Rs. 62,23,510.80 were recovered and seized from Air India Aircraft Flight No. AI-700 on 17.1.94. However, Aircraft was not impounded by Custom authorities.

(c) to (e). The matter is under investigation. Anti smuggling activities have been intensified at all the International Airports. Flights coming from sensitive airports are rummaged. Measures taken to curb smuggling include greater surveillance over sensitive areas at all international airports, intensified intelligence collection,

screening of baggage of passengers arriving on sensitive flights with the help of sophisticated equipments such as baggage X-ray machines and metal detectors and close coordination among all agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[Translation]

Foreign Bank Accounts

1667. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the foreign bank accounts of the people of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if, not the reasons therefor;

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to conduct such a survey as most of the foreign bank accounts are held clandestinely and foreign banks do not divulge the details because of Banking Secrecy Laws.

Sheep Wool Development Project

1668. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sheep Wool Development Project is being implemented in Rajasthan with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on the said project and the work

likely to be undertaken under this project, and

(d) the expenditure incurred and the achievements made so far on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) No Sir

(b) to (d) Do not arise

[English,

PF Dues

1669 SHRI AJOY MUKHO-
PADYAY
SHRI RAM PRASAD
SINGH

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether over rupees 100 crore in provident fund due to retired/retrrenched employees is being disbursed to the Central Provident Fund Commissioner

(b) if so the reasons therefor

(c) whether any steps have been taken to clear the accumulation and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P A SANGMA) (a) and (b) The EPF

accumulations not claimed by the subscribers for three years after resignation, retirement, etc are transferred to the Head of 'Unclaimed Deposit Account'. As on 31.3.1993, an amount of Rs. 72.80 crore was lying under this Head of Account.

(c) and (d) The EPF accumulations along with upto date interest are paid by debiting Unclaimed deposit Account as and when claims are received from the concerned members. The EPF Organisation also seeks cooperation of the employees and the employers representatives and local trade unions to advise the concerned members to prefer their PF claims.

[Translation]

Airports in Uttar Pradesh

1670 SHRI RAM BADAN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the income earned from various airports in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years year-wise and

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of these airports during the above period year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) The income earned and expenditure incurred by NAA during the last three years from their airports in Uttar Pradesh are as under —

(Rs in Lakhs)

	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Income	Expdtr	Income	Expdtr	Income	Expdtr
Agra (Civil Enclave)	10 28	27 19	12 95	29 79	12 39	27 51
Dehradun	0 39	4 09	0 84	4 13	2 90	4 46
Kanpur	2 67	17 69	2 57	18 19	1 10	18 84
Lucknow	49.52	138 28	44 60	142.86	54 35	164 72
Pant Nagar	0 97	6 97	0 56	7 08	0 40	7 48
Varanasi	35 02	111 25	58 01	120 46	69 25	130 55
Gorakhpur	0 31	0 26	0 67	0 28	0 18	0 29

*[English]***New Textile Policy**

- 1671 SHRI TARA SINGH
SHRI TARA CHAND
KHANDELWAL
SHRI V SREENI-
VASA PRASAD
SHRIMATI CHANDRA
PRABHA URS

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the Textile Policy of 1985 in view of the recent GATT negotiations,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have recently asked the views of Members of Parliament in this regard; and

(d) the time by which a new textile policy is likely to be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) No such proposal is at present under consideration

(b) to (d) Do not arise

General Insurance Corporation

- 1672 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of offices of the General Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) whether some of those offices are not viable; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make these offices viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) There is only one office of General Insurance Corporation of India in Bombay and a liaison office in Delhi. However, the four Subsidiary Companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India have in all 3,151 Branch Offices and 1124 Divisional Offices as on 31.03.1993.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Action has since been initiated to restructure these non-viable offices through merger with other offices of the Company or by way of inter-company mergers at centres where more than one Company has non-viable offices.

Hijacking of Planes

1673. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of hijacking of planes took place between May, 1993 and February 10, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for hijacking in each case;

(d) the number of passengers, air staff and hijackers died, injured and the details of compensation paid to each victim; and

(e) the steps taken to avert such hijacking incidents and ensure the safety of passengers and air staff?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). An unsuccessful attempt was made on 13.1.94 to hijack

Indian Airlines flight IC-995 (Madras-Calicut) by one Shri M. Anantha Kumar. He posed to be in possession of a plastic bomb under his belt which proved to be a hoax and he surrendered peacefully at Bangalore Airport.

(c)(i) Renaming of Marathwada University as Dr. Ambedkar Marathwada University.

(ii) The signing of the GATT agreement should be reconsidered.

(iii) Tobacco Cultivation in the country should be banned.

(iv) Alcohol should be banned throughout the country.

(d) No passenger, member of crew or hijacker was injured or killed.

(e) Instructions and guidelines issued earlier to strengthen the anti-hijacking and anti-sabotage measures have been reiterated for strict enforcement.

Japanese Assistance

1674. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered loan assistance of rupees 3230 crores to India for development purposes;

(b) whether Japan remained the largest donor country providing loan to India during the current year;

(c) if so, the period for which the above loan is proposed to be provided, and

(d) the rate of interest to be charged and the mode of repayment of this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) Yes Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The loan would be provided by the Government of Japan for six projects for a period ranging between two to seven years

(d) The rate of interest to be charged by Government of Japan for the loan is 2.6% per annum and the mode of repayment is Japanese Yen

[Translation]

Export of Tobacco

1675 SHRI RAJESH M KUMAR
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of tobacco during the current year as compared to the last year,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to promote export of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Efforts made to promote export of tobacco include

1 Advising exporters to take up aggressive marketing in important markets by —

(i) setting up export promotion offices in CIS countries Singapore and other places

(ii) establishing warehouses in CIS republics for stock and sale of tobacco and cigarettes

(iii) exporting tobacco to CIS countries against barter/counter-trade

(iv) establishing Joint ventures in CIS republics for cigarette production which would help export of Indian tobacco to these republics

2 Sending trade delegations to identified markets for FCV tobacco and products

3 Participation in international exhibitions

4 Publicity in overseas markets

5 Pursuing with Governments through Joint Committee Meetings

etc. to import Indian tobacco & products.

6. Promoting export oriented units for export of cigarettes and cut tobacco.
7. Permitting cigarette manufacturers to import various items to undertake product development.
8. Undertaking packaging development for products like bidis, hookah tobacco paste with the help of Indian Institute of Packaging

[English]

**Pending Applications before
Settlement Commission (IT&WT)
New Delhi**

1676. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for admission with the Principal Bench of the Settlement Commission (Income Tax and Wealth Tax), New Delhi as on December 31, 1993;

(b) the reasons for keeping these applications pending for such a long period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for quick disposal of applications in the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) 388 applications.

(b) Large backlog of cases from previous years.

(c) Closer monitoring of the working of the Commission, strengthening of the Principal Bench by temporary transfer of a Member, launching of a determined campaign by the Commission etc.

[Translation]

Unemployed in Bihar

1677. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of unemployed degree, diploma and I.T.I. certificate holder, respectively in Engineering in Bihar as till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): As per the estimates worked out by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, the total number of unemployed degree and diploma holders in Engineering in Bihar in the year 1991 was 1049 and 2034 respectively. Such estimates for ITI certificate holders in not available. However, the total number of ITI certificate holders registered with the Employment Exchanges, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, as on 31st December, 1991 in Bihar was 93.7 thousands.

Simplification of Tax Laws

1678. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any scheme to bring about reforms in tax structure to reduce rates of tax and to implement easy tax process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government have received any proposal to set up a Tax Research Bureau to bring about the reforms in tax structure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Bringing reforms in tax structure is an on-going process. This process includes rationalisation of the tax rates and making the tax process easier. Finance Bill, 1994, contains proposals for reduction in the tax rates and making the tax process easier by introducing the concept of estimated income method for civil contractors and truck owners.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Chelliah Committee, in its Final Report, has recommended setting up of Tax Research Bureau, consisting of experts, which would conduct research in problems of tax policy. This recommendation is under examination of the Government.

[English]

Assistance Provided by Airlines in case of Calamities

1679. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of airlines has been drawn to the suggestion of the Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Tourism in their 2nd Report regarding need to help the country in natural and other calamities;

(b) if so, the undertakings given by the airlines in this regard;

(c) whether during the recent earthquake in Latur and Osmanabad districts in Maharashtra, any of the airlines provided relief and succour to the victims; and

(d) if so, the names of such carriers alongwith the services rendered by them alongwith the details of flights organised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No such specific recommendation has been made in the Second Report of the Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Tourism (1993-94).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Air India and Indian Airlines, *inter-alia*, arranged to carry relief material for the Maharashtra earthquake victims, free of cost, on their services.

[Translation]

Sick State Financial Corporations

1680. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the sick State Financial Corporations;

(b) the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove their sickness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) There is no classification of State Financial Corporations between sick and healthy corporations. However,, there are some corporations which are showing signs of weakness. Based on the health code categorisation of State Financial Corporations (SFCs) and their capital adequacy ratio for the year ended March 31, 1993, seven SFCs have been classified by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) into Category 'D' where the Standard Assets were below 60% and the capital adequacy was less than 4%. In addition to the above, three SFCs have been classified into Category 'C' where the standard assets were less than 60% but the capital adequacy was more than 4% and one SFC was classified as Category 'B' where the Standard Assets were around 60% and capital adequacy was below 4%.

(b) The financial health of some of the SFCs had deteriorated over the year due to various factors including excessive dependence on external funds, rising trend of overdues, dwindling margins on account of rising cost of funds with lower recoveries, erosion of capital adequacy, deficiencies in project appraisal and lack of initiative in taking up more profitable/new areas of business.

(c) A meeting of the representatives of State Governments and Chief Executives of SFCs and SIDCs was convened on Aug., 18, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Secretary. The Government has also set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman & Managing Director of IDBI to undertake a review of the SFCs Act, 1951

[English]

Pilot Sericulture Project

1681. SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI GOPI NATH
GAJAPATHI:
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the districts where Pilot Sericulture Project is being implemented by the Central Silk Board, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to cover more districts with such project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The districts where Central Silk Board is implementing National Sericulture Project on a pilot scale are as follows:—

	State	District
1.	Orissa	Koraput
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun, Haridwar & Saharanpur
3.	Assam	Jorhat & Sibsagar
4.	Maharashtra	Akola & Buldana
5.	Kerala	Idukki & Palaghat
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Bastar
7.	Bihar	Purnea, Kishanganj & Araria

State	District
8. Rajasthan	Udaipur & Banswara
9. Gujarat	Surat & Valsad
10. Punjab	Hoshiarpur
11. Haryana	Ambala
12. Himachal Pradesh	Solan

(b) There is no proposal, at present, to cover more districts under the above project.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

D.A. to Government Employees

1682. DR. SAKSHIJI:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN
YADAV:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
DR. LAL BAHADUR
RAWAL:
SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
DEVISINGH PATIL:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more instalment of Dearness Allowance is due since January 1, 1994 to the employees of Central Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this instalment of Dearness Allowance is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). As per the existing formula relating to grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, additional instalments of dearness allowance become due from 1st January and 1st July every year on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers (General) (1960=100) over the base index of 608 to which the existing scales of pay effective from 1.1.86 are related. The instalment due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April.

Export of Sub-standard Steel Pipes

1683. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of steel pipes being exported by India at present;

(b) whether India is not getting orders from majority of the countries due to low standard of steel pipes and the export has been confined mainly to gulf countries only;

(c) whether the Government received any complaints from abroad about the export of inferior quality of steel pipes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the action by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total value of steel pipes exported during 1992-93 and 1993-94 (April-September) amounted to Rs. 78.19 crores and Rs. 67.35 crores respectively.

(b) Though the Gulf countries are major markets for exports of this product from India, steel pipes are also being exported to a number of other countries including China, Tiwan, USA, Australia, Bangladesh etc.

(c) No complaint regarding supply of inferior quality steel pipes has been brought to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

(d) to (g). Question do not arise.

Trade Fairs

1684. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of national and international trade fairs are being organised round the year in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the income earned and expenditure incurred in organisation such fairs during each of the last three years;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the International Trade Fair Organisation on

the construction of permanent structures in the Pragati Maidan upto January, 1994;

(d) whether many business organisations are working there on permanent basis; and

(e) if so, the number of such organisations and the annual income earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total income earned and the expenditure incurred by ITPO in organising the fairs during the last three years are as follows:—

<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>		
Year	Income	Expenditure
1990-91	716.98	210.94
1991-92	925.77	188.11
1992-93	1189.40	277.43

(c) The expenditure incurred by the India Trade Promotion Organisation upto January, 1994 on permanent structure in Pragati Maidan is approximately Rs. 1756 lakhs.

(d) and (e). No, Sir.

[English]

Growth Rate of Deposits in Scheduled Commercial Banks

1685. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a sharp fall in the growth rate of deposits in all scheduled commercial banks,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken to increase the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) No, Sir The growth rate of aggregate deposit of all scheduled commercial banks during the current financial year till 4th February, 1994 (latest available) was 14.6% as against 14.8% in the corresponding period of the previous year 1992-93. Thus, the growth rate during the current financial year so far remained more or less the same as was in the previous year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Interest Rates of FCNR Accounts

1686 SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has announced changes in interest rates structure under the Foreign Currency (Non-resident) Accounts Scheme and Foreign Currency (Non-resident) Accounts (Banks) Scheme, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The interest rates on the FCNR deposits have generally been lowered in recent months (with the exception of deposits in US dollars) based on international interest rates and desirable spreads as assessed by RBI. The FCNR interest rates effective from 4-2-1994 are as under —

Maturity	Pound Sterling	U S Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen
6 months	6.25	4.25	6.75	2.75
1 year	6.25	4.50	6.25	2.75
2 years	6.25	5.00	5.75	3.00
3 years	6.75	5.50	5.75	3.25

Fifth Pay Commission

1687 SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI A. JAYAMOHAN:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted the Fifth Pay Commission to look into the salary structure of the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the composition and the terms of reference thereof;

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to commence its work and the time frame fixed for submission of its report; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to merge DA with pay and to set up permanent wage board for the Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The Government have decided to set up the Fifth Pay Commission. Its composition and terms of reference are under consideration.

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

Merger of Associate Banks of SBI

1688. PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI GOPI NATH
GAJAPATHI:
SHRI SARAT
PATTANAYAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a final decision to merge the associate banks of State Bank of India into a single associate bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It would not be possible to indicate at this stage by when a decision would be taken in the matter.

Trade Reforms

1689. SHRI ANKUSHRAO
RAOSAHEB TOPE:
SHRI SARAT
PATTANAYAK:
SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any new trade reforms;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof;

(c) whether certain changes in the Export Import Policy are also in the offing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d).

The current Export and Import Policy is valid for a period of five years upto March, 1997. Review of the Policy is a continuing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary in Public interest.

Loans by PRBs

1690. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether giving of fresh loan and recovery of outstanding loan has been declining in the Regional Rural Banks particularly in Gujarat;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). The loans issued by the Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat have generally recorded an increase during 1991-92 and 1992-93 : as will be seen from the table below. In regard to the recoveries made, except for the decline during 1991-92, there has been an increase. In terms of percentage of recovery to demand, it is yet to reach the level attained during 1990-91.

(Rs. in crores)

	Loans issued	Loans recovered	% of recovery demand
1990-91	24.39	26.57	61.74
1991-92	31.11	22.49	49.54
1992-93*	33.77	35.95	56.94

*Data provisional.

Poor recovery can be attributed to a number of factors, namely natural calamities, inadequate supervision over end-use of loan, loan waivers vitiating the recovery climate, inadequate support of the local administration in recovery efforts and willful defaults.

(c) With a view to improving their viability a package of measures have been announced in December, 1993. These measures include raising non-target group financing from 40 per cent to 60 per cent, increasing non-fund

business, free RRBs whose disbursal during 1992-93 were less than Rs. 2 crores from service area obligations and permission to relocate loss making branches at places like Mandis, Taluk/district headquarters, agriculture produce centres, and to open extension counters at premises of institutions for which the RRB is the principal banker. The RRBs have also been permitted to install safe deposit lockers. The question of making RRB's viable has also been addressed in the Budget Speech of Finance Minister.

UK Investment in India

1691. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussions with the British Chancellor of Exchequer and the Executives of British Companies which were participating in Indo-British Partnership Initiating (IBPI) for exploring the investments in India during his visit to UK in September; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British side reiterated their support for India's economic reform policies and conveyed the appreciation of the progress made in liberalising the economy. The Finance Minister replied to the various concerns raised by the British companies, relating to the investment climate in India, and reassured them of India's resolve to carry through the task of economic liberalisation. He was noted during the meetings, that since the IBPI was launched, India exports to the UK had grown by 24% and that number of MOU's had been signed between the two countries.

Branches of S.B.I. in Gujarat

1692. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more branches of State Bank of India in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof along-with their locations; and

(c) the time by which these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). Under the current Branch Expansion Policy, 1990-95 of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) State Bank of India has been allowed to open its branches at two rural centres viz. Bhatpore, District Surat and Rampara under Special Measures for Minority as recommended by the State Government. As regard Semi-urban centres, the banks have freedom to open branches at the centres of their choice within the quota allotted to them on all India basis. No State-wise quota have been allotted to banks for the purpose of opening branches at Semi-urban centres. On the basis of centres identified by the Working Groups constituted at Regional Offices of RBI for opening branches in unbanked/under banked localities of urban/metro/ port-town centres. The following 6 centres and 4 specialised branches have been allotted to SBI in Gujarat:

1. Ahmedabad (Asarva), Behind Nutan Mills, District Ahmedabad;
2. Ahmedabad, Someshwar Complex, District Ahmedabad.
3. Nadiad-PIJ Road, District Kheda.
4. Rajkot, Aji Industrial Area, GIDC Complex, District Rajkot.
5. Surat, Navsari Bazar, District Surat.

6. Vadodara, New Sema Road, District Vadodara.
1. Ahmedabad (Treasury Branch).
2. Ahmedabad (NRI Branch).
3. Vadodara (Treasury Branch).
4. Vadodara (Industrial Finance Branch).

The opening of branches at the allotted centres is subject to availability of basic infrastructure facilities like availability of suitable premises, all weather roads, tele-communication, etc.

[*Translation*]

Job Opportunities in Organised Sector

1693. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJENDRA
KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the job opportunities in organised sector is likely to fall after acceptance of the Dunkel Proposals, as reported in Financial Express dated February 7, 1994;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to bring amendments in the Dunkel Proposals before its acceptance so that the problem of unemployment may not further aggravate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e). The anticipated increase in World trade, incomes and employment as a result of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations is also likely to enhance employment opportunities in India. The access which would become available to the services markets of our trading partners would also benefit us. Negotiations in the Uruguay Round have been concluded except in the case of market access in a few services sector.

[*English*]

Agreement with Singapore regarding avoidance of double taxation

1694. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore have signed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation;

(b) if so, the details of the important provisions made under this agreement; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement for avoidance of double taxation between India and Singapore was signed on 24th January, 1994. It replaces the earlier Agreement signed on 20th April, 1981.

(b) The agreement provides for reduced rates of taxation in specified areas

so as to encourage flow of investment and technology between the two countries. For instance, technical fees and royalties will be taxed at the rate of 15% or 10% of the gross amount depending upon their nature as against 30% under the Indian Income-tax Act in the case of foreign companies. The agreement would extend total exemption in the country of source both in respect of air transport and shipping business. The agreement would also provide for solving the problems of the tax payers in the other country through mutual agreement procedure. It would continue exchange of information between the tax authorities of the two countries for the prevention of fraud or evasion of taxes covered by the treaty.

(c) The agreement provides that both sides will notify each other of the completion of the procedure for bringing the agreement into force. The agreement will enter into force on the later of such notifications. This procedure is not yet completed. This agreement will have effect in India from 1.4.1994 and in Singapore from 1.1.1994.

[*Translation*]

**Development of Silk Industry in
Madhya Pradesh**

1695. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silk Board of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a scheme through the Central Silk Board for further development of silk industry in the Bilaspur, Raigarh and Sarguja districts of the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accorded approval to the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (d). The project formulated by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for further development of sericulture in Bilaspur, Raigarh & Sarguja districts of the State, inter-alia envisages external assistance from International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

The techno-economic feasibility of the project has been considered by the Central Silk Board and the project has been posed for seeking IFAD assistance. Once IFAD agrees to provide assistance sought for the project, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh would be required to tie up arrangements and take other steps required for implementation of the project.

[*English*]

**Anti-dumping probe by Canada against
Indian exporters**

1696. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada had initiated a major Anti-dumping investigation against a number of Indian exporters into the alleged dumping of black granite and slabs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such exports are subsidised by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Canada has initiated an investigation in December, 1993 into the alleged injurious subsidising and dumping of black memorials and black granite slabs originating in or exported from India.

(c) and (d). There is no specific subsidy on export of granite. However, the Income Tax Act provides for tax concessions in respect of export earnings.

(e) Canada has yet to conclude the investigation.

[*Translation*]

Income Tax evasion

1697. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income tax evasion cases detected during the last two months, State-wise; and

(b) the total amount to be recovered from each State under these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Income Tax evasion is detected in the course of various proceedings e.g., surveys under section 133A(1), 133A(5) and 133B, searches under Section 132 and assessment proceedings. No composite State-wise data is maintained in regard to tax evasion detected in these various proceedings. Penalty for tax evasion is generally levied after the appeal against the assessment is decided. Therefore, penalty proceedings in respect of tax evasion cases detected during the last two months would still be pending. Statistics regarding undisclosed assets seized and income disclosed under section 132(4) in the course of searches during December, 93 and January, 94 State-wise are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT

State-wise Statistics of Search & Seizure for the month of December, 1993 and January, 1994

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	No. of searches/warrants executed	Seizure	Disclosure u/s 132(4) of I.T. Act, 1961
Assam (NER)	38	121.54	220.08
Andhra Pradesh	112	353.13	1311.34
Bihar	27	117.91	56.75
Chandigarh	8	14.98	24.03

State	No. of searches/warrants executed	Seizure	Disclosure u/s 132(4) of I.T. Act, 1961
Delhi	173	1593.26	215.31
Gujarat	157	1128.27	2257.92
Haryana	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
Kerala	40	330.93	196.31
Karnataka	47	391.19	1036.83
Goa	3	27.30	64.00
Madhya Pradesh	19	377.67	220.59
Maharashtra	162	1798.19	2170.32
Orissa	1	73.90	29.26
Punjab	47	1063.90	165.59
Rajasthan	25	149.89	81.94
Tamil Nadu	68	357.23	1731.15
Uttar Pradesh	35	145.04	56.64
West Bengal	124	908.25	693.26
Total	1086	8952.58	10531.32

[English]

New Wage Boards for working and non-working Journalists

1698. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the demand for new

Wage Boards for working and non-working journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The Government have decided to constitute Wage Boards

for Working Journalists and Non-working Journalists.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Warehouses in Private Sector

1699. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to boost export and to extend storage capacity of imported raw material for exporting goods, the Government are giving permission to private sector to open warehouses anywhere in the country;

(b) if so, the number of applications for opening of warehouses received so far and the conditions laid down by the Government therefor; and

(c) the number of warehouses opened in private sector with the permission of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to boost exports, the Government has been giving permission to set up Customs bonded private warehouses anywhere in the country to export oriented units, for manufacture of export items in bond. However, if the imported raw materials are intended for supply to actual user who may be exporter, the same can be warehoused in select cities only.

(b) and (c). The permission is granted subject to the conditions that:

- (1) The importer executes a bond under Section 59 of the Customs

Act, 1962 binding himself to observe the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and the rules and regulations in respect of imported goods;

- (2) The importer complies with manufacture and other operations in Warehouse Regulations, 1966, where necessary; and
- (3) The activity in the warehouse is supervised by Customs staff at the expense of the party, where necessary.

As regards the number of applications received for opening of warehouses for export activity and the numbers approved for opening in private sector, the information is as follows:—

Year	No. of applications	No. of approvals
1992	997	765
1993	710	687
1994 (Upto Feb.)	105	88

This information includes applications received under 100% EOU Scheme.

[*English*]

Utilisation of Foreign Exchange Reserves

1700. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have chalked out a viable policy to channelise

the Rupee Counterpart of the Foreign Exchange Reserves into productive use, and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) Foreign Exchange Reserves at a point of time are the net result of a large number of transactions in the external sector. The rupee counterpart of the foreign exchange inflows therefore gets utilized depending on the nature of the transaction. Rupee counterpart of external borrowings by the Government is channelised for the purposes the borrowing has been arranged for. The rupee counterpart of other foreign exchange inflows is governed by the appropriate rules/guidelines framed by the Government as well as the RBI for the purposes of such transactions. Thus, there are guidelines for external commercial borrowings, foreign direct investment, foreign institutional investors, issuing of global depository receipts by the Indian companies etc. specifying the purpose and uses of foreign exchange inflows for such transactions.

Border trade with Bangladesh

1701 DR SUDHIR RAY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to legalise the border trade between India and Bangladesh, and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of Bangladesh on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) During the fourth meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) held on 28.12.93 in Dhaka, the Indian side highlighted the mutual need and desirability of devising appropriate arrangements for border trade between the two countries. It stressed that, amongst other advantages, border trade would discourage illegal trading, an objective to which the two Governments were committed. The Bangladesh side expressed the view that with the adoption of free market economy, such trade had become redundant and that it would impose an additional burden in terms of administration. Both sides agreed that the matter could be reviewed at the next meeting of the JEC.

Tourism Promotion in Andhra Pradesh

1702 DR K V R CHOWDARY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted some proposals to the Union Government during 1993-94 for development of tourism in the State,

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the places identified in this regard,

(c) whether the Union Government have allocated the required funds in this regard,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The

State Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted the following seven proposals during 1993-94 for development of tourism in the state —

Sl No	Name of the project
1	Restaurant at Golconda Fort
2	Restaurant at Bora Caves
3	Wayside facilities at Mallepalli
4	Tourist lodge at Hemavati
5	Tourist complex at Mantralayam
6	Tourist complex at Nacharam
7	Restaurant at Warangal Fort

Out of these five projects amounting to Rs 59.76 lakhs have since been sanctioned

Agricultural Credit

1703 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the credit quantum and percentage in overall lending by nationalised banks fulfilled the raising demand for agricultural credit and

(b) if not, the avenues proposed for raising the level of lending to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) The existing credit policy is formulated to meet the credit needs of agriculture and allied activities. Rural borrowers all over the country are

provided loans by Public Sector Banks, cooperative banks and Regional rural Banks (RRBs) for activities undertaken by them on their own or through schemes framed by Government in this regard Under Service Area Approach all villages in the country are now allocated to the branches of commercial banks and RRBs. All the service area branches of commercial banks and RRBs are now preparing village-wise annual credit plans which take into account the requirements of credit for all types of borrowers in the villages including small medium and large farmers. In terms of guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to all commercial banks are required to extend atleast 18 per cent of their total credit for direct agriculture. A number of steps have also been taken with a view to increase the flow of agricultural credit. The important ones are

- (i) Banks have been instructed that all applications upto credit limit of Rs 25,000/- are to be disposed off within a fortnight and those over Rs 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks
- (ii) To facilitate speedy disposal of applications, the applications forms are made available in regional languages. Terms and conditions regarding margin/security should be printed on the reverse of the application form itself
- (iii) The interest on loans upto Rs 25,000/- is kept low at 12.0% per annum
- (iv) Term loans are provided at concessional rates
- (v) No third-party guarantee or collateral security is to be insisted upon for loans upto Rs 10,000/-

- (vi) Appropriate sanctioning powers have been delegated to the rural branch managers so that majority of loans applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Exchange Reserves and Export

1704. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of foreign exchange reserves and export target fixed during the current financial year;

(b) whether the target has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints about acquisition of Dollars through Havala Bazar and return through trade market; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). Foreign exchange reserves are the net result of all external transactions and no target was fixed in this regard for the current financial year. The target for exports (DGCI&S) for 1993-94 was fixed at \$ 22.14 billion which represented a growth of about 20 per cent over actual exports of \$ 18.42 billion (provisional) during 1992-93. Actual ex-

ports during April-January, 1993-94 at \$ 17.80 billion implied a growth of 21.4 per cent over the same period last year. The export target for 1993-94 is likely to be reached.

(d) and (e). There is a common perception that hard currency is acquired clandestinely abroad through the hawala market by some Indian nationals and NRIs, and is brought back to India through trade channels. This illegal route is sometimes adopted to launder unaccounted funds, as export earnings are tax-exempt, as also to avail of export incentives under various schemes. The Enforcement Directorate takes prompt action against such racketeers as and when specific intelligence is received.

[*English*]

Creation of Free Trade Zones in Maharashtra

1705. SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to create free trade zones in the State;

(b) if so, the locations suggested for creation of such zones by the State Government; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) An Export Processing Zone is already functioning in the State at Santacruz, Bombay. No proposal to set up another such Zone

has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

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

Agricultural Loans

1706. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the different kinds of agricultural loans being given by different banks and financial institutions in the country;

(b) whether loan for agricultural and housing purposes is not given against the gold;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Commercial banks provide production loans (for raising of crops) and investment finance for agricultural purposes to farmers. They also provide credit for distribution of fertilisers, seeds, construction of storage facilities in the producing areas, etc. Loans are given by commercial banks for activities like dairy, animal husbandry, development of fisheries, poultry, piggery, etc. Cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks provide short-term loans for crop production (seasonal agricultural operations) marketing of crops, procurement/storage and distribution of chemical fertilisers. They provide medium-term loans for approved investment purposes, namely, minor irri-

gation, land development, purchase of agricultural machinery and implements, animal husbandry etc.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance against term loans for all activities which are technically feasible and financially viable.

(b) to (d). Loans for agricultural purposes are given by commercial banks, cooperative banks and RRBs against security of gold. Banks are not required to take collateral security for crop loans and term loans where moveable assets are created upto Rs. 15,000/- Above this amount banks can accept gold ornaments as collateral security for agricultural activities. As regards security for housing loans, banks have been advised by RBI that the security for housing finance should be mortgage of property or government guarantee. Where neither is feasible, banks can accept at their discretion security of adequate value in the form of LIC policies, Govt. promissory notes, shares and debentures, gold ornaments and such other security as they may deem appropriate.

Sale of Coffee

1707. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total sale of coffee in the country during 1993:

(b) the total sale of the coffee in Southern and Northern parts of the country separately, during the above period;

(c) whether coffee is not popular in the Northern part of country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to popularise coffee in the Northern parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) An estimated quantity of 64,132 tonnes has been sold in the domestic market during 1993

(b) According to an overall estimate of sale of Coffee including instant coffee a rough estimate of sale in Southern & Northern parts of the country is as under —

Northern Part	-	15,000 tonnes
Southern Part	-	49,132 tonnes

(c) and (d) Coffee is more popular in South than in North. Coffee is being popularised in Northern parts of the country through Coffee Board's network of Indian Coffee Houses, Coffee Vans & Indian Coffee Depots. Raw Coffee and Coffee Powder is provided to the public at reasonable rates through the outlets of Coffee Board. Apart from this, instant coffee manufacturers are promoting sales of their brand products in the northern parts of the country, through active media campaign.

National Stock Exchange

1708 SHRI V S VIJAYARAGHAVAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Stock Exchange of India has commenced its operation,

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the date by which the National Stock Exchange is likely to start its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has adopted an automatic screen-based trading system and is awaiting access to appropriate telecommunications infrastructure before it can commence operations.

(c) National Stock Exchange proposes to commence its first phase of operations in the wholesale debt market segment by April, 1994 and the second phase in the capital market segment by October, 1994.

Loan disbursement to weaker sections

1709 SHRI DATTATRAYA BHANDARU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of loan disbursed by the public sector and scheduled commercial banks to weaker sections during 1992-93 and the current financial year, so far, State-wise,

(b) the extent to which the public sector banks suffered losses on account of these loans; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious recovery for the above loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The Reserve Bank of India collects and compiles the data on various aspects of banking through the returns received from banks. The latest information relating to the State-wise amount of loan disbursed by the banks to weaker sections is available for the period ending June, 1992. Accordingly, the total amount of loan disbursed by all Scheduled Commercial Banks, including Public Sector Banks, to Weaker Sections was Rs. 3596.25 crores during the year ending June, 1992. State-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) and (c). The information relating to the extent to which the Public Sector Banks suffered losses on account of these loans is not generated by the Data Reporting System. However, the amount of overdues in respect of Public Sector Banks against small scale industries, agriculture and other priority sectors at the end of March, 1992 was Rs. 3946 crores, Rs. 3853 crores and Rs. 3092 crores respectively. Reserve Bank of India has issued various guidelines to the banks to minimise the amount of overdues and also to improve their recovery performance in respect of their advances to various their recovery performance in respect of their advances to various sectors. Some of the important guidelines are as follow:—

1. Banks have been impressed upon to institute a viable recovery system with a view to help recycling the scarce resources of the banks to the needy and productive sectors of the economy on the one hand and to improve the profitability and viability of the lending banks on the other.
2. Introduction of comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate

the health of individual advances for the purpose of their effective monitoring and follow up.

3. To keep a watch on the recovery of sticky accounts.
4. Taking corrective action where advances are found to have become sticky

STATEMENT

Statement showing State-wise Amount of loan disbursed by all Scheduled Commercial Banks including public sector banks, to Weaker Sections during the year ending June 1992 (latest available)

Name of State/ Union Territory	(Amount Rs in crores)
I. NORTHERN REGION	254
Haryana	38
Himachal Pradesh	19
Jammu & Kashmir	4
Punjab	111
Rajasthan	74
Chandigarh	1
Delhi	7
II. NORTH EASTERN REGION	27
Assam	14
Manipur	2
Meghalaya	2
Nagaland	2
Trnpura	3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.76
Mizoram	0.87
Sikkim	2
III. EASTERN REGION	415
Bihar	131
Orissa	170
West Bengal	114
Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.39

Name of State/ Union Territory	(Amount Rs in crores)
IV CENTRAL REGION	358
Madhya Pradesh	119
Uttar Pradesh	239
V. WESTERN REGION	298
Gujarat	99
Maharashtra	195
Goa	3
Daman & Diu	0.07
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0.26
VI. SOUTHERN REGION	2245
Andhra Pradesh	412
Karnataka	154
Kerala	1220
Tamil Nadu	454
Pondicherry	6
Lakshadweep	0.30
ALL INDIA	3596

Note Figures may not be add up due to rounding of Figures

Anti-dumping duty on Chinese Ferrosilicon

1710. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of ferro-silicon of Chinese origin is being routed to India through third countries.

(b) whether the Indian manufacturers of ferro-silicon have urged the Union Government to impose anti-dumping duty on Chinese ferro-silicon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Designated Authority, as provided under the Indian Customs Tariff Act has not received a complaint from the domestic industry alleging dumping of Ferro-silicon of Chinese origin in India.

[Translation]

Textile Mills in Gujarat

1711. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the textiles mills/handloom units functioning in Gujarat at present particularly in tribal dominated districts and the number of the textiles mills which are lying closed;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the steps taken to reopen those mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) (a) Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills/Handloom Units functioning in the State of Gujarat is given below:—

(i) No. of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textiles Mills (as on 31.12.93): 122

(ii) No. of Cotton/Man-made Fibre mills in tribal dominated districts: 18

- (iii) No. of primary Handloom Weavers Cooperatives (1993-94): 239
- (iv) No. of Apex-Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society (1993): 1

of Power. Two closed mills are in districts having pockets of Tribal Area. No separate figures for tribal area in respect of Handloom Unit is maintained.

(b) *Statement* indicating reasons of temporarily closed mills is enclosed.

As on 31.12.93, there were 34 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills reported to be closed in Gujarat. 21 mills were reported to be closed under section 56 of Companies Act in the State. No mill is closed under I.D. Act. 13 mills were reported to be temporarily closed due to financial difficulties and problems in supply

(c) Government have set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), to evolve and manage rehabilitation package in respect of viable sick units. Textile Modernisation Fund has been set up to cater to modernisation requirements of the mills.

STATEMENT

List of mills temporarily closed

<i>Name of Mill</i>	<i>Reasons</i>
1. Fine knitting Co. Ltd	Lay off by management
2. Manechchowck & Ahmedabad Mfg. Co. Ltd.	Financial
3. Bhalakia Mills co. Ltd.,	Financial
4. Marsden Spg. & Mfg. Co. Ltd.,	Financial
5. Tarun Commercial Mills Ltd.,	Financial
6. Abhay Mills Ltd.,	Financial
7. Shree Ambica Mills Ltd.	Financial
8. Continental Textile Mills	Power Supply
9. Gandhidham Spg. & Mfg. Co. Ltd.,	Financial
10. Shree Mandvi Spg. Mills Ltd.,	Financial
11. Navjyot Textiles Mills Ltd.,	Financial
12. Gaekwar Mills Ltd.,	Power Supply
13. Shree Mahuva Spinning Mills Co. (P) Ltd.,	Financial

Income Tax Dues with Limited Companies

1712. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of limited companies have not paid huge amount of Income-tax dues with them;

(b) if so, the names of top Limited Companies against whom maximum amount of tax arrear is due;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amount from these companies?

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

(b) The names of top ten limited companies against whom maximum amount of tax arrears remained outstanding as on 30.9.1993, are given below:—

1. State Bank of India
2. G.T.C. Industries Limited
3. United Bank of India
4. Dunlop India Limited
5. Reliance Industries
6. Citi Bank
7. Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd.,
8. Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation

9. Continental Construction Limited

10. I.C.I.C.I.

(c) The steps taken for recovery of taxes include:—

(i) The Board and the Directorate of Income-tax (Recovery) constantly review cases of huge arrears exceeding Rs. one crore.

(ii) Since in most of the cases the tax arrears are disputed in pending appeals, the appellate authorities including ITAT are requested for priority disposal of appeals.

(iii) Coercive measures such as levy of penalty, attachment of movable and immovable properties are taken wherever necessary

(iv) Prosecution against tax defaulters is also launched in some cases.

(v) In cases where instalments have been allowed to the tax payers, a strict watch is being kept to ensure timely payment of instalments.

(vi) Wherever recovery proceedings have been stayed by the Courts, action is taken to get the stay vacated.

[English]

Conference of Income Tax Commissioners

1713.. SHRI R. ANBARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Income-tax Commissioners took place recently in Delhi

(b) if so the subject discussed and the recommendations made at the Conference in Income-tax matters and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY (a) Recently a Conference of only the Chief Commissioners and the Directors General of Income tax took place in New Delhi in December 1993

(b) The subjects discussed and the recommendations made are as under —

Subjects discussed

- (i) Review of Annual Action Plan 1993 94
- (ii) General Administration
- (iii) Widening the tax base and
- (iv) Computerisation

Recommendations made

- 1 Reduction in tax arrears,
- 2 Popularisation of presumptive tax scheme,
- 3 Speed disposal of search & seizure cases,
- 4 Prompt issue of refunds,

5 Introduction of new computer system

6 Introduction of modern technical devices for effective investigation

(c) The Government has taken necessary steps for implementation of the recommendations

Merger of IA and AI

1714 SHRI ANNA JOSHI Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to merge the Indian Airlines and the Air India

(b) if so the details thereof and the time by which the merger is likely to be completed and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to merge Indian Airlines and Air India Merger of the two airlines would require detailed examination and planning which will take considerable time

Loan Recovery by Nationalised Banks

1715 SHRI MULLAPALLY RAM-CHANDRAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the top five nationalised banks which have reported the highest recovery of loan dues during 1993,

(b) whether his Ministry or the Reserve Bank of India have issued any guidelines regarding recovery of Non-performing assets by banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The Data Reporting System does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the name of the five Nationalised Banks having minimum overdues as a percentage of outstanding advances as on March, 1993 are given below:—

Name of the Banks	Overdues as a percentage of outstanding advances
1. Oriental Bank of Commerce	8.69
2. United Bank of India	13.03
3. Bank of Baroda	13.05
4. Corporation Bank	13.44
5. Allahabad Bank	15.33

(b) and (c). In the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Nationalised Banks with the Reserve Bank of India, the recovery of non-performing assets by constituting a recovery cell has been agreed to. The cell is to be constituted at the Head Office which shall be under the charge of one of the General Managers. Branch-wise targets shall be fixed for recovery and reduction in non-performing assets and performance of different branches in recovery shall be monitored at Head Office level at periodic intervals by the Chief Executive.

Amount Allocated to Assam Under IRDP

1716. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to Assam under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1993-94 so far;

(b) the amount released and utilised so far and the number of families benefited;

(c) whether the role and performance of the banks under the above programme in Assam has been reviewed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Government of India had made a total allocation of Rs. 27.70 crores by way of subsidy to be shared equally by the Development Programme (IRDP) during 1993-94. The amounts released by the Central Government upto November, 1993 and State Government upto October, 1993 by way of subsidy are Rs. 11.31 crores and Rs. 2.48 crores respectively and the amount of loans disbursed by banks upto October, 1993 is Rs. 8.15 crores in respect of 24014 beneficiaries.

(c) and (d). A Committee has been appointed by Reserve Bank of India to review all aspects of the implementation of IRDP including the role and performance of banks.

Welfare Schemes for the Agricultural Labour

1717. SHRI GA'ZHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE:
DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL:
SHRI GAYAPRASAD KORI:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare schemes implemented by the Government for the agricultural labour during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent to which the agricultural labourers have been benefited by these schemes;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any further steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Some of the major schemes undertaken for the welfare of the rural workers including agricultural workers include:—

- (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for acquiring income generating assets, comprising of a varying mix of subsidies and term credit at differential rates for small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans with special provision for

SCs/STs and women. The number of families assisted under this Scheme during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are 28, 97, 775, 25, 36, 566 and 20, 68, 773 (Prov.) respectively.

- (ii) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) aim at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. The two schemes (viz., NREP and RLEGP) were merged and renamed as Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY) in 1989 with significant increase in outlays. Employment generation under this scheme during the year 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are 8746, 8082 and 7821 lakh (Prov.) mandays respectively.
- (iii) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) The scheme aims at skill upgradation of rural youth for self-employment.
- (iv) Employment Insurance Scheme (EAS), On 2nd October, 1993 a new scheme known as 'Employment Assurance Scheme' has been launched in 1752 identified backward blocks and seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in lean agriculture season. The scheme will mainly benefit agricultural workers.

Besides, there is a scheme known as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)

which was launched in 1982-83 for bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women belonging to families below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skills and aptitude. The scheme operates in conjunction with TRYSEM AND IRDP

In addition to the above, the Central and the various State Governments have taken up several Insurance and Social Security Schemes like Group Insurance Scheme for Landless agricultural labourers in 1987 under the Social Security Fund of the LIC for providing insurance cover to all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18-60 years and Insurance Scheme for IRDP beneficiaries in 1988. Various State Governments are running old age pension schemes with varying, eligibility criteria and pension rates. The State of Kerala have also implemented Kerala Agricultural Workers Welfare Fund Schemes and Agricultural Workers Pension Schemes under which 9 lakhs and 35 lakh workers respectively have been covered.

(c) and (d) The Government is considering enactment of a comprehensive legislation to regulate the working and service conditions including welfare aspects, in respect of agricultural workers.

Trade with South Africa

1719. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the suggestions of South Africa's Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry to create a trade bloc with India, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and (b) The South African Foreign Minister Mr R F Botha, during his visit to India in October 93 had suggested the creation of intensified economic cooperation and formation of trading block amongst the countries of the Indian Ocean including South Africa, Pakistan, the Gulf and East African states. The matter is under examination.

Joint Ventures Between India and Denmark

1720 PROF SAVITHRI
LAKSHMANAN:
SHRI SANDIPAN
BHAGWAN THORAT:
DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Level Trade cum-investment delegation from Denmark has visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals finalised in terms of expanding trade between the two countries for mutual benefit;

(c) the details of the investment proposals received, considered and cleared so far; and

(d) the projections of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Danish Delegation showed interest in setting up of joint ventures with Indian companies in the fields of communication, energy, pharmaceuticals, electronics and food processing. An MOU was also signed between a Danish industrial group and an Indian Company for the manufacture of valves and pressure regulators for LPG Cylinders and LPG filling plants.

(c) During the period of 5 years between 1989 and 1993, 64 Foreign Collaboration proposals received from Danish Companies were cleared, of which 33 cases involved financial collaboration. The total amount of investment project in these cases was Rs. 72.77 crores approximately.

(d) Sustained business inter-action between the two countries is likely to result in greater economic and commercial cooperation.

[*Translation*]

Waiving of Loan

1721. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR
SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poor persons, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and powerloom weavers whose loans have been waived off during the last two years and the current year as far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to waive off loans of all the persons living below the poverty line; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 formulated by the Government of India for providing debt relief to a selected category of borrowers which include farmers, landless labourers, artisans and weavers in rural areas who have taken loan from Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks. On the advice of the Central Government, State Governments had also formulated their Schemes on the line of the Central Scheme for the benefit of the borrowers in the cooperative sector. The Scheme covered all overdues of eligible borrowers as on October 2, 1989 to the extent of Rs. 10,000 per borrowers. As per latest information available, the total number of borrowers including poor persons, persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weavers, given relief under the ARDR Scheme was Rs. 316.32 lakhs. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement*. The Scheme was a one time measure to provide relief to the poor farmers etc. in the rural areas who were unable to repay their accumulated dues were, therefore,

incapacitated from borrowing fresh loans to carry on their production activities. The ARDR Scheme became effective from May 15, 1990 and came to a close on March 31, 1991. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce any such scheme. The endeavour is to revitalise the rural credit system and develop a healthy recovery climate for recycling of the loans.

STATEMENT

Statement showing State-wise number of beneficiaries provided debt relief under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990

States/UTs.	Number of beneficiaries
Andhra Pradesh	2993966
Arunachal Pradesh	11960
Assam	530530
Bihar	3745416
Goa	19185
Gujarat	1344180
Haryana	598941
Himachal Pradesh	286032
Jammu & Kashmir	33721
Karnataka	1610286
Kerala	851429
Madhya Pradesh	1984542
Maharashtra	2874320
Manipur	79244
Meghalaya	71679
Mizoram	6450
Nagaland	24659

States/UTs.	Number of beneficiaries
Orissa	2154086
Punjab	456638
Rajasthan	2020872
Sikkim	9394
Tamilnadu	1974753
Tripura	209641
Uttar Pradesh	5181664
West Bengal	2489916
Chandigarh	3280
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2798
Daman & Diu	1115
Delhi	10590
Lakshadweep	91
Pondicherry	45219
Andaman & Nicobar Island	4754
Total	31631351

[English]

Export of Tea

1722. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany and the European Economic Community markets have threatened to enforce the quality control regulations in the import of Indian tea and also threatened that the Tea Board will have to share the cost analysis of the Indian tea if it fails to ensure the quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing infrastructure available to check and to licence only those exporters who conform the quality, and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) European Union has enforced directive of its Council regarding pesticide residues in all Agricultural products including tea Germany is also a member of the European Union and has similar pesticide residue regulations In respect of pesticides and chemicals most commonly used in production of tea in India, the European Union prescribes maximum residue levels stipulated at 0.2 and less mg/kg In case of Ethion maximum residual levels (MRL) has been fixed at 2 ppm but in case of Endosulfan the MRL has been fixed at 30 ppm For the less important chemicals the levels have been proposed to be between 0.1 to 0.2 ppm Tea Board has not been asked to share the costs of any such analysis to determine pesticide residue level of tea exported from India

(c) A few laboratories in India are having the facilities for analysing tea samples for residue contents in a limited scale Tea trade and industry as and when necessary, get their tea samples analysed in those laboratories The premier Tea Research Institute and CSIR Complex, Palampur are in the process of equipping their laboratories for analysing pesticide residue by procuring sophisticated equipments Shipment licences issued by Tea Board for purposes of export are not related to the quality control parameters fixed by the European Union in respect of pesticide

residue Exporters are required to ensure the quality control as per the prescription of individual importing countries

(d) Tea Board has been communicating the concerned pesticide regulations and stipulations to the trade and industry and also have held discussions with tea industry Indian tea industry and also the Tea Research Institutes are organising seminars/ workshops/ training programmes at the grass root level to educate the managerial staff and the field level workers about the dose specificity of chemicals various stipulations on pesticide residues, gap period to be followed between withdrawal spraying and plucking and regarding withdrawal of registration of chemicals like DDT Tetradifon Heptachlor BHC etc

Export of Pineapple

1723 SHRI P. C. THOMAS Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of pineapple with its value exported during each of the last three years country-wise

(b) whether there is any prospect of exporting pineapple to some other new countries

(c) whether the pineapple from Kerala is being exported

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COM-

MERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED)
(a) and (b) Export figures for the years

1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given
below —

(Value in Thousand)

Commodity/ Unit of Countries	Qty	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
		Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
PINEAPPLES							
Fresh or dried	Kgs						
Bahrain IS		3415	22	3111	20	1130	12
Bangladesh		—	—	48146	270	—	—
Canada		—	—	—	—	413	4
Kuwait		—	—	11955	80	340	3
Lebanon		—	—	2976	38	—	—
Nepal		168236	1070	39730	107	27100	148
Oman		425	7	197	3	—	—
Qatar		—	—	210	1	690	4
Saudi Arab		5761	43	7330	48	2225	26
Switzerland		—	—	—	—	1614	26
UAE		19365	241	24249	222	17000	280
UK		—	—	—	—	460	5
Uruguay		—	—	—	—	17340	414
		197202	1383	137904	789	68309	922

It is possible to step up export of pineapple and its products to various other countries in Gulf region and Europe
(Source: DGCIS, Calcutta)

(c) and (d) Details of state-wise exports are not maintained

[Translation]

National Textile Corporation

1724. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR was the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the losses incurred by the National Textile Corporation Limited during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make it viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b). NTC

suffered a net loss of Rs. 676.55 crores in 1992-93 and a provisional net loss of Rs. 504.26 crores in 1993-94 (April-January). The reasons for losses are old and obsolete machinery, low productivity, low capacity utilisation, excess man-power, increase in the cost of cotton and other inputs etc.

(c) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC. The key elements of this strategy include selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce under Voluntary Retirement Scheme. It is expected that NTC would be able to attain profitability in three years with the successful implementation of the Turn Around Strategy. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has been entrusted with the responsibility of the revival of the mills under NTC under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Setting up of Jewels Export Zone in Bihar

1725. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the exporters from Bihar dealing with jewellery export to create a jewels export zone in the State;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Financial Sector Reforms

1726. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the major financial sector reforms contemplated by the Government;

(b) whether the staff of the banks have expressed fears over the likely impact of the above reforms on the public sector banks and the staff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Major financial sector reforms contemplated include reduction in pre-emption of lending capacity of banks through further reductions in SLR and CRR while moving the yield on Government debt to market related levels, restricting cross subsidy only to smaller borrowers, additional capital availability from the Government and the capital markets to strengthen financial position of public sector banks, improving prospects for recovery by setting up Special Recovery Tribunals, enhancement of managerial accountability and autonomy, encouragement to technological modernisation in banks through computerisation, greater competition through controlled entry of modern professional private sector banks, setting up of Board for Financial

Supervision to devote exclusive attention to issues of compliance and supervision and encourage greater discipline among the borrowers by RBI publication of a list of defaulting borrowers in cases where suits have been filed and circulating among banks and financial institutions names of the defaulting borrowers above a threshold limit. Steps are also contemplated to ensure viable mechanisms for supply of credit to rural sector including long term structural measures to rehabilitates RRBs.

(b) and (c). Representatives of bank employees (Workmen & Officers) have expressed concern regarding alleged privatisation/entry of new private banks, closure of branches, introduction in Parliament of the Bill enabling nationalised banks to raise share capital from the public, job security etc. Government have on a number of occasions reiterated that there are no intentions to denationalise public sector banks or to undertake any retrenchment of staff. However, at the same time it has been emphasised that there is an urgent need to improve efficiency so as to meet the requirements of a competitive economy.

Committee for Development of Export of East Europe, Russia and other Countries

1727. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has set up a committee for the development of export to East Europe, Russia and other countries;

(b) whether exporters have sought Export Credit Guarantee Corporation

(ECGC) over exports to Russia and other CIS countries;

(c) whether exporters have also emphasised the need for opening warehouse in those countries; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government welcome the initiative of the FIEO to set up the Committee on Development of Exports to East Europe, Russia and CIS Countries. The Committee should complement the ongoing efforts for revival and growth of our trade with the region.

The Government appreciate the need for ECGC cover for exports to Russia and other CIS Countries. ECGC already has a policy of extending such cover, but it is available on a restrictive basis, on merits of each case. The Government are, therefore, working on proposals which would facilitate ECGC cover, with parts of the risk being insured by the Government as a guarantor of the last resort. For exports to Russia against India's debt repayment, ECGC cover is available for pre-shipment credits.

The Government are already taking measures as a part of the strategy for boosting exports to those countries, to promote and facilitate opening or hiring of warehouses there.

Smuggling of Gold, Silver and Narcotics

1728. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids have been conducted to find out the smuggling of gold, silver and narcotics in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the value of items seized during each of the last two years in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Raids were conducted by anti-smuggling of gold, silver and narcotics in Kerala. The value of items seized in the raids during each of the last two financial years is as follows:—

(Value in Rs. lakhs)

Financial Year	Gold	Silver	Narcotics
1991-92	74.55	9.20	Ganja 30 Kgs.
1992-93	33.29	0.44	Ganja 50 Kgs. and narcotics valued at Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

Foreign car rental companies

1729. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign car rental companies given permission to operate in India;

(b) the terms and condition on which these companies have been allowed to establish their business in the country;

(c) the total income earned by the country in foreign exchange through the operation of these car rental companies;

(d) the total foreign exchange that has gone out of the country through their operations, and

(e) the overall benefit to the economy, tourism and employment created by these foreign car rental companies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Govt. of India approved the foreign collaboration agreement of three Indian companies for operating Rent-A-Car Scheme in the country. The terms of foreign collaboration includes a lumpsum payment for technical know how, payment of royalty and commission to the foreign collaborator on the foreign bookings secured.

(c) A total of Rs. 2,16,85,292 has been earned by the country in foreign exchange.

(d) A total of Rs. 35,56,653 has gone out of the country in foreign exchange.

(e) The overall benefit is quite substantial in view of the foreign exchange earnings. It provides both direct and indirect employment, and ensures interna-

trational standards of service to attract foreign tourists

[Translation]

Export of Vegetables

Relaxation for Cooperative Spinning Mills from Production of Hank Yarn

1730 DR VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have sought any relaxation for the cooperative spinning mills from the production of Hank Yarn and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) (a) Yes Sir

(b) In order to meet the demand of hank yarn from handloom sector and to ensure stability in hank yarn prices it would not be possible to relax the stipulation laid down by Government of India on the packing of hank yarn by spinning mills including cooperative spinning mills

1731 SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of vegetables being exported from the country

(b) the total quantity with its value of such vegetables exported during the last two years

(c) whether kukrit vegetables are being produced in the country, and

(d) if so the quantity of it being utilised in the country and the quantity wasted after its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and (b) Potatoes tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, onions, lettuce, mushrooms and beans, etc are being exported from India Export figures of vegetables during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given below —

1991-92		1992-93	
Qty (Kgs)	Value (Rs Crores)	Qty (Kgs)	Value (Rs Crores)
417 888	200 62	320242	179 38

(Source DGCIS Calcutta)

(c) and (d). Details of production and processing and export of kukrit vegetables are not available.

[English]

Joint Venture with Guyana

1732. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Guyana has invited Indian businessmen to set up joint venture there on his recent visit to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up a Joint Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the trade between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During his recent visit to India the President of Guyana, in his discussions, invited the Government and Indian businessmen to invest in Guyana and set up Joint ventures. No specific projects were, however, mentioned.

(c) and (d). During the Indo-Guyanese Joint Commission meeting held in November, 1993 at Georgetown (Guyana) it was agreed in principle, to constitute a Joint Business Council for promoting regular inter-action between the private sectors of the two countries.

Silk Yarn Bank Scheme

1733. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a Silk Yarn Bank Scheme on pilot basis in Surat and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat which are major consumers of silk yarn in the Handloom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to implement the National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme on a pilot basis in Gujarat.

(b) Assistance is provided in the shape of equity based on additional quantity of silk yarn supplied to handloom weavers.

Shifting of Tea Board Headquarters to Guwahati

1734. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the Tea Board Headquarters to Guwahati;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No Sir.

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

3 [Translation]

Reduction in fares by Airlines

1735. SHRI DHARMANNA
MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether some air taxi operators have reduced their fares;

(b) whether some airlines including the Indian Airlines have started giving different types of concessions;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take some steps to stop this unhealthy price-war;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) to (e). As per air taxi guidelines, there is no restriction on the fares to be charged by Air Taxi Operators. Several operators have implemented different schemes to improve their market share, in the competitive environment.

[English]

Powerloom Service Centres

1736. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Powerloom Service Centres are likely to be set up in Karnataka during 1994-95; and

(b) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The locations for Powerloom Service Centres to be opened in 1994-95 will be decided only after receipt of suggestions from State Govts., and on the basis of areas of powerloom concentration.

(b) For opening new Powerloom Service Centres a one time capital grant of Rs. 3 lakhs and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 4.50 lakhs is given by the Central Government.

Interest rate Liberalisation

1737. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a pragmatic strategy for interest rate liberalisation is being worked out by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received recommendations from the World Bank in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d). The interest rates are

reviewed and revised from time to time by the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India in mutual consultation, based on major macro-economic trends and priorities.

While outlining the developments in India's financial sector during 1992-93, in their Country Economic Memorandum (1993) the World Bank have suggested a 'pragmatic strategy for interest rate liberalisation.'

Our interest rate policies are formulated keeping in view our specific situation and needs.

Direct tax collection system

1738. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the direct tax collection system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). There are four modes through which the direct taxes are collected, namely, deduction of tax at source, advance payment of tax, payment of self-assessment tax and payment of assessed tax. Finance Bill, 1994, seeks to provide that the corporate assesseees will henceforth pay advance tax in four instalments, as against three instalments at present. Further, the Bill also seeks to bring payments of rent above Rs. 1,20,000 in a year, within the ambit of deduction of tax at source.

Disbursement by Banks in Madhya Pradesh

1739. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan disbursed by the public sector banks in Madhya Pradesh during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and upto January 31, 1994;

(b) the amount of loan recovered so far; and

(c) the reasons for not recovering the rest of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Foreign Banks

1740. DR. (SMT.) K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the foreign banks operating in India are following the capital adequacy norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that all the foreign banks operating in India except Bank of Tokyo have complied with the capital adequacy norm.

(b) Bank of Tokyo has informed RBI that they have sought the approval of Japanese Ministry of Finance for a remittance from their Head Office in Tokyo to meet the shortfall. The bank expects to receive the remittance before the end of March, 1994.

(c) RBI are following up the matter with Bank of Tokyo. Pending compliance with capital adequacy requirement, RBI have kept in abeyance the request of the bank for remittance of surplus profit for the year ended 31st March, 1993.

[Translation]

Workers Engaged in Industries

1741. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the workers engaged in industries as per the census of 1991; and

(b) the number of the workers engaged in the Beedi industry in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) A statement indicating number of workers engaged in various industries as per census of 1991 is annexed.

(b) 4,50,000 approximately.

STATEMENT

Industrial categories of main workers in India

Sl. No.	Categories	Total Numbers of Persons (Rural and Urban)
1.	Cultivators	110,702,346
2.	Agricultural Labourers	74,597,744
3.	Live Stock, forestry fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities.	6,040,739
4.	Mining & Quarrying	1,751,275
5(a)	Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs in house-hold Industry	6,804,021
5(b)	Manufacturing, processing, servicing land repairs other than house-hold industry.	21,867,458
6.	Construction	5,543,205

S. No.	Categories	Total Number of Persons (Rural and Urban)
7.	Trade & Commerce	21,296,337
8.	Transport, Storage and Communication	8,017,746
9.	Other services	29,311.622

Source: Census of India 1991-Union Primary Census abstract-1991, issued by the office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.

[English]

Science Graduates

1742. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed science graduates registered with the employment exchanges, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to employ them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The number of Science Graduates (including post-graduates) who were on the live register of employment

exchange in each State/Union Territory, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, as on 31.12.1991 is contained in the statement enclosed.

(b) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth, combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas which have relatively high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. Geographically and crop-wise diversified agricultural growth, development of wastelands and forestry, development of rural non-farm sector and rural infrastructure, faster growth of small and decentralised manufacturing and expansion of housing are the basic elements of the employment-benefit the Science Graduates registered with the employment exchanges also.

STATEMENT

Number of Science Graduates (including post-graduates) on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31.12.1991

State/Union Territory	No. of Live Register (In thousands)
States	
1. Andhra Pradesh	58.3
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0
3. Assam	17.9

	State/Union Territory	No. of Live Register (In thousand)
4.	Bihar	94.9
5.	Goa	2.1
6.	Gujarat	11.1
7.	Haryana	3.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.7
10.	Karnataka	21.5
11.	Kerala	57.5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	47.7
13.	Maharashtra	43.5
14.	Manipur	4.9
15.	Meghalaya	0.4
16.	Mizoram	0.1
17.	Nagaland	0.2
18.	Orissa	15.1
19.	Punjab	8.5
20.	Rajasthan	15.8
21.	Sikkim*	
22.	Tamil Nadu	95.3
23.	Tripura	0.8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	49.2
25.	West Bengal	148.6
Union Territories		
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.2
27.	Chandigarh	3.0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	@
29.	Delhi	40.1
30.	Daman & Diu	@
31.	Lakshadweep	@
32.	Pondicherry	2.4
Total		750.8

- Note
1. *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State
 2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off
 3. @ Figures less than 50.

[Translation]

Convention on maintenance of aircraft

1743. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national convention had been convened in January, 1994 on maintenance of aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations made at the convention; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). A national convention 'EAVIAMAT' was organised by Central Servicing Development Organisation of Indian Air Force on "Emerging Aviation Maintenance Technologies" on 12-13 January, 1994.

(c) and (d). Final recommendations of the convention are under compilation.

[English]

Illegal finance investment companies

1744. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of illegal finance investment companies are running business in the country and cheating the public;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the business of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d). Companies are registered by the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Act, 1956. Companies conducting financial business are reported to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by the Registrar of Companies. These companies are classified by RBI according to their principal activities such as loan, in-

vestment, hire-purchase, finance, equipment leasing, miscellaneous non-banking company (Chit fund company) and residuary non-banking company. RBI has issued three directions to non-banking financial companies regarding their deposit-acceptance activities under the provisions of Chapter III-B of the RBI Act 1934. All non-banking finance companies are required to comply with the directions applicable to them in regard to their deposit acceptance activities. A few companies which have been found to have violated the RBI directions have been prohibited from accepting fresh deposits.

[Translation]

Committee on Backward areas

1745. SHRI GUMAN MAL
LODHA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Shankar N. Acharaya was constituted by the Government to make a comprehensive study of the backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee have since submitted its report to the Government;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Study Group headed by Shri Shankar

N. Acharaya was on fiscal incentives for industrialisation in backward areas.

(b) The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 24-12-1993.

(c) The summary of the recommendations of the Study Group is at *Para 7.3 of the Report*. The same is attached below.

(d) The Finance Bill, 1994 has proposed to extend the 5-year tax holiday concession to such districts which are backward according to certain guidelines which will be prescribed.

7.3 In the light of above observations, the Study Group would like to recommend the following:

(a) There is a need to redesign Central Government tax incentives for backward areas industrial development in a manner than minimizes the erosion of the tax base and to ensure that the revenue loss implicit in the tax incentive is effectively targetted towards the most industrially backward districts in the country.

(b) Identification of backward districts in a State for a Central incentive should be based on objective and nationally determined norms and not on norms based on State averages. The limited set of indicators which could perhaps be considered in the context of tax concession for industrial investment would be:

(i) Per capita domestic product of the area;

(ii) Share of the manufacturing sector in total domestic product of the area;

(iii) Proportion of employment in the manufacturing sector to the total employment of the area;

(iv) Metalled road per square km.;

(v) Power consumption per capita;

(vi) Telephone connections per thousand population;

(vii) Number of bank branches and average population served per bank branch; and

(viii) Credit and deposit per thousand population.

These indices or indicators will have to be combined into a composite index using suitable weights to facilitate comparisons.

(c) Backward areas should preferably be determined in terms of areas smaller than the States. Districts may serve the objective best because of their being defined for administrative purposes. Statistical information necessary for the purpose may also be available for districts without difficulty.

(d) It is also necessary to make a periodic review of the norms and to make an appraisal of the system on continuing basis.

(e) For evolving an appropriate set of criteria, applying them to district-level

data to delineate a list of industrially backward districts and also for periodical review of the list of backward districts, a Cell be set up in the Planning Commission with representation from the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Finance on a continuing basis. The set of criteria indicated above may serve as a starting point.

[English]

Import of Cars

1746. SHRI SRIBALLAV
PANIGRAHI:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR
SHARMA:
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR
SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow import of second hand cars;

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

(c) whether the Government have made any survey of such imports and their impact on indigenous industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Import of Cars including second hand cars is allowed only by categories of persons/institutions as specified in Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 21-ITC(PN)/92-97 dated 26.6.92 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions as laid down therein. Copy of this Public Notice is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). Since the import of second-hand cars is confined to specific categories only, such imports are not likely to have any adverse impact on the indigenous industry and no survey has been made in this regard.

Closure of Industries

1747. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating measures to allow industrial units to close down without prior permission from the Government;

(b) if so, whether any protection of workers has been contemplated;

(c) whether opinions of workers on this have been elicited; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). Based on the recommendations of Ramanujam Committee on 'New Industrial Relations Law' and deliberations held in various forums and after considering the report of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have been formulated and are under consideration. These proposals are based on extensive discussions with the representatives of workers' and employers' organisations as well as the State Governments.

Foreign Visits by Bureaucrats

1748. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ever issued instructions that senior bureaucrats should not go abroad frequently; and

(b) if so, the details of such latest instructions together with the objectives thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Instructions have been issued from time to time to regulate foreign travel of govt. officials with a view to ensuring that officials are deputed abroad only when it is absolutely necessary and the matter cannot be handled by Indian Missions abroad. The number of such deputations and the period of such visits abroad is required to be kept to the minimum to achieve utmost economy in expenditure.

Indian Council of Arbitration Act

1749. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the likely prospects of the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) Act, 1940 in the present context of the globalisation of the Indian economy;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend the Indian Council of Arbitration Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no statute by the name 'Indian Council of Arbitration Act, 1940 in the Indian Statute Book.

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

Exit Policy

1750. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision in regard to the proposed 'Exit Policy';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). There is no policy that can be termed as 'Exit Policy' in the Government. Therefore, the question of taking any decision in regard to 'Exit Policy' does not arise.

Ministry of Labour is formulating a new Industrial Relations Law with the objective of increasing productivity, generating employment and establishing harmonious industrial relations.

Financial Assistance to Women Entrepreneurs

1751. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance to women entrepreneurs under the 'Mahila Udyam Nidhi' Scheme has been extended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a single window scheme has also been introduced for providing working capital to new tiny and small scale units whose cost of project does not exceed Rs. 20 lakhs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the items reserved for these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As at the end of March, 1993, the total assistance sanctioned under 'Mahila Udhya Nidhi' Scheme was Rs. 5.2 crores to 753 units.

(c) to (e). Since its inception, SIDBI has been operating a Single Window Scheme (SWS) for providing term loan as well as working capital to new tiny and small scale units by the same agency. At present, SSI units having project cost upto Rs. 20 lakhs and working capital requirement upto Rs. 10 lakhs are eligible for assistance under the scheme. Initially, the scheme was operated by State Financial Corporations (SFCs)/Twin-function State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs) only, but later commercial banks were also made eligible for operating the scheme. SWS is not related to particular products or industries.

National Council for Safety in Mines

1752. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reopen the National Council for Safety in Mines which was closed down in 1987 keeping in view the recent fire accident in the New Kenda Coal Mine; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The decision to wind up the National Council for Safety in Mines has no connection with the mine accident under reference.

(b) Does not arise.

Corporate Sector

1753. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any apprehension that the high holding which is being permitted to foreign institutional investors could destabilise the Indian corporate sector;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the stability of the corporate sector in the on-going reform process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Investments by a single Foreign Institutional Investor (FI) and FIs of the

same group, in any particular Indian company is subject to a ceiling of 5% to the total paid up equity capital of that company. Collectively FIIs, through domestic Stock markets/issues, can invest upto 24% of the total paid-up capital of a company. The Custodians for the FIIs are required to send details of the transactions entered into by the FIIs on a daily basis to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and SEBI keeps a close watch on investments by FIIs.

Agro-based units in Orissa

1754. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has conducted any survey to set up Agro-based units in Orissa;

(b) if so, the names of districts which have been surveyed; and

(c) the places where such units are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has not conducted any detailed survey to set up agro-based units in Orissa.

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

[Translation]

Courts for Drug Cases

1755. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (Deepa):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for hearing of cases concerning drug addiction;

(b) if so, the number of such courts proposed to be set up in the country during the year 1993-94;

(c) the number of such cases pending in the courts; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Special Courts are sanctioned by State/Union Territory Governments. As per available information the following Special Courts have been sanctioned:—

1. Goa	-	1
2. Maharashtra	-	15
3. Manipur	-	4
4. Meghalaya	-	5
5. Tripura	-	1
6. West Bengal	-	4
7. Tamil Nadu	-	6

8. Rajasthan	-	1
9. Delhi	-	10
<hr/>		
Total:		47

All States Governments have been repeatedly requested to set up adequate number of Special Courts. It cannot be predicted as to how many more Special Courts will come up by the end of March, 1994.

(c) and (d). As per available information, there are 36,400 cases (provisional) pending in various courts. No time table can be fixed for their final disposal. However, State Governments have been asked to request courts and prosecutors to take steps for early disposal of cases.

Fodder Machines

1756. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints with regard to the fodder machines named "Fometa" imported a few years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the present status of these machines and the extent of benefit derived from them; and

(d) the number of machines in operation at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Intelligence was received that the

importers had evaded customs duty of more than Rs. 3 crores by contravening the conditions of adhoc exemption order dated 30th March, 1987 issued to them for importing 50 fodder machines for use by Bharat Krishak Samaj for demonstration purposes. Investigations conducted *prima facie* confirmed the violation by the importers. The machines were seized and show cause notice was issued to the importers and other concerned persons.

(c) and (d). The case was adjudicated and the machines have been confiscated. The importers have been directed to pay the duty of Rs. 3.37 crores on the machines cleared free of duty and pay fine of Rs. 3.8 crores. Personal penalties amounting to Rs. 1.54 crores have been imposed on the importers and other connected persons. As the machines are under detention by the department, they are not in use at present.

[English]

Agreement with Britain

1757. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government propose to make available grants for projects in environment sector and an agreement to this effect was signed in November, 1993?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of its utilisation in States including Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-

LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes. A "UK/India Environmental Grant 1993" has been signed with Government of United Kingdom in November 1993 vide which Government of United Kingdom will provide a sum of £ 60,000 million for projects under the Environment Sector over a period of 5 years.

(c) No project has yet been covered under the grant.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I have got with me names of some hon. Members who want to speak on certain subjects. Certain subjects pertain to routine work of the states and certain subjects are relating to the Central Government. There are certain subjects which have been identified as matters of urgent public importance. I will call one by one now. So, kindly bear with me.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important question before you. For the last 47 years, the question of giving right of reservation to other Backward Classes has been put off. The Supreme Court has given its judgement in this regard so these people should have been given the benefits of reservation. For long, this was denied to them as the matter was sub-judice. And when ultimately they got their right through Court and when the notification that began to be issued for the recruitment by UPSC for Central Government Services. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Against your name is mentioned.

[English]

"Crisis in paper industry in the country."

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: All right, I am leaving this topic. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call many hon. Members provided you have got the patience and limit to the timings.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the newsprint industry is facing a severe crisis at present. The total annual newsprint demand in the country has been estimated at 5.6 lakh tonnes. While the indigenous production is 4.78 per cent of it. 3.087 tonnes of newsprint is being imported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the crisis in the paper industry is due to the reduction of import duty. About 4.78 lakh tonnes of paper is produced in the country. There are six paper mills in public sector and 14 in private sector. In this context, the Kelkar Committee in 1988, and the Estimates Committee appointed by the 10th Lok Sabha have submitted reports. Atleast 15,000 employees are employed in this industry at present. Only one lakh tonne paper is

required to be imported. In the budget presented by the Government, the excise duty, on the paper used by students remains unchanged. But the excise duty on newsprint for small and medium newspapers has been abolished. They can import 200 tonnes of paper. At present the paper stocks with our mills is 40 lakh tonnes, which is not being lifted by any buyer as a result of if paper industry is facing severe crisis. The price of paper which used to be imported at the rate of \$ 800 per tonne, has now come down to \$300-400 per tonne. Thus the foreign mills are supplying paper to India even at loss, with the motive that the paper mills in India are closed down and the foreign mills may have their monopoly and they earn huge profits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only due to this new economic policy, Paper Industry is facing crisis and is on the verge of closure. I request the Government to take immediate steps to save the paper industry wherein 15 thousand employees are employed.

[English]

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, yesterday also I requested you to allow me. Kindly permit me Sir... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, Shri Sharad Yadav has raised a very important point. It is a very serious subject. Please allow me Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ramesh, your notice is supposed to reach the Notice Office 10 O'clock. But it reached after 10 a.m. Kindly sit down. I cannot help you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ROSHAN LAL (Khurja): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people belonging to Meena Community, residing in Uttar Pradesh, are originally from Rajasthan. In Rajasthan Meena Community has been listed as Scheduled Tribes. The people belonging to Meena Community are originally from Rajasthan and have settled down in Uttar Pradesh. In my Constituency — Khurja, about 1.5 lakh people belonging to Meena Community are residing. They have not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. In this connection, the U.P. Government has already recommended to the Centre that the Meena community in U.P. be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. But, this matter is pending with the Welfare Ministry, Government of India. As this community has not yet been listed as Scheduled Tribes, the people of this community are not getting the benefits for which they are entitled under the Constitution. Therefore, I would urge the Central Government to include the Meena Community in U.P. in the list of Scheduled Tribes without further delay.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Roshan Lal, except in very extraordinary circumstances, you are not supposed to read. It is not correct. Please sit down. Mr. Khanduri please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The normal practice is, you cannot read a statement in the House.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to the negligence and lack of proper care on the part of forest Officials. Under 'Project Tiger' in the Garhwal region, the tigers have become a terror in the Garhwal villages. Almost every day, old tigers attack women and children in the broad day light. In my constituency, Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli, so far a dozen people have become the victims of these tigers. Due to the rules and regulations relating to the Project Tiger, the people are unable to take any action. Due to the terror of the tigers, the people are unable even to perform their daily tasks. The parents have stopped sending their children to schools, as the tigers have either killed or attacked a number of children. The kith and kins of those killed or injured by the tigers are not even granted compensation. The rules of the Environment Ministry are so complicated that it is very difficult for the common people to claim the compensation. I urge the Minister of Environment and Forests to take necessary steps to end the tiger menace and also simplify procedure for claiming compensation. Along with it a comprehensive and a fair policy be formulated to kill those man-eater tigers. The present policy is not only wrong but is also unjust.

[*English*]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Sir, in my State there has been a grave and serious situation arising out of the delay of disbursement of old age pension and pension for the widows. There has been a complete halt on the disbursement of pension and even the application forms are not available to the beneficiaries. The State Government is

indulging in political harassment of the people. Besides, the Central Government has also not released the amount in time.

I request the Central Government to immediately release some fund to the State and also give necessary direction to the State Government to rise above political consideration in a matter like this.

12.15 hrs. .

RE: ATROCITIES ON WOMEN

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ever since the Congress party has come in power in Madhya Pradesh, atrocities on Harijans and tribals have increased there. On 24th February, in Chandrapur village under Bilaspur district of Chhatisgarh region which is the most backward area of Madhya Pradesh a female labourer named Sundarwati was washing some clothes on hand pump. All of a sudden the Havildar Kedar Singh came there. After getting the reply to his query from the lady, the Havildar took her in her wet clothes to the rice mill of Rajesh Aggarwal. Having been interrogated regarding the sheet which was she washing, she was stripped. That lady could hardly save her dignity only with a small piece of her torn sari. But that piece of Sari also was forcibly pulled out from her body and holding her by her hair she was thrown down on the ground. Rajesh Aggarwal, the Havildar and the incharge of the police station collectively beat her with their legs and fists. Her medical report has proved the marks of injuries on her body. Thereafter, her husband Samra was locked with his wife in the rice mill.

Later on his wife was acquitted but her husband was sent to jail in a forged case and he was bailed out on 28th February from the S.D.M's court. After he was released, he narrated the incident to the public and the press. In this country, though people recite 'Yatr Naryaste poojayante ramante tatra devataah', yet the atrocities on the Harijan and tribal women are being committed. How long the country will remain mute spectator? I would like to submit that Government should take concrete steps in this regard so that uniform clad custodians of law may not play with the honour of these helpless women.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): There should be a discussion under Rule 193. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Fernandes you have given notice to raise two questions. You are permitted to put only one...

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, I totally agree with the hon. Members who want to have a discussion... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): The Hon. Minister must make a statement on it and the matter of atrocities on women should be discussed under Rule 193.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Member has described the incident of Stripping and insult of a women. Similarly in the wake of quarrel between two children a mother was stripped and burnt in Faridabad. That lady has sustained injuries and is lying in a hospitals. From these frequent incidents it is obvious that a general tendency is cropping up in the society to settle accounts with women by stripping them. I would like to request the Government to call a meeting of all the State Chief Ministers and issue strict instructions to them so that stern action could be taken against the persons for their inhuman behaviour or dishonouring the women in society. If there is any dereliction of duty on the part of the police officials, stern action should be taken against them also. Only then the humiliation of women could be stopped. It is a matter of shame that the women are subjected to dishonour, time and again.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): The Issue of burning of his wife by an IAS Officer working in the Ministry of External Affairs in Dhaka had been raised in this very august House. Shri Suraj Dubey had also raised the issue of burning of Ms. Usha Dhingra. The Government keeps mum on such issues. Women are burnt, tortured and dishonoured but the Government merely gives assurance. But the practice of stripping the cloth of Draupadi still continuous in the society. Even today the Dushashans laugh at us and enjoy. The Government should reply to it and take effective measures to check such incidents of stripping of women.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, there was a discussion the other day

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

when this question was raised. Now, I do not think such small discussions can solve the problem. In any case, the solution is much more difficult. But, I believe that in this Session, there must be a full discussion under Rule 193 on this question. Incidentally, in the last two Sessions, we were supposed to discuss this question but unfortunately, this is the question which does not find place in the list of priority of the Government.

Therefore, Sir, I firmly demand that there must be a full discussion under Rule 193 on Atrocities on Women where we can give our numerous suggestions instead of politicking with this affair.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Sir, I fully endorse the opinion that has just now been voiced by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and I agree that there should be a full discussion on this very important issue on the floor of the House. It is not much, our occasionally raising one or two such issues at the Zero Hour because we never get any reply from the Government. We have numerous, as Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has said, positive suggestions on this issue also. So, I urge upon the Government to arrange for a discussion under Rule 193 on the subject of Atrocities on Women.

Now, Sir, if you allow me.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Please excuse me. Kindly take your seat. I will see afterwards.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI
(Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

through you, I would only like to urge upon the Government that this issue should be discussed under Rule 193. Moreover, you are requested to direct the Ministry of Home Affairs strictly that whenever such an issue is raised in the House, the ministry should submit its report properly. Whenever I raised the issues regarding women in the House, Government gave the assurance that report would be submitted in the House. If the Ministry of Home Affairs issues strict directives to the State Government only then stern action will be taken thereon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please accept this suggestions and allow the matter to be discussed under the Rule 193. This issue should be discussed in the House.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this incident shows as to how seriously the Government is taking this matter. No statement regarding the incident of Dauna Village has yet been made in Lok Sabha and in Rajya Sabha. The statement has not been made even after 40 days of the incident. It shows that the Government is least concerned. The atrocities on women are continuously increasing, but the Ministry of Home Affairs does not want to give any clarification. As Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has stated that time and again Government had been giving assurance to discuss this issue for the last two sessions. But this matter has not been discussed. No attention is paid to their problems, and from the attitude of the Government in this session it is uncertain whether this matter will be discussed or not. I would like to appeal to you to exercise your right and allow discussion on it under the Rule 193 and issue directives to the Ministry of Home Affairs to give statement on it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KAMALA KUMARI KARREDDULA (Bhadrachalam): Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. I will speak cutting cross party lines. It is not a party matter; it is not a matter only confined to a particular State or a particular incident or a particular party; it should be above the party lines, above every individual.

We are very much ashamed that in a country like ours — even after 45 years of Independence, where so much civilization has developed, so-called civilized people are there — the culprits are getting scot free; there is no severe punishment for them, whatsoever. In some of the cases, even FIRs have not been filed by the Police or the Home Department irrespective of the State. This is the attitude of the Police and the Home Department. They have taken it as a fancy subject against the atrocities on women, whether it is a vulnerable section or a weaker section or Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes women or any women especially in a country like ours. The culprit should be severely punished; severe action should be taken against him. If necessary, the House should pass a legislation in this respect and direct the State Government to take severe steps, legal steps and also the Home Ministry should do the same thing.

Then we should have a discussion under Rule 193.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Now I am in a dilemma. May I talk on the atrocities against women or may I talk on the major train accident which has taken place in my constituency?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should first talk on atrocities on women.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will you also give me a chance to raise it later on?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That you can raise afterwards.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Without wasting the time of the House and the Zero Hour, I fully agree with all the suggestions made by our women Parliamentarians to have a discussion on it under Rule 193 so that we may get a chance to raise this hot issue of atrocities on women.

May I also raise my second issue for which I had given a notice? Day before yesterday, a major train accident had occurred in my constituency.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Shri George Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri George Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I need not repeat it that in Zero Hour only extraordinary subjects should be taken up. That means only incidents of greater importance may be taken up in the Zero Hour.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we would like to have a statement from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as it is a matter of great

importance... (*Interruptions*)... Sir, atrocieties on women is a subject on which we are all interested.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let me first have my say. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to submit that this is pinching me most that only women are speaking on the issues related to women. Just now it has been stated that there are many Dushasans who enjoy such incidents but these Dushasans do not belong to any particular side. Whenever a question, concerning women is raised in the House, the male members do not speak in their favour. Instead of considering the seriousness of the issue, they chuckle as if the women are a thing to be ridiculed. This is highly objectionable and it troubles me the most. Some members of this House chuckle in this way.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the notice of a question given by me is also related to the women. There are Red-Line buses in the city about which the hon. Minister had given a statement yesterday that no bribe was taken for issuing permits for these buses but I am not raising the issue of bribe etc. These days, the issue of liberalisation is being talked about, you have also talked about privatisation of different organisations but what is happening with women. This you can see in Red-Line buses in Delhi which have such slogans or couplets that I feel are very disturbing if we read them. I think the Government will take action if it is mentioned in the House. A newsitem in this respect was published in the Times of India on 28th February, about which I had a talk with some higher

officials and the police, but later on I came to know that no action was being taken either by the State Government or by any other concerned authority. Just have a glimpse over what is written in the Red-Line buses.

"Skirt Pehankar Kamar Kyon Bal Khati ho, Nazren Milakar Nazren Kyon Jhukati ho."

Another one says,

"Ankhon Mein Laga Kai Kajal, Gulab Jaise Mehkati ho, Bus Main Khari ho Kar Driver Ko Kyon Tarsati Ho."

These sort of things are written in the Red-line buses. It shows that the Red-line bus scheme has been completely hijacked by anti-social elements and women are the worst sufferers. The skirt is generally worn by young girls and such type of filthy language is used for them. It is not that these words are written by mistake but this is being done intentionally. It shows that the Government in the city. The women feel very disgusting and find difficult to travel in such buses. They sometime weep as to where should they go in such a situation. By talking of liberalisation you cannot understand the pain and agony being experienced by women because you are under the spell of the liberalisation policy of Shri Manmohan Singh. How it has affected our culture can be well understood by the operation of these Red-line buses?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I request that the Ministry of Home should take immediate action in this regard. Secondly, the Police Commissioner of Delhi be directed that each and every bus be checked and he should seize those buses in which such things are

written and their owners should be arrested and cases should be filed against them. They should be jailed. You have the section 509 of IPC which relates to the insulting behaviour against the modesty of a woman. They should immediately be arrested and the State Transport Authority should be given directives to this effect. I admit that there are law enforcing agencies in Delhi like the Government of Delhi and the Delhi Administration. I have had a discussion with the Government of Delhi over this issue but I want that Ministry of Home should take initiatives in this regard. Action should be taken in this regard considering that it is not related to women only but also to our culture and traditions.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would draw the attention of the Government as well as the House towards a very important issue. At the time when the Finance Minister presented the budget, there was a newspapers strike that is why none of us could understand its implications. Later on when people read about it they came to know about it. The Finance Minister reduced the duty on imports but imposed excise duty on items being manufactured by small scale units. In protest against this, all small scale units of northern part are on an indefinite strike. You will be surprised to know that a duty has been imposed on soap, pipe fittings, hair fixer, steel industry and Ayurvedic medicines. Thousands of Labourers are working in small scale units. Shri Fernandes has drawn the attention towards this fact that the policy of liberalisation which should have been meant for India is being applied on MNCs and on the other hand they are dead set to close down the small scale units in India. We demand that the

increased excise duty should immediately be withdrawn.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I wholly support him on this issue.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanyharpur): I, through you, would like to draw the Governments' attention towards an issue of urgent public importance. The recent advertisements by the UPSC for its competitive examinations does not indicate the provision for 27 per cent reservation under Mandal Commission. It also does not mention about age relaxation as well as relaxation in chances. It clearly shows that 52 per cent socially and educationally backward people of this country are being deprived of the benefits of reservation.

Not only this, the Government is also adopting evasive policy by going for Iron filter gate in respect of implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. I, therefore, request that the Government should immediately issue orders to remove Iron filter gate immediately and to implement the recommendations relating to reservation. The provision regarding creamy layer should not be introduced. I had raised this question three days ago also. The hon. Minister of Welfare (*Interruptions*)... the Government had given an assurance... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): It is a matter of concern for all. This situation has arisen due to the delay on part of the Government. This four years' delay is also due to the Government. A relaxation in this respect has always been given by the authorities. Therefore, they are demanding for a relaxation in a natural way which is being supported by one and all. As he is saying, the Minister of Welfare has also given his assent... (*Interruptions*).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar, I am sorry. I cannot allow you. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav has already spoken on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Three days back when I had raised this question the Minister of Welfare had said that the Government would consider it. I have received information from higher sources that in order to make this issue very complicated the Government is preparing to refer this issue to the Supreme Court. It is simply an effort to delay or put off the issue so that the people belonging to backward classes may not get the justice.

[English]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[Translation]

I have given four arguments in support of my point. Just now, the hon. Member said that it was to be implemented in 1990. Had it been implemented at that time, the case would not have been referred to the Court and they would have got the benefits of reservation.

Nine categories have been receiving reservation benefits in U.P.S.C. All these categories are getting age relaxation and chance relaxation. With the provision of excluding creamy layer these benefits have also been given to persons belonging to economically backward classes etc. which were earlier given to socially and educationally backwards only. Now, it is their right that they should be given relaxation in age and more

chances like other categories. But now a conspiracy is being hatched to deprive them of these benefits. So I demand that immediate action should be taken by the Welfare Minister on the assurance given by him in this House that he will consider it. U.P.S.C. has already announced examination dates. Whole process will become meaningless, if immediate action is not taken in this regard. While drawing the attention of the Government towards this serious matter, I request for immediate action on it.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this demand has been made constantly and it seems that Government's intention is not clear in this regard. Hon. Welfare Minister has given assurance in this House on it just three days before. When entire House unanimously agreed on it, then relaxation should be given definitely, otherwise it will not be of any advantage to real needy i.e. the people residing in rural areas and also O.B.Cs. It should not be delayed further and hon. Minister should make announcement in this regard so that they may be benefited.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had agreed that we should close the Zero Hour by 12.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): There is no hard and fast rule. Yesterday Zero Hour went up to 1 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We had limited the Zero Hour to half an hour as agreed upon by all the parties. The hon.

Members have raised some of the important matters on the floor of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, there are some very urgent matters which are pending for the last two or three days... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are some matters which could not be taken up for want of time. In this way, there will be agitation and unrest in the minds of the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Devendra is not an ordinary issue. Advanji has also agreed to it. I think that people belonging to ruling Party will also agree to it. This issue is not related to any political party. They should be given relaxation upto five years in age and more chances should also be given to them. The list of backward classes should be prepared in the States where it has not been done so far. Some persons from 'Saini' community came to me and told that this community has been recognised as backward community in the whole country but not in Delhi. So I demand that the list of backward classes should be prepared and sent to Secretary, Joint Secretary of Central Government and should be completed within one month. Not only in the advertisements of U.P.S.C. but of all other services which are being advertised by the Government, there should be provision for 27 per cent reservation for backward classes. I demand that 27 per cent reservation should be made for OBCs in all educational institutions like colleges,

universities for admission as well as for the post of Professors etc.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy, Sir, I just want to take a minute to warn the Government of an explosive situation which is building up and if timely steps are not taken to avert it then we may find ourselves in a great trouble. The point is that several lakhs of Central Government employees had reached an agreement with the Government of India long ago-on 12 October last year-that the Fifth Central Pay Commission for the Central Government employees would be set up. And the Government said that it would be set up in one month. Only the composition of the Commission and the terms of reference were to be decided. Now, five months have passed. They are not doing anything. They are keeping quiet about it. The representations made to the Cabinet Secretary and other senior officials to announce the Commission and the terms of reference have failed. There is no response. The Cabinet Secretary assured them that the whole thing will be announced before this Parliament Session begins. But nothing has happened. Therefore, the Government has gone back on its assurance.

The delay, we are told, is due to the Prime Minister's Office where the files have accumulated and nobody is clearing them. Therefore, this delaying of the matter is such that it will compel the Central Government employees all over the country again to take to the path of agitation. It is better that timely steps are taken to announce whatever they had assured the employees that they would announce about the setting up of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. *(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Sharad Yadav, we have agreed that by 12.30 p.m., we will complete the Zero Hour business (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Kindly allow Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya. It is a very important matter. It is about the National Library in Calcutta, which is in trouble (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, if I have to extend it for you then I have to accommodate others also.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the crisis which is vitiating the atmosphere of the National Library in Calcutta where a section of employees are violating rules and regulations and trying to bring the work to a standstill through hooliganism and physical violence. An allegedly irregular promotion order which the Director was forced to sign under threat of physical violence and subsequently withdrew is the immediate cause of this. We find that after this neither the Director nor the other officers are allowed to come to the office and pay bills are not allowed to be made. In spite of some of us, MPs, urging the Ministry and the Department to have an enquiry made by the officials of the Ministry through an on-the-spot survey, the Ministry has been sitting inactive and allowing the crisis to precipitate.

Now, suddenly, from newspaper report we hear that the Ministry through a fax message has reversed the order given by the Director cancelling the promotion. This is creating a new tension in the atmosphere of the National Library.

We urge upon the Government that the Department must send its representative-before giving any such order to the National Library-immediately; ensure that the Director comes to the office; give only its considered verdict on the promotion order and also have a thorough inquiry made into what disruptive forces within are encouraging the continued flouting of the Director's authority by a number of officers and fuelling hooliganism.

We want that the smooth running of this prestigious institution must be ensured and MPs must be immediately informed of what steps the Government is taking. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: What about the issue regarding reservation for OBCs? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD VADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to the future of millions of youth in the country.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadav ji, regarding this OBC, Nitishji has spoken and others have also spoken. My request is.....

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, I would like to know that whether we will get the reaction of the Government to it or not. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, it should be implemented.

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nitish Ji, there are other hon. Members also in the House who have got some important matters to be raised. This subject has taken sufficient time also. You have been able to impress upon the Government the urgency of the matter. Now kindly allow others also to raise their points.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: When the Government has given assurance then it should be implemented. Less than a week has left. *(Interruptions)* We, therefore, are stressing on this because once the examination of UPSC starts, then it would be futile. *(Interruptions)* We would like to know whether this assurance will be translated into action or not? *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): It appears that Shri Nitish Kumar always smells something fishy in every action of the Government, but it is not so. The hon. Members of the treasury benches and the Government are more concerned to do justice to the youth of the back ward communities than the hon. Members of the Opposition. However, I would like to urge the hon. Members that such serious issues, which are raised in this manner... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have objection to this, Sir.

[Translation]

Then, you tell us how to raise these issues. One week time was given in the assurance by the hon. Minister of Welfare. I understand that both the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Welfare are planning to refer the matter to the Supreme Court. *(Interruptions)* just to linger on the matter so that the people do not get benefit in this year.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Sir, I would just like to say to the hon. Member through you that the Government will do nothing which is illegal. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would like to know as to what is going to be done in regard to the assurance given to us in the House? Please tell us. Move to refer it to the Supreme Court means to put off the things. Will any statement be made or not in this regard?

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, justice delayed is justice denied. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Sir, I will definitely bring the feelings of the hon. Members on this important issue to the notice of the concerned Minister for his appropriate action.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I shall call the names up to one o'clock. Kindly cooperate with the Chair. If each Member were to speak for one to one and a half minute, then we shall have to extend the time up to one o'clock. Today is

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

an extraordinary day and this should not be taken as a precedent or a custom. The Zero Hour shall have to come to an end by 12.30 p.m. Since so many Members are very much agitated and an important issue has come up before the House which consumed good amount of time, others should not be denied a chance of ventilating their grievances. Therefore, under extraordinary circumstances, the time is being extended...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall call everybody.

Your name will be called at the end. By talking to the Presiding Officer, the time is lost. Some of the senior Members really feel annoyed.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue pertaining to the recession which is going on in the newsprint industry all over the country. The public sector undertakings in the newsprint industry which are functioning very effectively, are facing a very difficult position now and about 10,000 metric tonnes of newsprint have piled up and are stored in the different godowns of various factories. One factory, the Hindustan Newsprint Limited, is situated in my constituency at Velloor and more than 10,000 metric tonnes of newsprint have piled up there for the last two weeks. The other mills like NEPA Mill, Tamil Nadu Mill, Mysore Mill and other public sector undertakings are also facing the same problem. The point is, the free import of newsprint is causing great concern to the public sector undertakings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ramesh Chennithala, you should accommodate your friends also. So, please finish quickly.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, due to the frequent interferences from the Chair. I am unable to finish quickly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Chair is interfering, then the Chair apologises to you.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: In the newsprint industry 2:1 formula is followed, that is, when we are purchasing two tonnes of newsprint, one tonne has to be imported. But this formula is not at all implemented. As you know, there are anti-dumping laws in our country. But the point is, cheaper rate of newsprint is imported into our country by certain multinational companies. This is going to hamper the prospect of the public sector undertakings which are functioning effectively in our country. This is dangerous for the Fourth Estate also. Today, they are giving newsprint at a concessional rate to them, but after sometime, the whole indigenous industry will suffer and these people will capture the Indian market in a big way. This will seriously affect the Fourth Estate also. So, I request the hon. Minister for Industries to convene an urgent meeting to solve the problem which is faced by the public sector undertakings in the newsprint industry.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also support this demand made by Mr. Ramesh Chennithala.

Sir, there is a grave situation caused by the delay of the Government in declaring the floor price of certain agricultural produce. For example, coconut is not only grown in Kerala, but it is grown in

all the States of our country. Now, the problem is, the price of coconut has gone down steeply, but the Government has not declared the floor price for the past several months and it is going to be almost one year now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Thomas, the liberty should not be misused. You should conclude now.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the declared price of rubber is very low and so, we strongly protest against the price which has been declared.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the difficulty. If a chance is given you are speaking for two or three minutes. You should keep in mind that there are other Members also who want to speak and you should accommodate them

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we all know, some of the major nationalised banks had been severely indicted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the whole country knows about it. But still they are merrily continuing the malpractices. In reply to my question, I have been told that so far no major action has been taken by many of the operators there.

Sir, after the change in the State Bank of India Act and the initiation of the process of privatisation, the notorious brokers like Mr. Harshad Mehta are purchasing the equity shares of the State Bank of India in a big way. That is not end of it. The State Bank of India presented a very dismal picture in its last balance-sheet. What is happening in Calcutta now? They are shifting their offices continuously from one place to another; they are shifting from Tata Centre to Chatterjee International, from Jeevan Deep to

Commerce Street and from there to another place. But they have vast properties, lands and buildings which are inherited from the Imperial Bank of India.

A decision was taken in the mid-60s to construct a multi-storey building. Instead of agreeing to that decision, they are draining money.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to stop this drainage and malpractice.

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): I would like to focus the attention of the House on a very important matter. Suggestive advertisements have been appearing in certain newspapers and magazines for quite some time. I am raising this very important subject which affects the youth of this country specifically because a group of ladies came and met me last week and gave me some advertisements and the cassette tapes which, with your permission, I would like to lay on the Table of the House. I would like to read these advertisements. But unless I point out at least one, you will not understand the importance of this. The advertisement says:

"Fantastic true stories. Share my fantasies."

Our youth in this country has to share some fantasy with some lady in Hong Kong or Australia.

There are two aspects for this. We have embarked once massive mobilisation programme for our economy. We are reforming the economic system. We are not reforming our moral system. Unfortunately, these advertisements have been appearing in all newspapers and magazines. Even today, some leading newspapers have carried advertisements.

[Shri R. Prabhu]

request the Government to ban these advertisements immediately.

There is another very important economic aspect. Who is paying for these advertisements? Who is paying for these calls? People here ring up Hong Kong to hear somebody else's fantasies. But who pays for it ultimately? The reverse charge is paid in foreign exchange by our Department. On a rough calculation, in the last two years, about Rs. 300 crore per year in foreign exchange is going out because of these advertisements. The way to ban this is to stop paying in foreign exchange accepting these reverse charges. Then automatically, these things will stop. This is running the moral fabric of our country. This is very important. I bring it to the notice of the Government. How much foreign exchange out flow has gone in the last two years? You should immediately ban these advertisements.

I will lay these on the Table of the House with your permission.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Sir, as I tried to inform you earlier, day before yesterday a goods train accident had occurred unfortunately at Chalakkudi in my Constituency. Twenty-eight bogies of a goods train carrying diesel and kerosene were gutted on fire. But no death directly connected with the accident took place.

The timely action taken by the driver of the goods train saved the whole train from being burnt. So, the driver of the train should be rewarded for taking timely and gallant action.

When the Fire Fighting Force was to bring the equipment to put off the fire,

unfortunately the equipment fell into a well. A man went into the well to take out the equipment from the well but unfortunately he died in his attempt as he drowned in the well.

So, I would request the Government, through you, that adequate compensation should be paid to the near and dear relatives of the man who died in the well in his attempt to bring out the fire fighting equipment.

Two local people tried their level best to detach 28 bogies from the main train. I request that they also should be rewarded adequately by the Department of Railways.

This railways accident took place in the midst of paddy fields which were also very much affected. Therefore, the owners of those paddy fields should also be paid some kind of compensation.

An immediate inquiry should be conducted by the Government into the matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The difficulty is if a chance is given, you do not stop. You do not realise that some of your friends also want to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the non-repairing of the roads for the last 5 to 10 years in Danapur Cantonment in my Constituency, Patna. Condition of roads is so bad that big pot holes have developed. Though through the officials we tried to bring this to the notice of the Government yet it has not been paid nay heed.

13.00 hrs.

Such accidents do occur there and as a result thereof people of that area are facing a lot of difficulties. People of that area are very much agitated and are living in a hell of eye. Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Government to get the roads repaired immediately so that accidents could be avoided.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards private airlines operating in the country. I am not raising it just for the name. Passengers, contrary to the practice in Indian Airlines and the Railways, are served liquor by the private airlines. It is nice that managements of private airlines cut down fares to attract passengers. However, serving of liquor often leads to unsavoury incidents. I would like to urge the Government to immediately put a ban on this. When Indian Airlines and Railways are following rules of morality then these private airlines should also follow these rules. The Government should tell us what it can do? What is the hitch in taking the remedial measures?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): All the political parties except the Congress, have been demanding for electoral reforms. And this is not the first time that we have been demanding it. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Jena, it is a question of prestige of the House. Is there not any scope under the rules to take action?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I am raising this issue because the Chief Election Commissioner day before yesterday has said that there is a conspiracy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true. It is between an individual or an institution versus Parliament. There are rules in the procedure and you can take action against them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The office of the Election Commission is an institution and officially it has been said that there is a conspiracy not to reform the electoral process and all political parties are responsible for this. He has said that the Prime Minister is not clearing the electoral reforms. In his statement he has categorically stated that since 1990, the draft legislation has been pending the Government is not bothered to react on this. Though the political parties like the JD, the BJP and the left parties have been demanding for the electoral reforms, yet the Government is keeping mum. Now the Chief Election Commissioner says that there is a conspiracy by all political parties not to go in for electoral reforms. Then ID card issue has become a serious matter because the Election Commission has said that from 1st January, they are not going to hold the election. Elections to the States of Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra and Gujarat are due in March 1995. And the Chief Election Commissioner says that from January 1995 onwards he is not going to hold the elections. It is a serious issue. We would like to know what exactly the position of the Government is and whether the Government is sincere on this issue or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): Ex-MLA of Bihar, Shri Pankaj Kumar Sinha, of Islampur in Nalanda district was kidnapped 8 or 9 months back while on a excursion trip. His children are crying and there is nothing to eat in his house. His wife ran from pillar to post for his release, but his whereabouts are still not known. Kidnappers have demanded huge ransom. I would like to urge the Government to solve the problems being confronted by Shri Sinha's family. Shri Sinha's whereabouts should be found out and his family should be given all assistance. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): I have not been given the permission to lay it on the Table of the House. I am willing to authenticate it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are certain rules and regulations; and if you want to lay any document on the Table of the House, then you have to do so according to the rules and procedures of the House.

SHRI R. PRABHU: Sir, I have given a prior notice and I am ready to authenticate it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us do it according to the rules.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter regarding Pankaj Kumar Sinha is very serious. The Government should make a statement about it.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House has to be run according to certain rules and procedure. If the Presiding Officer is standing, then it is not right on the part of the Member to stand the same time.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): The Government should take measures to get Pankaj Kumar Sinha released from the terrorists.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lodha, do you know that there are certain norms? When the Presiding Officer is standing, the Members are not expected to stand at the same time. What is it that you are doing?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I tell you that this is not fair on the part of the Members; the Zero Hour shall have to come to an end at 12.30 p.m. If it being extended again and again what does it convey?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is we who framed the rules and it is we, willingly, who violate those rules. This is not fair on our part.

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, for more than three or four years, the post of Director (Welfare), a Central Government post, in Andhra Pradesh is lying vacant. This post has been created to take care of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The same post, that is, Director (Welfare) is also lying vacant in Bhopal and other States for more than three or four years. I have made several requests for filling up this post immediately because of the increasing atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. So, I request, once again, to the Welfare Ministry to take immediate steps to fill up this vacant post.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an unprecedented incident has taken place in the history of the country. About more than one hundred journalists including senior journalists as well as journalists responsible for reporting of Parliamentary proceedings have been courted arrest at gate No. 2 of the Parliament in protest of the economic policies of the Government. It is for the first time that the journalists have launched a agitation and courted arrest in protest of entry of multi-national compa-

nies like Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola and also the foreign print media and electronic media in the country. They deserve all praise from me and at the same time I condemn the misbehaviour of police with the people courting peaceful arrest at gate No. 2. You should direct the Government to enquire into the matter and also tell them that the intelligentsia, the enlightened people and the journalists have come on roads to oppose the economic policies of the Government and it should check entry of foreign newspapers, print media and electronic media into our country...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, there are other hon. Members who would also like to speak. I want you to see the time also. If you are given some time to speak, then the hon. Member also has the right to speak. You can raise your matter on Monday.

If the Chair wants to take a strong decision, in that case, you cannot do anything.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my only submission is that the matter relating to one lakh and sixty thousand workers of NTC is proposed to be referred of the BIFR. As this will take time, pending decision of the case, the Government should help the workers so that they may get their wages.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to raise a very important and serious matter

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

regarding NTC in the House. Commission amounting to crores of rupees has been taken in purchase of clothes for the Defence Ministry. Bungling of crores of rupees has been committed by selling clothes to Benami and non-existing parties. This corporation is in Maharashtra. A committee was also constituted to enquire into the bungling and irregularities committed by it and the report of the said committee was submitted to the Government. However, no action was taken on the report. The committee was also disgraced by providing wrong figures to them. The person who made complaint about it is being threatened that he would be killed and ultimately he was dismissed from the service. Since the victim has been the person who was fighting for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and opposing corruption, the matter should be got investigated. It is yet another Bofors in which misappropriation amounting to crores of rupees have taken place.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): We passed the Panchayati Raj Act as per Constitution Amendment No. 73 to article 243 and the Panchayati Raj Act has come into force from April 1993. The Constitution has authorised the Parliament to extend this provision to the scheduled areas. The State Governments have got no power to extend this Act to the scheduled areas. After expiry of one year, this Panchayati Raj Act will not be in force in the scheduled areas because the Parliament has not extended it. I draw the attention of the Central Government to take up this matter and pass a Bill in the Parliament to make it come into force in the scheduled areas. Or else, there will be vacuum in the

scheduled areas and there will be no Panchayati Raj in the scheduled areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, some of the hon. Members could not be accommodated for want of time. I hope you will excuse me. Now I proceed to the next item, Papers to be laid on the Table.

13.12 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Indian Airlines, International Airport Authority of India etc. for the year 1992-93

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) (SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR): On behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Airlines for the year 1992-93 under sub-section (2) of section 37 of the Air Corporations Act, 1953.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Airlines for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Air Corporations Act 1953.

- (iii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the Working of the Indian Airlines, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5446/94]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Airports Authority of India for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of section 24 and sub-section (2) of section 25 of the International Airports Authority Act, 1971.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the Working of the International Airports Authority of India for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5447/94]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5448/94]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi for the year 1989-90.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) of item (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5449/94]

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the
Ministry of Welfare for the
year 1994-95**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DE-
VELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI
MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri
Sitaram Kesri, I beg to lay on the Table a
copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants

(Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Welfare for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5450/94]

Audit Report on General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board for 1992-93 and Statement for delay in laying these Papers, Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): On behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the General Fund Accounts of the Coffee Board for the year 1992-93.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5451/94]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5452/94]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports

Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5453/94]

Apprenticeship Rules, 1991, Annual Report of Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi for 1992-93 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Apprenticeship Rules, 1991 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 356 in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 1992 together with Corrigenda thereto published in Notification Nos. G.S.R. 538 (in English version only) dated the 30th October, 1993 and G.S.R. 612 (in Hindi version only) dated the 11th December, 1993 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5454/94]

- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, under section 34 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 5455/94]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 5456/94]

Reviews on the working of and Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd, Shillong and Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd, New Delhi etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): On behalf of Shri G. Venkat Swamy, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English version) under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 5457/94]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 5458/94]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 5459/94]

- (3) 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 Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5460/94]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5461/94]

Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Rules 1993, and Notification under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): On behalf of Dr. Abrar Ahmed, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) **A copy of the Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Rules, 1993**

(Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 776 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1993 under sub-section (3) of section 79 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 5462/94]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 3 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 1994 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 679(E) dated the 17 July, 1992 so as to allow foreign currency upto five hundred US Dollars held by a person resident in India for personal purposes, issued under section 14 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5463/94]

Notification under Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1973 and Review on the working of and Annual Report of Projects and Equipment Corporation on India Ltd. for 1992-93

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

THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 19 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:—
- (i) The Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 791(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1993.
- (ii) The Foreign Trade (Exemption from application of Rules in certain cases) Order, 1933 published in Notification No. S.O. 1056 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5464/94]

- (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 Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited,

New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5465/94]

Notifiactions under Customs Act, 1962, Finance Act 1989 and Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) G.S.R. 784(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods specified in the Table annexed with the notification, when imported into India for use in an integrated aquaculture farm in connection with its operational requirements of the products produced therefrom by hundred percent export oriented undertakings approved by the Board of Approvals for hundred percent Export Oriented Undertakings from the whole of the basic and additional duties, if any, of Customs leviable thereon.

- (ii) G.S.R. 785(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notifications mentioned in the Table annexed with the Notification.
- (iii) S.O. 1044(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (iv) S.O. 1045(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of exports.
- (v) S.O. 46(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of Malaysian Dollar into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (vi) S.O. 47(E) published in Gazette of India dated the
- (vii) S.O. 62(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of imports.
- (viii) S.O. 63(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of exports.
- (ix) G.S.R. 732(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 219/89-Cus., dated the 1st August, 1989.
- (x) G.S.R. 733(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 1993 to-
- 21st January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of Malaysian Dollar into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of exports.

gether with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 110/86-Cus., dated the 17th February, 1986.

- (xi) G.S.R. 27(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose an anti-dumping duty on the specified grades of polyvinyl Chloride Resin imported from Brazil, Mexico, Republic of Korea and U.S.A.

- (xii) G.S.R. 28(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods imported by 100 per cent Export Oriented Units or Units working in the Exports Processing Zone from the levy of anti-dumping duty, when such goods are exempted from the basic customs duty.

- (xiii) The Customs House Agents Licensing (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 42(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5466/94].

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E) (Hindi

and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding the Notification No. 5/92-Inland Air Travel Tax, dated the 26th May, 1992, under section 49 of the Finance Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5467/94].

- (3) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:—

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 747(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1993.

- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 745(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1993.

- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 746(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5468/94].

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

(i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Debenture Trustees) Rules, 1993 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 788(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1993.

(ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Debenture Trustees) Regulation, 1993 published in Notification No. SEBI/LE/12/93 in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1993.

(iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1994 published in Notification No. S.O. 153(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 1994.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5469/94].

(5) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

(i) G.S.R. 735(E) published in Gazette of India dated the

7th December, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to foundry grade pig iron with a phosphorous content of 0.2 percent and above and produced by a unit using coke as the principal fuel, from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.

(ii) The Consumer Welfare Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1994 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 33(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5470/94].

(6) A copy of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 748(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 1993 under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-5471/94]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 160(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1994 appointing Shrimati K. Shukla, as Member of the Appellate

Tribunal for Forfeited Property with effect from the date of taking over the charge as Member issued under section 12 of the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976.

15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The National Association for the Blind, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5472/94].

- (8) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 191(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1994 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 385(E) dated the 29th May, 1989 issued under section 68N of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

- (iii) S.O. 131 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Action for Food Production, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1988-89 to 1990-91 subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5473/94].

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:—

- (iv) S.O. 132 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.

- (i) S.O. 128 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to "Ashraya, Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1991-92 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.

- (v) S.O. 133 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Annie Besant Trust, Adyar, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assess-

- (ii) S.O. 130 published in Gazette of India dated the

- ment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (vi) S.O. 134 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'T.T. Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O. 135 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Lady Tata Memorial Trust, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O. 136 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Music Academy, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O. 137 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to
- 'Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1989-90.
- (x) S.O. 138 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. 139 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, Calcutta' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O. 140 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Jamshedpur Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children Jamshedpur' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1988-89 to 1990-91 subject to certain conditions.

- (xiii) S.O. 141 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Jamshedpur Society for the Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children, Jamshedpur' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1991-92 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (xiv) S.O. 142 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1989-90.
- (xv) S.O. 143 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. 144 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Kerala Labour Welfare Fund Board, Kerala' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. 147 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Mobile Creches for working Mother's Children, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. 148 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, West Bengal' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. 149 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Shri Ram Chandra Mission' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1989-90.
- (xx) S.O. 150 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 re-

- garding exemption to 'Shri Ram Chandra Mission' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. 151 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Shri Dorabji Tata Trust, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. 152 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'National Centre for performing Arts, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90.
- (xxiii) S.O. 153 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Haryana Amalgamated Fund for the Welfare of Ex-servicemen' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1989-90.
- (xxiv) S.O. 154 published in Gazette of India dated the
- 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College Trust and Management Society, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S O 155 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Kerala Artisan and skilled Workers (Death-cum-Retirement) Benefit Scheme, Quilon' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S O 156 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Gurudev Siddha Peeth Maharashtra' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O 157 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Sri Kailash Ashram Mahasansthan Trust, Banga-

- lore' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxviii) S.O. 158 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxix) S.O. 159 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Gujarat Rajya Rahat Samiti, Ahmedabad' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90.
- (xxx) S.O. 160 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Seva Mandir, Udaipur, Rajasthan' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxi) S.O. 161 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Madhya Pradesh Mahila Kalyan Samiti, Govindpura, Bhopal' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O. 162 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Muslim Educational Society, Calicut' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1988-89 to 1989-90.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 163 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Muslim Educational Society, Calicut' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 164 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to

1995-96 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxv) S.O. 165 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The J.R.D. Tata Trust, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxvi) S.O. 166 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust, Amritsar' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxvii) S.O. 167 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Tamil Nadu Ex-services Personnel Bevevolent Fund, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxviii) S.O. 169 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to

'Dahaj Niwaran Avam Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.

(xxxix) S.O. 170 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1988-89 to 1989-90.

(xl) S.O. 171 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'FIE Foundation, Kolhapur (Maharashtra)' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.

(xli) S.O. 172 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.

- (xlii) S.O. 173 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Ramakrishna Mission, Belur, West Bengal' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliii) S.O. 174 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Ramana Kendra, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliv) S.O. 175 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Society for Social Forestry Research and Development, Tamil Nadu' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlv) S.O. 176 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'National Institute of Bank of Management, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1989-90.
- (xlvi) S.O. 177 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Nadar Mahajana Sangam, Madurai' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlvii) S.O. 178 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlviii) S.O. 179 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Little Sisters of the Poor, Calcutta' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlix) S.O. 180 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 re-

- garding exemption to 'Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust, Amritsar' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (i) S.O. 181 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. 182 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Aga Khan Foundation, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. 183 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Krishnamurti Foundation of India, Madras' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (liii) S.O. 184 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, General Fund, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (liv) S.O. 185 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Kerala Today Workers Welfare Fund Board, Trivandrum' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1987-88.
- (lv) S.O. 186 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Swami Ramananda Tirtha Memorial Committee, Hyderabad' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (lvi) S.O. 187 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Bangalore' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax

- Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (lvii) S.O. 188 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to Association of Medical Physicists of India, Bombay under section 10 (23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (lviii) S.O. 189 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Sarva Seva Sangh, Wardha' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (lix) S.O. 190 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Jehangir Art Gallery, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (lx) S.O. 191 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Association of Medical Physicists of India, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxi) S.O. 192 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Maharashtra State Women's Council, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxii) S.O. 193 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Oil Coordination Committee, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxiii) S.O. 194 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years

- 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxiv) S.O. 195 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Indian Ex-services League, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxv) S.O. 196 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'West Bengal Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Calcutta' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxvi) S.O. 197 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'West Bengal Chief Minister's Relief fund, Calcutta' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxvii) S.O. 198 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'The Institute of Rail Transport,
- New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxviii) S.O. 199 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Bombay' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxix) S.O. 145 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'S.S. Jindal Trust, Bangalore' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1991-92 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxx) S.O. 146 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 1994 regarding exemption to 'Mobile Creches for Working Mother's children, New Delhi' under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (lxxi) The Income-tax (Twenty First Amendment) Rules,

1993 published in Notification No. S.O. 1003(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5474/94].

- (10)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5475/94].

- (11) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Housing Bank for the period from the 1st July, 1992 to the 30th June, 1993, alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of section 40 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5476/94].

13.14 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Fifty-Seventh Report

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): I beg to present the Fifty-

Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on outside Production-Doordarshan.

13.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 7th March, 1994 will consist of:

1. Further discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
2. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
3. General discussion on Jammu & Kashmir Budget for 1994-95.
4. Submission to the Vote of the House Demands on Account (Jammu & Kashmir) for 1994-95.
5. Discussion & Voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Jammu & Kashmir) for 1993-94.
6. General discussion on Manipur Budget for 1994-95.

7. Submission to the Vote of the House Demands on Account (Manipur) for 1994-95.
8. Discussion and Voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Manipur) for 1993-94.

Freedom Fighters Samman Pension;

2. Proposed withdrawal of Budgetary support for the NTC Mills throughout the country with effect from 1st April, 1994.

As sufficient discussion has already taken place on the Resolution seeking extension of President's Rule in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and the Resolution seeking approval of the President's Rule imposed in Manipur, Sir, with your permission, I seek the indulgence of the House to pass the Budgets relating to these States without discussion on 9th March, 1994 after conclusion of the consideration of the items relating to the Railway Budget.

[Translation]

MR. LAXMINARAYANAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): The following items may please be included in the next week's agenda:

Review of the entire textile policy of the country in view of the fact that the textile mills running under NTC and various other textile mills in various States including Raj Kumar Mill in Indore, Hira Mill in Ujjain and Sajjan Mill in Ratlam have been declared sick.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The long standing demand of the freedom fighters of Goa Liberation struggle for removal of the anomalies in regard to sanction of

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur): I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

For the development of agriculture and the country an upper limit for granting loan to farmers be fixed, taking into account the value of their land holdings. Pass books should also be issued to them to provide protection to them from the exploitation of money lenders and to ensure they are able to sell their produce at the prices suitable to them.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to enact a law at All India level for the agricultural labourers.
2. Need to review the allocation of funds by CAPART to voluntary Organisations for developmental works.

[English]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): I request that the following items may be included in the next week's business:

1. Opening of new Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh where there

are large numbers of serving and Ex-servicemen

items may be included in the next week's agenda

- 2 Channelising of the Swan river and its tributaries in Una District of Himachal Pradesh

- 1 L P G agencies should be opened at all the Tehsil headquarters of Vidisha, Ramson and Sihore districts

[*Translation*]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda

- 2 Renovation of 'Visa Mandal' and its 'Bavadi' be done in Vidisha

[*English*]

- 1 Need to take adequate steps for proper care and maintenance of all historical monuments and Raj Bhavan of Rajasthan Government protected by the Archaeological Survey of India
- 2 Need to include Ajmer District in the Aravali Development Scheme being implemented with the help of Japan

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 30 p m

13.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda

14.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty Two Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

- 1 The service conditions of extra-Departmental Post Employees be announced and their demands be fulfilled
- 2 The opening of Medical college and Engineering college in Bareilly (U P) be announced

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) I request that the following

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up Agenda Items 12, 13 and 14

for discussion Time allotted is fifteen hours spread over three days The discussion commenced today, will also continue on 8th and 9th March 1994

Shri Ram Naik may please speak

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all you must reprimand the Government They have not even been able to complete the quorum The bell has been rung thrice *(Interruptions)* What is this Is this their management? The bell are to rung thrice They have not been able to complete their business You must at least reprimand them for this *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) I am on a print of order I want to say that presenting railway budget is an important issue but the Minister of Railways is not present here *(Interruptions)* It is very insulting that after the presentation of the railway budget the Minister of Railways is not present here *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The hon Minister of Railways has sent a letter dated 3 3 1994 authorising Shri Lenka for representing him in the House

(Interruptions)

14.44 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1994-95—
General Discussion

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON
ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS),
1994-95

AND
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1993-94

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Motions moved

- (i) That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India on account for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March 1995, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos 1 to 14 and 16"
- (ii) "That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1994, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof— Demand Nos. 8, 15 and 16."

**Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 1994-95 submitted to the
Vote of Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House
1		3
		<i>Rs.</i>
1.	Railway Board	2,47,67,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	14,47,83,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	113,42,31,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	240,52,66,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	177,73,39,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	253,76,57,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	124,67,82,000
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	198,50,40,000
9.	Operating Expenses—Traffic	821,62,96,000
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	513,45,88,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	89,54,35,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	117,84,91,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	285,12,12,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	996,66,67,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	7,50,67,000
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	191,03,07,000
	Railway Funds	1798,34,16,000
Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1993-94 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha		
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	30,00,00,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of Loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of over-Capitalization	46,00,00,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Railway Funds	1,00,00

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I, now call upon Shri Ram Naik to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Lenkaji will cease to be a Minister w.e.f. the first of next month and he is not a member of this House also... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before putting my views on railway budget, I take strong exception to the absence of the Minister of Railways. There can be any reason for that, but when the date of discussion on railway budget had been fixed well in advance, then, the absence of the Minister of Railways, may be all right as per rules, but is certainly against the sentiment of showing respect to the propriety. I take strong exception to the absence of such a senior Minister and to wasting the valuable time of the House in discussing his absence. He has presented railway budget earlier also on four occasions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the railway budget was being presented, I was hopeful that the Minister of Railways would come out with a budget which would be supported by the whole House and which would be a welcome step for railway passengers, suburban commuters and people who send goods from one place to other. I was hopeful that such budget will be presented which would help in the development of the country but the Minister of Railways has dashed my hopes. The hike in passenger fare and freight has put new burden on the common man to the tune of Rs. 1000 crore. The first attack on the hopes of a common man was in the form of a burden to the tune of Rs. 6000 crores by way of hiking the prices of wheat, rice, sugar, petrol,

diesel before the commencement of the session. The second attack was in the form of railway budget and the third attack was in the form of this budget presented here. I put forth my view keeping in view all the three said attacks.

The whole process indicates that the country has been betrayed through railway budget.

[*English*]

The Railway Minister has betrayed the country.

[*Translation*]

This is my opinion. Because I have had privilege to work in several important committees during the last one year. I have been a Member of the Railway convention Committee, Railway Consultative Committee and a member of a Standing Committee and I was convenor of the study group which was constituted to study the financial matters. That's why, I have had an experience of studying matters related to Railway from close quarters.

We had thought that the budget would introduce something new but no new scheme has been introduced. By following the frequented road, the whole burden has been put on a common man.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I had said in the beginning that the Minister of Railways is not present here. The more serious thing is that the hon'ble Minister of Railways does not pay any attention to the recommendation of parliamentary committees.

In a way he is showing disrespect to the Parliament. I am a Member of Stand-

ing Committee on Railways. The said committee has submitted five reports under the leadership of Shri Somnath Chatterjee-viz-passenger amenities, doubling of Railway lines, Calcutta Metro Project, Gauge Conversion, Opening of new lines and suburban railways. This committee consists of 45 members belonging to all the parties... (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI (Dhar): Whatever you have done in the Committee that cannot be discussed here. You cannot express those things. I object to it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Once they are laid on the Table of House, they become the property of the House. We can discuss it and you can also discuss it.

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: But there is no need of wasting the time of the House. I am sorry to say that.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is for the Chair to direct. If you fell that it is a wastage of time, then, you can go home. You can see that Quorum is not there. You can also request all your Members to come out. Then, there need not be any discussion.

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: These are all repetitions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: The issue is that the Members have given unanimous recommendations and none of these has been respected by the Minister of Railways so we take strong exception to that. The committee is functioning on an experimental basis and if the Minister of

Railways acts in this way at this juncture then we will be left with no other choice, but to condemn the Railway Minister. The Railway Convention Committee has submitted a report on locomotive deal.

And later on, the Action Report was presented in which it was asked as to how does this Government function. This attitude is wrong. Thereafter, it was prerequisite on the part of the Ministry of Railways to bring about change in its policy, but that was not done. Therefore, I am of the view that the hon. Minister of Railways has shown a contempt to Parliamentary Committee. Last year, in the month of March, the Government postponed the work on the Konkan Railway Project and some of the people there complained that environmental problem was there. Thereafter, Ojha Commission was appointed. After working for 6 or 7 months, the Commission submitted its Report. As the Konkan Railway Project was not undertaken, it resulted in a loss of Rs. 120 crores. This burden will have to be borne by the public. The Ojha Commission has submitted its report but it has not yet been laid on the Table of the House. I demand that this report should be presented in the House so that it may become clear to public whether the Government has suspended the work under the pressure of the Eastern Lobby, on what grounds the Prime Minister has ordered for the stay or what is that so-called environmental approach-whether it is national or anti-national approach. All this will come to light when the Ojha Commission presents the report before the House. The Government appointed the Commission headed by Shri Ojha and spent a lot of money on it. So this report must be laid on the Table of the House. However, the freight and Fare Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Nanjudampa and hon. Minister of Railways had referred to it in his speech. That report should also

[Shri Ram Naik]

be presented in the House. The hon. Minister of Railways has stated that the Government is studying the matter. This report will reveal the issue of propriety. An article by Dr. Namjudeampa has appeared in the Times of India. I have its clipping with me. It reads:

[English]

We can comment but we do not have any access to that report.

[Translation]

How do they want to make a contempt of Parliament? It is a different thing whether they accept the Report or not. We and even they can express our opinions on it. I have one more objection to the attitude of hon. Minister of Railways. On 13th October in Bombay a Suburban train (Ladies special) met with an accident and 26 women died. A demand was raised to pay the compensation of Rs. five lakhs to each of the next of kiths and kins of the deceased and the hon. Minister had also agreed to it. The hon. Minister has assured us that he will look into this matter. We had raised the issue in the Railway Convention Committee also and the hon. MPs from Bombay and other Members of the Committee had also raised the matter. The hon. Minister of Railways had assured that he would consider the demand while presenting the Railway Budget. But no reference has been made about it. Does the Government have no importance for the life of the women killed in Bombay in that train accident and for the life of seven year old children of Pune? Why is the Government so displeased with the citizens of Bombay? If the Government acts in this manner it cannot win the confidence of all people.

I am surprised to see the financial statistic presented by you in the budget. On the second page of the Railway Budget—1992-93. It has been mentioned that the target of the goods transportation has come down to 350 tonnes from 354 million tonnes. It means it has come down by 4 million tonnes. In the last years Budget you had stated that the number of NRIs has decreased nearly by 5 percent due to the Ayodhya incidents. That time almost failure in every field was attributed to the Ayodhya incident. It is right that this incident took place in the month of December and the riots took place during the months of January and February. But there were no such disturbances during 1993-94. Yet the Government could transport only 362 million tonnes goods against the stipulated target of 418 million tonnes. It means there was the shortfall of the movement of goods by 56 million tonnes. Thus the target of the estimated income of Rs. 826 crores (Rs. 245 crore from the passengers fare and Rs. 581 crore from the freight) could not be achieved. Taking into account these figures, can we claim that our country is progressing? It is strange that in the face of such figures the hon. Minister boasts of taking pride in presenting the Rail Budget before the House. Only he who hopes to achieve something concrete can take pride. By merely presenting the picture of insolvency in the Budget, you can not boast that Railway is making progress and the country's progress is linked as that. The Government has announced to introduce 10 or 12 new trains and also to extend some trains in this Budget. The people of the area where these new trains are proposed to be introduced, will be happy. The people of those areas where the frequency of the trains is proposed to be increased from once a week to two or three days a week will also be delighted. But when we make an overall assessment of the performance of the Ministry of Rail-

ways all over the country we find that the Government intends to introduce new trains. But the Government is least concerned as to how should the trains be run in better ways, what is the target of the Government in its work programme? For example, the Government is increasing new A.C. or First Class coaches. Whereas the number of second class coaches has been decreased.

[English]

That is what your work programme saying.

[Translation]

15.00 hrs.

Why did the Government stop manufacturing coaches for second class passengers. We strongly object to the Government policy of manufacturing A.C. and First Class coaches and not the second class.

The hon. Minister of Railways has shown the deficit of Rs 997 crore in the Railway Budget 1994-95 and the easiest way that the Government has followed to make good this loss is to increase the freight rate on the movement of iron, diesel, petrol and other commodities. Moreover, it will adversely affect the movement of foodgrains like wheat, rice etc. Under the Public Distribution System and consequently the common people will be harassed because these items will become more costly. This is the slab of the traffic rate prepared by the Government.

[English]

You can certainly cheat a person who does not understand economics, who does not understand accounting.

[Translation]

Therefore, we oppose the change made in the policy for the purpose of increasing freight rates. It will hamper the industrial growth. This should be taken into consideration.

Similarly, the fare of general class coaches in Passengers trains up to the distance of 100 kms has not been hiked. Would the Government be pleased to say as to how many passengers trains does the country have at present in which the common people travel? One crore people travel in trains everyday but the most of the trains in which they travel are the Mail, Express, Super Fast, Rajdhani or Shatabadi Express trains.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): This should be withdrawn.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: If you compare it with passengers, it should be withdrawn.

[Translation]

But why this all is being done? The Government is giving priority to A.C. class coaches. But the ordinary passengers cannot travel 100 or 150 kilometres because they do not get passengers trains.

[English]

You check up from your regions Time-Table as to how many passenger trains are running.

[Translation]

The relief given in passenger trains.....

[Shri Ram Naik]

[English]

Is a cosmetic relief which would not reach anybody, which would not reach the majority of common commuters or occasional passengers.

[Translation]

The Government has befooled the common masses and

[English]

In a way you are cheating the Parliament by just indicating that you have given the relief to the common man, but infact the relief is not meant for the common man.

[Translation]

I have an objection on such announcements.

Have the Government received complaints of increasing incidents of resentment in the matter of reservation of second class sleepers? Corruption is on the increase because the conductor and the TC extort huge money. I believe that complaints must have been received not only from passengers but from MPs also. The Government has not taken any action in this regard so far.

[English]

You do not want to earn revenue, you want those TCs to unfairly extort money.

[Translation]

They are filling their pockets whereas Department of Railways gets

nothing. I request that the fare increase for second class sleeper should be reviewed.

As far as increase in sub-urban rail fare is concerned, it has been increased by the Government for the fourth consecutive year. You might recall that the standing Committee had made recommendations and MPs from Bombay had also recommended categorically that the rate of Montly Season Tickets should not be raised at any cost. If the Government goes on increasing fares the people who are demanding more suburban trains What is the reason of your annoyance? Why is the Government doing injustice against the people of Bombay. I would like a clarification in this regard. The Government give us assurance time and again whenever we discuss our problems with the concerned authorities. But when the Budget is presented no such facilities are mentioned therein.

I do not want to take much time of the House. But I would like to say one thing that one crore people in the country travel by rail daily. Out of it, 66 lakh commuters who travel by suburban trains reside in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Of these, 48 lakh daily commuters belong to Bombay city, 13 lakh to Calcutta and 5 lakh to Madras. These trains are overcrowded. Shri Shahabuddinji you would be surprised to hear the remarks made by the members of Study Group of Railway Standing Committee. The members of this study Group visited Bombay and wished to travel in a local train in the morning at peak hours. The General Manager of Railways advised them not to travel as travelling in these trains was not safe. I insisted and asked him to make arrangements as I was accompanying them and there would be no difficulty. When the train reached Bombay Railway

Station, passengers jumped in the train. One member, Shri Ahluwaliaji remarked that the rush in the train was too much and he could not get in the train even if he wore a diving suit. But when we got out at Church Gate, two ladies asked me as to why I had asked the team to board the train at Andheri. They said that I should have asked the Study Group to board the train running between Borivilli-Virar. In other words, the condition in sub-urban trains is inhuman. You would be surprised to know that sitting capacity in these trains is 880 and the same number of people can travel standing. In all, 1760 passengers can travel comfortably. Whereas 4200 passengers travel in Borivilli-Virar section trains. I have also prepared a cassette in this regard. I gave it to Shri Jafar Sharief. One can see how ladies face difficulty and in what circumstances they travel. More than 1500 people every year fall to death from the running trains. This situation is grim. The Government has not made any effort to solve the problem. Instead of speaking here I would like to read out the recommendations of the report:

[English]

It is on page 24, page 41,

"The Committee observe that in certain suburban sections on the Western Railway such as Borivilli-Virar section trains carry 4200 commuters per train in the peak hours against the sitting capacity of 880 and standing capacity of 880, that is, 1760 per train, crowding it so heavy that there are about 10 passengers in a square metre.

The Committee recommend that top priority should be given to in-

crease the lines/rakes in such crowded section like Borivilli-Virar Section."

[Translation]

But no provision has been made in the Budget for the purpose. I regret to say this and demand that the Government should at least introduce a project to quadruplicate Borivilli-Virar section.

Secondly what crime have the people of Bombay committed. Why are they being punished? Suburban services run in three big cities, i.e., Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The financial results of these three cities are available with us. But I will not go in detail. I will only say that the Railways got profit of Rs. 42.82 crore in 1992.93 from the suburban service in Bombay city whereas it had to suffer a loss of Rs. 201 crore and Rs. 58 crore in respect of Calcutta and Madras suburban service respectively. On the one hand Bombay suburban service is earning profit and on the other hand Calcutta and Madras suburban services are incurring loss. Why are you then over burdening Bombay where people from different parts of the country come to eke out a living? Whosoever, MPs, MLAs and people belonging to different institutions have come to see us, they complained that 50% of commuters travel in Calcutta without ticket. This is an official statement given by these people which has been mentioned in the report by me. From this point of view it would not be appropriate to do injustice any more to the people of Bombay. Strangely, in the Budget, the provision has been made arbitrarily. A metro underground project has already been under construction in Calcutta. Its total cost is estimated to be Rs. 1540 crore. In the present Budget, Rs. 165 crore has been provided which means a provision

[Shri Ram Naik]

of Rs. 165 crore for 13 per cent passengers in the Budget. For Madras, a provision of Rs. 30 crore has been made i.e. for 5 per cent passengers this provision has been made whereas for Bombay the Government has earmarked only Rs. 37 crore i.e. for 48 per cent of total suburban passengers. Keeping in view all these things it appears that justice has not been done to the people of Bombay. I do not know as to how the people of Bombay would react. When will the Government stop this step motherly treatment with the people of Bombay. There should be atleast a ray of hope for them. This is my demand.

Two small projects of Railways are being undertaken in Bombay city. Rs. 53 crore is required this year to complete these projects. I demand that these two projects—first laying of 5-6 lines between Andheri and Bandra and second reverse yard projects—should be provided Rs. 90 crore so that these could be completed during this year.

Four years ago, the then Railway Minister laid on the Table of the House a White Paper under the title "Need for New Initiatives-Bombay Suburban Train" which was published on 10th September, 1990. I would like to read out a extract from it:

[*English*]

"But worse is the fate of the poor and middle classes who have to use the public transportation system. The long, never ending queues at the bus stops can put anyone's nerves on edge. And the inhumanity on display while finding "squeeze in room" in the suburban trains has, perhaps, no

parallel in any other suburban rail system.

The Indian Railways have very strict rules on how many live animals—cows, buffaloes, goats, donkeys, etc. can be carried in a wagon of specified dimensions. Any breach of these rules is an offence punishable under the Railways' own disciplinary action procedures as also under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals legislation. But no such rules and legislation can govern transportation of human beings—old and young, men and women, boys and girls or even infants!

Forty-three years after freedom!

And all this because somewhere along the line our planners envisioned in the air-conditioned rooms of the Yojna Bhavan and the Rail Bhavan forgot the most essential factor in planning. This it was concerned with people.

What Mahatma Gandhi had said in a pithy dictum. Put man in the centre of things.

This state of affairs has to change. Today. Not tomorrow.

And it is possible to change it now."

Now, this was four years back.

[*Translation*]

He had recommended time bound projects worth Rs. 2000 crore for Bom-

bay But the Government has not so far taken up even a single project for consideration

Shri Pranab Mukherjee is sitting here I would like to ask him as to what is the Ministry of Planning doing? The people residing in suburban areas use trains as a compulsory mode of transport and not for merry making

[English]

They are agents in producing industrial wealth

[Translation]

It is because of these people that the Government earns 50 per cent revenue from a city like Bombay Separate provision should be made for suburban trains There is a great need to bring about a change in the policy

Recently after discussion the Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways have decided to prepare the new Bombay Urban Development Project-II As far as the railway components are concerned it is a project costing of Rs 1 304 crore The State Government has also said that the provision should be raised by Rs 769 crore more Then the total cost of this project will come to Rs 2073 crore It seemed to us that when both the State Government and the hon Railway Minister have accepted it, then there will be something for this project in the budget but nothing has been given in this budget for that project Why this is being done? Take the House in confidence Please take care that Bombay is giving maximum amount of taxes and has highest industrial production Therefore, something should be provided to the hen that lays the golden eggs The life of the

people of Bombay is based on the railways Unless something new is done in Bombay, that railway line may collapse any moment

[English]

We are on the verge of collapse so far as transportation is concerned

[Translation]

Four projects out of the total submitted by them are of prime importance Some token provision should be made this year for these projects —

[English]

- 1 Optimisation on Western Railway to reduce headway from 4 minutes to 3 minutes—Rs 301 crores
- 2 Optimisation on Central Railway to reduce headway from 4 minutes to 3 minutes—Rs 246 crores,
- 3 Borivalli-Virar quadrupling of tracks—267 crores
- 4 Provision of additional tracks between Andheri and Goregaon—Rs 153 crores

[Translation]

I would like to recount the shortcomings of these projects because if projects are accepted as such then the people will protest against them If these projects are approved, then the surcharge will be imposed to recover the capital cost of the projects There is no surcharge on

[Shri Ram Naik]

the metro in Calcutta and the mass transport service in Madras. There is no surcharge in our country on any other railway lines, then why should it be in Bombay. The surcharge will be imposed on the 4200 people who are travelling in a single train. Whether the increased fare is not sufficient? This submission is not only from Ram Naik; all the MPs of Bombay have informed the Government collectively that they oppose the surcharge.

Since long, the issue of commercial exploitation is in the air. It has been discussed since long. The Government can earn crores of rupees by commercial exploitation, by constructing separate buildings and by selling them off and by giving these on rent.

When I raised the issue first time, Sheelaji said that railway can sell these but when I asked the hon. Prime Minister to intervene, he asserted that no decision has been taken on that. Take a decision and after that the money earned from that should be utilised for the development of the suburban services in Bombay taking in view the BUTP, the remaining amount can be taken by the Central Government.

But injustice has been done with Bombay in this agreement too. One third is to be given to Bombay, one third to the State Government and one third to the Central Government. The money earned in Bombay, should not go outside.

From the economic point of view, Bombay is rich. Therefore, like the Konkan Railway, the Suburban Railway Bonds should be issued in Bombay. Bombay will get the necessary amount from it. All of us will try to acquire that money. The Banks, the citizens, the in-

stitutions and the trusts will also try to acquire the same.

It has been stated in this Budget that the Railway Catering Corporation is likely to be formed. We do not oppose it. The Government has already formed, Railway Finance Corporation, Railway Bridge Building, Railway Construction and Railway Container Corporation. If a Suburban Railway Corporation is formed separately in Bombay, the Government can collect a lot of money but neither the Government will do it, nor it would allow anyone else to do it. This is a grave situation. Taking this in account, appropriate changes should be made in the Budget.

It has been stated in the Budget speech that a lot of subsidy is given. I would like to put some figures. I would like to inform those foreigners, who claim that life should not be based on subsidy, that British Railways in England is given 22.4 percent, Switzerland given 35.7, Germany given 57.2 and France gives 42.3 per cent subsidy. But the Government does not want to give subsidy to the suburban railway which works for industrial production and commercial purpose. There are daily commuters who travel by suburban trains. It should be given to them. The Standing Committee on Railways has also demanded the same. I would like to read out one paragraph from its report:

[English]

"The Committee feel that the suburban traffic which consists of mainly factory workers, office goers, etc. are playing a vital role in the economic activities of the cities and industries located in suburban areas, thus contributing to the economic development of the country, and deserve a better deal from the Railways. The Committee are of the view that

for this, the Planning Commission should consider making a separate allocation for the suburban railways, and the suburban services may be subsidised more, as in the case of several foreign countries."

[Translation]

It should be pondered over seriously and a discussion should be held once again on it. Vote on account has been presented for discussion. The General Budget will be presented in April. There is a lot of time in between. It should be done in that reference.

It has also been stated that earnings have not increased even after increasing fares. The record of 1992-93 shows that the number of suburban passengers have come down. The number of passengers have not come down but the number of passengers travelling without ticket has increased. 50 percent passengers in Calcutta travel without ticket. If the fare increases, the number of passengers travelling without ticket would also increase. This is the law of diminishing returns in Economics. This should also be taken into account.

I would like to enumerate some burning problems of the area, close to my constituency. I would not deliver a long speech on it but the matter is of prime importance.

The major point is that the Standing Committee has recommended to extend the suburban section of the suburban trains. My constituency comes under Western Railways, which should be extended from Virar to Dhanu. This is our first demand. I had extended my thanks to the hon. Minister for the successful effort to start an EMU local train on 1st July. Once again, I extend my thanks to him

26 EMU trains are going to be introduced. Therefore, my submission is that one more train should be started there.

Secondly, there is Diva Vasai track to connect Bombay in Western Railway and Kalyan in Central Railway, it should be utilised for the daily commuters. If the EMU section is provided there, this service can be started there. Borivali and Virar section is an overcrowded section. Therefore, some such EMU trains should be run there. If the Government wants to reduce the rush, then as a temporary arrangement all the trains of Bombay, which are having 9 coaches should be converted to 12 coaches. If 12 coaches are attached to every train, then more commuters can travel in these trains. This demand has the support of all, irrespective of party affiliations. This demand need not be included in the budget even. It is an administrative decision and this decision should be taken. Moreover, the trains should run in time.

The delay of 2-3 minutes in suburban trains matters much. But today the position is such that the trains are running 20-25 minutes late. Taking all these things into account, I would like to submit today that as this discussion is on Vote Account, we have put forth our views at this time. At the time of General Budget, the Standing Committee would send some of its recommendations. Keeping in view, all these things, the genuine demands put forth by us should be pondered over and should be approved.

The difficulties of Bombay commuters and that of the other second class passengers of the country should be solved. Otherwise, if the same old path of raising fares is followed, we would be left with no alternative but to go for an agitation and I would like to inform you.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Naik, at 3.30 p.m. We have to start the Private Members' Business and before that Shri Sharad Dighe shall have to start his speech.

SHRI RAM NAIK: This is my last sentence. I am just concluding now.

[Translation]

And if such an agitation is launched, then as a representative of Bombay, for which I am proud of, I would not lag behind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I anticipate once again that the Government would accede to my request and the reply would come accordingly.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget for 1994-95 presented by the hon. Railway Minister. At the outset, I must make it clear that I would make general observations on the Railway Budget later on. But to begin with, I must say that as a Member of Parliament from Bombay I endorse each and every statement made by the hon. Member Shri Ram Naik as far as Bombay suburban railway is concerned. The hardships and inconveniences of the commuters of the suburban railway in Bombay have become unbearable and unless the Railway Ministry decided to take a very serious view on the matter, the whole suburban railway transport system in Bombay will collapse. I share

the view of Shri Ram Naik that we are sorry to say that no note has been taken regarding the hardships and the inconveniences of the Bombay commuters, though these matters have been put before the Railway Ministry at different levels by most of the Members of Parliament from Bombay, from time to time. Suggestions were made unanimously and the attention of the Railway Ministry was drawn on several occasions regarding the hardships of the Bombay commuters. Therefore, firstly I will urge upon the Railway Minister to take a very serious view on this matter and take prompt measures to give relief to the Bombay passengers.

At the same time, I also lodge my strong protest regarding the increase in the season ticket fares in this Budget, as far as the suburban railway commuters are concerned. I joint with Shri Ram Naik on that issue in protesting that this should not have been done without giving any relief to the Bombay commuters and it was not proper to increase the suburban railway season ticket fares. They may call it marginal increase, but I do not think that it is a marginal increase. The increase made for the season ticket holder who would travel upto 90 kilometres is from Re. 1/- to Rs. 9/- per passenger. But you will see that as far as the Bombay commuters are concerned, they generally take quarterly season tickets and because of these hardships regarding the rush and over-dense capacity of these compartments, they prefer or they are compelled to take quarterly season tickets for First Class. It is very difficult even to enter the Second Class compartments. Really speaking, most of them will be paying four times more for the quarterly season ticket fares for First Class travel. Therefore, really speaking from the practical point of view, every commuter in Bombay will be paying Rs. 90/- more for every season

ticket which will be issued from next month. So, their hardships will have to be taken into consideration.

Then, I will elaborate further about the hardships of the Bombay commuters and supplement whatever Shri Ram Naik has said. But as far as the Railway Budget is concerned, I welcome it. I will also elaborate in what way the progress has been made and under what constraints the Railway Ministry is working as far as the whole of India is concerned. So, on both these points I will elaborate later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sharad Dighe, you can continue later. We will take up this item after the Private Members' Business is completed.

15.32 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI (Dhar): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 2nd March, 1994."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members'

of Oil and Gas in eastern region

Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 2nd March, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

15.33 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS IN EASTERN REGION—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For item No. 1 of today's Private Members' Business, the total time allotted is Two hours. Out of that, one hour and two minutes have already been consumed. The remaining time is 58 minutes. Shri Subroto Mukherjee was on his legs. He has already spoken for six minutes. He can continue his speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBRATA . MUKHERJEE (Raiganj): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has already been a discussion at length on this issue. There is sufficient hydro-carbon available in West Bengal, particularly in Ichhapur, where 69 per cent of hydro carbon is laying mixed in earth, yet ONGC is not undertaking drilling work to the required extent in West Bengal. Several scientists opine that hydro carbon is in abundance in the basin of West Bengal. The sample of oil extracted from there was sent of Haldia Refinery for testing, where it was found of nght quality but inspite of all that, the drilling work was left incomplete.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly drilling of the Golf Green Well had to be

[Shri Subrata Mukherjee]

made upto the depth of 6800 metres but only drilling was done upto only 5800 metres. Likewise, metre drilling was done upto only 4950 in Bodra well number 11, South 24 pargana against the scheduled drilling upto 5500 metres. In the same way drilling was done upto only 5555 metres in the Diamond Harbar Well number 1 against the scheduled drilling upto 6500 metre. These things indicate that there is some deep conspiracy going on which is causing great harm to India. This view is also supported by the Ordinance issued by the hon. President on 25th January which provides that private agencies can also be involved for working in mines and in oil sector. This proves the fact that ONGC deliberately avoided full drilling as a part of a conspiracy so that this sector could be privatised. In this way, country's money is being wasted. There is no discussion on Rail Budget at this time but a perusal of the Rail Budget indicates that Railways are being pushed to privatisation. This is further supported by the fact that not even a single suggestion out of total 5 suggestions has been accepted. The Government of India is planning to privatise every sector of the country in this way. There can be nothing worse.

We, therefore, oppose it in the Parliament. Apart from this, I have already referred to many other things in my speech. I express my thanks for being given one more opportunity to express my views and with these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS
(Karimganj): Sir, North-East remained neglected since independence.

It is known to everybody that Assam is rich in several resources, as for example in oil resources and forest resources.

My point is, here, particularly in Southern Assam, it is said that it is floating on oil. But up to this day, drilling has been done in ten places. And out of these ten, six have already been abandoned, from two gas is coming and from the rest two, oil is coming out. We do not know why these six were abandoned. It generates power. We made a special request to the Government of India saying that electricity is generated from this. But do you know the present position of Southern Assam? At least out of 24 hours, 16 to 17 hours, there is load shedding. I do not know why. I do not know why the electricity cannot be generated. I have made several correspondences saying that electricity can be generated from this. But up to this day, nothing is said in this regard.

I know gas is a source of power. There are several demands from the gardens, specially from tea gardens to supply gas to them so that they can have the power to maintain their tea houses and factories and all those things. But up to this day, the Government of India has not given any reply to them whether they will supply gas to the tea gardens or not. Tea is another source of Assam which earns crores of rupees for the Indian Exchequer.

It is surprising that local people are not appointed in the ONGC office located at Barak Valley, in the Southern Assam. I fail to understand why the local people are not getting employment in the ONGC. I have received a letter from an employees' association of the ONGC saying that in the matter of promotions, in the services and in all these fields, ONGC does not follow the norms of the Government of India.

About Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I feel, they are in a mi-

crosscopic minority in the ONGC because it is known to me that in advertisements, it is said that because candidates have no requisite qualification, they cannot be considered. It is a lame excuse. Because of this, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are deprived of jobs in ONGC particularly in Southern Assam

I can say that the Government is not making clean breast of everything regarding drilling in Southern Assam because they are playing something like hide and seek policy in regard to ONGC affairs.

So, I want the Government to make a clean breast of everything regarding the working of ONGC in North-East particularly in Southern Assam. In my place, at two or three places, drilling has been made, but ultimately they have abandoned it after spending crores and crores of rupees. I do not know why. First of all, it is drilled and then it is abandoned without getting any result. Why is it so?

In Southern Assam, particularly in Barakh Valley, there is sufficient source of oil and gas. I request the Government to look into the matter deeply and see that in Barakh Valley, which is in Southern Assam, this ONGC work is intensified.

You know very well that Assam is industrially thoroughly backward. In this House, the hon. Prime Minister announced that sufficient funds will be allocated for Assam to make it industrially advanced. In my place, there are two mills. One is Cachar Paper Mills. I think, within two or three years, it will be privatised. The second is Cachar Sugar Mill which remains closed for six or seven years. This is the condition of industry in Barakh Valley. So, in case of oil exploration, I urge upon the Government to

look at Southern Assam, particularly at Barakh Valley because I know that there is sufficient source of oil. That is why, this Government should see that oil is explored there.

I think the Government will look into the matter deeply and I hope that after this oil exploration at Barakh Valley, it will definitely increase the position of India in regard to oil supply.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I rise to support the proposal moved by Shri Asim Balaji. Nobody can have any objection if adequate arrangement of survey, drilling, conservation and storage of natural oil and gas is made not only in eastern India, but also in other parts of the country. There was a time when there used to be acute shortage of oil in the country. So, keeping that in view, Oil and Natural Gas Commission was set up in our country. This Institutions, as a public undertaking, played a tremendous role in reconstruction of the country. The work of the Commission could have further been expanded if the Government had been sincere about that. Probably, foreign exchange worth millions of rupees which is wasted on the import of natural oil and gas, could have been saved. Our Government has formulated liberal economic policy for the country. The hon. Minister gave a reply in this august House only yesterday. When he was asked about the number of proposals received by the Government from private companies, non-resident Indians as also from foreign companies for undertaking the work of storage, conservation, drilling and conducting survey of oil, he replied that proposals of 10 non-resident Indians and 30 foreign companies have been re-

[Shri Mohan Singh]

[English]

ceived. What I have been able to make out of his reply is that the applications of only four foreign companies and two Indian companies have been found correct.

Contracts have been made with 6 companies only and that too for limited places like Gondwana, Godawari bed etc. No action has so far been taken either by the Department of Oil or by the Government of India in northern and eastern regions of the country where there are large reserves of oil. There is abundance of oil reserves in West Bengal, Orissa, North-East region and in Assam. Some survey was conducted in Bihar, but it was stated last year that the Government is not aware if oil-reserves are available there or not. However, according to the latest information, natural gas and oil is available near Some and Damodar rivers as also in Jharkhand area. The Government have not taken any initiative in this regard. Under the liberalisation policy, contracts have been entered into with Private companies, but no initiative in this regard has been taken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The Government of India should not have any objection in involving private companies for this purpose.

With these words I would like to submit that the Government should undertake the work of survey and drilling in eastern region. The hon. Minister should give assurance in the House in this regard and should inform about the proposed schemes for Bihar and Bengal which would be completed in time bound programmes. I think this will suffice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for concluding your submission in the limited time.

You limited the time. In this way, many hon. Members can participate in this important debate. You can put in a capsule form the entire thing within the time limit. He has been able to put it very successfully. That is an ideal thing.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: (Barasat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to put my speech in a capsule form. As a matter of fact it is a very important Resolution and it also concerns the national interest. The Resolution has brought about three distinct points. The first point is that there is a cynical neglect of the exploration activities by the ONGC in West Bengal in particular and the northeastern region in general. The second point of the Resolution is, a demand is made for the acceleration of the exploration activities in these regions. The third point and the most important point is that, I think you will bear with me, an attempt has to be made for winning self-reliance in so far as the oil exploration is concerned. You can well understand the important issues which have been raised in this Resolution. I know that we have got the time constraint. I am always obedient to you and I shall not take much time. But please see that justice is done to this subject.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that there are huge prospects for bringing about self-reliance in the exploration work in the country. I have got certain figures to suggest the immensity of the potential. The report of the Government says that the total sedimentary basin is of the order of 1.72 million sq. kms. in India. Of these only 0.38 million sq. kms. lie in the offshore area. In huge areas there are possibilities of attaining self-sufficiency in oil for India.

Another thing which we should bear in mind is that a very small fraction of it has so far been exploited. The entire area has been divided into 26 dissymmetry basins. Out of these 26 basins, there has not been any exploratory work in five basins at all, and the remaining 21 basins have been grouped into four categories. West Bengal belongs to the Category 2 of that categorisation. Six basins falling in category 1 have been extensively explored which is the Bombay High region. As a matter of fact, Bombay High region has been over-exploited and you will allow me to say that it has been slaughtered. Already the production there has been halved because there has been overwork in Bombay High. Therefore the necessity arises to explore or to expand the exploratory work in order that we can replenish the oil lifting. If we do not, you will slaughter Bombay High and ultimately there will be no indigenous production in the country and you will finally sell away the interest of the country in order to import oil from outside. I will come to it in a few minutes time.

As a matter of fact, the decline in production has started. The indigenous production of oil is declining and a figure with me shows that the production of indigenous crude oil was 34 million tonnes in the year 1989-90. It came down to 27 million tonnes in 1992-93. As a matter of fact, the production is declining and the demand for petroleum products in the country is increasing very fastly. It will reach 79 million tonnes by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan. You can understand this. There is an increasing demand and there is also a regular decline in the indigenous production. If you take into account the percentage of self-sufficiency, it is also coming down. Self-sufficiency level attained at 67.8 per cent in the year 1984-85 has declined to 42.9 per cent in

1992-93. So, we are importing more and the indigenous production is declining. You will be astonished to learn that the import bill for the year 1992-93 was Rs 17,000 crores which is bigger than the Defence Budget of 1992-93. We spend more on importing oil than we spend for the Defence of the entire country. I presume that the hon. Minister who knows the subject will bear with me if I say that in the year 1997, the total import bill will exceed Rs 20,000 crores. This is the oil scenario in our country.

I will simply come to the cynical neglect of exploratory work in West Bengal and in the North-Eastern Region. In West Bengal, I think, oil was stuck in Ichhapur-I which is a part of my hon. friend's constituency which is near my constituency. I know that more than 42 oil wells were dug in West Bengal region. Of course, I know that Rs 900 crores have so far been spent and I admit that there is no doubt about the fact that you spend a lot on it. But my allegation is that you have mis-spent it; you have also wrongly formulated the work, your action plan was not correct and it was not scientific. I am also tempted to believe that there is also some element of conspiracy.

16.00 hrs.

There are elements of conspiracies from the topmost level of the ONGC. I have got no time. But I have got documents to prove it. This document is available with the hon. Minister. We have written there all the details how these things are being done. The sample which was taken out of the Isphore-I was examined by the Haldia Refinery.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Please conclude

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I know the subject. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are other hon. Members. They also want to contribute.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Do not do justice to me. But do justice to the subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are also junior Members. They have got certain points to make.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: All right. He should reply to it: Is it a fact that oil struck from Ishapore-1 well was examined by the Haldia Refinery, and they came to the conclusion that really oil was stuck there and it should be continued?

Unfortunately, what has happened is that that exploration was not continued. It was stopped for certain so-called reasons. As a matter of fact, oil experts know that that belongs to the oilgassing sand package.

In this region, there is an every possibility of finding wells. Even the CFC, a foreign multinational concerns, also examined certain aspects of the West Bengal wells. They also felt that there are possibilities of getting oil in this region. Some mention has been made about Bodra well, Diamond Harbour well and other wells. In all these cases, we have pointed out that the optimum level, that is the contract level, was low. But the target depth was not reached. Before reaching the target depth, the drilling was stopped. The reason, we suspect, is that that the ONGC did not want that in West Bengal region oil is struck. Once oil is struck in West Bengal, there will be tremendous and immense economic development.

Many multinational companies of the Western world did not want that India should ever become self-reliant in oil. If India becomes self-reliant in oil, there is going to be a different political scenario in the world.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude. Mr. Chitta Basu, this subject shall not to be closed by 4.31, including the reply by the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is true that he has mentioned that only six companies have been given certain foreign contracts.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are other hon. Members.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have spoken for 10 minutes and not more than that. Anyway, I shall complete it.

This is the advertisement made by the oil companies for Government of India. They have given many concessions in order to invite the foreign private companies to invest in oil sector. This is the Government of India's—I would say—advertisement. This new advertisement has brought about a tremendous change in the condition. Now the Government says that seismic survey can be conducted without any Government's regulation. Earlier, the foreign companies were given the contract to conduct the seismic survey. But a condition was there. The data collected will be given to the Government of India for their views.

Now they say to continue the seismic survey. They take all the data but nothing is to be given to the Government. Even information is not to be given to the

Government of India. Sir, they are taking all information about our hidden wealth and our Government does not even know what is actually hidden under our earth. This is anti-national and I must say this with all the emphasis at my command. No State Government is going to claim any royalty for the wealth struck. Foreign companies are not expected to give any royalty to the State Government if oil is struck in their soil. Does this serve our national interest? I am asking the House. They are giving the concession to exploit as much as they can but there is no necessity of giving royalty to the State Government concerned.

The last and most important point is that instead of sharing the production, Government is going to enter into profit sharing system. Thereby, if oil is raised by the foreign company, we cannot claim a particular part of that oil raised. We may claim certain percentage of the profit and that too, the foreign companies will so maintain their books of accounts that expenditure will be more and profit will be less and India will lose its financial interest. In spite of giving so much concessions, only six companies have got their names registered in India, as Mr. Mohan Singh has said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is that we have to close the subject by 4.31 PM including the reply of the Minister and Mr. Asim Bala's speech. There are four more Members to speak and they will be denied an opportunity to speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: A few days before, you may remember that the Minister of Petroleum has informed the House on this point. The purpose of the Resolution is to increase the exploratory activity in the eastern region. But what is

the Government's position? On 24.2.94, only a few days before, Government says that as per ONGC's Eighth Five Year Plan, reduction in the number of drilling rigs is planned for West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Other Members will not get a chance to speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, Bihar and West Bengal are parts of India. You cannot say that West Bengal is not a part of India. Suddenly, on 24th, he said that there is no plan for expansion of drilling activities in West Bengal and Sir, you shall not allow me to say so. This is not what I am saying. This is all what he has said on that day and you have become so impatient. Sir, I am sorry that I have to raise my voice and it is the occasion to raise my voice. This is not an occasion to submit weakly. You are selling the entire interest of the nation and you are not even protecting the national interest and you want me to be silent because you want to save a few minutes time. But I protest and the House should not accept this. This is private Members time and you cannot encroach upon it. Time can be very well extended. For Bihar friends, it is shocking that Gandak project has already been suspended and abolished and they have got the cheek to say it also that there is no plan for expanding the work in Bihar and that no drilling is planned in Bihar. What are we doing and what that gentleman is doing? He is more interested to bring back money from United States and defend his case in the US American court while selling the interest of India. Therefore, this is not merely an innocent Bill. I protest and I say that Parliament should rise to the occasion and should assert its right to say that this kind of anti-national concession should not be given to the multinational foreign companies just to get some way of foreign investment.

[Shri Chitta Basu]

Therefore, with all humility, I demand that the entire Exploration Policy should be revised so that the immense hidden wealth of oil underneath the country's soil is exploited properly and self-sufficiency in oil production is achieved and thereby our economic interests are fully preserved and protected and we can preserve, protect and strengthen the political sovereignty of our country. I reiterate that we cannot allow our country to be sold away to the multinationals just for a few drops of petrol!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are four persons who are yet to participate in the debate. I would like to know whether it is possible for them to confine themselves to two minutes each. I say this because for every subject, we just cannot go on extending time. There are persons who have submitted their Bills and Resolutions long long back. Their subjects too should have time. All subjects are equally important. Therefore co-operation of hon. Member is necessary. It is just not possible to increase the time. I request you to put your points very briefly and precisely and not to take more than two to three minutes' time. There are some hon. Members who experience some sort of a starting trouble. I know that well. But I also know that there are some Members who can put forth their views in a very short time. I know Shri Tej Narainji can express all his points within minutes. Shri Tej Narain Singh please.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the proposal of Shri Asim Bala ji. The Government is deliberately neglecting the vast oil reserves in the

North-East. If the Government gives up this attitude, I think, the Government will no longer need to import oil. During draught Oil is needed for running pump sets for irrigation. The Government is giving preference to imported goods over indigenous goods. There was a time when the Congress Party and its leader Mahatma Gandhi used to advocate the use of indigenous goods and boycott the imported goods. Now that very Congress Party advocates the use of imported goods discarding the use of indigenous goods.

It is the misfortune of the nation that imported goods are being preferred over indigenous goods. We have vast reserves of oil. The Government had handed over the task of exploiting the oil, to ONGC, but it is failed to deliver the goods. The Government should have pressurised ONGC to exploit the maximum oil at the earliest to meet the oil problem of the country. Oil reserves are now not confined to a single place. Champaran district in Bihar too has oil reserves, oil reserves already exist not only in the Eastern regions of Assam and Bengal but also in Champaran, leave aside the question of carrying out drilling operations no survey work has been undertaken there. There are immense reserves in Champaran. If the Government depends more upon the private companies, the country could not develop.

It is the misfortune of the nation that the President Promulgated on Ordinance on 25th January which allowed the private companies to locate the underground oil reserves. This work could have been done by the ONGC earlier. But it seems there was a conspiracy on the part of the Government, which did not allow ONGC to do so. Now the same work is being done by the private companies. Through this proposal I would like to state that

without oil India could not develop. It is due to oil that a small nation like Kuwait has a respectable position in the world, without seeking assistance from other countries. Therefore this Government should strive to exploit underground oil reserves to attain self-sufficiency. I think this would enable all round development of the nation. Therefore, through this proposal, I demand that Government should do this work at the earliest so that our country could develop.

With these words, I support this motion.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir today, the nation, which is self sufficient in oil, is supposed to be the most prosperous country in the world.

Unfortunately after independence the rulers of the nation did not paid so much attention to this side as it was desired. As a result thereof even after 47 years of independence our nation has not attained self-sufficiency in respect of oil and every year we have to spend millions and billions of rupees in the import of oil.

The proposal put forward by Shri Asim Bala ji has two-three parts. I think not only West Bengal even Rajasthan too has been ignored. In Nagore and Bikaner basin near Jaisalmer, in Thar district of Rajasthan best quality of oil reserves are available. According to the information obtained it has been found that the oil and natural gas reserves around Jaisalmer, is of good quality. But due attention has not been paid towards it and Rajasthan has been continuously neglected in the field of conducting survey for exploitation of oil and drilling marketing distribution or storage of oil by oil India limited, ONGC or any other agency.

In most of the States, oil refineries have been set up, but no oil refinery has been set up in Rajasthan till date. Oil pipe lines have been laid through Rajasthan to Mathura and Karnal or to some other place. I want to request that it is not a question of North, South or East or West. In a river basin or coastal area or Desert region in the country or in Assam or Bay of Bengal, oil can be found wherever natural gas or hydro-carbons have been found.

Self-sufficiency in oil is not possible by depending upon multi-nationals. There must be co-ordination among the foreign companies, oil India limited, ONGC, GAIL for location, surveys and exploitation of oil reserves, so that the nation becomes self-sufficient in oil and natural gas, no matter how much money is needed.

With regret I have to say that in 1992-93 our oil production fell short of the target by 10,66,000 tonnes. It was only 2,26,96,000 tonnes. For this the Government gives various excuses such as there was shortage of power, problem of storage or crisis in Bombay High; Production of oil from oil wells fell short of expectation. I think ONGC and others to whom the work of oil production was entrusted, should be held responsible. Had they given attention to these problems in time and located new oil wells, this situation would not have arisen.

Flaring of gas can be seen over a large area from several oil wells in Mehsana and Kalol, near Ahmedabad in Gujarat. Flaring of gas is its waste and it should be checked. While the demand for oil and gas is on the rise, we are recklessly wasting oil and natural gas. This is also a misuse of natural resources of the country. The crisis in oil and natural gas is due to the continuous shortfall in oil pro-

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

duction. We have failed in exploring the new oil resources. We have shortage of equipments for oil exploration. The consumption of petroleum products is on increase and we have to spend millions of foreign exchange, in dollars in importing the oil. Loss is incurring in foreign trade. International debts are increasing. In such a situation keeping in view the fact that oil is of primary importance for the nation, we should rise above regionalism and provincialism and give utmost priority to attain self-sufficiency in oil and natural gas.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that if oil is found in the desert area of Sind on Pakistan side then I feel that in India also, a thorough survey should be undertaken in Jaisalmer region.....(*Interruptions*) Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur then we may find substantial quantity of oil in this region.....(*Interruptions*) What I want to submit is that be it Krishna-Godavari basins or Coastal area of Kerala or in Bengal or Bihar or Himachal Pradesh, work of oil exploration should be undertaken to find out the possibilities of getting oil in these areas.

Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister not to depend so much on foreign companies. If multi-National companies are allowed to operate in this country, that should be only upto a certain limit or as per our requirements and there should be overall control of the Government, the ONGC or the Oil India on their functioning so that they may not belie our hopes, thereby mar the future of this country.

Sir, with these words I want to submit that while on one hand we should not neglect any sector in the field of explo-

ration of oil and natural gas, on the other hand, we should achieve optimum self-reliance in this area.

[*English*]

DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA (Balasore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I only want to submit a point that is very vital. It is because all the Members who spoke before me have expressed their anguish that our Government is not taking appropriate steps for exploration of oil in our country. There are several possibilities in several river basins and other places where oil can be explored. But I am sure, our popular Government is very much interested to develop the economy of our country. Our Government is not neglecting anything. Perhaps our Government is also not neglecting the economic reforms.

Our hon. Minister is a dynamic man. He should come forward with all possibilities of exploration of oil throughout the country. Wherever such possibilities are there, the Government should take all necessary steps sincerely. There is no doubt that our Government is trying to be self-dependent in these areas. In these areas, our country is facing a serious crisis. We are importing oil from outside. That is why the price of oil is being hiked day by day.

I would request the hon. Minister to bring forward various Reports before the House so that the hon. Members can come to know as to what action the Government is taking.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as per the prognosticated report, the whole North-East, particularly, the Barak Valley,

of Oil

is floating on oil. But it is seen that ONGC just starts drilling and after drilling a pit, they abandon it. This is the case in various places of the North-East. It is said that the oil or gas pipes do not come up to the length that they ought to.

Before going to that length, they abandon drilling. This is the case. In that way, money of the Government is being squandered.

Secondly, I will tell you something about the border of Bangladesh. It is said that Bangladesh is vigorously working for drilling of oil and natural gas. There are areas near Bangladesh in Indian territory. If immediate action is not taken by the Government of India for extraction of oil or natural gas, then this might be extracted by Bangladesh from the Indian territory. That is why, I request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps in this respect.

It is said that some rigs have been taken away from Barak Valley to other places. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to close down the drilling work in the Barak Valley of Assam in future.

Lastly, I want to say that gas has been found from Adamtilla and Banskandi; but this gas is not being used; this is being burnt when for gas turbine efforts are going on, and when the State Government already made contract with the DLF Company; when they approach the ONGC for giving them gas coming out of Adamtilla and Banskandi, it is said that the ONGC refused to give them gas. So, I request the hon. Minister for construction of gas turbine so that gas coming out of Adamtilla and Banskandi should be given to the DLF Company for gas turbine and to solve the problem of electricity scarcity

in the north-east area, particularly the Barak Valley.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this issue. Through his motion, Dr. Asim Bala has emphatically drawn the attention of the Government towards this issue. If the Government adopts this motion, it will safeguard the sovereignty of the country, help us to achieve self-reliance in the field of oil and remove the existing regional imbalances. Since all the Members of the House are unanimous on it, the Government must pay proper attention to it. I think that the young hon'ble Minister who is also my friend will certainly take care of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to elaborate it, I would like to submit that in North Bihar entire area right from Farbisganj to Narkatiaganj be it Ganges basin or Gandak Basin, it has tremendous possibilities of oil. At a number of places, drilling work was undertaken but it was left midway. After all what is the intention behind it, is it that very intention which finds mention in this motion. Infact the Government does not want either to develop the backward areas or to make the country self reliant in respect of oil. In this connection, the hon. Member Shri Chitta Basu has made a remark that our Government is dependent on the World Bank and our foreign masters are determining the direction of our policies. To make the observations of that sort is not a good thing. I would, therefore, request the Government to adopt this motion and go ahead with the work of oil exploration in the potential areas. The Government should not try to avoid this issue, instead they should go ahead in this di-

[Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar]

rection. Now the Government can not even come out with the plea of crunch of resources as the foreign companies are being invited to operate here. Therefore, this work should be taken up immediately but we require to be cautious in this regard. Even in China foreign companies were invited there but that Government keeps its overall control on them. Whereas in India, it is going out of control of the Government. The Government should give a categorical reply whether the Government proposes to conduct a survey to explore oil reserves in North Bihar region. Have they fixed some time schedule for this purpose? If so, what is time schedule for the same? In the Godavari basin in West Bengal and in some other areas of Assam where oil reserves have been confirmed, exploration work should be undertaken to ensure local development and to make the country self-reliant in the field of oil. I have been the Member of this House for the last two decades. There was a time when India was all set to export its oil. At that time, Soviet Union had told us that there were oil reserves in India and there was a need to explore them. Now they do not want us to be self-reliant and to ensure our development. Our hon. Minister should be vigilant and go in for such policies which may lead to national development and ensure development in untouched areas, therefore this motion should be accepted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We extend the time for the Bill by half-an-hour.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the resolu-

tion moved by Dr. Asim Bala. He deserves my congratulations for putting pressure on the Government to explore the potential oil reserves in the Eastern sector. Hitherto the Government has been neglecting the Eastern sector in every respect. Just now a Congress M.P. from Eastern region was commending the Minister in the words that he is a dynamic Minister. The Minister was overwhelmed with joy on his remarks. Infact he is a dynamic Minister, there is no doubt in it... (Interruptions)...Today, the Chief Election Commissioner has made a statement that he has come to know about a Member who had spent nearly rupees 2 crore to win the election. There are a lot of points of dynamism. Does it have any relevance or not? You might have come to know during the zero hour as to what type of buses you are allowing to operate in Delhi...(Interruptions) and Red line buses are also operating there. (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I would like to clarify this because the hon. Member comes from Bihar and he does not know that the buses which ply in Delhi does not come under the Ministry of Transport. They come under the State Government.

Hon. Members have been raising issues like killer buses and all sorts of things. I have repeatedly made it clear that the Central Government has nothing to do with it. It was a policy decision which was implemented by the Delhi Administration. If the hon. Members had spoken they must have spoken very rightly, I am equally concerned with it. But what I want to clarify, since you have mentioned this to me, that the Transport Ministry does

not have anything to do with the Red line buses in Delhi

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR I did not mean their Ministry of Transport I have heard what they have been saying about the role of Shri Tytler in respect of the operation of Red line buses in Delhi, as I have been living in Delhi for quite some time That is why I had made a mention of it He is an intelligent fellow that is why he was giving his clarification Bihar and Eastern areas have also been neglected in the current Rail budget which was presented here a few days back In the field of oil and Natural Gas exploration that area has remained neglected

ONGC was working in Champaran, Darbhanga and other areas of Bihar It was a daily feature that Officers flew from Patna to the spot in helicopter However, all of a sudden work was stopped there In the last Lok Sabha the then Government had stated that work would not be stopped there in view of possibilities of oil and gas reserves there and that the unit is expected to be viable This was the Government's estimate However with the present Government assuming office suddenly that criteria under went a change and the work has been stopped there I allege that this Government has stopped this work out political vindictiveness Most of the Eastern States, are out of their control In this way this Government do not stand to gain anything in Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa Therefore, the Government is not inclined to explore and exploit possible large oil and gas reserves in the area

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I urge upon you to give strict instructions to the Government to remove this sort of imbal-

ances The hon Minister should make it clear on which grounds this project, which the previous Government considered viable has been dropped by this Government That is why I stated that you have been neglecting this area Now Shri Tytler will accuse me of speaking out of context but infact it is not so While presenting the Budget hon Minister of Finance stated that this Government is not a minority Government but it has mustered majority support now I would like to know whether his comment in any case was relevant in the context of Budget I want to know from Shri Tytler about it The role played by Shri Satish Sharma is known to all and sundry The hon Member from Bihar were wooed to defect and was inducted into the Cabinet but the same State from where he hails has been neglected in the matter of development While giving the charge of the Ministry of Fertilisers to him, this should also have been ensured, as to how his Ministry may benefit his home State So, Government should take a wider view Though defections are being praised, but the State from which he hails is not getting Justice We are not begging from you The reasons for imbalances in the Balance of Payments should also be looked into Most of the expenditure is being incurred on the import of Petroleum product

Secondly, I would like to submit that last time also debate was held on the heavy expenditure incurred on petroleum imports and the need to explore oil reserves in the country The Government can ponder over on acquiring technology and capital from abroad However, we must explore our own resources to end dependence on other countries. The reason for the present State of affairs is due to expenditure on oil imports The Government should try to reduce oil consumption within the country The Gov-

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

ernment servants are being sanctioned advances for purchasing vehicles. What is the need for sanctioning advances? In China even senior Officers commute on bicycles but we the Members travel by Matadors and spend Rs. 3 on it. If expenditure on petrol is too much then the fares can be increased. Both the Officers and the Ministers should also travel by the Matadors to save oil. However, present state of affairs is such that the Ministers travel alone in a car and in escorted by two-three cars in the name of security. What is the utility of all this? So much oil is being wasted in the name of security. Last time Shri George Fernandes mentioned that in the melee fatal accidental firing can take place as the security personnel carry sophisticated weapons and besides this heavy expenditure on oil is also there. The Government have hired DLY Taxies. Are these free of charge? Every life is precious in the country. So many vehicles are being deployed for the security of VIP's and a lot of wasteful expenditure on oil is being incurred.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the only way out for saving oil and conserving foreign exchange is that the officials should ride bicycles and Car Loan should not be sanctioned to them. It is not proper that officials many frequently use Government vehicles. This wing the environmental pollution could also be checked. Decline in oil imports will strenghten self-reliance and we will not have to depend on other countries on the World Bank for everything these days. The country can come out of this sort of situation and prevalent regional imbalances could also be removed. I urge the hon. Minister to do justice in this regard and explore the possibilities of oil in the Eastern States. Avail-

able gas reserves in this region could be used for development.

With these words I support the resolution moved by Dr. Asim Bala and conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank Dr. Asim Bala and all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion.

Dr. Asim Bala, while moving the Resolution, had raised several important points, which I would like to address. The hon. Member has expressed his concern at the fall in indigenous production of crude oil on the one hand while observing that the demand has been increasing. It is a fact that crude oil production, which was at 34 million metric tonnes in 1989-90 has in recent years been declining, touching a low of 26.95 million metric tonnes in 1992-93. Largely this was due to the fact that production from Bombay High fell owing to certain rectificatory measures, which we initiated to maintain reservoir balance and to prevent any damage to the health of the reservoir. As a part of the rectificatory measures, several high gas oil ratio wells had to be shut down. However, I would like to assure the House that these rectificatory measures have yielded positive results and from 1993-94 onwards production will be increasing.

For the year 1993-94 production will be 27 MMT and in each subsequent year, the production will increase by 5 MMT during the period of the Eighth Plan and is expected to reach 44.45 MMT in the year 1996-97.

Dr. Asim Bala also referred to the discovery of Ichapur-1 and expressed his concern that ONGC instead of mobilising additional inputs in the form of new rigs and seismic prospecting have adopted a strategy of systematic withdrawal in West Bengal. He also suggested various options which the ONGC could have exercised for further work in Ichapur-1. I wish to reassure the Hon. Member that the Hydrocarbon indication at Ichapur-1 is being actively followed up by drilling Ichapur-II well. A decision was also taken to carry out 3D seismic survey in the area to further delineate the Thin-Pay Zone. The 3D survey is still being continued. However, when the Pay Zone was tested it produced non-economic quantity of condensate Hydrocarbon at the rate of 1 cu.m. per day only and gas at the rate of 1600-2000 Cu.M. per day. further the pressure was low and also not on a sustained basis. CFP France in 1990 had concluded that Oligocene Low Stand Wedge is one of the last chances of finding Hydrocarbon in West Bengal. Dr. Asim Bala had referred to Golf Green-1 which he said had not been drilled to target depth. I wish to clarify that while there were chances of finding Hydrocarbon in Golf Green-1 area, the well drilled there suggests that this sequence does not hold any Hydrocarbons.

Such discrete sand bodies were also mapped in Krishnanagar-Ranaghat area, where hydrocarbon indication has been found in well Ichapur-1. Total-CFP Group had also agreed for exploration of older Paleocene sequence in this area but this sequence proved dry in Ichapur-1 well.

ONGC has already carried out a number of geochemical surveys in this area. Based on their results and drilling of Ichapur-1 ONGC has taken action for 3D

seismic survey in the area. To sum up the situation as far as Ichapur is concerned, I would like to say yes, we have found some indication of Hydrocarbons in this area and action for continuing 3D seismic survey is under way. This work will help to delineate the area and the actual prospects for further discovery.

Although adequate seismic and exploratory drilling work has been carried out by ONGC, the results so far have been discouraging in Bengal Basin. Despite this, ONGC is still continuing with further work in the area.

The targeted depth of Golf Green-1 well was 6000 m but drilling objectives were achieved at a depth of 5826 m as it penetrated 506 m of Eocene Limestone against the planned penetrations of 470 m. The 40 m thick sequence referred to earlier was tight limestone which was of no interest. This zone claimed as oil bearing was not so as per the drilling and log data. Testing of two intervals between 5785 and 5770.5 m indicated traces of oil and no commercial interest. This well entered into complication and has since been abandoned.

The hon. Member also referred to Bodra-2 well which was abandoned as well as Diamond Harbour-1 which was also abandoned. The hon. Member also mentioned that the flash point indicates that excellent content as in Ichapur-1 crude and it would entail lesser refining cost. I would like to clarify to the House the actual position with regard to this.

Well Bodra-2 was initially planned for 5500 m depth to test the prospects in Miocene sediments. However, at 4735 m itself the desired Miocene sediments were penetrated and hence the depth was revised to 4950 m. Incidentally, the two ob-

[Capt. Satish Kumar Sharma]

jectives tested were found to be water bearing with negligible dissolved gas and well had to be abandoned.

Diamond Harbour Well-1 was tested first by a deep Rig for ten months. Subsequently, it was again tested for a very prolonged period of over 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ years by a work Over Rig. All zones tested did not indicate any hydrocarbons and well was abandoned.

Ichapur-1 well yielded some condensate which normally has high API gravity. The gasolene content is also expected to be high due to which flash point was low.

As the productivity of the well was very poor (1 Cu. M. per day), therefore, adequate quantity of this condensate was not available to even consider any refining aspect.

The hon. Member also argued strongly about the possibilities of finding oil in West Bengal and stated that the Government had suddenly withdrawn all efforts in the State. This, however, is not borne out by facts.

ONGC has made all sincere efforts for exploration of hydrocarbons in West Bengal which is clearly evident from the very high expenditure of over Rs. 650 crores made in the area without any commercial success. Forty-five wells have been drilled and extensive seismic surveys have been carried out. During the Eighth Plan, ONGC has planned to carry out 6,590 Standard Line Kilometres (SLK) of seismic survey, 2D and 3D both, and drilling of five exploratory wells. A number of blocks have been offered for exploration in the State consistently in the

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth rounds of bidding. Again five blocks have been offered (two onshore and three offshore) under the Seventh round of bidding which closes on June 30, 1994.

The hon. Member finally referred to shortage of cooking gas and suggested that the gas available in Tripura could be brought through a pipeline to the West Bengal sector. In this regard, I would like to mention that the present production and sale of gas in Tripura is about 0.35 million cubic metres a day (MCMD) of non-associated gas. The envisaged demand of gas by the end of the Eighth Plan would be of the order of 1.8 MCMD against an anticipated production potential of about 2 MCMD. Thus, there is hardly any gas left for transporting from Tripura to neighbouring States.

ONGC would continue its planned activity in Bengal Basin during the Eighth Plan period. However, all over India, effort is being made to augment the pace of exploration and additional development of discovered fields in various Basins with the help of private Indian and foreign companies. In this context, a number of exploration blocks have been offered during various rounds of exploration bidding in Bengal Basin.

Let me give the figures once again. Two onshore blocks in West Bengal were offered in the Fourth Round of Exploration, two in the Fifth Round, six in the Sixth Round and five have been offered in the Seventh Round of bidding. We are hopeful that major exploration companies which have adequate technology and resources, would evince interest in the Seventh Round.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala, during his speech desired that exploration activi-

ties should be conducted in different parts of the country based on the Hydrocarbon potential. He has stated that State should not be the criteria for this. He has specifically mentioned that exploratory work is required in areas like Cochin, Cauvery Basin, Krishna-Godavari basin, etc. I would like to mention that the approach suggested by the hon. Members is already being followed.

ONGC is carrying out intensive exploration as well as development of discovered fields, both in Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery Basins in onshore as well as offshore parts.

As far as the Kerala-Konkan coastal region is concerned, so far eight wells have been drilled (five by ONGC, two by Shell and one by BHP). None of these wells indicated any hydrocarbons. During the VIII Plan period 1992-97, about 14,000 Line Kilometres of 2D/3D seismic survey and drilling of six exploratory wells are envisaged in this region.

Shri Sudhir Giri referred to the decision of the Government to offer exploration blocks to Indian and foreign companies. The hon. Member was of the view that Government is being forced to open its doors to foreign multinational companies. This is not true.

As mentioned earlier, only to augment exploration activity and development of some small and medium sized fields in a very short span of time, bids have been invited from private foreign and Indian companies. This will not only provide additional financial resources for faster activity in the country but will help to introduce state-of-art technologies in the country.

The expected prognosticated hydrocarbon resources of the country are of the order of 21 billion tonnes. So far only 2,100 million tonnes of recoverable reserves (oil + OEG) have been established in the country. With the planned activity of ONGC and OIL during the VIII Plan, it is expected that over 350 million tonnes of additional recoverable reserves would be established.

Kumari Mamta Banerjee pointed out that thirteen locations have been identified for exploration work in the eastern region. She desired that a Task Force may be constituted for the eastern region to go into these matters. I may mention that so far forty-five locations have in fact been drilled both onland and in the offshore areas of West Bengal. Besides, ONGC has been organising several discussions with experts to take further steps for exploration work in the Bengal Basin.

Shri Subroto Mukherjee stated that three wells in his constituency, namely Karandigi, Lahil and Raiganj, have been abandoned. I may clarify that these three wells have been drilled on older Gondwana prospect and proved dry. They therefore had to be abandoned. Kumari Mamata Banerjee also made valuable suggestions on the question of the expansion of the Haldia Refinery. She was supported in this regard by Shri Subroto Mukherjee. Both the hon. Members desired that an expeditious decision may be taken for expansion of the Haldia Refinery.

First of all, I would like to briefly state the facts for the information of all the Members of this hon. House. Original expansion report for Haldia Refinery was given in June, 1981. Revised with some modifications, it was re-submitted in

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February, 1983. This envisaged land requirement of 225 acres for three MMTPA expansion from 2.5 to 5.5 MMTPA with Hydrocracker at an estimated cost of Rs. 573.54 crores at September, 1982 prices with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 103.61 crores. This proposal was not considered further since unit cost of expansion would be similar to new grass root refinery.

Possibility of expansion was again reviewed after 6-7 years. In this connection, (a) vacant land was found largely occupied with additional tankage and some other facilities, (b) economy of scale and considering product demand indicate that it would be more economical to set up a grass root refinery by 6 MMTPA. Expansion of Haldia by 6 MMTPA would be constrained by availability of water, power, rail services, etc. Besides, Haldia port also has constraints because of which development of alternate port was considered as an attractive alternative. EIL team also visited Haldia in October, 1990 to examine the feasibility by 3 MMTPA are found that this would be similar to the setting up of all the facilities at a new grass root level.

The Ministry had once again requested the Indian Oil Corporation in April, 1993 to re-examine the possibility of Haldia expansion. In response to this, the Indian Oil Corporation communicated in April, 1993 that there is no change in the position regarding expansion of Haldia Refinery as stated in their earlier letter of April, 1990. As of today, there is no proposal from the Indian Oil Corporation for expansion of Haldia Refinery that is pending with the Government. Capacity of Haldia Refinery has already been increased from 2.5 MMTPA to 2.75 MMTPA by de-bottlenecking of existing facilities.

Also, the lube oil block of the refinery has been expanded from a level of 136 thousand metric tonnes per year to 162 thousand metric tonnes per year. Further expansion of the lube oil block to 222 thousand metric tonnes per year is under implementation and scheduled to be completed by May, 1994.

I would also like to inform this hon. House that I recently had an occasion to discuss with the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, various matters pertaining to the oil and gas sector in West Bengal. Honourable Chief Minister mentioned that some international investors were keen to participate in a project for the expansion of the Haldia Refinery. I wish to inform that any project proposal which is technically feasible and economically viable would be welcome and my Ministry would certainly consider the same. We hope to respond as soon as the proposal is received. We also discussed in brief the exploration efforts already undertaken and also the measures required for improving the exploration activities. We are reviewing the quality of data already available and are also stepping up the 3-D Seismic Survey work in the Bengal Basin.

16.59 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

Sir, Shri Dwarakanath Das referred to certain issues pertaining to Assam like abandoning of six of the 10 wells drilled, the pending request for supply of gas to tea gardens, providing employment opportunities to the local youth including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, etc. I wish to point out that youth are being employed in consonance with the Government's policy. In fact, in Oil India, all workers are from Assam. Also recruit-

of Oil

ment of the 'Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Castes youth is being done. There was, in fact, a special recruitment drive for filling up of backlog vacancies in ONGC recently.

As regards exploration in Cachar, 32 wells were drilled in the Seventh Plan period and 14 wells are planned during the Eighth Plan period. Four fields—two oil and two gas—have been discovered.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Whole of the reply has been devoted to West Bengal. Machines deployed in North Bihar for oil exploration are being returned. Therefore, what is the guarantee that the exploration work will continue?

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: You shifted from East to West Bengal.

[*English*]

30,000 cubic metres of gas per day have been offered from two ONGC fields in Cachar for power generation. This proposal is under examination of the Power Ministry.

Sir, the hon. Member Shri Chitta Basu expressed an apprehension that private companies are being allowed to collect Seismic data without making the same available to the Government.

17.00 hrs.

This is incorrect. One copy of the data collected is invariably given to ONGC and Oil India.

As regards the offer of exploration blocks to private companies, I would like

to inform that while ONGC/OIL will continue to carry out exploration and production activities, efforts are being made to obtain private and outside investment to augment oil production.

As regards sharing of profits, the first right to purchase oil is with the Government after recovering cost oil. Profit oil is split in such a way that most of it comes to Government.

Shri Tej Narayan Singh spoke about drilling in Bihar. In this connection, I would like to point out that six wells were drilled in Bihar and 29,822 metres of surveys work conducted. Four wells in East and West Champaran have been drilled but without success.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat desired exploration efforts to be made in Rajasthan. We have already carried out extensive exploration work in Rajasthan through ONGC/OIL since 1966. ONGC has drilled 53 wells and OIL 20 wells. Total seismic survey of 11,500 standard line Kms by ONGC and 1,200 SLK by OIL has been completed. In addition, OIL has done 300 Sq. Kms. of 3-d Survey.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: RSEB has cleared the gas based power project to be set up in Ramgarh, However, the gas should be utilized in the power project of Jaisalmer too.

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: I have noted your suggestions.

[*English*]

Shri Kamla Mishra Madhukar and Shri Nitish Kumar have spoken about the

[Capt. Satish Kumar Sharma]

work done in Bihar and expressed their concern at what they felt was neglect of Bihar as far as exploration is concerned. The facts, however, are different.

ONGC has been continuing exploratory activities in Bihar since 1956. So far, ONGC has carried out 7138 LK/SLK of seismic surveys apart from Aeromagnetic and groundmagnetic and geological surveys and drilled six wells without any commercial success. ONGC is continuing its exploratory efforts during the Eighth Plan period in the State of Bihar and plans to conduct seismic surveys.

Four wells have been drilled in East and West Champaran without success.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: How did you conclude that commercial success has not been achieved? Was it commercially used?

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: So far as oil business in Bihar, Bengal or any other part of the country is concerned, commercial success is not compulsory. Scientific work is to be carried out in those areas where oil is processed. Just as TUDI is there, then there is 3D or in other words three dimension. Every type of high quality seismic data is being collected there which helps in specifying and identifying the oil prospects and hydro prospects. Next phase can be of exploration and drilling. I am not going into the commercial success. Though substantial commercial success has not been achieved in West Bengal and Bihar but it has been achieved in Gujarat and Bombay High.

[English]

As far as finding oil is concerned, it is the most critical issue. Doing seismic work is the first stage and the most advanced seismic work done in today's oil world is called 3-D scientific data collection. That is what I intend to do more and more in areas like Bengal, specially border of Bengal, West Bengal and in those areas where on the other side we found oil.

In Rajasthan, we have the same situation and part of the area is in Pakistan now where we found some oil. Also in our Rajasthan, we have oil. We have found gas. There the most advanced 3-D data work will be done.

So far, ONGC has carried out 7138 LK/SLK of seismic surveys apart from Aeromagnetic and groundmagnetic and geological surveys and drilled six wells without any commercial success. ONGC is continuing its exploratory efforts during the Eighth Plan.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I would like to say that rig has been withdrawn from the Gandak Project in Bihar. Rig was sought to be transferred to Assam. I am saying this from my experience. I had a talk with the Chief Minister of Bihar.

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Madam, I want to convey through you to Shri Chitta Basu that rig is not a fixed item. Rigs are moved from State to State. They do the job in one place and the drilling goes on in the other place. The seismic work goes on at other place.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR One minute
Mr Minister please, the general apprehension there is that removing the rig machine from there means that the work has been stopped If the Hon Minister gives an assurance that the work has not been stopped we would be satisfied

CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
That is what I am submitting to you We started the work in 1956 and now we have to include Bihar even in the Eighth Plan The surveys proposed to be conducted would also be done through high cult technology This 3D work would also be carried out in Bihar

[English]

Four wells have been drilled in East and West Champaran but unfortunately without any success OIL have also applied for a petroleum exploration licence in the State of Bihar covering 17500 square kilometres comprising of Paschim Champaran Purbi Champaran Gopalganj Siwan Sitamarhi Muzaffarpur Madhubani Darbhanga and Saran districts So far no licence has been issued by the Government of Bihar So it is for your information that delay is on the part of your State Government (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR Have you talked to the State Government?

CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
We have been pursuing with your State Government I will pursue it further with your help For me oil is more important in Bihar The earlier it is found better it is for the country So far no licence has been issued by the Government of Bihar and hence no exploratory activities have been undertaken by OIL

SHRI NITISH KUMAR I shall definitely take it up

CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
You get back to me you help me ONGC have incurred an expenditure of Rs 70 56 crores on exploration activities in Bihar till 31 3 1993

Sir I would once again like to thank all the hon Members for their valuable suggestions Before I conclude would like to say that exploration in all parts of the country including West Bengal and the North East is being given the highest priority in my Ministry Our effort is to find new oil for which we have drawn up a strategy for increasing the level of exploration by ONGC as well as OIL In addition their efforts will be augmented by various private Indian and foreign companies who are participating in the bids for exploring blocks I may assure this House that no part of the country will be neglected and West Bengal and North Eastern Region will continue to be a major area of work In view of this I would request the hon Member to withdraw his statutory resolution (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU May I know from the hon Minister whether he can assure this House that there will be no further withdrawal of rigs from West Bengal and Bihar

CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
I have given you my assurance Madam, I would like to assure the hon Member Shri Chitta Basu and also other Members from North East Bihar and West Bengal in particular that my efforts are that in spite of limited success in these two States, my intention is not to bring down the level of activity there And the most important activity in this area is exploration and exploration starts with seismic work and then

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exploration drilling I can assure the Members from both these States about it (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA
I have the latest information with me ONGC is not ready to hand over the gas for turbine I would like to know whether the Minister will look into this matter

CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
I will find out the position

MR CHAIRMAN As the House desires the time has been extended

DR ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Minister There is a possibility of finding huge reserves of oil and gas in the Bengal basin The role of ONGC in drilling has been mystifying On many occasions since ONGC started its activities the efforts have always been on a single track direction They say that in spite of their best efforts no proof for exploring oil is found This is absolutely a distortion of facts

IN USA 500 wells are dug on an average per 10,000 sq kms for exploration purposes In Soviet Union, 60 wells are dug for exploration purpose In India they dug only 11.6 wells In the Bengal basin till now 2.2 wells have been dug in 10,000 sq kms area This fact spells out clearly the priority that ONGC is giving to exploration and proves the fact that it is giving a stepmotherly treatment to the Bengal basin

The Minister has not given any assurance regarding the employees working in some of these rigs In Assam, there are 13,000 employees, in Tripura, there are

1,250 employees and in Bengal, there are 1400 employees There is no assurance given by the Minister about those employees in the eventuality of those rigs being withdrawn

I would like to mention here about the oil which has been discovered in a well GS 15-1 in the South West of Ravva field in Krishna-Godavari offshore From the well they had extracted 2,450 barrels of oil and 77,000 cubic metres of gas per day during the testing period

Why it is a more significant discovery is because of the fact that this particular well falls in the bloc which was relinquished by AMOCO, a well-known multinational oil company of USA

After undertaking the drilling operations in some of the areas in West Bengal, especially in the Eastern region, those wells have been abandoned But the experience of South West of Ravva field in Krishna-Godavari basin proves the fact that oil has been extracted from those wells which have been relinquished by AMOCO, a multinational oil company of USA They left that area and after that such a huge amount of oil was found in that well

So, I request the Minister to continue their efforts for the exploration of oil in those abandoned wells, especially at Ichapur, Krishnagar and Ranaghat region I have mentioned about Bodra region The point is that they dug only 2.2 wells in an area of 10,000 sq kms It is a bare minimum when you compare it with USA where 500 wells are dug on an average in an area of 10,000 sq. kms. Why should there be so much of disparity? Why cannot the Government survey the area and dig according to the international norms? So, I request the Minister to kindly look

into this whole Bengal basin. When you say Bengal basin, it does not pertain to Bengal only; it covers Orissa, Assam and Bihar also. All these areas are covered under the Bengal basin. Oil is flowing in this Bengal basin. So, I request the Minister to take suitable steps in this regard.

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA:

Through you let me assure the hon. Member one thing. With regard to the points he has raised regarding additional efforts which need to be put in for exploration in West Bengal and Bihar in particular, the most important issue I feel personally facing the country is how we find new oil in the quickest possible time-frame. Oil production is going up starting in the coming year; in the next three years the production will go up, but the challenge before the country is that India will have to find new oil, so that India becomes self-sufficient in oil. My efforts are that I intend not only to make ONGC and Oil India find oil, but also the other companies which are coming in—not in the area of discovery oil programme, but I am talking about exploration—the international companies and the NRI companies which are coming into the country in the area of exploration also to find oil. Even if that is not enough, I intend to find other ways to do my best that in the next three year's time India will find oil. I can assure you that my efforts will be there in this direction. Specially in Bihar and West Bengal, in those areas you find that the survey work has not been done because it has saturated in some areas. We will try to make it only more saturated but also, as I mentioned earlier, the high technology 3D survey work will be done there.

DR. ASIM BALA: Before I withdraw my Resolution, I want to know one point. The Government is further inviting

offers from 46 blocs under the sixth round of bidding. I would like to know how many blocs in West Bengal are under bidding. I want an assurance from the Minister regarding employment. What will be the position of those who are already working there if you are shifting this rig from there?

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA:

I can convey the Member's concern to the ONGC and request them to see that the people who are working should not be dislodged and alternate employment should be found for them.

DR. ASIM BALA: With the assurance of the Minister, I want to withdraw my Resolution.

I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.14 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE:RESERVATION
IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
ETC. FOR OBC

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM (Tindivanam): I beg to move:

"That having regard to the fact that the persons belonging to other backward classes are socially and educationally backward, this House urges upon the Government to provide for reservation of twenty-seven per cent of seats in all educational institu-

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tions and also for relaxation by five years in the upper age limit for appointment in the services under the control of Central Government and in public sector undertakings for them."

It is nearly eighty years of continued agitation that has come to be recognised only partially by the country today. The notification of the Central Government on the 8th of September 1993 has given us an assurance reserving 27 per cent of the vacancies in the civil posts and services for OBCs, with the exclusion of the creamy layer as identified by the four member committee within the other backward classes.

I must congratulate the hon. Minister for Social Welfare, Shri Sitaram Kesri who made the announcement; and I must also congratulate him for having implemented it by making the first appointment.

In this connection, before going into the other details about Mandal Commission and how it was implemented and all that, let me first make out that whatever we are having in our mind and discussing today is only concerning the part of the 'post' that has been reserved for other backward classes. But, the Constitution was amended not only for the 'post', but it was amended for the specific purpose of doing away with the backwardness of the people, backwardness in the sense of social and educational backwardness. May be by giving reservation in posts, maybe by absorbing people from the backward communities to the Government posts, we may think that we are giving a go-by to the social backwardness. But that was not the intention of the people who amended the Constitution or when the amendment

to the Constitution was brought forward. The purpose was to bring the backward classes on a par with the other section of the society namely the forward community, take them or pull them up, to a level of others both in the social and educational sense.

When you fix up reservation for posts alone or for the Government jobs alone, it means that you have abundant people who will join the post and take their positions. But, actually, there is no peeding ground for it. Today, education has been commercialised. It has become a costly affair; self-financing system has been recognised by the Government. It is not free education as Kamraj founded it and as it was done in Tamil Nadu and other States. Today, we are giving a go-by to all these things.

Here, I would like the House to consider whether the real backward people or the people who belong to the backward classes irrespective of the community to which they belong to, are in a position to get proper education which can lead them to the Government jobs. In the villages, they are getting the worst type of education. Teachers are not present. Drop out list is not properly maintained. If they are to get the proper type of education, they have to come out from the villages and go to the nearest municipal town and join the nursery school which is run on self-financing system. Is this the way you are going to bring them up or you are going to do away with the backwardness of the people?

I would like to quote the speech made by no less a person than our former Prime Minister Shri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when the Constitution was amended. He made this speech when he moved the Bill for amending the Constitu-

tion He spoke in Parliament on 16th May 1951 I would like to quote his speech from the proceedings at page No 8821

"You have to distinguish between backward classes which are specially mentioned in the Constitution that have to be helped, to be made to grow and not to think of them in terms of this community or that community Only if you think of them in terms of the community you bring in communalism But if you deal with the backwardness as such, whatever religion or anything else that may happen to belong to, then it becomes our duty to help them towards educational social and economic advancement

' Naturally that advancement is not meant to be, if I may say so at the expense of others We want to pull people up and not pull them down But sometimes in this intervening period difficulties arose because we have not got enough provisions Let us say for giving certain type of education technical or otherwise the question arose whether we would give some reasonable encouragement and an opportunity for that education to be given to members of the backward classes which otherwise, without that encouragement and opportunity, they may not get at all so that they remain where they are and we cannot pull them up Therefore, the object of this amendment is to lay stress on this '

It is very clear that when the Constitution was amended, it was not a ques-

tion of merely giving a few jobs to certain people It was a question of bringing the backward classes people on par with the other sections of the society because the backwardness was thrust upon them It was not their mistake It was thrust It was the curse or it was the oppression of either the religion or the upper classes or the moneyed people or the privileged people,

Whatever that be that has been there for centuries That has been there for thousands of years But once they realised their position and when they tried to come up Panditji recognised it The then Parliament recognised it And only afterwards they amended the Constitution The first preference they gave was to educational and social backwardness Economic backwardness was also included in that Today we have given a go-bye to the educational backwardness and social backwardness

What is it that we are doing today? Panditji was specific on that when he said about the technical institutions and the medical institutions What is the position today? Are backward people in a position to get into these institutions? What is happening? The number of medical colleges and the number of engineering colleges that are run by the Government are very very few And even these are being handed over to individuals today So, nearly a major portion of the technical institutions—the engineering colleges and the medical colleges—have gone into the hands of individuals which function under self-financing system Under such system, how can you expect the backward classes to enter into these institutions and get admission and then come into Government jobs What is the way in which we are dealing the problem I think, we have given a go-bye to the people who

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amended the Constitution. We are not doing justice to them. We are not rendering justice to the backward classes also. In this respect, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru has once again said:

"We have also to respect the fundamental directive of this Constitution and the fundamental aims of our policy that we must encourage and help those who are backward to come up and give them proper training and proper opportunities of social and economic advancement."

This is the way in which the educational backwardness was pointed out when the Constitution was amended for this purpose in the year 1951.

I would like to quote another speech in Parliament when the amendment was made. The speech was made by no less a person than the former President of India, Mr. R. Venkataraman. While participating in the debate on 2nd June, 1951 in Lok Sabha, he said:

"There is a feeling both in this House as well as elsewhere that by this amendment, we are trying to get over the decision of the Supreme Court. If we carefully analyse the facts relating to the communalism, its history and its past, we will realise that this amendment is necessary in the interest of the social welfare of all the people in the State...

In the year 1926, the independent Ministry of Madras introduced this communal GO. It was then supported by two Members

who were originally in the Congress but then crossed the floor. But then for nearly 15 or 20 years, it has been in existence and our concept of social justice has been changing in the meanwhile."

At that time, the Minister for Home Affairs for Government of India was no less a person than Shri Rajagopalachari called as Rajaji.

"When the honourable Home Minister was the first Premier of Madras under the first Congress Government, he extended this principle of communal GO to the recruitment of the judiciary. He says: I am sure he will agree that the hon. Home Minister is perhaps one of the rarest men who has the courage of his conviction and if he did not feel that the principle was true reflection of social justice and quite positive, he would not have extended this recruitment to subordinate judiciary."

This goes a long way to show how much the then society was agitated about educational and social backwardness. The thrust seems to be more on the social backwardness. It is not only that. If social backwardness has to go really and if the Government has the intention to do so, then it can be done only by doing away with their educational backwardness. There is no other way. In that context, Madam Chairman, I once again trace out the very history of the movement itself. It is not that agitation of backward classes started from Tamil Nadu. It was started by a person who was a Congress leader and the then PCC President, Shri Periyar E.V. Ramasamy Naicker. He was the one who

did it. He was the first social reformer and he emerged as social reformer not only for Tamil Nadu but for the entire Madras Presidency which comprised of certain parts of Kerala, Karnataka, most part of Andhra Pradesh and certain parts of today's Orissa. So, he was the man who stood against untouchability and he was the man who strengthened Gandhiji to fight against untouchability. It was he who championed the cause of the backward class people. It was his relentless fight that started and made people think of backwardness and that made the backward class people to unite and think of their future.

That is how we emerged. At this juncture, we must remember Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy Nacker who is affectionately called as "Thanthai" Periyar. He was able to muster the support of Babasaheb Ambedkar and many of the social reformers who were his contemporaries.

What was the situation in which the then Interim Government in Tamil Nadu was formed? It was not headed by Justice Party. It was formed by people who did not belong to any party. In this connection, I would like to mention Sir Tyagaraya Chettiar who belonged to Andhra. He was a leader of the Composite State and he was an accepted leader of Tamil Nadu. It was Muttayya Mudaliar of Tamil Nadu who gave the first GO and who made the first enactment for reservation for the backward classes in Madras Presidency. So, reservation for backward classes was not confined to Tamil Nadu alone. It was there in Kerala; it was there in parts of Karnataka; it was there in parts of Andhra Pradesh; and it was there in Orissa also. That was the concept which had come all the way through. It has taken nearly 75 or 80 years for the country to recognise the demands of the backward classes which

are today discussed, day in and day out whether for or against. Today, it has become inevitable that the feelings of the backward classes have to be recognised and their demands, hopes and aspirations are given a concrete shape.

Fortunately, in Tamil Nadu, the political scenario has been such that the successive Governments gave vent to the feeling that the backward communities should come up in life socially and educationally. Every political party has to commit itself that it would stand for the upliftment of the backward communities. That is why, irrespective of changes of Government in Tamil Nadu, whether it be Congress Government or DMK Government or AIADMK Government, they have to go ahead to find out ways and means for uplifting the backward class people.

Today, this movement has taken a new dimension. Even the Mandal Commission is the offspring of the Congress Government. It was under the Congress regime that the Mandal Commission came to be constituted. But I must say here that even with all these positive developments, we find that our aspirations are not fulfilled yet. Even though the Janata Dal Government made all the efforts that they could, the much desired change has not taken place. Of course, I do give them all the credit that they rightly deserve for ventilating the feelings and aspirations of the backward communities. But when it came to the implementation stage, they conveniently forgot about the educational backwardness which is much more important and without which, the backward classes cannot be brought on par with other communities.

The first Backward Classes Commission was constituted on January 29, 1953 under the chairmanship of Kakasa-

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heb Kalelkar. This Commission repeatedly emphasised both educational and social backwardness. On December 20, 1978, Shri Morarji Desai, the then Prime Minister, announced in the Lok Sabha, the decision to constitute a commission to investigate the conditions of social and educational backwardness of these communities under the chairmanship of the then Member of Parliament, Shri B.P. Mandal. When this Commission was constituted in 1978, they were asked to go in to the matter and find ways and means to remove social and educational backwardness of these communities. Under Panditji's rule, it was educationally and socially backwardness. Under Morarji Desai's rule, it was socially and educationally backwardness! Anyway, it does not make much of a difference. The Commission was asked to probe and determine the criteria to define socially and economically backward classes, to recommend steps to be taken for the advancement of socially and economically backward class citizens so identified; and to examine the desirability or otherwise of making a provision for reservation for appointment to posts in favour of backward class citizens, who are not adequately represented in public services and services which are connected with the affairs of the Union or States.

In December 1980, the Mandal Commission gave its report. In its report, the Commission recommended firstly, reservation of 27 per cent for OBCs—other backward classes—should apply to all government services as well as educational and professional institutions. I would like to emphasise here that it is where people forgot Mandal. He recommended 27 per cent reservation in

all Government services, as well as educational and professional institutions both in the Centre and States. Secondly, he also recommended special educational facilities designed at upgrading the cultural environment of students belonging to other backward classes.

3. Promotion with regard to participation of OBC in the industrial and business life of the country.

The political scenario prevalent at that time made Shri V.P. Singh to give a go by to the educational backwardness and instead insist on economic backwardness and on government posts alone. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that Shri V.P. Singh announced in the Lok Sabha the decision taken by his Government to implement the Mandal Commission Report. But, the attempt was not to implement the report in full. It was a halfhearted decision and that is why the educational backwardness never came into force. What is the position today?

As things stand today, we have to get fully qualified people from the backward community so that this quota of 27 per cent reservation is fulfilled. Even, among these reserved jobs, the eligible person would not be roaming on the Delhi Municipal roads. The backward classes people are more in the villages. What is their social, economic and educational condition? What is the kind of education that we are imparting to the children of backward classes people. Does it fulfil the basic idea of giving job reservation? What is it that we are doing for them? What types of schools are there in the villages? We do not have better educational institutions in the villages. So, we can imagine what type of education is being imparted to the children there. If this is the situation in which the backward classes children

for OBC

get education they can never compete with the forward classes people. The backward classes children can never come at par with the rest of the forward communities.

I may differ with the AIADMK Government in several respects but I must appreciate the steps taken by the ex Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M G R. He was the one who declared economic backwardness as the lone criteria for backwardness. He suffered the humiliation of people and then he mended his ways. Ultimately 69 per cent reservation for the educationally and socially backward people was made. This is how it has come about in Tamil Nadu. And Karnataka has achieved it much earlier. So in these States the backward class people are in a better position to come up in education.

Education is the worst in villages. Education which is being imparted to the poorest of poor people, is the worst. While the creamy layer is yet to be identified properly. Government has declared 10 per cent reservation for economically backward people irrespective of the community to which they belong. We may be financially strong but does it mean that we should do away with the social backwardness or educational backwardness? You cannot take into consideration the Members of Parliament who, because of some circumstances, are at par with the other communities. A man may belong to the backward community and yet he may be well off economically. But, what is his social or educational position?

A rich man from the village is indifferent. He may be having even three or four children and only one among them would have had the college education and not an education that is required for se-

curing a job. This is just for the sake of having a degree. Other children might have agricultural work or might be loitering on the road. So this is the rear condition. Anyway once you have accepted 10 per cent reservation for creamy layer, you have to give them that facility. I do not want to further go into it. But what about the position of other people who belong to the backward community? What justice are you going to give them? Are you giving them the necessities to make them on par with other communities? If this is the way in which you are going to deal with them I think the country will face another social revolution in the near future. Unless this goes into our mind and unless we take into consideration the real problems, we will not be able to put an end to this problem of social oppression.

In this connection, I would like to once again stress what Panditji said on 2nd June, 1951 about the way in which we have to deal with this problem. This is what he said and I quote

'We have enough of soft dealing. If there is to be hard dealing, there are going to be hard blows all round.'

If there is a necessity, then the Government must choose the hard way. This is what Panditji had said. You see page 10100 of the debate of 2nd June, 1951. This is what he said and I quote

"Therefore, we have to understand realities and deal with them—understand not only realities but the justice of the cause. It is true that in doing these things on a vast scale you come up against difficulties and injustices. You cannot help it

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when you are dealing with vast social reforms and changes. You can try to remedy them and so I have suggested to the State Governments to look into the matter and remedy them, if necessary, by additional legislation. But the thing must go through: you cannot stop it. Nor stop for the law courts to declare whether the law is right or wrong. So also in regard to the amendment to article 19(2). It is an amendment in regard to certain matters which widens the scope of law-making."

This is the way in which Panditji wanted to deal with the problems. Yesterday, I had an opportunity of hearing Mr. Indrajit Gupta. I was very happy to hear him. He had mentioned a point regarding the social upliftment or the demands that are coming up in this regard from the society. He had also mentioned a point regarding the percentage of reservation in Tamil Nadu and other states. He said that, on the face of it, it contradicts the Supreme Court verdict. Unless it is realised depending on the situation in the States, the reservation must vary, can vary and should vary otherwise, it is not the verdict of the Supreme Court that will stand as the final word but it is going to be the people's word that is going to be the final word in this situation. So, just to say that the Supreme Court had given a decision in this way and we should follow all these norms will not render any justice to the backward classes. In this regard, I have a very great confidence in the Minister of Welfare, hon. Shri Sitaram Kesri and our Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao who had taken up this cause and have come to this extent.

I would only bring to their knowledge and to the consideration of this House that this is the problem which concerns the poorest sections of the people of our country viz. the backward classes. This has to be attended to in a proper way and the problems must be understood by them.

Mere appointment in Government companies, mere appointment in Government institutions will not solve the problem. On the other hand, you do not have the feeding ground for it. Unless we get people educated, graduated, we cannot get employment for them. Giving education is the only way to do away with the social backwardness and to get them into Government jobs, we have to go a long way. I request the Central Government and the Ministry concerned to look into the way in which our great Leader Kamaraj and dear Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu implemented it and tackled this problem. Education was his first object. He made education free for all. He saw to it that every village got a school and every panchayat or a Zila Parishad got two or three High Schools; he saw to it that almost every taluka or tehsil got a college; he saw to it that the engineering colleges and the medical colleges implemented the reservation policy in a true manner.

Today, we find that in the name of backward classes, about 100 or 150 or 200 admissions are being given to forward community people in Tamil Nadu itself. This was noticed by the court; and the court directed the Government to make a review of the entire admission system in educational institutions.

This is the way in which the backward classes are made to suffer; they are not in a position to enjoy their own share in the reservation that is made for them. If

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this is the position we find in Tamil Nadu, then the same situation must be there in most of the States. So, even in the reservation quota, a backward man is not getting his rightful entry. So, once again I insist that under the present circumstances where education has become commercial, where a medical seat is sold for Rs 8 lakhs or a minimum of Rs 5 lakhs—from Rs 5 lakhs it goes to Rs 10 lakhs—where an engineering college seat is sold for Rs 5 lakhs and more and is recognized in the name of privatisation or in the name of self-financing institution and the Supreme Court also recognizes it. The Supreme Court enters into it and probes into this when a student goes to the Supreme court saying that he has been deprived of his seat in a school or college because it is being commercialized. The Supreme Court went into it very deeply and their final verdict has made the students pay much more than what they paid before going to the Supreme Court for getting justice. This is the way in which the Supreme Court also deals with the backward classes. If this is the way in which education is imparted to the students where is the way for the backward classes to come out? If something has to be done, then all the social problems, all the economic problems should be taken into consideration and it should be dealt along with educational backwardness of the backward classes.

I have moved this Resolution for the consideration of all the Members of this House and the concerned Ministry to think about the real problems that are existing among the backward classes, they may differ from State to State, they may be different in different States, they must be tackled according to the prevailing position in each and every State. We cannot have a uniform law, a uniform direction

and say this is the way in which we have to tackle backwardness of the backward classes, that will not render justice. So, in terms of real justice, if it is to be rendered, I think that my Resolution will make it convenient for the Government to come up with the necessary constitutional amendment and the legal amendment and the necessary reforms so that people get a better position. Let us do away with backwardness in the name of religion and community.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) Madam Chairman I support the Resolution regarding backward sections moved just now by Shri Ram Murthy, I would also like to express my views in this regard in short.

On the recommendations of the Mandal Commission constituted by the Government the Supreme Court has also agreed to give 27 per cent reservation. For the last two days Members have been pointing out that the relaxation in age ought to be given is not being given to them and obstacles are being created in this regard. People are thinking of filing a court case in this regard. This may deprive them from what they have achieved.

This Commission had been set up after serious considerations. Several States had already provided the reservation facility to the backward sections, which certainly helped them to move ahead. Our great leaders—whether Shri Ambedkar, Shri Patel or any other leader—had given a series through to it and then only provided the reservation facility to the backward classes or economically, socially and educationally backward people so that they could make progress.

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Just as reservation facility has been made for Harijans and Adivasis, similarly this facility has been extended to people of backward sections to enable them to make progress. In this connection I would like to give a practical suggestion to the Government. I would like the people of backward sections to move ahead in the real sense and all the practical problems that come in the way should be removed.

Though this is not in the Resolution, however, whatever shortcomings are there at the root of it, should be removed. In rural areas poor people—whether they are Harijans, Adivasis, or belong to backward sections or other sections, all of them are poor. We are very well aware of the situation that prevails there, and in that situation crores of rupees are being spent in the name of educating the people. But I have a personal experience and other Hon. Members would have also witnessed in their respective constituencies that leaving aside hardly 10-20 percent, the remaining 80 percent, people are being made literate only on papers. I would like the poor people and people of backward sections to be given reservation in jobs so that they may be appointed at higher posts in the field of medicine, engineering and agriculture, they should also be given dignified posts.

I come from Bihar and I do feel that similar situation to what prevails in Bihar would be there in other States too. Though we pretend to be making the people literate but at the same place there is no school buildings and at the other there are no teachers. These anomalies should be removed. The Government will have to conduct a survey throughout the country, they should direct the State Governments to furnish the details regarding

the school buildings and the staff in each State.

18 00 hrs.

Leave aside the requirement for the time being. Where there is school there is no building and where there is building there are no teachers. In such prevailing situation how can we educate the rural people belonging to backward sections, and how they will rise to higher positions such as engineers etc. If these shortcomings are not overcome, the work would not be accomplished.

Madam, I am going to conclude very soon. The list of backward sections has not been submitted by many States so far like Rajasthan, Delhi and many other such States. While the lists furnished by several States are faulty. Some lists include castes which do not exist in the State and they have included those which should be listed in backward sections. These anomalies are there and these should be rectified. Gazette notification in this regard has also not been issued, this should also be done. We would like the Government to provide the reservation facility to the people for higher education so that they may become doctors, engineers etc. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to make provision for coaching classes and training courses in every district....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA
(Mandsaur): It is already 6 o'clock, he should continue his speech next time. Now the other topic should be taken.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please continue it next time.

The time fixed for Private Members' Business Resolution is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up the discussion on the Railway Budget. Shri Sharad Dighe.

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR (Dharwad North): There are so many people who want to speak. Kindly continue this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sharad Dighe has to continue his speech on the Railway Budget.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): there is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell has been rung. Since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, March 7, 1994 at 11 a.m.

18.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, March 7, 1994/ Phalgun 16, 1915 (Saka)