

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XLV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

..

Friday, December 1, 1995/Agrahayana 10, 1917 (Saka)

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
13/10 (from below)	SHRI RABI RAI	SHRI RABI RAY
47,48/10(from below)	Pad Debt Fund	Bad Debt Fund
52/9	SHRI LALI BABU RAI	SHRI LALL BABU RAI
68/2	SHRI HARILAL MANJI PATEL	SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL
69/10/11(from below)	THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM	THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM
288/8	tightshipped	tightlipped
298/10	SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKAL	SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA
298/16	(Howarh)	(Howrah)
316/9 (from below)	Pleases	pleas
340/12 (from below)	(Jaipur)	(Jajpur)
374/9		
348/7(from below)	SHRI PETERG. MARBANING	SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 1, 1995/Agrahayana 10, 1917 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at one minute past
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow, of the passing away of one of our former colleagues namely, Shri M. K. Krishnan.

Shri M. K. Krishnan was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Ponnani Parliamentary constituency of Kerala during 1971-77.

Earlier he had been a member of Kerala Legislative Assembly and had served as a Minister during 1967-69 in the State Council of Ministers.

An active social and political worker, Shri Krishnan was deeply interested in the welfare of down-trodden and weaker sections of the society. He served as President of Edavanakad Panchayat during 1953-62 and Kerala State Kraishak Ihozhilali Union and was Vice President of Cochin Harijan Students Federation during 1945-47.

Shri Krishnan passed away on 14 November, 1995 at the age of 71 years.

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

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

*(The Members then stood in
silence for a short while.)*

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Pension Scheme for the EPF Subscribers

*81. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently implemented the Pension Scheme for the non-Government sector EPF subscribers ;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the number of workers likely to be benefited by the scheme?

[English]

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

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government has since framed and notified the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 for implementation with effect from 16.11.1995. The Scheme, *inter-alia*, provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement, permanent total disablement, death etc. Minimum 10 years contributory service is necessary for being entitled to pension. The pension will be worked out on the basis of average pensionable salary of the last 12 months. The amount of normal superannuation pension with 33 years contributory service will be equivalent to 50/- of the pensionable salary, which includes dearness allowance also. In the cases of the employees who have been members of the family pension scheme, 1971 for 24 for years, the minimum amount of the family pension will be Rs. 50/- per month and the entire accumulations (including employer's share) in the

provident fund upto 15.11.95 would also be refunded to them. Under the scheme, the employees have an option to accept the admissible pension or 10% less pension with return of capital equivalent to 10 times of the original monthly pension.

2. The Scheme is financed by diverting the employer's share of provident fund representing 8.33% of the monthly wage to the pension fund. The Central Government is also contributing to the scheme @ 1.16% of the wage of the employees. The employees are not required to make any contribution to the pension fund. Outflow from the Pension fund in terms of pension disbursements will vary, depending upon the number of members of the fund who superannuate, retire, die, otherwise get separated from employment like by way of retrenchment or voluntary retirement etc. or get incapacitated.

3. The Scheme covers about 19.00 million employees engaged in all the private/public sector units covered under the E.P.F. & M.P. Act, 1952.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been reported in the Press that an organisation willing to implement its own Pension Scheme will be free to contribute its share of money to the Provident Fund and retain its contribution by depositing it in New Pension Scheme for disbursement of pension to its own employees. If it is true, then I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will retain the contribution of the workers at the rate of 1.16% of their wages or deposit the same with those private organisations under this scheme? I would also like to know that in the event of closure, due to unavoidable reasons, of the organisation implementing this scheme how can the beneficiaries get their pension?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : As regards the question put by the hon. Member, there is a lot of confusion prevalent outside the House in connection with Pension Scheme.

SHRI RAM NAIK : This matter has just cropped up in the House.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Many hon. Members have asked me. Hence I have said.

[English]

The Pension Scheme has been formulated at the initiative of the Trade Unions. It has been

development and recommended by the Central Board of Trustees of Employees Provident Fund, which is a tripartite body. Government has notified the scheme on the basis of their recommendations.

Sir, this is not a Government scheme. The trade unions wanted to start the pension scheme. That is why the trade union leaders have demanded it and the Board of Trustees which is autonomous, have recommended this pension scheme.

The Pension Scheme is the most important social security measure taken after Independence for employees of the private and public sectors. The scheme will benefit about 19 million workers, a majority of whom are low paid employees and are in the unorganised sector like beedi industry, contract/temporary employees and smaller establishments. The hon. Members must know that more than 80 per cent of the subscribers withdraw amounts from the Provident Fund as advance. Such withdrawals result in very little amount left in their Provident Fund at the time of retirement. In such a situation, monthly pension will provide them a sustained economic stability in old age. Sir, the scheme is effective from 16.11.95. Employees who have been members of the Family Pension Scheme 1971 for 24 years will be entitled to a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 500/-. In addition, the entire Provident fund accumulation (both employer and employees' share) upto 15.11.95 will be refunded to them....(Interruptions) Sir, let them listen to me. Let them give me five minutes' time. I want to completely explain to the hon. Members the details of the scheme.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It appears, it is a very important matter. Most of the hon. Members want to know the details of the scheme, so, let him finish first.

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI RAM KAPSE : This is a very important scheme, so I would request the hon. Minister to place it on the Table. The scheme has not been tabled yet.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I have already tabled it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that he has already tabled it.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I have supplied the information to all the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Why do you want to mislead the House. In today's list of Business, it is proposed to be placed on the table of the House.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I have sent an advance information.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It should have been sent earlier.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Today, I am placing it on table and the information has been sent in advance.

SHRI RAM NAIK : To whom have you sent?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : To the hon. Members.(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : They send to some hon. Members whereas some others are left. They are making discrimination. I would like to know as to whom it has been sent?(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : When have you sent.(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : If you have not received then I am laying it today. You will have the same.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We will get, but in fact you have not send the same to me.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : In fact I have sent.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I have not received.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : If you have not received then ask Somnath Chatterjeeji.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why should I ask Somnath Chatterjee ji?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Gupta ji has also received.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I have not received.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : If none has received it, then I am laying it on the table of the House and you will get it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is ready to answer all your supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You are misleading the House.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I am no misleading. I will not furnish wrong information to the Members of the House.(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It has not been received.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Indrajeet ji has received it. Ask, Shri Somnath Chatterji, he has also received...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Shri Somnath Chatterjee is not present here, so how can we ask him?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, if you have not received it, he will send it to you.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Contact him at his Calcutta residence and ask him.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I will have to give him a ring.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes please. If you want to have any clarification from the hon. Minister, you will get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Today I am laying it on the table of the House. The hon. Members will get it....(Interruptions)

SHRI KALKA DAS. JI : I would like to know as to why I did not receive it, to whom it has been sent and to to whom it was not sent; why it was not sent to those.(Interruption)

[English]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the scheme is effective from 16.11.1995. The employees who have been members of the Family Pension Scheme 1971 for 24 years will be entitled to a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 500. In addition to that the entire provident fund accumulation (both employer's and employee's share) upto 15.11.1995 will be refunded to them.

[Translation]

There is a misunderstanding that the Government will keep the amount with it. I would like to inform the hon. Members that it is not so. Provident Fund of both, the employer and the employee, will be refunded and besides a pension of Rs. 500 will be released.(Interruptions) With the new calculation the pension amount will increase up Rs. 1500, 2000 and 2500, as per the scale but I would not like to put forth it before the House without making calculation. Besides I would like to inform the hon. Members that gratuity will also be paid. In case a worker dies, his family will receive pension but not from the Deposit Link, Insurance Scheme and Provident fund. His family will get pension from the insurance scheme. I would like to inform you that his family will receive an amount of Rs. 35000 maximum as pension.

[English]

Out of initial corpus of about Rs. 9000 crore, an amount of Rs. 3000 crore is Government's share. But people are saying that there is no Government's share. Not only that, in addition to this, the Government will be contributing about Rs. 300 crore annually for this pension scheme. The remaining amount of Rs. 6000, we have taken from the Provident Fund Scheme. That is recommended by the Board of Trustees. The Government accepted it and implementing it. I do not know why the hon. Members are not appreciating it. This contribution will increase progressively. Every three years, we are going to discuss this scheme regarding the cost of living index and other things. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It has not been linked to the cost of living index.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : It has not been linked to the Cost of Living Index but D. A. will be paid and it will be reviewed after every three years.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Also you are saying that in future the employer's share of Provident Fund representing 8.33 per cent of the monthly wage would be diverted to Pension Fund. You are saying this in your statement itself....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Just now, you have told that the statement has not been received.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am reading this from your statement. You divert from the employer's contribution to the Pension Fund. (Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Yes, only from Employer's Provident Fund and not employees.(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRAML KANTI CHATTERJEE : There are two stages....(Interruptions)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I will reply to all the questions that you are having.

The Amount of normal superannuation pension with three years' contributory service will be equivalent to 50 per cent of his pensionable salary (including dearness allowance). Maximum pension can go up to 60 per cent of the pensionable salary with 40 years of service.

[Translation]

The Government servant does not get more than 50 per cent pension of the basic pay excluding dearness allowance but a provision is being made for the workers to pay them a pension upto 60 per cent of the pensionable salary.

[English]

Under the scheme, an employee with 10 years' ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, it is not a reply, rather a speech.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I am explaining the scheme to you and not delivering a speech.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister is not replying to my question instead he is making a mention of other things.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Surendra Pal Pathak, he will answer to your questions.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : After making the scheme clear, I will satisfy you fully with my reply.

[English]

Under the scheme, an employee with 10 years' contributory service will be eligible for pension.

[Translation]

With 10 years contributory service one will be eligible for pension.

[English]

In Government, pension is payable only on completion of a minimum of 20 years' service.

Under the Family Pension Scheme of 1971, pension was payable to widow only in the case of death of member while in service.

[Translation]

The dependent is entitled to pension in case the employee dies in service, not otherwise.

[English]

Under the Pension Scheme, widow's pension will be payable irrespective of whether the member dies while in service or after retirement. In addition to widow pension, children have also been made eligible for pension....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is the question hour. The hon. Minister can send all the information in writing.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : The hon. Minister is not replying to the question, instead he is reading out the declaration.

[English]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : If you do not want information, then I will sit down....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : The hon. Minister is not replying to the question. The information which should have been given in a written reply is being given a oral reply.

[English]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Under the Family Pension Scheme 1971, the amount of widow pension ranged between Rs. 250 and Rs. 1050. Under the Pension Scheme, the widow pension can go up to 100 percent of member's pension.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You do one thing. There are also a number of supplementaries. You can cover all those points in the supplementaries. There are some supplementaries which shall have to be answered.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, he is not replying to the question raised by me.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that already 20 minutes have been wasted. These 20 minutes belong to us for asking question. So now I request you that the Question Hour should be extended as a special case to accommodate waste of this time. Accordingly the Question Hour should be continued up to 12.20. That is my point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order. There are other supplementaries. You can just ask them.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, he has not replied to the question raised by me.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, How can there be a point of order during the Question Hour? You cannot allow Point of order during the Question Hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order. I have already told that there is no point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : He has not replied to the question raised by me. I am putting the question once again. It has appeared in the newspapers that in case any institution wants to implement its own pension scheme without remitting its contribution to the Provident fund under the scheme, will that institution be allowed to retain the amount of its contribution with it and pay pension to its employees from its own funds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether under this scheme the Government would keep the amount of its contribution @ 1.16 percent of the wages of the employees deposited with them or will that amount be allowed to be deposited with the concerned institution. If due to one or the other reason such institutions as have started their own pension scheme, are closed down....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Surendra Pal, now you put your supplementary in such a way in the shortest form where you get the answer. You do not read it please.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : I would like to know that in case certain institutions implemented their own pension scheme, will the

Government allow deposition of their contribution of 1.16 per cent with such institutions; and in the event of closure of such institutions how much pension they would get under the pension scheme? I would like to know this much only.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : The hon. Member wants to know, where the amount will be kept. I would like to inform that it would not be kept with the Government, it would rather remain deposited with the Provident Fund Scheme. The Government has approved the pension scheme. You have made a good proposal. The Government has started this pension scheme by contributing rupees 3 thousands to it. This money will not remain with the Government. The Government has contributed to this scheme....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You need not answer to all the supplementaries at the same time. you please answer only to his question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : The hon. members of C.P.M. always interrupt. I am replying to the query of an hon. Member. A separate fund has been maintained for this scheme. Rs. 6 thousand crore has been taken from the Provident fund Scheme and Rs. 3 thousand crore is the Government's contribution....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDAR PAL PATHAK : Where will this amount be kept? Will the Government keep it with itself.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : It will be deposited with the scheme drawn by the board of directors.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : My question has not been replied to. My another supplementary is.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. For the first question a chance was given. For the second question also a chance was given.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : No. I had already asked the question. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not satisfied.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : I am still not satisfied with the answer. I am asking another supplementary. The Indian Journalists Union and CITU have complained that they were not consulted when the new Pension scheme was formulated. They have objected to the provisions of this Pension Scheme. According to the Indian Journalists Union any deduction from the present benefits of GPF is against natural justice. The union has suggested that the present 10 per cent contribution of both the employees and the employer to the Provident Fund be increased and a separate fund for pension be raised with this surplus money.

I would like to know the response of the Government about it. Had the Government considered this suggestion before launching the new Pension Scheme?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government had held consultations with the members of the Board of Trustees and the representatives of the Trade Unions. This scheme was brought forward after satisfying them all. If talks are to be held with an individual or the hon. Member has noticed some lacunae after the scheme was implemented, then, he can bring these to our notice. The Government is ready to accept any suggestion of the hon. Member regarding the interest of the working class.

SHRI RABI RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can understand the eagerness of Venkat Swamy ji in bringing forth the Pension Scheme. It will be better for him to give a specific reply to a specific question. Just now, he said that he brought forward this Pension Scheme after fully listening to the Trade Unions. The Trade Unions generally complain today that after gratuity and Provident Fund, they are not being given the third benefit. What has the hon. Minister to say about it? Secondly, the

employees are given 1.17th share of their pay by the Government and with regard to their contribution, the Trade Unions complain that industry-wise option is granted, on choice, of the contribution made after the Government enforces the Pension scheme and the condition should be of presenting a better scheme. Part 'C' of my question is that the workers can take loan when CPF is in force. They will get less loan amount after the implementation of the Pension Scheme. The hon. Minister himself being a trade union leader knows that unless pension is linked up with price-index, the rising inflation cannot be checked. That way, their standard of living cannot be lifted. The hon. Minister is requested to give a pointwise answer to my these four basic questions.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have twice consulted other central trade unions except CITU.....(Interruptions) Please listen to me. After talking to them twice I gathered that the CITU paid emphasis on third benefit. I told them that this scheme was being launched with Rs. 3,000 crores of the Government of India that belonged to 40 percent people living below poverty line. If they are starving(Interruptions) Let me give my reply please. It is not good to put burden on them. Hence, the required loan has been taken from the Government. Barring HMS, BMS, INTUC and CITU, all other central trade unions supported it unanimously. CITU laid emphasis on third benefit. I asked them to start it from West Bengal if they were so much concerned about the workers. Then, the other States will follow suit. Why are they politicising it? The workers got nothing after independence. Why do they create obstructions if we give them Rs. 500. This scheme was launched after the approval of all concerned. What was your second question.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY : About cost of living and loan.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : We have provided a clause in the Board of Trustees that if the cost of living index increases within two years, the Trustees will sit together and review it. In case of any complaint, the workers are vested with the authority and the Government does not come into picture there. About loan, I have fairly said that if we are taking contribution from the management, the workers will get their contribution with interest on retirement alongwith their pension and barring Housing loan they can avail of the benefit of other loans during service.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed half-an-hour discussion for this question.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : A calling Attention Motion on the subject may be admitted.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the claim of the Labour Minister that the scheme has been initiated by the trade unions and it has also been recommended by the Board of Trustees. Now, in spite of this, there has been a mixed feeling as far as this scheme is concerned and several agitations are being resorted to by several trade unionists. In Bombay also *morchas* have been taken out. They come to our houses also and ask to represent against this scheme.

In view of this, will the Labour Minister think of calling a wider Labour Conference to remove all these confusions and also to remove all the irritants which are there in scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : My Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member will excuse me to say that except Shri Datta Samant no other trade union is supporting. According to my information, except CITU, others have opposed the idea of third benefit.

[English]

They are supporting also. The entire Central trade union movement is supporting this scheme, except the unions of M/s. Phillips, M/s. Voltas.

[Translation]

And Mafatlal who have huge assets understand it as they might incur losses. They have come to your house. No other industrial worker came to you and if in the opinion of the hon. Member, he incurs losses, then I will announce here and how that we will give unitwise schemes and if there is a better scheme, we will approve it.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, we have already spent thirty-five minutes on this question without getting much further information and no other Questions are being taken up yet. We, of course,

welcome the introduction of a pension scheme, as a general principle. It is a long standing demand of the trade union movement. So, it is not a question of the general principle. If it were to be introduction of pension that is acceptable. But the scheme, as we understand, is full of many serious defects which require to be amended and looked into and all the trade unions have pointed out these defects. One has been mentioned there that it is not linked with the cost of living index at all. But he says that after some time they will reconsider and review provided the cost of living index goes up. The index is going up and it is not going down.

Secondly, at present, with the existing Employees' State Insurance and Provident Fund Schemes which are in force for many years, one common complaint which is voiced every day is the fact that the employers deduct the contributions from the workers' wages but do not deposit with the authorities. These defaults are running into crores of rupees. That money is not deposited.

Therefore, I am saying that if a similar type of default by the employer takes place and if the employers failed to contribute their share, there should be a contingency fund from which those workers will be given this pension. There is no provision for a contingency fund now.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised the question of defaulter money. We are trying to continue pension by constituting employees contingency fund. They may give their suggestions. The Bill is coming up in this Session. It is reasonable for the working class and the country. On behalf of the Government, I am ready to move the amendment. I will definitely implement this scheme with your consensus.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this scheme has been formulated after consulting trade unions. This Bill was introduced in 1993 and is pending in the Standing Committee of Parliament. Why was it brought forward before the submission of Standing committee Report, i.e. without taking Parliament into confidence?.....(Interruptions) Is the Government ready to voluntarily give an option to the workers to opt out of its purview?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member should be aware that it is pending since two and a half years.....(Interruptions) I will give you the date.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE : No. It is not pending with the Standing Committee for two-and-a-half years. Moreover, the Scheme was given to them last week only.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I can give the datewise detail.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Please do give.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I would satisfy hon. Members that this Bill was introduced two and a half years ago.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE : It was referred to them only in February, 1995.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : How much time has passed since its introduction in 1993?

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE : The Standing Committee came into existence in 1994.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : I think it has been referred to the Standing Committee in 1994. I will give the actual date. It is being done because elections are round the corner. The Parliament will be dissolved. Who knows how many of us are re-elected. This is why I hastened. I did it for the benefit of the working class. The hon. members should realise that no provision of the Act restricts promulgation of an Ordinance if it is before the Standing Committee. That is why I tried to pass and implement it in this very session.

SHRI RAM NAIK : What about the voluntary scheme?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : You said why is not voluntary scheme being implemented?

This was not done because the whole scheme will be withdrawn if there is individual option. As I said in reply to Gupta ji's question for this a unitwise.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall go on to the next Question....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sorry, Please excuse me. It has taken forty minutes. There are other Questions also.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has mentioned about CITU. We must get the opportunity to explain our view...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can discuss it with the hon. Minister....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We are not totally opposing the Scheme. We have certain suggestions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If there are any loopholes, the hon. Minister is ready to convene a small meeting and discuss it with you all.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has mentioned about CITU that CITU is totally opposing this Scheme. We are not totally opposing the Scheme. We have got certain suggestions for the improvement of the Scheme, we must get an opportunity to explain our view...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has misled about the view of CITU. We must get an opportunity to explain CITU's view....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear me.

....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Sir, we have been misrepresented. We should be allowed to speak....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, CITU is totally opposing this. Please allow me to speak. I will take only one minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are eleven persons who want to put supplementaries to this Question. I have noted it down. My suggestion is that the hon. Minister will call all the concerned people and discuss this issue and if there are any loopholes he will definitely, with an open heart, be prepared to implement your suggestions.

....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, CITU has some reservations on this scheme. We must bring them to your notice. By this time I could have put before you our view. Please allow me.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTA CHARYA : Sir, please give some time to put our view before the hon. Minister(*Interruption*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are not totally opposing this pension scheme. We have certain suggestions. Please allow us to make those suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, this is the Question Hour. If you are not satisfied with the replies to the supplementaries you can bring it in some other form where the hon. Minister will explain it properly.

Now I call Shri Haradhan Roy to put Question Number 82. He is not here. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee may put the question.

.....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you may consider allowing a half-an-hour discussion on this(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Sir, I am on a point of order. When you called the next question how can they talk on the previous Question?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, this will be taken up for half-an-hour discussion. Let us proceed with Question Number 82.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Thank you Sir, for allowing half-an-hour discussion.

Privatisation of Insurance Sector

*82 SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow private sector to enter into insurance business in the country;

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

(c) the present status of the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee on the Insurance sector?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a first step in reform of the insurance sector the Government has decided to set up an Insurance Regulatory Authority. No final view has been taken on the other recommendations of the Malhotra Committee Report.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question whether the Government have decided to allow the private sector to enter into the insurance business in the country, the hon. Minister has said : No; and in reply to next part of the question about the reasons he said : 'Does not arise.'

My question is that despite the same thing being said on the floor of the House several times, is it not a fact that the hon. Minister of Finance, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who is sitting here, recently spoke in Singapore that the insurance business would be made open to the private sector? He is here. He may reply.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Sir, I was referring to various suggestions and recommendations of the Malhotra Committee and this is one of the suggestions before the Government. I have repeatedly stated on the floor of the House and outside that we are not going to rush through this matter. We will evolve a broad national consensus and in any case the private sector cannot be brought into insurance industry unless we amend the present Insurance Nationalisation Act. Therefore, nothing will be done without the consent of this House.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, in the answer it is said that there would be a regulatory body - Insurance Regulatory Authority. May I know what will be the function of this Authority? We have a fear that through this Authority, the Government, from the back-door, wants to bring the private sector into this insurance business which is giving us so much of revenue.

Would he kindly explain as to what is the idea and the scope of functioning of this Authority?

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this suggestion has no basis whatsoever, because the Insurance Regulatory Authority has been set up on the recommendation of the Malhotra Committee. There are many activities of the present life insurance business and also the general insurance business which require certain overall control and supervision and for that purpose the Regulatory Authority has been set up. The Regulatory Authority will also look into the question of various type of difficulties and problems arising in the insurance business as it exists today and there fore, it is not correct to say that the Regulatory Authority has been set up only to encourage or to bring the private insurance business from the back-door. This suggestion, I submit, is not at all justified.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many things that we come to know through newspapers only like the Pension Scheme enforced by the hon. labour Minister. With regard to the insurance policy, the hon. Finance Minister sometimes makes a statement at Singapore and sometimes through Press. Through newspapers of September, 30 we came across the statement given by him in the 'ASSOCHAM Conference' stating that the Government had given its approval for the setting up of a Regulatory Authority for opening Insurance companies to the private sector. By this grant of approval for setting up the Regulatory Authority we draw the inference that the Government has made up its mind for allowing private sector to enter the insurance sector. Yet in reply to the question, the hon. Minister states that there is no such proposal. Does it can note that the Government makes fictitious claims and promises in the meetings and in practice has different intentions. If it is not so, then, would the hon. Minister concede the truth of his statement or will he issue a denial? If he is not going for the privatisation of the Insurance sector, then what policy is being chalked out for bringing every village under the Insurance cover?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Insurance Regulatory Authority

will perform the functions of the Controller of Insurance. All that this Insurance Regulatory Authority is going to do is, the Government is going to delegate the functions which the Government now exercises as the Controller of Insurance. I cannot say what will happen in future and I also cannot say that for all times to come this is the final resting point. But nothing will be done without the approval of this House, as I said earlier.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the answer is not tenable at all. The initial question was, have you decided? He was listing out the procedural difficulties such as that the Act has to be amended and all that. A straightforward answer has to come. I would like to know whether he has decided to allow the private sector in the insurance business.

They are talking of a regulatory mechanism. You will be surprised to learn that this is one sector where bipartite settlements are not still permissible. In the banks, the Bank Employees' Union have a bipartite settlement with the I.B.A. and here, for the last three years they are repeatedly refusing to have the decrees by which the emoluments and conditions of service of the insurance employees are changed. No bipartite agreements are made. Are they prepared to introduce this kind of arrangement by which instead of decrees, bipartite discussions would be permitted?

Then, they say that they want a regulatory mechanism. In the life insurance business there is only one company, that is, the Life Insurance Corporation. In the general insurance section there are four units. He knows that. They are being managed well.

The bankers have recently requested that the Ministry of Finance should be divested of the Banking Division so that the entire arrangement is there. Are they thinking of such an arrangement that the Insurance Division in the Finance Ministry would be totally eliminated and therefore a new organisation is coming up? These are the three parts of the question.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Sir, I have already said that the Government has not decided that private sector should be brought in. I have stated unambiguously that there is no such decision as of now.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : But you have not decided that it will not be done.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I cannot say for all time to come. The factual position is what I am stating as of today. Now, the second question about bipartite, I think, is an irrelevant question and that has no bearing on the main question.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The irrelevance is not to be decided by you.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : You ask a separate question, I will answer it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have asked a question and the irrelevance can not be decided by you. You are not doing this. You are having regulatory authority. What is the intention of doing that?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : As regards the third part of the question..... *(Interruptions)* If you do not like me to speak, I will not speak.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the details of the recommendations contained in the Malhotra Committee report. Secondly, I would like to know that though Indiraji had made licencing compulsory for this sector, would the present Government go for its delicensing?

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : I think the suggestion has no basis. The Malhotra Committee was appointed to consider the various aspects of the insurance business and it has given its recommendations. Now, these recommendations are under the active consideration of the Government. Until the Government take a decision*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Minister, please tell us what the recommendations are about.

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : The recomm-

endations are manifold. They are not only regarding privatisation but also regarding how to streamline the insurance business both of LIC and GIC. Therefore, the recommendations are of varied nature and some of which require legislative amendments. Unless a decision is taken by the Government in this regard, the question of introducing any legislation in the House does not arise. But there are other recommendations also which do not require any legislative amendment. Now, some of the measures taken by the Government are already in line with the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee. Therefore, I submit that the Malhotra Committee recommendations can be classified into two parts....*(Interruptions)* There is no enactment because the question of Privatisation has not been decided by the Government. If there is a decision, then only we can come before the House for its approval.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Minister, Sir, it has come forth in the Malhotra Committee recommendations as well. So, is the government going to privatise it?

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : We have not decided about it at all. The Finance Minister has repeatedly said on many occasions that this is under active consideration of the Government and no decision has been taken as yet. Therefore, the question of giving a final decision does not arise. But it has also been stated that for the time being , the LIC and the GIC business is not going to be privatised.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

Revival Scheme for NJMC

*83 SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

a) whether revival package of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. has since been formulated;

b) if some the details of the revival proposals; and

c) at what stage does the project rest at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). The case relating to revival of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) stands referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The production of NJMC has shown improvement during the year. Government is of the view that the performance of the Company be watched for a further period of six month during which the company could stabilise its production level and the turn around proposal considered thereafter. Any plan that may finally emerge would also require the concurrence of the BIFR before it is implemented.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, the NJMC has got six jute mills under its control and management, and this employees about 24,000-25,000 jute workers in the State. Now, it has been reported or rather the Government admits that this Corporation was referred to the BIFR presumably on the ground that its economy or its management was not doing well. Now, it is reported that a revival package involving or requiring about Rs. 182.14 crores have been suggested by the BIFR. May I know from the hon. Minister what has happened to that suggestion coming from the BIFR? Have you got that revival package? If so, what steps have you, so far, taken to implement the revival package?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, while the NJMC has shown some improvement, there was a turn around strategy which was prepared by the Government. This went through the Committee of Secretaries and a Group of Ministers was set up to look into this turn around strategy. As the hon. Member has said this involved Rs. 182 crores, it would have raised production, stabilized production at 375 tonnes. In this, the Group of Ministers considered it about two or three weeks ago and it was decided that we should continue to watch for another six months the performance of this which has shown an improvement and thereafter a final decision taken. So, this decision has been deferred to July of 1996.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : My second question would be of general nature. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the jute industry in the State of West Bengal is in deep crisis; whether there has been a comprehensive study about the nature of the crisis, the reasons

for the crisis and whether the Government have also found out the ways and means to revive the jute industry as a whole. I would also like to know whether the Government is also aware of the fact that the workers are agitating and they have given notice for strike also....(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They are already on strike.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, I would not think that there is a crisis in the jute industry. Over the last ten years, efforts have been made for the revival of this industry. I can very emphatically say that jute is one of the fibres of the future because it is bio-degradable, it is a renewable resource and because of that, world over, acceptability of jute is increasing. It is a question of processing. If we are able to find a solution to the processing of the jute fibre, I see it really as a fibre of the future.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : That is why nothing is being done at the present moment! (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH : I would not agree to that remark because a lot has been done for the development of jute products. If we were to look at what were the jute products ten years ago, today a very wide spectrum of jute products which have been developed have increased the export market. If we see the prices of jute, if we are to look at the prices of jute what they were, today, the prices of jute are what they were never before. But I certainly concede that there is a problem in the jute industry. It is because of this, these jute mills were taken over, it is because of lack of modernisation, lack of market etc. etc.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about modernisation?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : What is contained in the package is about the modernisation itself. It is that turn around strategy which is being considered by the Government. As I said, for the information of Shri Acharia, this was considered by the Group of Ministers, they had gone very deep into this. And with the much better performance which the NJMC had in the last one year, there are optimistic signs about it. The Group of Ministers would again take a view, the Cabinet would take a view in July, 1996 when the entire package will be put up before the BIFR.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Exit Policy

*84 SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Exit policy of the Government; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The procedure regarding "exit" or closure of an industrial establishment or a part thereof is contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Act lays down *inter alia* the procedure for closing down an industrial establishment and the compensation payable to workmen in cases of retrenchment and closure. Based on the recommendations made by the Ramanujam Committee on the New Industrial Relations Law, the deliberations held at various forums and after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 have been considered for finalisation at the appropriate time.

Hawala Racket

*85. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many names are there in the Jain diaries known as Hawala racket;

(b) the total number of raids conducted by CBI in this regard;

(c) whether Hawala payments were made to politicians and bureaucrats;

(d) whether CBI has conducted any inquiry against all of them;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for delay;

(g) the number of CBI officers have been shifted, transferred and retired who were dealing with above investigation; and

(h) the main reasons for their shifting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The diaries seized from Shri J. K. Jain contain 115 coded initials/names.

(b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted several raids at various places in course of investigations in this case.

(c) to (f). As the matter is subjudice, it is not appropriate to disclose details in this regard at this stage.

(g) and (h). The investigating officer of the case remains unchanged.

Fifth Pay Commission

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

(a) whether the members of the Fifth Pay Commission had gone on a two-and-a-half week world tour including Malaysia, Newzealand, Canada, United Kingdom;

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

(c) whether demand has been made to the Commission to give an interim report by December, 1995; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The Fifth Central Pay Commission undertook a study tour to Malaysia, New Zealand, Canada and United Kindom from October 3 to October 19, 1995. The objective was to acquaint themselves with various new initiatives taken by the Governments of these countries in the field of public service management, pay determination, optimisation of the size of the Government machinery etc. And also to study the impact of the measures taken to actually implement the policy initiatives.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vayudoot

*87. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss suffered by Vayudoot during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the losses suffered by Vayudoot and to convert it in a economically viable and profit making body?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The estimated losses suffered by Vayudoot during the last three years are as under :

1992-93	-	Rs. 22.88 crores
1993-94	-	Rs. 20.40 crores
1994-95	-	Rs. 25.82 crores
Total		Rs. 69.10 crores

(b) It has been decided to merge Vayudoot with Indian Airlines. All the employees of Vayudoot will be finally absorbed in Short Haul Operations Department of Indian Airlines and Air India.

Balance of Payment

*88. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :

DR. R. MALLU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present percentage of India's trade in the world market;

(b) the percentage increase of import and export during each of the last three years, separately and the targets fixed for the next two years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for export and the percentage expected to be achieved by the end of the century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) India's share in world exports and imports during 1993 are 0.58% and 0.60% respectively as per available data regarding world trade.

(b) The percentage increase of imports and exports during the last three years are as under :

	(% Growth in US dollar terms)	
	Exports	Imports
1993-94	20.0	6.5
1994-95	18.4	22.9
1995-96 (April-September)	26.4	32.8

Export targets are fixed on an yearly basis. In the current year (1995-96), the export target has been indicated at around 20% growth, in US dollar terms.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other concerned institutions. The Government is striving to make the environment of policy and procedures more export-friendly. Among the measures taken for export promotion, mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and procedures increasing export production, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement and technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year an Annual Action Plan has been formulated which, inter alia, covers commodity-specific and country-specific measures or export promotion. A tentative export target of \$ 75 billion is projected for achievement by the turn of the century.

[English]

Levy of "Users Charge" on Passengers

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that passengers bound for the Gulf countries from

Calicut Airport are being levied "Users Charge" ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this levy is being charged with the approval of the Government;

(d) whether the practice of such levy is prevalent at any other airport in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. "User Charge", at the rate of Rs. 500/- per passenger is being levied on embarking international passengers at Calicut airport. This amount would be utilised for payment of interest on the amount raised by MIADS (Malabar International Airports Development Society) for the expansion and development of Calicut airport.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Agreement with NHDC.

*90. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state ;

(a) Whether any agreement has been signed between the Union Government and National Handloom Development Corporation recently; and

(b) if so, the broad details of the agreement along with the period for which the said agreement has been signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes Sir,

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., and Ministry of Textiles on 16.11.1995.

(b) Broad details of the MOU are as under :

(i) To supply 116.74 lakhs Kg. yarn to Handloom Sector.

(ii) To supply 6.00 lakhs Kg. Dyes & Chemicals to Handloom Sector.

(iii) To supply Fabrics worth Rs. 425 lakhs.

(iv) To organise thirty three " Dyers Training Programmes" in different States.

(v) To provide Marketing support to Handloom Sector by Establishment of Marketing Complexes.

The Agreement has been signed for the year 1995-96.

Air Accidents

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

(a) whether a number of air accidents occurred in different parts of the country during the last three months?

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of loss of property and lives;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the injured persons and the next of kins of the deceased in each accident;

(d) the details of those who were held responsible for these accidents; and

(e) the measures taken to check such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the last three months there has been no accident to civil registered aircraft in India.

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

(e) Steps such as implementation of recommendations emanating from investigations of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, dissemination of safety information, surveillance by Flight Inspectors, carrying out periodic inspection of aerodromes and implementing measures, safety audit of operators

etc. are taken continuously to enhance the level of air safety.

[English]

Value of Rupee

*92. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the value of Indian rupee in the international market has declined during the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on the economy and inflow of foreign investment into the country; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to arrest decreasing value of Indian rupee against US dollar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The exchange rate of the rupee in relation to other currencies is determined in the foreign exchange markets by forces of demand and supply subject to intervention by the RBI to check excessive volatility and counter speculative pressures. The exchange rate can fluctuate in response to market conditions reflecting both economic fundamentals and short-term speculative factors. In September and October 1995, there was significant volatility in the foreign exchange market leading to a depreciation in the exchange rate of the rupee against the US dollar and some other major currencies.

(c) The depreciation in the exchange rate of the rupee in nominal terms in recent months compensates for higher inflation in India as compared to major trading partners. As such, these recent changes in the exchange rate should enhance incentives for exports, discourage imports and thereby strengthen the balance of payments, including the inflow of foreign investments.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervened in the foreign exchange market to stabilise rates at levels consistent with underlying fundamentals. The RBI has also undertaken a number of measures to

augment the supply of foreign exchange as also to reduce the demand. These included (i) a hike in the interest rate on Non-Resident External Rupee term deposits; (ii) exemption of Cash Reserve Ratio requirements in respect of increase in NRE and NRNR deposits over the level outstanding as on 27.10.1995 and FCNR (B) deposits over level outstanding on 24.11.1995; (iii) increase in the interest rates on Post-Shipment Export Credits denominated in US dollar (PSCFC) for maturities beyond 90 days and upto 6 months; and (iv) an interest rate surcharge on import finance. In addition, the Government has recently made some relaxations of the requirements in regard to the issue of GDRs/FRNs/FCCBs, remittances into India of these proceeds and their utilisation.

Agreement with Turkmenistan

*93. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of agreements signed recently with Turkmenistan and the amount of credit envisaged from India to that country under these agreements; and

(b) the details of joint ventures, if any, expected to be taken up under those agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). During the visit of Prime Minister to Turkmenistan from 19-21 September, 1995 the following Agreements/MOUs/Protocols were concluded between the two Governments :

(i) *Credit Agreement* : Under this Agreement India has extended a credit of US \$ 10 million to the Government of Turkmenistan for export of Indian capital goods, services and consumer durables from India to Turkmenistan. The credit is on concessional terms and repayable over a period of 12 years inclusive of grace period of 3 years except in respect of consumer durables where the repayment period and moratorium are to be 3 years and 1 year respectively.

(ii) *Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments* : This agreement secures the investments in both countries against nationalisation or expropriation in any manner except for a public purpose in accordance with law on a non-discriminatory basis and against fair and equitable compensation and also envisages inter alia non-

discriminatory compensation for losses owing to civil war repatriation of investments and returns subrogation settlement of disputes etc.

(iii) *Agreement on the Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade Economic Scientific and Technological Cooperation* : this Agreement envisages the setting up of the Joint Commission to promote bilateral cooperation in different functional spheres and lays down the scope of its functioning, the manner and frequency of its meetings and related modalities.

(iv) *Protocol in Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan* : The Protocol envisages regular contacts between the two Ministries at various levels in order to promote political, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries as well as to facilitate exchange of views on bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest.

(v) *Memorandum of Trilateral Meeting between Delegations of Turkmenistan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran* : The Memorandum carries forward the process of consultations between the three governments over developing an Agreement on International Transit Trade.

2. In addition to the above, the Protocol on Cooperation in the spheres of Culture, Arts Education, Mass-media and Sports concluded between the two Governments in 1992, was extended for a further period of two years, i.e. 1995 and 1996.

3. Besides the Credit Agreement of US \$ 10 million signed during PM's visit, India has also extended to Turkmenistan a credit of US \$ 5 million under a credit agreement signed between the two Governments in March 1995. This credit is to be used for export of capital goods/project exports and services from India. An amount of US \$ 4.65 million has been approved under the credit to finance an Indo-Turkmen joint venture in Turkmenistan in the pharmaceuticals sector. The second credit of US \$ 10 million will be available once this earlier credit line is fully utilised.

Seizure of Ganja

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CRPF trucks with ganja intercepted " appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 14, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the number of persons found guilty for carrying huge quantity of ganja; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such illegal dealings in ganja?

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

(b) and (c). On 12.08.95, the officers of Central Excise, Patna intercepted 2 trucks belonging to 61st battalion of CRPF, Imphal near Didarganj Railway crossing and effected seizure of 3200 Kg. of ganja being transported in them. Twelve persons, all of whom except one were CRPF personnel, who were on the aforesaid trucks and admitted to the recovery of ganja were arrested. Investigation revealed the involvement of more CRPF personnel.

On the basis of subsequent investigations, one CRPF personnel was arrested on 26.08.95 and seven CRPF personnel were arrested on 28.8.95. Five C.R.P.f personnel on 22.09.95 and the last one on 28.11.95 under the NDPS Act. The complaint has been filed on 10.11.95 at Patna. One CRPF personnel and five civilians are still absconding.

(d) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies especially operating in this particular region to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. BSF, who are deployed on land borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

Quarterly enforcement coordination meetings of Central and State Governments are held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau in which Manipur is also represented.

Operational Cost of AI and IA

*95. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operational cost of both Air India and Indian Airlines has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the operational cost of both the airlines?

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

(b) The reasons for increase in operating cost of airlines are increase in expenditure due to depreciation of the Indian Rupee vis-a-vis foreign currencies, increase in landing and handling charges, higher maintenance cost due to ageing fleet, increase in fuel expenditure, and general inflation etc. Air India, in addition has had to bear higher depreciation charges on its new B747-400 aircraft.

(c) Indian Airlines has taken several steps to reduce cost of operations like rationalisation of routes for higher capacity deployment on more profitable routes; reduction in fuel expenditure by import under special import licence scheme, freeze on recruitment, reduction in overtime and conversion of Jet Engine shop, Central Training Establishment and Ground support into separate cost and profit centres.

Air India exercises strict budgetary control and monitors all items of expenditure to achieve savings. Operations department of Air India has increased crew training on simulators; fuel conservation measures have been adopted on a continuous basis. Aircraft performance is continuously monitored and aircraft are kept at desired maintenance standard in order to reduce the operating cost.

Allotment of Bagia Restaurant

*96. DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

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

(a) whether the Committee which was formed to examine the allotment of Bagia Restaurant, New Delhi and other irregularities committed by the ITDC authorities has given its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined the report;

(d) if so, the details of the report; and

(e) the action Government propose to take against those who found responsible for irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). The Director General of Tourism was asked to conduct an enquiry into the alleged irregularities in the award of licence of Bagia Restaurant in Ashok Yatri Niwas of ITDC. His report was received by the Government on 31.7.95 and on the basis of findings contained therein, the matter has been referred to CBI for a detailed enquiry. CBI has already registered the case on 4.9.1995. The report of CBI in the matter is awaited.

In addition an internal inquiry was ordered by ITDC. The report of that inquiry has been received and is under examination.

Handloom Weavers

*97. SHRI N. DENNIS. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the handloom weavers, namely, facilitating the supply of yarn to the weavers and societies on time and at normal rate, removal of stagnation of handloom goods from societies and also payment of rebates in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : In order to make available hank yarn in adequate quantity at reasonable prices to the handloom weavers the following steps have been taken by the Government of India :

i) Rigorous enforcement of Hank Yarn

Obligation has been done by the Textile Commissioner to make available requisite quantity of hank yarn to the handloom sector. Besides, as per the orders issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, exporters of yarn are now required to fulfil the Hank Yarn Obligation before undertaking exports of yarn;

ii) Scheme for supply of hank yarn to the handloom weavers under the Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme with a target of 20 million Kgs.;

iii) The National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) has been set up primarily with the objective of arranging the supply of yarn to handloom sector at reasonable prices;

iv) Supply of hank yarn through the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) at the Mill-gate prices; and

v) A Hank Yarn Price Monitoring Committee to continuously monitor and review the position of availability as also the prices of hank yarn is also functioning under the Chairmanship of Textile Commissioner.

In order to help liquidation of stagnated handloom stocks the Government of India have been organising National Level Handloom Expos which are participated by the State Handloom Development Corporations, Apex and large Primary handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies of various States that procure their products from the handloom sector. In addition, Mini Level Handloom Expos that are participated by the eligible Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative societies are also organised. 20% special rebate on sale of handloom cloth during the expo period is provided. Besides, the State Handloom Corporations, Apex Societies and Primary Societies are also being assisted by the Government under MDA Scheme for marketing of handloom products.

Ban on Strikes

*98. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ban strikes in a number of services by amending the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the trade unions thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question do not arise.

Wet lease on Air Craft.

*99. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

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

(a) whether the Air India has decided to take aircraft on wet lease;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions on which the aircraft are proposed to be taken on wet lease; and

(c) the routes on which these aircraft are likely to be deployed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). To meet its growth requirements, Air India utilized wet leased aircraft during 1995 and has contracted to take on wet lease basis two L 1011-500 aircraft effective 1.12.95 and one A310-300 aircraft effective 1.1.96 from M/s. Caribjet Inc. and two A 310-300 aircraft 1.1.96 from M/S Air Club International. The wetlease charges, payable in U.S. dollars on an hourly basis will cover the cost of providing the aircraft, crew including cabin crew, maintenance and insurance of the aircraft. Cost of the remaining inputs including fuel will be borne by Air India.

L1011-500 aircraft are proposed to be deployed mainly on routes to Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam. A310-300 aircraft are proposed to be deployed among others on routes to Moscow, Tel-Aviv, Nairobi, Entebbe, Dar-Es-Salaam, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Perth besides providing increased capacity on Madras-Kuwait-London, Sectors.

[Translation]

Salaries to N.T.C. workers

*100. SHRI BRISHIN PATEL :

DR. CHINTA MOHA.

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of NTC Units of Eastern Region are lying closed or producing below their installed capacity;

(b) whether employees of such units are not getting their salaries regularly;

(c) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive those units and ensure that regular payment of salaries are being made to the employees of such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d). No mill under the NTC in the Eastern Region is lying closed as per the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. However, due to working capital constraints, the production activities of these mills have been either suspended or curtailed.

NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd., the subsidiary in charge of the mills in the Eastern Region, has been incurring losses leading to total net worth erosion. As a result, it has been referred to and declared to be a sick industrial company by the BIFR. A revised modernisation plan for the rehabilitation of NTC (WBAB&O) has been approved by the Government and the same has been placed before the BIFR for its approval before implementation. Meanwhile Government has been releasing funds for payment of wage/salaries/statutory bonus. These have been released upto the month of November, 1995.

[English]

Decline in tax

833. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "States hit hard by declining tax base" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated September 18, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the financial position of the States?

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

(b) The news item has drawn the attention of the Government to deterioration in tax mobilisation at the State level. It has stressed the need for tax reforms and recommended introduction of harmonized Value Added Tax (VAT).

(c) The Government had appointed a Committee of State Finance Ministers to go into various aspects of tax reform including gradual introduction of VAT. The Committee submitted its report in August, 1995. It is proposed to discuss the report in a Conference of State Finance Ministers scheduled to be held on 02.12.1995.

Bank Loan in Gujarat And Uttar Pardesh

[Translation]

834. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The total amount of loans of each category disbursed by the various nationalised banks in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94 and 1994-95 separately; and

(b) the funds earmarked by each bank for disbursement of loans in various eligible sectors at differential rate of interest (DRI) and the amount of loan disbursed by each bank to the handloom weavers in the above States at differential rate of interest, separately during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The category-wise break-up of disbursement of advances of public sector banks to priority sector for the year ended June 1993 (latest available) in respect of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh are given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Category	Gujarat	Uttar Pradesh
Agriculture	322.40	453.28
Small Scale Industry	231.04	158.83
Other Priority Sector	85.75	171.16

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no separate amount is ear-marked for disbursement under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme. However, banks are required to ensure that their lending under DRI Scheme should be minimum or 1% of their aggregate advances at the end of the previous year. Information regarding grant of loans under DRI Scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat to handloom weavers is not available, since such information is not being compiled by Reserve Bank of India.

[English]

Instructions to Bank on Deposits/Credits

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all Banks that the deposits or withdrawals of more than ten lakh rupees should be reported to the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the RBI has issued such instructions on the basis of the findings that some banks are doing suspicious business; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In the context of frequent allegations of some dubious and questionable transactions involving customer accounts, banks have been advised to maintain in branches, a separate register to record details of individual cash deposits and withdrawals for Rs. 10 Lakhs and above.

(c) and (d). On a scrutiny of certain transactions in respect of a branch of a private sector bank, it was observed that remittances to certain current accounts of the branch were done in cash only. The remittances were very large and occasionally for crores of rupees. Such remittances in cash by the parties to settle the import bills and presentation of import bills claimed to have been received directly by the parties evoked a suspicion that the transactions were not genuine. It was therefore considered necessary by Reserve Bank of India to introduce the system of close monitoring of the deposits and withdrawals for Rs. 10 Lakhs and above.

Import and Export of Pulses

836. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of pulses exported/imported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom/ expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The total quantity and value of pulses exported/imported, including those under the Duty Exemption Scheme, during each of the last three years is as under :

YEAR	EXPORT		IMPORT	
	QTY. (TONS)	VALUE (RS./LACS)	QTY. (TONS)	VALUE (RS./LACS)
1992-93	34,309	5344.12	382,615	33437.61
1993-94	43,601	7358.55	627,958	56636.36
1994-95	50,707	9041.32	554,072	59273.08

(SOURCE : D.G.C.I. & S., CALCUTTA)

*[Translation]***Tax evaders in Bihar**

837. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income-tax Department of Bihar had conducted survey to identify the tax-evaders and to provide better services to the tax payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of tax collected during 1994-95 and how does it compares with the tax collected during the last three years?

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

(b) During the financial year 1994-95 290 surveys under section 133A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and 29762 under section 133B of the Act were conducted.

(c) The aggregate direct taxes collection in Bihar during 1994-95 was Rs. 266.30 crores only. The corresponding figures for preceding three financial years were Rs. 196.11 crores, 263.26 crores and 244.68 crores respectively.

*[English]***Import of Life saving drugs**

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

(a) whether the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals of the Ministry of Chemicals Fertilizers forwarded to the Finance Ministry a proposal for duty free; import of Life Saving Drugs?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has given approval to the said proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) In the recent past no proposal for duty free import of life saving drugs has been forwarded by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals to the Finance Ministry.

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

Delhi Cooperative Housing finance Corporation Limited

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

(a) the aims and objectives of the Delhi Cooperative Housing Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi and the date of its inception;

(b) the extent to which the society has been able to achieve its aims and objectives;

(c) the details of the resources/finances for loaning purposes and how is it ensured that the money so mustered has been properly utilised;

(d) the details of the profits earned by the society so far and how have those profits been utilised giving full details therefor for the last five years;

(e) whether the accounts of the society are audited by an independent statutory body; and

(f) if so, the details of the observations of the Chartered Accountants who audited the accounts and the action taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The aims and objectives of the Delhi Cooperative Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DCHFCL), New Delhi, which was registered on 18.2.1970, are *inter-alia*, to grant loans or advances to the member Cooperative Housing Societies and nominal/ associate member, to obtain funds by way of deposits, loans or grants from members and such other sources as may be deemed necessary and with the prior sanction of the Central Government, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, to borrow or raise or secure the payment of money by the issue of debentures, debenture stock and bonds.

(b) DCHFCL has reported that since inception the Corporation has disbursed till date (29.11.1995)

loans aggregating to Rs. 190.94 crores to 248 Cooperative group housing societies in Delhi for construction of over 36000 flats. Bridge loan facilities have also been extended by the Corporation for acquiring land from Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to 28 societies aggregating to Rs. 12.53 crores. Further, under their new loaning scheme launched w.e.f. 28.9.1994 loans amounting to Rs. 6.20 crores have been sanctioned to 264 individual member of the cooperative group housing societies and registrants of DDA.

(c) DCHFCL has reported that an amount of Rs. 91.60 crores have been raised from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Rs. 126 crores under the Market Borrowing Programme of the Central Government. DCHFCL has reported

that the aforesaid funds were utilised to boost cooperative housing activities in Delhi. Specific guidelines and norms for sanction and release of loans have been framed by the Corporation from time to time and loans are released on the basis of these guidelines.

(d) The details of excess of income over Expenditure and its appropriations for the last 5 years are given in the attached Statement-I.

(e) Accounts of the Corporation are audited by the Statutory Auditor appointed by the Registrar, Cooperative societies, Delhi.

(f) Audit observations of the Statutory Auditors for the year 1994-95 alongwith their compliance are given in the attached Statement-II.

STATEMENT - I

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

Year	1990-91 (Rs.)	1991-92 (Rs.)	1992-93 (Rs.)	1993-94 (Rs.)	1994-95 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Excess of income over Expenditure	68394059.07	89087397.61	111,873407.94	145473813.91	*122510040.40
ALLOCATION					
i) Statutory Reserve Fund	17100000.00	22272000.00	27918000.00	33082954.00	
ii) Pad Debt Fund	1000000.00	2000000.00	3000000.00	2000000.00	
iii) Share Redemption Fund	500000.00	2000000.00	300000.00	5000000.00	
iv) Bonds Redemption Fund	274000000.00	15000000.00	12500000.00	34500000.00	
v) Contribution to Cooperative Education Fund	2500.00	2500.00	10000.00	10000.00	
vi) Ex-gratia to staff	114629.00				
vii) Dividend on Subscribed Share Capital Pro-rata Basis At the rate of (●)	221513373.00 (8%)	29715962.00 (9%)	39439451.00 (10%)	49312282.00 (11%)	

1	2	3	4	5	6
viii) Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Maharashtra Earth Quake Relief U/S 47 of Act.				1500000.00	
ix) Staff Welfare Fund			205956.94	250000.00	
x) Dividend Equalization Fund				1300000.00	
xi) Building Maintenance Fund				1000000.00	
xii) Contribution for Charitable purpose funds U/S 47 of the Act				1000000.00	
xiii) Balance C/F	125557.07	96935.61	18577.91		
TOTAL	68394059.07	89087397.61	111873407.94	145473813.91	122510040.66

*REMARKS *Allocation of excess of income over expenditure is yet to be done.

STATEMENT - II

AUDIT OBSERVATIONS OF STATUTORY AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 1994-95

Audit Objections	Compliance
1. The Bond Redemption Fund as on 31.3.1995 is Rs. 15.11 Crores and Funds required as per actuarial valuation is Rs. 16.11 crores. Hence appropriate contribution should be made while allocating profit for the current year.	More than the suggested amount would be provided for Bond Redemption to ensure timely repayment of the bonds while allocating the profit for the year 1994-95.
2. The Corporation has loan linked capital of Rs. 14.33 crores and Share Redemption Fund is Rs. 96.58 lakhs and capital redeemed during the year was Rs. 83.36 lakhs. Hence adequate contribution is to be made while allocating profits for the current year.	Adequate provision for Share Capital Redemption would be done while allocating profit for the year 1994-95.
3. Matching investment have not been earmarked against Bond Bad Dept Fund, Share Redemption Fund, Dividend Equalization Fund, Building Maintenance Fund and Charitable Purposes Fund.	As the funds mentioned are non-statutory optional funds and the Corporation have sufficient funds and liquidity, therefore, it is not deemed necessary for the present to block the funds by specifying their investment.

[Translation]

Dry-Port at Agra

840. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1606 on March 24, 1995 regarding 'Dry-Port at Agra' and state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs has cleared the proposal for the setting up of a 'Dry-Port at Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor including the objections raised by the Central Board of Excise and Customs; and

(d) the steps taken the Government to clear the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Excise & Customs had cleared the proposal of container corporation of India Limited for setting up a Dry Port (Inland Container Depot) at Agra.

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

[English]

T. B. Hospital for Beedi Workers

841. SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up T. B. hospitals where there are large concentration of Beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such hospitals in West Bengal also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d). One 50 bedded T.B. hospital at Karma and one chest clinic at Nimtita Distt. Murshidabad (W. B.) have been set up for beedi workers. Besides these, the 50 bedded hospital for beedi workers at Mysore (Karnataka)

and the 10 bedded hospital for beedi workers at Gursahaiganj (U.P.) also have facilities for treatment of T.B. Further, a 50 bedded hospital for beedi workers under construction at Dhuliyar in Murshidabad Distt. of West Bengal will also provide facilities of treatment of T.B. to the beedi workers.

[Translation]

loans in Rural Areas of Bihar

842. SHRI LALI BABU RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed in rural areas of Bihar by the various banks located in the State during each of the last three year; and

(b) the percentage of such loans in comparison to the total deposits in the banks during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . The bank credit of scheduled commercial banks in rural areas of Bihar during the last three years ending March 1993, 1994 and 1995 and the percentage of such credit to the corresponding deposits are given below :

Year	Bank Credit in rural areas (Rs. lakhs)	% of credit to deposits in rural areas
March 1993	1790,74	50.93
March 1994	1915,40	47.31
March 1995	2028,20	41.95

Office of the Apparel Export Promotion Council

843. SHRI N. J. RATHVA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several proposals to set up some offices of Apparel Export Promotion Council in the country, particularly in Gujrat, are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) . Though there have been requests for setting up offices of the Apparel Export Promotion Council in various parts of the country, no proposal of the Apparel Export Promotion Council for opening of offices is pending with the Government. Depending on the number of exporters located in a particular area, the volume of their exports, resources available with the Council etc., the Council itself takes a decision to open new offices.

[English]

Export of Woollen Garments

844. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian shawls and several other woollen garments are very popular in France and other European countries; and

(b) if so, the possibilities explored by the Government to increase the exports of these items to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Indian shawls and other woollen garments are in demand in France and other European Countries.

(b) In order to step up export of garments, including woollen garments, Government have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Disinvestment of Shares of PSUs.

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

(a) whether SEBI has taken any stand in the

matter of disinvestment of shares of Public Sector Undertakings in recent auction; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . In response to the civil writ petition No./3857 of 1995 filed before the Delhi Court by Dr. Arvind Gupta, wherein Union of India and SEBI have been made respondents, SEBI has taken the following stand :

SEBI does not either approve or disapprove of any disinvestment while disinvestment of shares are being made. In the matter of disinvestment of shares of Public Sector Undertakings, the Govt. as a shareholder would be free to determine the price at which the shares could be disinvested. SEBI does not have any regulatory framework (i) which the issuer company or anyone has to follow in determining the price at which the shares of any company can be disinvested by the existing shareholders of that company; (ii) which provides the procedure of share valuation while disinvesting or offering the shares for sale to the public.

Expansion of Banking Service in Maharashtra

846. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand banking service in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places in rural areas of Maharashtra where new branches of the nationalised banks are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) . Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for branch expansion in rural areas of the country, it is left to the banks themselves to assess the need for opening of additional branches in their respective service areas. Banks have been advised that while identifying rural centres, due weightage should be given to the needs of hilly/tribal areas and sparsely populated regions of the country.

The details of centres/villages in rural areas of Maharashtra where nationalised banks have proposed to open there branches are given below :

Name of bank	Centre	District
1. Bank of Maharashtra	Bharam	Nasik
2. Bank of Maharashtra	Shiroli-Dhumala	Kolhapur
3. State Bank of India	Menargaon	Dhule
4. Indian Bank	Rasa	Yeotmal

[Translation]

Modernisation of Airports

847. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : 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 Rajasthan regarding modernisation of airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the time limit fixed for completion of the said work?

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

(b) . Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received the proposals from the Rajasthan Government for modernisation of Hamirpur, Jhunjhunu and Mount Abu airstrips in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d). These airstrips belong to the Government of Rajasthan. AAI has no plan to modernise these airstrips, at present.

Textiles Mills in M. P.

848. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills each under NTC, State Textiles Corporation and Private Sector in Madhya Pradesh along with their production capacity as on October, 1990 and October, 1995; and

(b) the financial and rehabilitation assistance provided by the Government for these mills during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Government provided an amount of Rs. 104.80 crores to the NTC mills in Madhya Pradesh towards reimbursement of cash losses and funds for voluntary retirement scheme. Under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme, An amount of Rs. 26.31 crores was given at a concessional rate of interest to three mills in M. P.

STATEMENT

Position as on October, 1990

Position as on October, 1995

Category	No. of Mills	Production capacity in terms of installespindles Rotors/looms	No. of mills	Production capacity in terms of installed spindles/ Rotors/looms
1. NTC	7	1) 1995960 spindles 2) 3756 looms	7	1) 124352 spindles 2) 2187 looms
2. STC mills	3	1) 76500 spindles 2) 968 looms	4	1) 98920 spindles 2) 1472 looms
3. Private Sector	18	1) 473020 spindles 2) 3336 Rotors 3) 4864 looms	40	1) 736320 spindles 2) 9968 Rotors 3) 3319 looms

[English]

Compensation to Victims of Road Accidents

489. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that victims of road accidents in India have to wait for years to get compensation from the insurers of the guilty drivers;

(b) if so, whether a new scheme in this regard has been or is being launched by the General Insurance Corporation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). Insurance companies have laid down the minimum procedure required for safeguarding the interests of the insurers and insureds. The procedures existing at present in respect of settlement of accident claims are comprehensive and no change is contemplated in the Procedures by the insurance companies.

1. structured formula for payment of compensation to road accident victims based on age group and income criteria has been introduced in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 with effect from 14.11.94. The claimant has the option to file a case in the MACT if the compensation, as provided, is not acceptable to him. Apart from this, the Third party claims can be expedited through Lok Adalats and by availing the Jalad Rahat Yojna Schemed introduced by the GIC. These measures help in the speedy disposal of insurance claims.

Study on Export of Minerals

850. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lack of infrastructure facilities has been a major limitation in the fast growth of export of minerals;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received the recommendation from the said Study Group;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f). Lack of adequate infrastructural facilities have constrained the growth in exports including the exports of minerals. No specific study has been conducted by this Ministry in this regard.

Special Drawing Rights

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

(a) whether the industrially advanced countries have been revisiting the proposal for a further issue of Special Drawing Right by the IMF;

(b) the proposed quantum of the Special Drawing Rights to be issued and India's likely share therein;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to mobilise the support of other developing countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (e). The Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provide for fresh allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR), if it is felt that there is a long-term global need for additional international reserves. After the first two allocations of SDRs (in 1972 and in 1981) there has been a discussion on the issue of a fresh general allocation of SDRs, which the industrial countries have not favoured on the ground that there is no long-term global need.

The Managing Director of IMF had proposed a fresh general allocation of SDRs of the order of SDR 36 billion but this was not accepted. India, along with other developing countries (called the G-9 Group in the IMF), had been strongly supporting the proposal of the Managing director. India played a major role in mobilising support of developing countries in this regard and was also Chairman of the G-9 Group for sometime, as it is held on rotation basis.

When Managing Director's original proposal was not accepted some alternative proposals were also mooted by different country-groups.

However, none of the proposals have bound unanimous acceptability. In the last Interim Committee meeting held in October 1995, the Board of Governors decided that there is no agreement for a fresh general allocation of SDR but the IMF Executive Board should keep the matter under review.

Voluntary Retirement Schemes

852. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the voluntary retirement schemes has been implemented for port and dock workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date since when the said scheme is being implemented?

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

(b) and (c). The scheme is being implemented from 29th August, 1991 subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the annexed *statement*.

STATEMENT

Terms & Conditions For Introducing Voluntary Retirement Scheme For Employees Of Port Trusts And Dock Labour Boards Vide Ministry of Surface Transport Circular No.LB-16016/7/88-LII Dated 29.8.91

(a) An employee who has completed 10 years of service or completed 40 years of age may seek voluntary retirement by a written request.

(b) The Port Trust and Dock Labour Board will have the right not to grant voluntary retirement for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(c) The terminal payments available to an employee who seeks voluntary retirement would be :-

(i) the balance in his Provident Fund Account payable as per the GPF/CPF regulations applicable to him.

(ii) cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave as per the rules of the Port Trust/Dock Labour Board.

(iii) gratuity as per Gratuity Act or the gratuity scheme applicable to the employee.

(iv) one months'/three months' notice pay (as per the conditions of service applicable to him).

(v) pension as per the rules of the Port Trust/Dock Labour Board.

(d) An employee whose request for Voluntary Retirement is accepted would also be entitled to an *ex-gratia* payment equivalent to 1 month's emoluments (Pay+DA) for each completed year of service or the discounted value of the emoluments (at 12% rate of discount) that would have become payable for the balance months of service left, which ever is less. For example, an employee who has put in 24 years of service and has got only one year of service for normal retirement, he will get *ex-gratia* payment of only 12 months' emoluments (Pay+DA) discounted at 12% p.a. and not 36 months, emoluments.

(e) The employee and his family would also be entitled to travel by the entitled class to the place where he intends setting down.

Export of Iron and Steel

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

(a) the target fixed for the export of Iron and Steel during 1995-96;

(b) the achievement made in that direction so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of iron and steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) A target of Rs. 1885 crores has been fixed by Engineering Export Promotion Council for export of iron and steel during the year 1995-96.

(b) During the period April '95 - August '95 exports of iron and steel has been Rs. 850 crores (approx).

(c) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures are taken to boost exports including iron and steel under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licences, Duty Drawback Scheme and exemption under 80 HHC of Income Tax Act. Market Development Assistance is also provided to Engineering Export Promotion Council. In addition, a new scheme called Engineering Products Export (Replenishment of Iron & Steel Intermediates) Scheme has been notified by the Government on 1.3.95.

Export of Alphanzo Mango

854. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the alphanzo mango has tremendous potential for export;

(b) if so, the total quantity of alphanzo mango exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has taken any measures to promote the export and increase the production of alphanzo mango;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any assistance to cooperative societies or for the post harvest is being provided in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export and increase the production of alphanzo mango during the current year?

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

(b) Variety wise export statistics are not maintained for mangoes. Total quantity of mangoes (fresh, dried or sliced) exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last 3 years are as follows:-

	Qty. in MTs	Value in Rs. crores
	Qty.	Value
1992-93	25942	46.14
1993-94	22423	44.22
1994-95	25774	45.74

(c) to (g) . Certain steps taken to promote the export of mangoes and other agricultural products are :-

(i) Providing financial assistance to Cooperative Societies for development of Infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities;

(ii) Soft loans given for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening curing chambers and quality testing equipments;

(iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(iv) Establishment of walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;

(v) Setting up of air cargo facilities for cargo booking and customs clearance facilities under one roof;

(vi) Establishment of vapour treatment facilities for improved acceptability of the product;

(vii) Arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions;

(viii) Providing financial assistance for export promotion and market development.

Delay In Granting Loan Under P.M.R.Y. In Kerala

855. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Bank branches in Kerala particularly in Alleppey district are adopting delaying tactics in granting credits to self employed productive ventures under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, whether the complaints against such practices have since been made from time to time.

(c) if so, the action taken thereon and the steps taken to fix the responsibility in the matter and also to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India RBI has reported that some complaints such as demanding of collateral/ guarantee, non-sanction of loan etc. have been received against bank branches in Kerala. All such complaints have been referred to the concerned banks/ Reserve Bank of India's Regional Office at Trivandrum for a detailed report in order to enable remedial action to be initiated in this regard. RBI has also reported that in a field study conducted by RBI, it was observed that in 77% of the cases the applications were sanctioned within the prescribed time limit. No delay in disbursement was reported in any of the cases covered by the study. In Alleppey district for the year 1995-96, against the target of 1350, banks have so far sanctioned 287 cases till 31st October, 1995 and 1351 applications were pending with the various banks. A meeting of the banks and Government Departments was convened by RBI where in it was decided that the banks will dispose all the pending applications by 1st December, 1995. As regards Kerala State, the banks have sanctioned 1594 cases against the target of 2755 for the year 1993-94 and 11289 cases against the target of 15,000 for the year 1994-95 respectively.

Export Target

856. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out an ambitious plan for 1995-96 to meet the export target of 31 million dollars;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the target;

(c) whether his Ministry has also taken the issue of export credit with the Ministry of Finance;

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

(e) whether the export plan for 1995-96 is likely to improve infrastructure in some 22 identified export centres;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether his Ministry has also identified several thrust countries for exports; and

(h) if som the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) . In the current year, the export target has been indicated at around 20% growth in US \$ terms. Export Promotion as a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade industry and other concerned institutions. Among the measures taken for export promotion, mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and procedures, increasing export production improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement, technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year, an annual action plan has been formulated which *inter-alia* covers commodity specific and country-specific measures for export promotion.

(c) and (d) . Trade related finance issues are taken up with the Ministry of Finance on a regular basis during bilateral issues concerning the two ministries including export credit matters. Suggestion received from trade and industry and EPCs on export credit matters are covered in these discussions.

(e) and (f) . Under the Export Intensive Area Scheme, 23 Centres have been identified in the country for infrastructure de-bottlenecking. During 1995-96, two identified centres namely, Tirupur in Tamil Nadu and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh are to be taken under the scheme.

(g) and (h) . Identification of new market and opportunities for exports is an ongoing process. Efforts are being made to expand out share in export in the existing markets and also develop new markets in the emerging countries like south Africa, Isarel, Central Asian Republics and neighbouring countries.

[Translation]

Income Tax Appeal Court

857. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Income Tax Appeal Courts with a view to dispose of the appeals pending in large number before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) . The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Fifth Pay Commission

858. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Fifth Pay Commission is expected to submit its report;

(b) whether the Pay Commission will give any Interim Relief to the government employees till the report is finalised;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (d) . In accordance with its terms of reference, the Commission is required to make its recommendations as soon as feasible. The effective date of the recommendation to be made by the commission will be considered after the report is received.

(b) and (c) . There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to grant further Interim Relief to the Government employees.

[English]

Ceiling Limit of Bonus

859. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ceiling limit of bonus for Central Government employees has been raised recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to give bonus to its all non-Gazetted employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Consequent on recent amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the eligibility ceiling for payment of ad hoc bonus and calculation ceiling for payment of both productivity linked bonus and ad-hoc bonus to Central Government employees and have been raised from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- and from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 2500/- per month respectively effective from 1.4.93. Necessary orders have been issued on 20th September, 1995.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal under consideration to grant bonus to all non-gazetted employees of the Central Government.

Recruitment of Indian MAIDS in Singapore

860. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether young girls of north eastern region were recruited to work as maids in Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of firms registered with the Ministry of Labour for this purpose, and

(d) the measure taken to check antecedents of firms engaged to send workers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. This is an ongoing process and as of now three girls have

been given clearance by Protector of Emigrants to work as maids in Singapore.

(b) Names and details of the Indian and Singapore agencies which are involved in the recruitment of Indian maids from the north east region are as follows :

(1) S. S. Navalkar, Uniexports, Navalkars Tours and Travels, 47, Laxmi Building, 3rd floor, P. M. Road, Bombay-400 001. Tel: 2663434/2679033

(2) Akid Zaman, H & Z International Inc., Jayanta Commercial Centre, Panchavati G.N.B. Road, Guwahati (Assam).

(3) Mrs. Winne Wang. Further Creation Investment Pvt. Ltd., Singapore. Tel. 2250707.

(c) and (d) . So far a total of 2668 Recruiting Agencies have been issued Registration Certificates under the Emigration Act, 1983 for the whole country. Before issue of Registration Certificates, the antecedents of the proprietor/partners/Directors of the agencies are got verified from the concerned police authorities.

Smuggling of Deadly Explosive

861. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI D. VENKETESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the smuggling of deadly explosive "RDX" is continuing in large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan's ISI is involved in sending large RDX for extremists working in India ;

(d) if so, whether the Government had called for the meeting of some State Governments to discuss the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remedy the situation?

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

Extension of Runway

862. SHRI HARILAL MANJI PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend runway from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft. at Ahmedabad international airport to facilitate the landing of big national and international aircraft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) . Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to extend the runway from 9000 ft. to 11500 ft. at Ahmedabad airport.

The State Government of Gujarat has recently acquired the land which is yet to be handed over to AAI for this purpose.

SC/ST Posts Abolished in ITPC

863. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 100 posts in various cadres reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been abolished in India Trade Promotion Organisation since 1977;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these posts?

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

(b) In compliance with the Government of India directive on economy in expenditure by way of reduction of at least 10% of the posts in each category and also on account of the merger of ex-Trade Development Authority (TDA) with ex-Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI), the rationalisation of staff was done and a policy of need based requirement of personnel in the combined organisation named India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was pursued. Consequent upon this 153 posts were abolished in ITPO in 1993 which includes 30 posts reserved for SC's and ST's. The categorywise details of such SC/ST posts abolished in ITPO are given below :-

Name of the post	Reserverd in favour of	No. of Posts
Dy. Manager (Shipping)	ST	1
Asstt. Manager (GC)	SC/ST (One each)	2
Asstt. Manager (Fin.)	ST	1
Asstt. Manager (Civil)	ST	1
Presentation Supervisor	SC	1
Programme Executive	ST	1
Security Guards	SC/ST	23

(c) Since the policy decision of abolition of 153 posts in various categories was a well considered one, the question of revival of any of these posts does not arise.

[Translation]

Facilities to Foreign Tourists

864. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Government for providing facilities to foreign tourists during forthcoming World Cup Cricket match;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any policy for developing tourist spots in different States where cricket matches are to be held; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) . The existing tourism infrastructural facilities would cater to the needs of foreign tourism likely to visit India for the World Cup Cricket Matches proposed to be held in different places.

[English]

Development of Tourism in Assam

865. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals for development of tourism in Assam pending with the Union Government for clearance and allocation of financial assistance;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to Assam during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(c) the names of places of historical importance of otherwise for which financial assistance has been provided?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No Proposal for development of tourism in Assam is pending with the Union Government awaiting clearance.

(b) and (c) . The Union Government provided central financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 78.11 lakhs during the year 1993-94 and Rs. 52.59 lakhs for the year 1994-95 for the development of tourism in the State of Assam.

Central Financial Assistance was provided to places of historical and pilgrimage importance such as Hajo, Bishwanath Ghat and tourist places like Kaziranga, Manes, Tinsukhia, Bhalukpang, Halflong and Orang for development of tourist facilities.

Security to foreign investors

866. SHRI K. M. MATHEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise its arbitration laws to international standards and provide additional security to foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) . It is generally felt that the Indian Law on arbitration is not in tune with the modern developments in arbitration law. With a view to bringing our arbitration law in line with the international thought on the subject so as to ensure speedy settlement of disputes, Government has introduced a Bill entitled " The Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 1995 " in the Rajya Sabha on 16th May, 1995.

Export of Seafood/Marine Products

867. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHILIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of marine products/seafoods exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last two years, till date, country-wise;

(b) whether some countries specially European Union Countries have complained regarding quality standards; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality and boost the exports of sea-food/marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total quantity of marine products/seafoods exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last two years, country/market-wise is as under :-

Country/Market	Qty : In M. tons	
	1994-95	1993-94
	1	2
Japan	Q : 53500	44985
	V: 1643.82	1185.67
U S A	Q : 32102	26152
	V: 490.23	306.17
U K	Q : 11202	9698
	V: 182.03	142.66
Italy	Q : 12495	12941
	V: 120.36	123.07

		1	2	3
Spain	Q :	13461	15751	
	V :	111.59	138.51	
Belgium	Q :	7057	6985	
	V :	86.33	73.57	
France	Q :	7095	7824	
	V :	54.99	45.40	
Netherlands	Q :	5196	6762	
	V :	59.71	67.63	
Greece	Q :	7539	6690	
	V :	47.51	35.59	
Portugal	Q :	3611	3322	
	V :	24.40	18.58	
Germany	Q :	1860	1411	
	V :	22.34	14.67	
Switzerland	Q :	788	138	
	V :	4.54	0.87	
Denmark	Q :	346	116	
	V :	3.72	1.16	
Ireland	Q :	266	137	
	V :	4.09	2.49	
Australia	Q :	5	-	
	V :	0.05	-	
Norway	Q :	296	83	
	V :	4.52	1.01	
Sweden	Q :	7	7	
	V :	0.12	0.08	

1	2	3
South East Asia	Q : 135567	87099
	V : 602.32	288.40
Others	Q : 14945	13867
	V : 112.60	78.15
Total	Q : 307338	243968
	V : 3575.27	2522.68

(b) Yes, Sir. There have been occasional cases of contamination detected and reported in seafood consignments from India by countries of the European Union, amongst others.

(c) The Government is committed to maintenance of adequate quality standards for boosting the exports of seafood/marine products to the various markets. Some of the steps taken by the Government/MPEDA are as follow :-

i) The Government has notified the Export Inspection Agency (EIA) as the authorised agency to conduct inspection and certification of products and facilities relating to marine products vide Notification No. So. 729 (E) issued on 21.8.95.

ii) The processing plants are being surveyed by a panel from EIA, MPEDA and representatives of trade for assessing their conformity with EU standards with the objective of pointing out deficiencies and requirements of upgradation, EIA and MPEDA also help the companies to take up preventive measures in general and at the time to rejections.

iii) Processing plants are encouraged to set up their own pre-processing units by subsidising the cost. The pre-processing centres on the other hand are also being assisted to upgrade the facilities. MPEDA is implementing a scheme to subsidise the cost in setting up attached Quality Control laboratories, by seafood processing factories.

iv) Extension programmes are organised for educating the fishermen and the fish handlers on the hygienic handling of fish. Training programmes, Seminars and workshops are also organised by MPEDA from time to time for exporters, technologists, fish handlers and fishermen etc. on quality aspects.

Small Investors

868. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to safeguard the interest of small investors in company deposits upto Rs. 5000/- for repayment;

(b) whether any insurance scheme on the lines of the insurance for bank deposits is proposed to be devised with General Insurance Company;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Section 58-A of the Companies Act, 1956 already provides for mandatory imprisonment, which may extend upto five years in the event of contravention of the relevant provisions of that Section or the Rules framed thereunder. The Companies Bill, 1993, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14.5.1993 provides that a company which has failed to repay any deposit or interest due thereon shall be prohibited from raising further deposits and, also, from making inter-corporate loans or investments, until the default is made good. It also provides for compulsory credit rating for Companies intending to raise deposits through advertisement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Adequate safeguards already exist in prevailing Companies Act, 1956.

[Translation]

Tax Treaty Between India and Mauritius

869. SHRI KESRI LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the tax treaty between India and Mauritius; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) . Due to changes in the economic environment and the domestic tax laws, it has become necessary to review the Agreements on avoidance of double taxation entered into by us with some of the countries. The Agreement with Mauritius is one such included in this review process.

[English]

Promotion of Tourism

870. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government during each of the last three years for the promotion of tourism in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of proposals approved, rejected or still pending indicating the reasons for rejecting each proposal; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to State Government in this regard during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) . All the proposals which were found complete in all respects during the last three years for grant of financial assistance were approved. The amounts released were as follows :

Year	No. of projects	Amount released
1992-93	8	Rs. 46.88 lakhs
1993-94	11	Rs. 60.65 lakhs
1994-95	13	Rs. 144.30 lakhs

The Department of Tourism has prioritised 14 proposals involving an amount of Rs. 156.91 lakhs for financial assistance during 1995-96. However, detailed proposals have not been received so far.

[Translation]

Amendment in Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

871. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to bring these amendments in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). Based on the recommendations made by the Ramanujam Committee on the New Industrial Relations Law, the deliberations held at various forums and after taking into consideration the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have been considered for finalisation at the appropriate time. The thrust of the proposed amendments is to ensure bipartism in industrial disputes resolution so as to avoid third party intervention to the maximum extent possible; to create the necessary conditions for enhanced investments in the industrial sector and for employment generation; to provide higher lay-off and retrenchment compensation for the workers and to streamline the Act so as to secure a greater degree of harmony in industrial relations conducive to increased production and productivity.

[English]

Pension Fund

872. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Trade unions oppose plan to deposit monies in Centre's public account - Govt. undecided on pension fund investment pattern" appeared in the 'Business Standard' dated October 26, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter stated therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to throw open the proposed pension fund for general investment or borrow money from it at low cost for its own use;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

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

(b) to (f). The news-item refers to the Trade Unions being exercised over the Government's Plan to deposit the pension fund in the Public Account. It also refers to the CITU insisting on pension as a third retirement benefit and opposition of the Trade Unions to the Government using the pension fund to ease its own liquidity problem etc.

The Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 has since come into force w.e.f. 16.11.1995. Under paragraph 26 of the scheme the net assets of the Family Pension Fund as on 16.11.1995 have been merged in the Pension Fund. As the merged family pension fund comprises an element of the Government contribution, it is required to remain invested in the Public Account of the Government of India. Similarly the future Central Government's contribution accruing to the pension fund from 16.11.1995 onwards is also required to be invested in the Public Account. All other monies accruing to the Pension Fund are required to be invested in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 52 of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, 1952.

Pension and C.P.F. are considered as mutually exclusive. As such the question of offering pension to the EPF subscribers as a third retirement benefit does not arise.

[Translation]

Bank Loan to SSI in MP and UP

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

(a) the number of applications for loan received from small scale industries by Public sector banks in Madhya Pradesh and U. P. during the last three years and the amount of loan sanctioned in that regard;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the aforesaid banks have not provided timely loans to the applications/ small scale industries as a result of which these industries turned to sick;

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

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The date reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, according to the latest available data furnished by RBI, loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks to small scale industrial (SBI) units in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as on the last Friday of March 1992, March 1993 and March 1994 were as under :

(Rs. Crores)

As on the last Friday of March	Madhya Pradesh		Uttar Pradesh	
	No. of Accounts	Amount Outstanding	No. of Accounts	Amount Outstanding
1992	199139	737.45	338228	1603.31
1993	163882	776.12	333870	1850.25
1994	148276	844.32	343824	2015.28

(b) to (d) . RBI has issued instructions to all scheduled commercial banks that applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25000/- within 8-9 weeks from the date of receipt of applications. Banks have also been advised that requests for increase in credit limits should be considered expeditiously and decision taken promptly and in any case within six weeks.

[English]

Decrease in Foreign Tourists

874. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any decrease in the number of foreign tourists during the first six

months of 1994-95 in comparison with the same period during 1993-94;

(b) the reasons therefor and the details thereof, month-wise;

(c) the extent of loss of foreign exchange suffered due to this decrease; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the number of foreign tourists in the country?

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

The number of foreign tourists who visited the country during first six months of 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them were as follows :-

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. crores)
1993-94	7,50,607	2547.23
1994-95	8,50,075	3231.77

(d) Steps taken by the Government to increase the flow of foreign tourists to India include improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism, development of tourist attractions and strengthening of publicity and promotional efforts.

[Translation

Financial Year

875. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to fix the period of annual budget year from July 1 to June 30; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Raids on Industrialists

876. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RABI RAY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Income tax raids conducted on industrial houses during the last three months; and

(b) the details of seizures made during the raids, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The details are given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of search and seizure conducted during the month of August, September and October, 1995.

STATE	No. of Warrants	SEIZURE (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH	94	1965.64
BIHAR	20	810.75
DELHI	295	1066.46
GUJARAT	228	1754.82
HARYANA	17	38.32
JAMMU & KASHMIR	1	9.01
KARNATAKA	46	183.32
KERALA	40	322.75
MADHYA PRADESH	35	451.36
MAHARASHTRA	275	1604.46
PUNJAB	126	1540.57

1	2	3
RAJASTHAN	6	38.98
TAMIL NADU	117	353.40
UTTAR PRADESH	60	524.29
WEST BENGAL	149	722.13
	1509	11386.26

Foreign Exchange Loss

877. SHRI ANIL BASU :

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State;

(a) whether the country is losing heavy amount of foreign exchange every year due to non-payment/short payment by foreign buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the Reserve Bank of India, since the conditions required to be satisfied for obtaining write off in respect of export proceeds are stringent there is very little possibility of any significant loss of foreign exchange on this account.

Sericulture Training Institutes

878. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of silk produced in Maharashtra during the last year;

(b) the names of the Sericulture Training Institutes running in the States alongwith the locations thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of these Institutes;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the details of the work done or proposed

to be undertaken under National Sericulture Project in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) During the year 1994-95, the total raw silk production in Maharashtra was 8 tonnes.

(b) One Sericulture Training School is functioning at Shirala in Aloka District of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d). The Central Silk Board periodically reviews the performance of its individual units, including the said Training School in Maharashtra, for their proper functioning. The performance of the CSB is in turn, periodically reviewed by the Government.

(e) The Central Silk Board (CSB), with the assistance of World Bank is implementing the National Sericulture Project (NSP) in Maharashtra on a pilot basis at a total cost of Rs. 544 lakh over a period of 7 years w.e.f. 1989-90. The project envisages creation of necessary infrastructure for development of mulberry sericulture in the State. The Project targets vis-a-vis cumulative achievements in this regard are as under :-

	Project target	Cumulative achievement
1. Basic Seed Farm	1	1
2. Grainage	2	2
3. Chawki rearing Centres	40	4
4. Demonstration-cum-Training Centres	1	1
5. Technical Service Centres	8	8
6. Sericulture Training School	1	1

Export Growth

879. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total export by value during 1995-96;

(b) the details of ten commodities with the highest export value during the current financial year;

(c) the details major importing countries for each of those commodities; and

(d) the steps taken to promote exports of those commodities and the target fixed for the earning of foreign exchange through exports during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The value of exports during April-September 1995-96, the latest period for which foreign trade data are available in 1995-96 are estimated at \$ 14685 million.

(b) and (c) . Details are given in the attached statement.

(d) In the current year (1995-96), the export

target has been indicated at around 20% growth, in US dollar terms. Export promotion is a continuous process. Steps are taken to boost exports in consultation with trade, industry and other concerned institutions. The Government is striving to make the environment of policy and procedures more export-friendly. Among the measures taken for export promotion, mention may be made about simplification of Export-Import Policy and procedures, increasing export production, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality improvement and technological upgradation, improvement in infrastructure and actively involving State Governments in export promotion. In the current year, an Annual Action Plan has been formulated which, inter alia, covers commodity-specific and country-specific measures for export promotion.

STATEMENT

Commodities	Major Importing Countries
1. Gems & Jewellery	U. S. A. Hongkong, Japan
2. RMG Cotton & accessories	USA, Germany, United Kingdom
3. Cotton, Yarn, fabrics & Made-ups	USA, United Kingdom, Bangladesh
4. Drugs, Pharma & fine Chemicals	USA, Germany, Russia
5. Transport Equipments	Hongkong, USA, Sri Lanka
6. Manmade yarn fabrics made ups etc.	UAE, United Kingdom, Italy
7. Machinery & Instruments	USA United Kingdom, UAE
8. Marine Products	Japan, USA, United Kingdom
9. Manufacture or metals	USA, United Kingdom, Ukraine
10. Leather manufactures	Germany, USA, Japan

Note : Based on date for the period April-August 1995.

Source : DSCI&S, Calcutta.

Strike by Nationalised Banks

880. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the strike observed by nationalised banks on August 31, 1995 was declared as illegal by the Government;

(b) if so, whether any punitive action against the leaders of the Bank Unions has been taken therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) . A prosecution case under Sections 26, 27 28 and 29 of the I. B. Act has been filed before the Metropolitan Magistrate, Bombay against the General Secretaries/Secretaries of the four unions of workmen who had instigated the illegal strike.

Jute Service Centre

881. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open a jute service centre at the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the facilities proposed to be made available at this centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) . Government has decided to open Jute Service Centres at several places, including Varanasi. The Centres would provide much needed technical, HRD and marketing support and escort services to entrepreneurs who are interested to go in for the manufacture of diversified jute products.

Report of Reserve Bank of India

882. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the report of the Reserve Bank of India for 1994-95, the price situation, fiscal position, financial health and inflation continued to be an area of serious concern and has projected that 1995-96 would be no longer better;

(b) whether Reserve Bank of India in its report has suggested drastic measures to improve the position; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The annual report of the Reserve Bank of India for 1994-95 has characterised the performance of Indian economy in 1994-95 as a "clear improvement in overall economic activity" as reflected, inter alia, in (i) a growth rate of over 5.5 per cent in 1994-95 (ii) recovery in agricultural and industrial production (iii) a much lower monetised deficit than budgeted level (iv) larger foreign exchange reserves and (v) considerable expansion of the financial sector providing a wide range of services.

It has, however, pointed out that the price situation and the fiscal position were areas of concern in 1994-95 and these are likely to continue in the current financial year.

(b) Among the principal measures suggested in the Report are (i) containment of fiscal deficit, more particularly revenue deficit (ii) moderation in money supply growth (iii) strengthening of tax reform measures (iv) development of an active market in Government securities and (v) continuance of financial sector reforms.

(c) Suggestion and recommendations made by RBI are given due consideration by the Government in the formulation of various economic policy measures.

Illicit Traffic of Heroin

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

(a) whether a three day meeting as recently held between the Revenue Secretary, Government of India, Director General of Narcotics Control Board of India and the Police General and Director General of Peoples Police Force of Myanmar regarding illicit traffic of heroin;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) . The second meeting of the Heads of the Nodal agencies under Indo-Myanmar bilateral agreement on anti-drug trafficking was held at Yangon on 19th December 1994.

It was decided to have better exchange of information and close cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of both countries. Action is being taken accordingly.

[Translation]

Branches of State Bank of India

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

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of India in the country as on September 30, 1995, State-wise;

(b) the break-up of the loss suffered and profits earned during each of the last three years by these branches;

(c) whether the loss making branches have been closed or proposed to be closed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The State-wise number of branches of State Bank of India as on 30th September, 1995 is given in the attached Statement.

(b) Break-up of losses suffered and profits earned by the bank branches during the last 3 years is as follows :

March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
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(i) No. of branches incurred losses (Excl. Admn. Offices & Service Branches)

2421	3416	2906
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(ii) Amount of Loss (Rs. in crores)		
74.83	122.95	119.87
(iii) No. of branches earning profits		
6228	5304	5848
(iv) Amount of profit (Rs. in crores)		
1774.01	1900.06	2382.79

(c) and (d). Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India RBI, the bank's proposal for closing of loss making branches located at well-banked urban/metropolitan centres would be considered by Reserve Bank of India.

At rural centres served by two commercial bank branches (excluding Regional Rural Banks) the decision for closure of one of the branches may be taken by the concerned banks by mutual consultation. Banks have also been permitted to convert their unviable rural branches into satellite offices. The State Bank of India has reported that one branch was closed in Tamil Nadu in February 1995 and five loss making branches in Madhya Pradesh were converted into satellite branches. Closure of loss making branches is contemplated only as a last resort.

STATEMENT

State-wise number of branches of State Bank of India as at the end of Sept. 1995

State/Union Territory	No. of branches
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Island	18
Andhra Pradesh	803
Arunachal Pradesh	42
Assam	201
Bihar	917
Daman & Diu	3
Delhi	181
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Goa	46
Gujarat	436
Haryana	161

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	144
Jammu & Kashmir	118
Karnataka	285
Kerala	220
Madhya Pradesh	694
Maharashtra	787
Manipur	16
Meghalaya	85
Mizoram	24
Nagaland	44
Orissa	462
Pondicherry	12
Punjab	230
Rajasthan	162
Sikkim	26
Tamil Nadu	560
Tripura	32
U.T. of Chandigarh	22
Uttar Pradesh	1347
West Bengal	722
Total	8801

Foreign Exchange Reserves

885. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India's foreign exchange reserves dip to \$ 19 million" as reported in the 'Statement' of October 25, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the factors responsible for such a decline; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

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

(b) India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold and SDRS) had declined by US \$ 1797 million from US \$ 20809 million at the end of March 1995 to US \$ 19012 million at the end of September, 1995.

(c) and (d) . The decline in foreign exchange reserves during April-September, 1995 reflects the imbalance in the receipts and payments on account of the foreign exchange transactions routed through the Reserve Bank of India. The Government has taken a number of measures on both the domestic and external front to which should strengthen the country's external trade and payments situation.

[Translation]

Increase in Fares

886. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR
(DEEPA) :

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

(a) whether there has been an increase in the fares of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor during the last three years; and

(c) the extent of surplus income likely to be earned by the Indian Airlines due to increase in their fares?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) . The details of increase in domestic Fares are as under :-

Sl. No.	Date of increase	Average %increase	Reasons of increase
1.	2.10.1992	9%	Increase of fuel rate
2.	13.9.1993	15%	Increase of inputs
3.	25.7.1994	15%	-do-
4.	1.10.1995	20%	-do-

(c) The recent revision in fares will yield an additional revenue of Rs. 250 crores per annum.

[English]

Pilgrims Visiting Vaishno Devi

887. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any decline in the number of pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine in view of disturbed conditions in the State;

(b) if so, the number of pilgrims who visited Vaishno Devi during each of the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken to defuse the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) . According to the information available from the State Government, there has been to decline in the number of pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine during 1994. The number of pilgrims who visited Vaishno Devi during 1993 and 1994 were as follows :-

Year	Number of pilgrims
1993	33,68,735
1994	37,05,945

(c) Does not arise.

Strike in Malabar Gramin Bank

888. SHRI MULAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the profits earned or loss suffered by the

North malabar Gramin Bank and South Malabar Gramin Bank in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the employees of these two banks had gone on strike recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) : The profit earned/loss suffered by the two Regional Rural Banks during the last three years were as follows:

	Rs Lakhs	
	South Malabar Gramin Bank	North Malabar Gramin Bank
1992-93	(-) 201.00	(+) 5.78
1993-94	(+) 125.31	(+) 52.44
1994-95	(+) 210.50	(+) 215.45
	(-) Indicates loss	
	(+) Indicates profits	

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main demand of the employees is that benefit under the Sixth Bipartite Settlement given to employees of commercial banks may be extended to the employees of Regional Rural Banks. This matter is under examination in the Government.

Facilities at Airports

889. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any new scheme to provide infrastructural and other modern facilities at different airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the airports which have been included in the first phase of this scheme; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent on this scheme and by when this scheme is likely to be launched?

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

Major projects envisaged during the 8th Five Year Plan include the following :

(i) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Bombay and Delhi airports at a cost of Rs. 351.87 crores.

(ii) Procurement and installation of Airport Surveillance Radars and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars at Hyderabad, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Calcutta and Madras at a cost of Rs. 193.35 crores.

(iii) Procurement and installation of Instrument Landing Systems at Madras, Calcutta, Nagpur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Indore, Hyderabad, Aurangabad, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Rajkot, Mangalore, Udaipur and Port Blair at a cost of Rs. 24.35 crores.

(iv) Construction of International Passenger Terminal complex (Phase-III) at Bombay airport at a cost of Rs. 105.49 crores.

(vi) Construction of domestic Terminal complex (Phase-II) at Bombay airport at a cost of Rs. 126 crores.

Lifting The Ban on Import of Swiss Watches

890. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to lift the ban on import of Swiss watches as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated February 8, 1995 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have studied its impact of Indian watch industry especially HMT;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the domestic watch industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) . Under the current Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, watches, being consumer goods cannot be freely imported. There has been no change in this position upto now.

Excise Duty Exemption

891. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Small Scale Industries have sought excise duty exemptions on certain items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir, the small scale units have, in the recent past, sought central excise duty relief on various items such as scouring powder manufactured without use of power; medical/surgical gloves; paper bags; printed cartons; converted types of paper and paperboard; certain electrical appliances; PVC compound; metal containers; calculators etc. and certain inputs like soda ash, linear alkyl benzene, synthetic rubber and ceramic transfers.

They have also requested reduction in compounded levy on cold rolling machines.

Excise Duty on Cigarettes

892. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the adverse affect on beedi industry due to reduction of excise duty charged on mini cigarettes from Rs. 120 to Rs. 60 per thousand;

(b) whether this reduction in excise duty has resulted in the cigarettes manufacturers increasing the production of mini cigarettes from 100 crore sticks in 1993-94 to 600 crore sticks in 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save the beedi industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The Government have received representations stating that reduction of excise duty on cigarettes, other than filter cigarettes, of length not exceeding 60 mm from Rs. 120 to Rs. 60 per thousand in 1994-95 budget has affected the beedi industry;

(b) The production of cigarettes of all kinds, including of length not exceeding 60 mm, depends upon a number of factors. It may not be possible to indicate any one factor as solely responsible for changes in trends of their production; and

(c) The Government takes into account all relevant factors and corners, including the interests of beedi industry, while fixing the rates of excise duty on cigarettes.

Export of Cotton to Romania

893. SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to export 18000 cotton bales to Romania;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether such a decision of the Government to export cotton bales is likely to affect adversely on indigenous price of cotton;

(d) whether the handloom and powerlooms in the country would also be affected at large; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Government of India released an export quota of 18000 cotton bales to Romania in June, 1996 under the Rupee Payment Agreement. The quota was released after confirming the availability of cotton for fulfilling domestic demand and the declining trend of cotton prices in the domestic market.

Under the Bilateral Protocol with Romania, India has been permitting export of cotton in the

past also and Romania has been depending on our supplies. Thus, the export quota of cotton was released to Romania after careful consideration of all of the above factors.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Dry Fruits

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

(a) the total quantity of dry-fruits products (Cashew, Almond, Pistachio etc.) exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of dry fruits during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total quantity of dry fruits exported and the foreign exchange earned during the last three years i. e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under :-

Year	Qty. (lons.)	Value (Rs. in lakh)
1992-93	63278	78900
1993-94	76350	111300
1994-95	83452	130844

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta).

(b) Some of the steps taken to boost exports of dry-fruits are :-

i) Import of raw cashewnuts if freely allowed to augment domestic availability of raw cashewnuts for processing and export. Exporters of cashewnuts for processing and export. Exporters of cashew kernels can also import the same under the Advance Licensing Scheme.

ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control.

iii) Arranging buyers-sellers meets and participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions.

Taking over of Surat Airport by National Airport Authority

895. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : 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 Gujarat regarding taking over of Surat airport by National Airports Authority; and

(b) if so, the action taken on this proposal and by when the Surat Airport is likely to be taken over by National Airports Authority?

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

(b) Due to financial constraints and other commitments, the Airports Authority of India is not in a position, at present, to take over Surat Airport.

[English]

Committees Under Tobacco Boards

896. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board is empowered to form various committees to cater to its different interests;

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand the role of the Tobacco Board through such committees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board is empowered to appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under Section 7 of the Tobacco Board Act.

(b) and (c) . No, Sir.

SSI Sector and Banks

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the series of differences that have cropped up between the small scale industrial sector and the banks over the disbursement of loans;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received complaints from the small scale units that the directions of the Reserve Bank of India with regard to the viability of the units are not being followed by the banks and sometimes healthy units are denied loans by the banks; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to remove the grievances of the small scales industrial units in respect of disbursement of loans by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some sick small scale industrial SSI units have complained that one of the reasons for their units becoming sick is that the banks do not disburse adequate/timely credit to them. However, on inquiry by RBI with the concerned banks, banks have informed that they have been disbursing adequate/timely credit to these units and wherever less credit was disbursed, it was due to the fact that banks were not satisfied with the performance of the units.

RBI has further reported that internal grievance machineries are in position in banks and chief executives of banks meet complainants periodically to hear/look into their grievances. Complaints from SSI units, as and when received by RBI, are taken up with banks and the parties are advised suitably wherever considered necessary.

Medical Facilities to the Unorganised Sector

898. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any medical facility to the workers of unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) . There are 154 dispensaries including one Chest Clinic and 3

hospitals for Beedi Workers set up under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund for providing medical services to the Beedi Workers. There are also 68 dispensaries and 9 hospitals for workers engaged in Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines, Limestone and Dolomite Mines and Mica Mines. A list of various Health Schemes formulated for these workers is enclosed **Statement**.

STATEMENT

List of Health Schemes for Beedi Workers

1. Reservation of beds in T. B. Hospitals.
2. Re-imbusement of Actual cost of treatment to beedi workers suffering from Cancer.
3. Treatment of workers suffering from Mental Diseases and also grant of subsistance allowance and other benefits to such workers.
4. Grant of financial assistance to Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata workers) for purchase of spectacles.
5. Scheme for grant-in-aid to bodies/organisation providing indoor treatment to Beedi workers suffering from Leprosy and also grant of subsistance allowance to the eligible workers.
6. Financial assistance for Domiciliary Treatment for T. B. patients.
7. Financial assistance under Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
8. Scheme for payment of extra monetary compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for re-imbusement of expenditure as a financial assistance to Beedi Workers suffering from heart diseases.
10. Scheme for re-imbusement of expenditure as a financial assistance to Beedi Workers for Kidney Transplantation etc.
11. Group Insurance Scheme for Beedi Workers under Social Security.

List Of Health Schemes For Mine Workers.

1. Reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals and financial assistance for domiciliary treatment to workers suffering from T.B.

2. Re-imbusement of actual cost of treatment of Mine Workers suffering from Cancer.

3. Financial assistance for treatment of workers suffering from Mental diseases and also grant of subsistance allowance and other benefits to such workers.

4. Grant of Financial assistance for purchase of spectacles.

5. Scheme for grant-in-aid to bodies/organisation providing indoor treatment to mine workers suffering from Leprosy and also grant of subsistance allowance to the eligible workers.

6. Financial assistance for Domiciliary Treatment for T.B. Patients.

7. Scheme for re-imbusement of expenditure incurred by Mine workers from Heart diseases.

8. Scheme for re-imbusement of expenditure incurred by Mine workers for Kidney transplantation etc.

9. Scheme for provision of artificial limbs for Mine workers.

10. Scheme for financial assistance in case of total and serious accident for mine workers.

11. Grant-in-aid to Iron ore and Limestone & Dolomite Mines Management for purchase of Ambulance Vans.

12. Grant-in-aid to Mine management for maintenance of their own dispensaries for Mine workers.

Government Security Press, Mysore

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

(a) the time by which the Government Security Press at Mysore is likely to start functioning;

(b) whether all the machineries have been procured and appointments of personnel have been completed;

(c) the amount spent so far for the construction of the proposed Security Press;

(d) whether the people of Mysore are likely to be given any preference in recruitment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) No Government Security Press is being established at Mysore.

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

Ozone Depleting Substances Negative List of Exim Policy

900. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to put the imports and exports of ozone depleting substances in the negative list of Exim Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) . The Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, lays down certain restrictions regarding trade in respect of items covered by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The question of imposing additional restrictions on such items is reviewed from time to time in the context of the developments that take place regarding the implementation of the Protocol.

Alleged Manipulations in Balance Sheet by Punjab National Bank

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the alleged manipulations made by the Punjab National Bank in the Bank's 1994-95 balance sheet as has been reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated September 15, 1995;

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

(c) whether the Government have since enquired into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

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

Bank, Loans to Government Agencies

902. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan given by various banks of the country to the Central Government during first six months of the current financial year and the comparative figures of the amount given during the corresponding period of the last year; and

(b) the reasons compelling Government to take more loan during current year in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Details of Net Bank Credit to Government during April-September, 1995 as compared with that during April-September, 1994 are given below:

(In Rs. crore)

April - September

	1994	1995
Net Bank Credit to Government (a+b)	4687	13507
(a) Net RBI Credit to Government (i + ii)	(-) 10571	6718
(i) Central Government	(-) 8341	8714
(ii) State Government	(-) 2230	(-) 1995
(b) Other banks' credit to Govt.	15258	6789

As is evident from the above data, the credit given by 'other banks' (Commercial and Co-operative banks) during the first six months of the current financial year is less than half of the credit given during the first six months of the last financial year.

Welfare of Beedi Workers

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

(a) the amount of Cess on Beedi collected during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent for the welfare of Beedi workers during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of dispensaries and T. B. hospitals to be set up from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). A Statement is annexed.

(c) A 50- bed Hospital is under construction at Dhuliyani in District Murshidabad.

STATEMENT

Statewise cess collection on manufactured beedis and the amount spent for the welfare of the Beedi Workers during last three years viz. 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95.

State	Cess collected on manufactured Beedies			Amount spent for the welfare of Beedi workers		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1. Andhra Pradesh	21,340	22,696	22,961	29,877	32,639	72,387
2. Assam	-	97	104	606	1,193	1,839
3. Bihar	6,357	7,362	8,271	9,930	11,110	11,782
4. Gujarat	146	174	140	2,767	3,626	3,623
5. Karnataka	17,596	14,810	14,805	13,298	23,040	22,122
6. Kerala	4,792	4,477	4,389	5,386	5,387	8,919
7. Madhya Pradesh	16,369	17,981	16,716	14,840	15,980	14,239
8. Maharashtra	9,454	9,238	9,065	9,344	13,741	16,097
9. Orissa	1,487	1,704	1,743	6,607	8,316	10,543
10. Rajasthan	1,119	1,172	1,200	4,143	5,436	5,429
11. Tripura	-	-	-	548	934	1,274
12. Tamil Nadu	17,747	17,917	18,051	6,512	9,371	15,234
13. West Bengal	16,369	18,307	19,746	9,487	16,017	20,382
14. Uttar Pradesh	7,606	6,513	5,929	7,799	10,309	8,475

Unemployment

904. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of unemployment at the end of March, 1990 and March, 1993 ;

(b) how far the structural reforms measures effected employment growth; and

(c) the employment generated by public and private sectors during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). The backlog of open unemployment at the end of March, 1990 and March, 1993 was as 13.85 million and 17.10 million respectively.

The Government has accorded the highest priority to promoting sustainable employment-intensive growth in its economic reform policies. As a result, total employment growth in the economy is estimated by the Planning Commission, to have virtually doubled to about 6 million in each of the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 as compared to only 3 million in the crisis year 1991-92. In 1994-95, with overall aggregate employment can be expected to be commensurately greater.

Employment in the Organised Sector by Public and Private Sectors as on 31st March, 1993, 1994 and 1995 as per Employment Market Information Programme was as follows :

	Employment (In Thousands)		
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1993	19326.1	7850.5	27176.6
1994	19444.9	7929.9	27374.8
1995*	19294.2	8114.4	27408.6

*As per Quick Estimate.

NOTE : 1. The data pertain to all establishments in the Public Sector irrespective of size of employment and those non-agricultural establishments in the Private Sector employing 10 or more workers.

2. Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar

Haveli and Lakshadweep are not covered under the Employment Market Information (EMI) programme.

3. Employment in India Missions/Embassies abroad, Defence forces are not covered.

4. The smaller establishments employing 10-24 persons in the private sector in the metropolitan areas of Greater Bombay and Calcutta are not covered due to practical difficulties.

Setting up of Coffee Auction Centres

905. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow small growers of coffee to market their entire products under Free Sale Quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up more auction centres; and

(d) if so, the details of places where these auction centres will be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) . Government of India have allowed 100% Free Sale Quota to small growers, whose holding is less than 10 hectares, in order to facilitate export as well as domestic sales from 22nd April, 1995 under which the grower has an option to sell his produce either in the domestic market or export market. As regards setting up of new auction centres, there is no proposal under the consideration of this Ministry. However, the Coffee Board has in principle recognised four auction centres under private and government sectors, apart from its own auction centres. The names of the four auction centres are given below:

i) Indian Coffee Trade Association, Infantry Road, Bangalore.

ii) Coorg Coffee Marketing Centre, Madikeri.

iii) Andhra Pradesh Forest Development corporation, Visakhapatnam (held at Vijayawada).

iv) Mysore Coffee Curing Works, Chikmagalur.

Debt Burden

906. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita debt burden in the country as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The per capita debt burden at the end of March, 1996 is estimated at Rs. 6707.

(b) The Government is compelled to borrow whenever there is a gap between the expenditure and non-debt receipts. During the current year, Government would endeavour to contain the fiscal deficit to the budgeted level through maximising receipts and controlling expenditure.

Electronic Application in Jute Industry

907. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a programme on development and application of electronic control and instrumentation system for Jute industry;

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

(c) the amount of Central assistance sanctioned by the Union Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) . Under the UNDP assisted Jute Programme a project has been approved on development and application of an electronic control and instrumentation system for the jute industry. Government of India and UNDP contribution of Rs. 2 crore and US\$ 0.6 million, respectively, have been approved as outlay for this project.

Modernisation of Cotton Textile Mills

908. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Government have sought permission to modernise certain cotton textile mills in their respective States;

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

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) . The loans to textile mills for modernisation are sanctioned by Financial Institutions as a part of their normal lending operations taking into consideration the viability of the modernisation scheme submitted by the mills and their repaying capacity.

Indian Trade Exhibition

909. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Trade Exhibition was held at Tashkent during September, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details of the business generated at the exhibition?

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

(b) In the exclusive Indian Trade Exhibition held at Tashkent during 14-20th September, 1995, the Indian participating Companies representing engineering, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Leather Products, Paper and paper board products and Consumer products etc., generated a business of Rs. 3531.45 lakhs. Out of this, orders valued at Rs. 1875 lakhs were booked and business valued at Rs. 1640 lakhs was under negotiation. The participants disposed off their exhibits valued at Rs. 16.45 lakhs after the close of the exhibition.

Eight joint ventures are also in the pipeline for manufacturing Garments, Cycles, denim and Pharmaceuticals etc. Three MOUs have been signed for technology transfer and erection of paper and duplex boards. Four companies have appointed their local agents.

Maternity Leave to Women Employees

910. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant six months maternity leave to women employees in public as well as private sector undertakings.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The purpose of maternity leave is to enable recuperation of the health of the mother after delivery. As such the period of 12 weeks' maternity leave is considered adequate.

[Translation]

Investment Made by LIC

911. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has made any investment through private companies with the Reliance Industrial Group by purchasing shares and debentures during the last three years and if so, the amount of investment made as such;

(b) the criteria followed while making investment through such private companies;

(c) the sectors for which Life Insurance Corporation has purchased shares from share market during the said period and the amount involved therein;

(d) whether the value of shares of this company has declined after this purchase; and

(e) the criteria followed while taking such investment decisions?

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

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

(c) The Life Insurance Corporation has reported that in the last three years it had purchased in the secondary market shares to the extent of about Rs. 690.66 crores, of listed public limited companies both in the private and public sectors in the Cement, Engineering, Iron, Power, Textiles, Dyes, Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, Electrical goods and Paper & Boards industries sectors.

(d) while the earning values and the book

values of shares of the companies have generally shown a positive indication, the market values have dropped due to bearish market trends.

(e) Investments in Equity Shares of Company are made by LIC keeping in view the provisions of Section 27A of the Insurance Act, 1938 as applicable to LIC and as per the parameters set out by the Investment Committee constituted by the Corporation.

[English]

Modernisation of Textiles Industry

912 SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

Will the Minister of State for TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any package for modernisation of cotton trade and textile industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) No. separate package has been formulated by the government for modernisation of cotton trade and textile industry in the country. However, Government constantly monitors the health of the textile sector with a view to ensure that the growth is not retarded in any manner. Modernisation is a continuous process and depending on the needs thrown up from time to time, Government takes appropriate steps through policy interventions.

Some of these steps are :

(1) Permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction in duty of such import to encourage import of sophisticated machinery.

(2) Setting up of computer aided design centres for promoting upgradation of quality designs in the powerloom sector.

(3) Taking up of research projects through Textile Research Associations to improve productive capabilities of the textile sector.

(4) Establishment of National Institutes of Fashion Technology and information about fashion trends in the industry.

(5) Liberalisation of licensing policy to encourage setting up of new units.

(6) To facilitate easy access of import of machinery Government has formulated an EPCG scheme and 100% Export Oriented Scheme.

ILO Aid for Child Labour

913. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has offered an aid for eradication of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereon; and

(c) the details of funds received from the ILO during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). As part of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the ILO, India has been participating in the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since 1992. For the two biennia 1992-93 and 1994-95, the allocation for India under IPEC was USD 3,651,148. This amount is being utilised by the ILO in consultation with the Government of India to, inter alia, sensitize employers and employees against child labour and also for direct support projects benefiting around 70,000 child labourers so far.

In addition, the Government's efforts to tackle the child labour problem have also been assisted through an ILO Project, the "Child Labour Action & Support Programme" (CLASP) for which an amount of USD 830,392 has been earmarked for 1992-1995.

[Translation]

Expansion of Jamshedpur Airport

914. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal of expansion of airport at Jamshedpur in Bihar has been lying pending since long;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) by when this airport is likely to become operative after the completion of expansion work and the reasons for delay in executing this work; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this expansion work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) . The Jamshedpur airport belongs to Tata Iron and Steel Company. Airport Authority of India has no plan to upgrade this airport.

[English]

Export of Skirts to U. S.

915. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the differences of the U. S. Government over the import of Indian garments especially skirts to that country have been settled down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other country has raised any objections to the imports of Indian garments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) . During 1995, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, a statutory body, had tested various kinds of rayon apparel items imported from India as a follow up to the measures initiated last year to check the imports of quickly flammable skirts made of 100% sheer rayon chiffon. The Commission had found that the rayon skirts, blouses and dresses being exported from India were meeting US

flammability standards. However, they had found a deficiency in respect of 100% sheer rayon scarves.

Department of Health, Canada had also recently conducted flammability tests for certain 100% rayon items imported from India. A few blouses and skirts and some scarves were found not to be conforming to the flammability standards of Canada.

On receipt of this information, the Apparel Export Promotion Council was instructed to give endorsement on the shipping bills of 100% rayon chiffon apparel items being exported to the USA and Canada only on production of a flammability test certificate issued by one of the notified laboratories stating that the items conformed to the flammability standards of the importing country.

Import of Natural Rubber

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

(a) the total quantity of natural rubber and other type of rubber imported and the foreign exchange incurred thereon during 1994 and 1995 till date;

(b) whether the Government have allowed for more import of rubber during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the import of sanctioned quantity of rubber has not been accrued by the importers;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f) . The total quantity of rubber imported during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto Aug., 1995) and the foreign exchange outflow thereon are as under :-

	1994-95 (Apr-Mar.)		1995-96 (Apr.- Aug. 95)	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	Rupee equivalent Of foreign exchange outflow (Rs./Crores)	Quantity (Tonnes).	Rupee equivalent of Foreign exchange Outflow (Rs/Crores)
Natural Rubber	7,305	24.85	33,443	183.52
Synthetic Rubber &	76,617	343.75	29,318	165.81
Reclaimed Rubber :- (Source : Rubber Board)				

Govt. permitted duty free import of 38,450 tonnes of natural rubber to the rubber manufacturers during the lean season of 1995 in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply. However, within the prescribed time limit of 31st August, 1995, a total quantity of 33,443 tonnes of rubber has been imported by various manufacturers. This quantity includes imports under Special Import Licence. Since the lean production season is over, no further import of rubber is contemplated at present.

Export to Gulf Countries

917. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of trade transacted between India and Gulf countries during each of the last three years; and

(b) the value of trade in foreign exchange likely to be increased with the Gulf Countries during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total value of trade transacted between India and Gulf Countries (namely, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E., and Oman) was Rs. 17623.97 crore during 1992-93, Rs. 21499.43 crore during 1993-94, and Rs. 25453.85 crore during 1994-95.

(b) The value of trade between India and the above countries for the first six months of the current financial year 1995-96 is Rs. 14043.83 crore, or US \$ 4426.31 million. This represents an increase of 21.48% in rupee terms and 20.11% in dollar terms, over the corresponding period of the previous financial year 1994-95. It is expected that a similar or even slightly accelerated, trend of growth would continue in the coming months. However, it is not possible to suggest any specific value for trade during 1995-96 or 1996-97.

Modernisation of Indore Airport

918. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan of the Government to modernise the Indore Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) . Airports Authority of India is developing Indore airport as a model airport and is under taking following works:-

- Extension of runway to 7500 ft.
- Construction of Technical Block - cum - Control Tower.
- Expansion of Terminal Building.
- Installation of Instrument Landing System, Distance Measuring Equipment and X-Ray Baggage System.

[Translation]

Income Tax Raids

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

(a) the details of raids carried out by the Income-tax Department particularly at the residences of bank officials recently;

(b) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check income-tax evasion in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The Income-tax Department executed 1918 warrants of search during the period 1.4.95 to 31.10.95 and seized assets worth Rs. 155.24 crores. These included *inter-alia* search at the residence of two bank officials.

(b) Necessary action as per Direct Tax Laws has been taken against the guilty persons.

(c) The Government have been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures from time to time, to curb the generation and growth of black money. Rate of taxation has been progressively rationalised. The Income-tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions aimed at combating tax evasion. These include, *inter-alia*, provisions regarding compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in appropriate cases under section 44AA and 44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under section 40A (3), 269SS and 269T, pre-emptive purchase of properties under Chapter XXC and provisions regarding penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters. The Act also empowers conduct of surveys, searches and other investigations to detect tax evasion. These provisions are resorted to in appropriate cases.

[English]

Sick Public Sector Undertakings

920. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to revive sick Public Sector Undertakings by BIFR;

(b) whether the employees in sick Public Sector Undertakings are proposed to be given bonus and better pay scales facilities;

(c) the number of Public Sector Undertakings where long terms wage settlements are pending; and

(d) the steps taken to have long term wage settlements in the above Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) were brought under the purview of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) in December 1991 whereby it is mandatory for sick PSUs to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Section 15 (1) of SICA. The references received are dealt with by the BIFR under the provisions of the said Act. The BIFR formulates a revival scheme incorporating reliefs/concessions/sacrifices, provision of additional funds, etc. By the administrative ministry or the State Government, banks/financial institutions, workers, etc. wherever feasible and sanctions a revival schemes under SICA with the consent of all concerned. The sanctioned scheme takes into account modernisation, rehabilitation and long term viability of the concerned PSU.

BIFR has reported that as on 30.09.1995, 135 cases of PSUs were registered with it. The break up is as follows :

	Central	State	Total
1. References registered	57	78	135
2. Dismissed as non-maintainable	2	23	25
3. Under enquiry	25	25	50
4. Rehabilitation schemes approved/sanctioned	12*	13*	25
5. Winding up recommended to the concerned High Courts	5	6	11
6. Winding up notice issued	4	6	10
7. Draft scheme circulated	9	5	14

*Includes 2 PSUs (one Central & one State) declared no longer sick.

(b) to (d). Government have, on 19th July, 1995 issued guidelines on pay revision for Board level and below Board level executives of PSUs. As per the present procedure, PSUs which have been referred to the BIFR would not be allowed the benefit of revised scales of pay for both Board level and below Board level executives and non-unionised supervisors until the verdict of BIFR is available. As regards payment of bonus to the employees of these sick PSUs, the provisions of Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, as amended from time to time, shall apply.

It may be further added that Government have given full autonomy to the PSUs for entering into long term settlements with the workers' representatives in the matter of wages. The managements of such PSUs are responsible to hold negotiations on pay and perks. Information on the number of PSUs where such settlements have taken place is not available.

Private Buildings on Hire.

921. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) :

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private buildings taken on hire by his Ministry;

(b) the annual amount of rent so paid;

(c) the number of letters received about getting those premises vacated on the expiry of lease deed, for not enhancing the rent agreed upon initially and on the construction of Government buildings;

(d) if so, the action taken on such letters;

(e) the number of buildings that have been constructed by his Ministry and the reasons for vacating the hired buildings; and

(f) the steps taken to vacate the hired buildings upon completion of lease deed and to increase the rent where asked for?

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

Opening of Insurance and Banking Sector Under W.T.O.

922. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his recent visit to France has made a statement that India would abide by the Commitment made to the world Trade Organisation (WTO) in respect of Intellectual

Property Rights and gradually do away with the quota system;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also announced that banking and insurance sectors would also be thrown open in due course; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) . While interacting with Indian and French industry representatives at Paris, the Prime Minister had, *inter-alia*, clarified the status of our policy concerning India's fulfilment of obligations under WTO, consumer goods imports and reform of the insurance sector. On import policy he stated that the process of moving away from quantitative restrictions on consumer goods will take time because our priority at present is the liberalisation of imports for the Infrastructure sectors. on insurance, the Prime Minister stated this is a matter on which some gradualness is needed.

The statements made by the Prime Minister are entirely consistent with the stand taken by the Government in Parliament

[Translation]

EPF/ESI Defaulter

923. SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defaulter institutions which have not deposited amount in the Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance Scheme during each of the last three years in the country specially in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of such defaulter institutions and the outstanding amount against each of them;

(c) the action taken against such institutions; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to realise the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) As on 31.3.1995 an amount of Rs. 347 crore was outstanding on account of the EPF dues

and an amount of Rs. 240.76 crore on account of the ESI dues. As number of the defaulters is quite large it is somewhat difficult to furnish individual details.

(c) and (d) . Necessary legal and Penal action as provided under the Employee State Insurance Act, 1948 and the Employees; Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and also under Section 406/409 of the IPC is already being taken to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

STATEMENT

Year	Total defaulters in the country	
	EPF defaulter	ESI default cases
1992-93	10742	1858
1993-94	11659	2701
1994-95	11836	2969

Total defaulters in the Madhya Pradesh region

	EPF defaulter	ESI default cases
1992-93	662	134
1993-94	693	218
1994-95	667	204

[English]

Census Commissioner for Beedi Workers

924. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a Census Commissioner for beedi workers on a full-time basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the manner in which Government monitor the welfare of lakhs of beedi workers;

(d) whether Labour Ministry regularly monitors

the level of employment and unemployment among beedi workers: and

(e) if so, the machinery used to assist employment level amongst beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) . No, Sir.

(c) Director General (Labour Welfare) through Nine Regional Welfare Commissioners monitors the welfare measures for beedi workers in the Country.

(d) and (e) . Labour Bureau, Simla is undertaking necessary studies/surveys from time to time in this regard.

IMF Observations

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

(a) whether the Managing Director International Monetary Fund. Mr. Michal Camdessus had lately cautioned the Union Government against the risk of debt-spiral;

(b) if so, in what precise context did the IMF warning come; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) was commenting of India's growth prospects in his customary Press Conference preceding the Annual Meeting of the Interim Committee of the IMF in October 1995. The context in which the Managing Director made the statement was that Indian economy is performing well and India can achieve the high growth rates as reached in countries of East Asia provided it continues with further fiscal consolidation. Failing this, too much of burden would be put on monetary policy in controlling inflationary pressures that runs the risk of a debt-spiral in the end.

(c) Government is aware of the need for further fiscal consolidation and this was highlighted by the Finance Minister as the foremost task while presenting the Union Budget in 1995-96 in the Parliament. As the Managing Director of IMF himself stated, India is presently not in a worrisome situation. The Government is taking all possible steps to contain the fiscal deficit and guard against the possibility of a debt-spiral.

Employment in Beedi Sector

926. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to commission a study on employment levels of workers in the beedi and tobacco sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) . The Ministry of Health have appointed an Expert Committee to go into the different aspects of tobacco use including employment aspect.

New Guidelines for Overseas Venture Capital Investments

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

(a) whether the Government have issued any New guidelines for overseas Venture Capital investments empowering the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to register and Regulate Venture Capital Companies (VCCs) and Venture Capital Fund (VCFs) ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir. New guidelines for overseas Venture Capital Investments in India have been announced by the Government on 20th September 1995. As per these guidelines, after obtaining an one time approval from the Government, Offshore investors may invest upto 100% of the capital of approved domestic Venture Capital Funds (VCFs)/Venture Capital Companies (VCCs) subject to certain conditions which include *interalia*;

i) A minimum lock-in period of three years will be applicable to all such investments.

ii) VCFs and VCCs shall invest only in unlisted companies and their investment shall be limited to 40% of the paid up capital of the company. The ceiling will be subject to relevant equity investment limits that may be in force from time to time in relation to areas reserved for the Small Scale Sector.

iii) Investment in any single company by a VCF/VCC shall not exceed 5% of the paid up corpus of the domestic VCF/VCCs.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been empowered to register and regulate the VCFs/VGGS, through specific regulations.

Profit/Loss by NTC Mills

928. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss incurred by the CANNANORE Spinning and Weaving Mills, Cannanore and its subsidiary Mahe Spinning and Weaving Mills, Mahe Under NTC during the last three years;

(b) whether those mills are facing crisis due to non-availability of raw materials;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps by the NTC to tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) the profit/loss suffered by Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills, Mahe during the last three years is as follows :-

Name of the Mills	Profit/Loss (Rs. in Crores)		
	92-93	93-94	94-95
1) Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills. Cannanore.	-0.73	-0.56	0.07
2) Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. mills, Mahe	-0.35	0.88	0.32

(b) No, Sir.

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

Seized Indian Teakwood

929. SHRI SOMJI BHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Customs in North East Region JDRI Calcutta has seized Indian

Teakwood despite valid transit permit issued by the State Forest Department of Manipur/Nagaland;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of the teak growing areas in bordering State to avoid seizure by the customs under the pretext of Burma teak;

(d) whether the Government propose to consult the State Government to streamline the system to regulate teakwood trade in proper manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Modification of Airports

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

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India is modifying the airports of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of such airports; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent for each airport?

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

Major projects envisaged during the 8th Five Year Plan include the following :-

(i) Modernisation of air traffic control services at Bombay and Delhi airports at a cost of Rs. 351.87 crores.

(ii) Procurement of Airport Surveillance Radars and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars at a cost of Rs. 193.35 crores.

(iii) Procurement of Instrument Landing Systems at a cost of Rs. 24.35 crores.

(iv) Development of Model airports at a cost of Rs. 336.63 crores.

(v) Construction of International Passenger Terminal Complex (Phase-III) at Bombay airport at a cost of Rs. 105.49 crores.

(vi) Construction of Domestic Terminal complex (phase-II) at Bombay airport at a cost of Rs. 126 crores.

Indo-US Business Alliance

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

(a) whether an American business delegation has visited the country to promote Indo-US Business Alliance;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed with them and the sectors in which interest has been shown by American business team thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) . The Indo-US Commercial Alliance was launched on 16th January, 1995 during the visit of Mr. Ronald H. Brown, Commerce Secretary of USA alongwith a business delegation. No American business delegation has visited India under the aegis of the Alliance since January, 1995. The Alliance has identified Agri Business, Information Technology, Power and Transportation Infrastructure as thrust sectors for increasing Indo-US Commercial Cooperation. Intensification of private sector business interaction is likely to lead to further expansion of bilateral trade.

Posts of Commercial Representatives With Diplomatic Status

932. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Mission/Posts which have full-time Commercial Representatives with diplomatic status;

(b) the name of other Missions/Posts in which another diplomatic officer of the Mission, under the Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs, looks after the economic and commercial work of the Mission, with the diplomatic status of the officer concerned;

(c) the details of proposal under consideration for the creation of posts of Commercial Representatives as on April 1, 1995;

(d) whether other autonomous Corporations, Boards and Authorities under his Ministry maintain offices in foreign countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) At present, there are 66 Commercial Missions abroad borne on the Budget of the Ministry of Commerce which have full-time Commercial Representatives. Generally, all posts of and above the level of Attache in these Missions/Posts enjoy diplomatic status. Details of these Missions/Posts are given in the attached **statement -I**.

(b) As of May, 1995, there are 119 Missions and 29 Posts under the Budget of the Ministry of External Affairs which are operative in different countries. Except those Missions/Posts where there are full fledged Commercial representatives under the Ministry of Commerce, in all other missions/posts the economic and commercial work is looked after by diplomatic officers of the Ministry of External Affairs. List of Missions/Posts is given in the attached **Statement -II**.

(c) The Ministry of Commerce is in correspondence with the Ministry of External Affairs for reorganisation/re deployment of the Commercial Missions including abolition, upgradation and creation of Commercial posts.

(d) and (e) . The names of the organisations under the Ministry of Commerce, which maintain offices in foreign countries are given in the attached **Statement -III**.

STATEMENT - I

List of Commercial Missions Abroad

Sl.No.	Name of the Mission	Country
1	2	3
1.	High Commission of India, Accra.	Ghana
2.	Embassy of India, Addis Ababa.	Ethiopia
3.	Consulate General of India, Johannesburg.	South Africa
4.	Embassy of India, Algiers.	Algeria
5.	Embassy of India, Amman.	Jordan
6.	Embassy of India, Athens.	Greece
7.	Embassy of India, Baghdad.	Iraq
8.	Embassy of India, Bahrain.	Bahrain
9.	Embassy of India, Bangkok.	Thailand
10.	Embassy of India, Belgrade.	Yugoslavia
11.	Embassy of India, Bucharest.	Rumania
12.	Embassy of India, Budapest.	Hungary
13.	Embassy of India, Bonn.	Germany
14.	Embassy of India, Brussels.	Belgium
15.	Embassy of India, Berne.	Switzerland
16.	Embassy of India, Cairo.	Egypt
17.	High Commission of India, Colombo.	Sri Lanka
18.	Embassy of India, Copenhagen.	Denmark
19.	Embassy of India, Jakarta.	Indonesia
20.	Embassy of India, Dakar.	Senegal
21.	Embassy of India, Damascus.	Syria
22.	High Commission of India, Dar-es-Salaam.	Tanzania
23.	High Commission of India, Dhaka.	Bangladesh

1	2	3
24.	Consulate General of India, Frankfurt.	Germany
25.	Embassy of India, The Hague.	Netherlands
26.	Consulate General of India, Hamburg.	Germany
27.	Commission of India, Hong Kong.	Hong Kong
28.	Consulate General of India, Jeddah.	Saudi Arabia
29.	High Commission of India, Kampala.	Uganda
30.	Embassy of India, Khartoum.	Sudan
31.	Embassy of India, Kathmandu.	Nepal
32.	High Commission of India, Lagos.	Nigeria
33.	High Commission of India, London.	United Kindom
34.	Embassy of India, Rome.	Italy
35.	Embassy of India, Rabat.	Morocco
36.	Consulate General of India, San Francisco.	U. S. A.
37.	High Commission of India, Lusaka.	Zambia
38.	Embassy of India, Manila.	Phillippines
39.	Embassy of India, Moscow.	Russia
40.	High Commission of India, Nairobi.	Kenya
41.	Consulate General of India, New York	U. S. A.
42.	Embassy of India, Paris.	France
43.	Consulate General of India, Toronto.	Canada
44.	High Commission of India, Port Louis.	Mauritius
45.	Embassy of India, Prague.	Czech Republic
46.	Embassy of India, Yangoon.	Myanmar
47.	Embassy of India, Riyadh.	Saudi Arabia
48.	Embassy of India, Seoul.	Korea (South)
49.	Consulate General of India, Sydney.	Australia
50.	Embassy of India, Stockholm.	Sweden

1	2	3
51.	Embassy of India, Tunis.	Tunisia
52.	Embassy of India, Tokyo.	Japan
53.	Embassy of India, Tehran.	Iran
54.	Embassy of India, Tripoli.	Libya
55.	Consulate General of India, Vancouver.	Canada
56.	Embassy of India, Washington.	U. S. A.
57.	Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi.	United Arab Emirates.
58.	Permanent Mission of India, Geneva.	Switzerland
59.	Office of Embassy of India, Berlin.	Germany
60.	Embassy of India, Sofia.	Bulgaria.
61.	Embassy of India, Kuwait.	Kuwait
62.	Embassy of India, Muscat.	Oman
63.	High Commission of India, Singapore.	Singapore
64.	High Commission of India, Islamabad.	Pakistan
65.	Embassy of India, Sanna.	Yemen
66.	Embassy of India, Warsaw.	Poland

STATEMENT - II*List Of Missions And Posts
Embassies Of India*

1	2	3
1	Abidjan	Ivory
2	Abu Dhabi	United Arab Emirates
3	Addis Abada	Ethiopia
4	Algiers	Algeria
5	Almaty	Kazakhstan
6	Amman	Jordan
7	Ankara	Turkey

1	2	3
8	Antananarivo	Madagascar
9	Ashkhabad	Turkmenistan
10	Athens	Greece
11	Baghdad	Iraq
12	Bahrain	Bahrain
13	Bangkok	Thailand
14	Beijing	China
15	Beirut	Lebanon
16	Belgrade	Yugoslavia

1	2	3	1	2	3
17	Berne	Switzerland	45	Luanda	Angola
18	Bishkek	Kyrgyzstan	46	Madrid	Spain
19	Bogota	Colombia	47	Manila	Philippines
20	Bonn	Germany	48	Maputo	Mozambique
21	Brasilia	Brazil	49	Mexico City	Mexico
22	Brussels	Belgium	50	Minsk	Belarus
23	Bucharest	Romania	51	Moscow	Russia
24	Budapest	Hungary	52	Muscat	Oman
25	Buenos Aires	Argentina	53	Oslo	Norway
26	Cairo	Egypt	54	Panama	Panama
27	Caracas	Venezuela	55	Paramaribo	Suriname
28	Copenhagen	Denmark	56	Paris	France
29	Dakar	Senegal	57	Phnom Penh	Cambodia
30	Damascus	Syria	58	Prague	Czech Republic
31	Doha	Qatar	59	Pyongyang	Korea (North)
32	Dublin	Ireland	60	Rabat	Morocco
33	Dushanbe	Tajikistan	61	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia
34	Hanoi	Vietnam	62	Rome	Italy
35	Havana	Cuba	63	Sanaa	Yemen
36	Helsinki	Finland	64	Santiago	Chile
37	Jakarta	Indonesia	65	Seoul	Korea (South)
38	Kabul	Afghanistan	66	Sofia	Bulgaria
39	Kathmandu	Nepal	67	Stockholm	Sweden
40	Khartoum	Sudan	68	Tashkent	Uzbekistan
41	Kiev	Ukraine	69	Tehran	Iran
42	Kuwait	Kuwait	70	Tel Aviv	Israel
43	Lima	Peru	71	The Hague	Netherlands
44	Lisbon	Portugal	72	Thimphu	Bhutan

1	2	3
73	Tokyo	Japan
74	Tripoli	Libya
75	Tunis	Tunisia
76	Ulan Bator	Mongolia
77	Vienna	Austria
78	Vientiane	Laos
79	Warsaw	Poland
80	Washington	United States of America
81	Yangon	Myanmar
	<i>High Commission Of India</i>	
1	Accra	Ghana
2	Bander Seri Begawan	Brunei
3	Canberra	Australia
4	Colombo	Sri Lanka
5	Dar-es-Salaam	Tanzania
6	Dhaka	Bangladesh
7	Gabarone	Botswana
8	Georgetown	Guyana
9	Harare	Zimbabwe
10	Islamabad	Pakistan
11	Kampala	Uganda
12	Kingston	Jamaica
13	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia
14	Lagos	Nigeria
15	London	United Kingdom
16	Lusaka	Zambia
17	Mahe	Seychelles
18	Male	Maldives

1	2	3
19	Malta	Malta
20	Nairobi	Kenya
21	Nicosia	Cyprus
22	Ottawa	Canada
23	Port Louis	Mauritius
24	Port of Spain	Trinidad and Tobago
25	Pretoria	South Africa
26	Singapore	Singapore
27	Wellington	New Zealand
28	Windhoek	Namibia
	<i>Consulates General Of India</i>	
1	Birmingham	U.K.
2	Chiangmai	Thailand
3	Chicago	United States of America
4	Dubai	UAE
5	Durban	South Africa
6	Frankfurt	Germany
7	Geneva	Switzerland
8	Hamburg	Germany
9	Ho-Chi-Minh-City	Vietnam
10	Istanbul	Turkey
11	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia
12	Johannesburg	South Africa
13	Medan	Indonesia
14	Milan	Italy
15	New York	United States of America
16	Odessa	Ukraine
17	Osaka-kobe	Japan

1	2	3
18	Port Said	Egypt
19	Reunion Islands	France
20	San Francisco	United States of America
21	Shanghai	China
22	Shiraz	Iran
23	St. Petersburg	Russai
24	Sydney	Australia
25	Toronto	Canada
26	Vancouver	Canada
27	Vladivostok	Russia
28	Zahidan	Iran
29	Zanzibar	Tenzania

1	2	3
<i>Assistant High Commission Of India</i>		
1	Chittatgong	Bangladesh
2	Kandy	Sri Lanka
3	Rajshahi	Bangladesh
<i>Assistant High Commision Of India</i>		
1	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
2	Mombasa	Kenya
<i>SPECIAL MISSIONS OF INDIA</i>		
1	Berlin(off of EI)	Germany
2	Geneva (PMI)	Switzerland
3	New York (PMI)	United States of America
4	Paris (UNESCO (PDI))	France
5	Phuntsholing (LO)	Bhutan

STATEMENT -III*Foreign Offices of the Organisations Under Ministry of Commerce*

NAME OF ORGANISATION		LOCATION	ADDRESS
1	2	3	4
1. STATE TRADING CORPORATION (STC)	1. NEW YORK	445, PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK	
	2. MOSCOW	LOCATED WITHIN INDIAN EMBASSY (EMBASSY OF INDIA, 6-8 ULITSA OBUKHA, MOSCOW)	
	3. SINGAPORE	9, PENNING ROAD, 08-09, PARK MALL, SINGAPORE 923.	
	4. FRANKFURT	INDIA HOUSE, MITTLEWAG-49 D-6000, FRANKFURT AM MAIN 1.	
	5. DQBAI	1706, DUBAI TOWER P. O. BOX NO. 2, JAMAL ABDUL, NASIR SQUARE DEIRA, DUBAI.	
2. INDIA TRADE	1. NEW YORK	445, PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK PROMOTION ORGANISATION (ITPO)	
	2. TOKYO	TOMOECHO ANEX, 5TH FLOOR	

1	2	3	4
			3-8-26, TORANDMON, MINATOKU, TOKYO-125 PO BOX NO. 2415 (UAE)
3. TEA BOARD	3. DUBAI	1. NEW YORK 2. MOSCOW	445, PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK LOCATED WITHIN INDIAN EMBASSY (EMBASSY OF INDIA, 6-8, ULITSA OBUKHA, MOSCOW)
		3. DUBAI	P. O. BOX NO. 2415, DUBAI
4. MINERAL AND METALS TRADING CORPORATION (MMTC)	1. NEW YORK 2. MOSCOW 3. SINGAPORE 4. TOKYO	1, PENNPLAZA, SHUIT NO. 1524, NEW YORK HOTEL YUSHANAYA, ROOM NO. 171-174, 87, LENINSKY, PROSPEKT. MOSCOW-117313. 20, CLECIAL STREET, NO. 14-03/04, THE EXCHANGE, SINGAPORE 0104. MITSUMI BILDG., 6TH FLOOR 1-8-10, NIHOMBASHI HORIDOME -CHO CHOU-KU-TOKYO-103.	
	5. BERLIN 6. DUBAI 7. JORDAN	DUSSELOURFER STRASSE-40 10707 BERLIN PROPOSED TRADING BRANCH OFFICE AT JABEL ALI FREE ZONE ON DUBAI. P. O. BOX 925067, SHAMI PLAZA BLDG., SHMEISSANI, AMMAN.	
5. MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. (MPEDA)	1. NEW YORK 2. TOKYO	17, BATTERY PLACE, ROOM NO. 227 2ND FLOOR, NEW YORK. DALICHI MARUTAKA BLDG., 6TH FLOOR GINNE-CHOME. CHOU-KU, TOKYO-124.	
6. PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT CORPORATION (P.E.C.)	1. MOSCOW	LOCATED WITHIN INDIAN EMBASSY EMBASSY OF INDIA, 6-8, ULITSA OBUKHA, MOSCOW)	

Interest Rates on Loans Under P.M.R.Y.

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

(a) whether the loans given to the educated unemployed youths under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana carry an interest at the rate of 14%;

(b) if so, how does this rate of interest compare with other corresponding rates under various other social welfare and employment schemes;

(c) whether complaints or representations have been received against the high rate of interest under the P. M.R.Y.;

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

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the impacts of this high rate of interest on the new small entrepreneur and unemployed youths; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Loans under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) carry interest as per the directives on interest rates issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. The entrepreneur has to contribute 5% of the Project Cost as margin money and 95% would be given as loan by bank on prevailing rates of interests. The same rate of interest is being charged under other Social Welfare Schemes except for the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme and the Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers where Banks are charging 4% rate of interest.

(c) to (f). General complaints have been received about some aspects of implementation of the Scheme and only a few relate to the high rate of interest being charged under the Scheme. According to the information available, the rate of interest charged under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) Scheme is generally not a disincentive for seeking assistance under the Scheme.

Ratnagiri and Redi Ports for Exports

934. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ratnagiri and Redi Ports have potential for exports in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether in relation to the industrialisation, action is being taken to convert these ports into export ports;

(c) whether there is any demand for exporting fish, fruits, cement, pipes and other items through these ports; and

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

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

(c) Government is not aware of any specific demand for the development of export potential of these ports for these items.

(d) Action on development of these ports being minor ports, is under the purview of the State Government .

Mine Accidents

935. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons died in mine accident during the last three years;

(b) the number of officials found responsible for these accidents; and

(c) the punitive action taken against those officials who were found responsible for these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI B. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The number of persons who died in mine accidents during 1992, 1993 and 1994 is 261, 249 and 300 respectively.

(b) The number of officials found responsible for these accidents during 1992, 1993 and 1994 was 391, 370 and 350 respectively.

(c) Punitive action was taken against officials who were found responsible for these accidents, both by the mine management and the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS). Action taken by management included warnings, withholding of increments, transfer, fine, suspension, removal from service etc. Action taken by DGMS included warnings, suspension/cancellation of statutory certificate, prosecution, etc.

Import Duty Exemption to Small Scale Industry

936. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt certain items of small scale industries from import duties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) At present, there is no such proposal, under consideration of the Government

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

Reduction in Government Employment

937. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission in regard to exploring viable methods of reducing the strength of Government employee have been received and considered;

(b) if so, the number of posts of Secretaries, Additional Secretaries before and after finalisation of recommendation of the Commission; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Revival of Licences in Delhi

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jagatjit Industries ke Licence ka chupchap navikaran - Mukhyamantri aur vitt mantri par karoron ki ghoos lene kaa aarop" Idhar Licence mila, Udhar saraab pakri gai" appearing in the 'Jansatta' on October 20, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether there is any proposal to ask the C.B.I. to undertake the investigation of the matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No such news-item appeared in Jansatta dated 20.10.1995.

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

Smuggling of Heroin

939. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether number of Europeans being nabbed at airports for smuggling of heroin to European countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the enforcement agencies to nab the European couriers regularly to check narcotics trade in view of change in drug trafficking trends recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) According to available information, during the year 1995, seven European nationals were arrested at airports for attempted smuggling of heroin to European countries.

(b) India has bilateral agreements with many countries in order to effectively address all aspects of drugs problem. Excellent cooperation is maintained with international agencies involved in combating drug trafficking. Instructions have been issued to all enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up efforts under the stringent provisions contained in the NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness.

Payment of Wages to Workers

940. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the payment of wages to the workers is being made regularly and timely in all the public sector Units including those which are sick/losing or referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction as had been assured by the Finance Minister time and again;

(b) if not, the names and locations of such units and the number of the workers Unit-wise where payment has not been made timely and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which all arrear payments to the deprived workers is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) This Ministry has been agreeing to provide Non-plan support to sick public sector companies which are not being closed but are proposed to be revived, to meet the shortfall in their resources for payment of salaries and wages to their employees, in order to

save them from hardship. The proposals in this aspect are forwarded by the Ministries/Departments administratively concerned with the PSEs.

(b) and (c) . Timely disbursement of salaries and wages to their employees is primarily the responsibility of the public sector units, which have a corporate status of their own outside the Government. They approach their subject Ministries/Departments in the first instance whenever there is an occurrence of shortfall in their resources for payment of these obligatory dues by them. The Ministries/Departments concerned in turn go into the merit of the requests as also availability of sanctioned provision for the purpose in the relevant Grant and thereafter make their recommendations to the Ministry of Finance. If funds are not available in the Grant, supplementary grants are obtained to provide the necessary budgetary support. There may be time lags from the companies sending their proposal and the Government finally providing the budgetary support as the procedural details stated above cannot be bypassed. These cases are, however, processed with utmost expedition in the Government.

Loss Due to Flood

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the heavy losses of crops, damages of properties etc. due to recent floods in 10 districts of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to cancel the Bank loans of the victims of the flood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The Government is aware of the heavy loss of crops, damage of property etc. on account of recent floods in some of the districts of West Bengal.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its instructions dated 2nd August, 1984 issued standing guidelines to be followed by the banks for providing relief to areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines have been issued to enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide the financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units, artisans, small business and trading establishments affected by natural calamities. These guidelines envisage interalia :

i) Conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans;

ii) Rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalment.

iii) Provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital;

iv) Relaxation in security and margin norms;

The extant guidelines of RBI do not provide for waiver or write off of loans because of floods.

Export of Electronics and Computer Software

942. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any record increase in India's export of electronics and computer hardware and software during each of the last three years including the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) the details of the countries to which the above items are exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) . The increase in India's export of electronics, computer Hardware and Software and the Foreign Exchange earned during each of the last 3 years including the first six months of the current financial year are given below:-

Year	Export* (VS \$ Min.)
1992-93	695.79
1993-94	800.32
1994-95	1228.39
Apr-Sep '95	750.16

* includes VSNL services

(Source, *Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council*)

The countries areas to which export of these items are made include North America, Latin America, EC Countries, Non-EC Countries, Russia, CIS Countries, African Countries, West Asia, South-East Asia, etc.

(c) The various steps taken to boost the exports of these products include participation in exclusive Indian shows/international exhibitions, sponsoring of market surveys, etc. Besides the general measures taken to boost export include introduction of Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme and Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme, reduction in tariff level on import of machinery, Computer software, and other inputs, etc.

Inflation Rates

943. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been fluctuation in the rate of inflation recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rate of inflation both in terms of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index, month-wise during each of the last nine months;

(d) how does it compare with these of October, 1992 to June, 1993; and

(e) the measure/taken by the Government to stabilise the rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Gradual deceleration in the growth of prices has brought down the rate of inflation from 10.4 per cent at the close of financial year 1994-95 to 8.2 percent by the second week of November 1995.

(c) and (d) . The position of annual inflation rate in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and consumer Price Index for industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for the last nine months is listed below together with comparative figures for October, 1992 to June, 1993.

1	Annual Inflation rates (%)		Month	Annual Inflation rates (%)	
	WPI (1981-82)	CPI-IW (1982)		WPI (1981-82)	CPI-IW (1982)
2		3	4	5	6
Feb, 95	11.7	9.8	Oct. 92	10.6	9.4
Mar, "	12.2	9.7	Nov. "	9.1	8.4
Apr, "	10.0	9.7	Dec. "	8.5	8.0
May "	9.9	10.3	Jan. 93	7.6	5.7
June "	9.1	10.5	Feb. "	7.6	5.7
July "	8.4	11.4	Mar. "	7.1	6.1
Aug. "	8.8	10.9	Apr. "	6.9	6.1
Sept. "	8.6	10.1	May "	6.9	5.1
Oct. "	8.3	Not	June "	7.0	5.9
Nov. 11 "	8.2	Released			

(e) Some of the steps taken by the Government to moderate the growth of prices are:

1. Continuation of FCI 's open market sale of rice and wheat through 1995-96 to check market price. By October, 1995 10.30 lakh tonnes of rice and 17.39 lakh tonnes of wheat had been sold.

2. Allowing import of edible oils (except coconut oil) under OGL at a reduced duty of 30%.

3. Importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of palmolein at concessional duty of 20% for supply through PDS.

4. Continuing OGL import policy for sugar and allowing import of 2 lakh tonnes for augmenting PDS stocks.

5. Increased allocation of levy sugar for PDS effective August, 1995.

6. Pulses import under OGL with duty reduced to 5%.

7. Adjustment in trade and tariff policies in the Budget for current year to ensure that domestic prices of industrial products remain competitive.

8. Substantial reduction in excise duties on a number of items is expected to accelerate the pace of industrial revival and raise industrial growth.

9. Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget proposals for current financial year to 5.5 per cent of GDP as against 6.7 percent in the last financial year.

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

Strengthening of public distribution system and supplementing supplies if necessary by imports would be given top priority. Large foreign exchange reserves would enable the Government to arrange imports, if needed, to check any rise in the prices of some of the essential commodities.

[Translation]

Study to Assess Black Money

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

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a study afresh to assess the black money in the Country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the black money in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) . There is, at present, no proposal before the Government to undertake a study to assess the black money in the country. It is, however, the view of the Government that a reasonable tax regime coupled with strict enforcement of existing laws should lead to better tax yield and concomitant reduction/elimination of black money.

[Translation]

Purchasing Power of Rupee

945. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the purchasing power of rupee is constantly declining in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the purchasing power of rupee had come down to the level of 31.95 paise in the month of July, 1995;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to stabilise the purchasing power of rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . The variation in purchasing power of rupee, measured as reciprocal of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) during the last three years is listed below:

Purchasing Power of Rupee

1992-93	41.67 paise
1993-94	38.76 "
1994-95	35.21 "

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The purchasing power of the rupee declines as the index of consumer prices rises. Some of the important steps taken to moderate the rise in the prices are:

1. Continuation of FCI's open market sale of rice and wheat through 1995-96 to check market price. By October, 1995 10.30 lakh tonnes of rice and 17.39 lakh tonnes of wheat had been sold.

2. Allowing import of edible oils (except coconut oil) under OGL at a reduced duty of 30%.

3. Importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of palmolein at concessional duty of 20% for supply through PDS.

4. Continuing OGL import policy for sugar and allowing import of 2 lakh tonnes for augmenting PDS stocks.

5. Increased allocation of levy sugar for PDS effective August, 1995.

6. Pulses import under OGL with duty reduced to 5%.

7. Adjustment in trade and tariff policies in the Budget for current year to ensure that domestic prices of industrial products remain competitive.

8. Substantial reduction in excise duties on a number of items is expected to accelerate the pace of industrial revival and raise industrial growth.

9. Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget proposals for current financial year to 5.5 per cent of GDP as against 6.7 per cent in the last financial year.

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

Strengthening of public distribution system and supplementing supplies if necessary by imports would be given top priority. Large foreign exchange reserves would enable the Government to arrange imports, if needed, to check any rise in the prices of some of the essential commodities.

[English]

Amendment in Registration Act, 1908.

946. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1631 dated 24.3.95 and state :

(a) whether the views/comments of the State Governments/Union Territories administration regarding Section 28 and 30 (2) of the Registration Act, 1908 has since been received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) . The views/comments of 7 State Governments/Union territory Administrations on the proposal for the amendment/deletion of sub section (2) of section 30 of the Registration Act, 1908 have since been received. The comments/ views of 25 State Governments/Union territory Administrations are still awaited. A decision on the proposal would be taken by the Government as soon as the views/comments of all the State Governments/Union territory Administrations are received.

Child Labour

947. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL :

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

SHRI KUNJEE LAL :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child labourers in the country as per 1991 census State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) how does it compare with 1981 census;

(c) the steps taken by the Government during the last three years to tackle the problem of child labour;

(d) the details of the schemes prepared to rehabilitate the child labourers and also to eliminate child labour; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the purpose, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) . As per the 1981 census, the child labour population of the country was 13.65 million. The National Sample Survey, 43rd Round, 1987 put it at 17.02 million. The 1991 census data is yet to be released.

(c) Important steps taken by the Government for elimination of child labour are as under :-

(i) Organisation of a Workshop for Collectors from the most child labour endemic districts in the country.

(ii) Assistance of Rs. 6.65 crores to 133 districts in the country for awareness generation.

(iii) Assistance to 123 districts to carry out surveys to identify child labour engaged in hazardous occupations.

(iv) Meeting with Labour Ministers of 17 States on 2nd September, 1994 to discuss the elimination of child labour.

(v) Constitution of National Authority on Elimination of Child Labour on 26th September, 1994 under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister.

(vi) A detailed Circular on "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" was sent to all State Governments under the signature of Prime Minister.

(vii) Consultation with State Labour Ministers in the Eastern, Southern, Western and Northern regions regarding Modalities of Implementation of the child labour elimination Programme.

(viii) Re-Constitution of the Child Labour Advisory Board under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister.

(d) The National Child Labour Policy, 1987 envisages three action plans to rehabilitate child labour : (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focusing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and (iii) project-based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour, engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment. A major activity undertaken under the National Child Labour Projects is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipends etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are also being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

At present 75 National Child Labour Projects are under implementation in 11 States covering around 1,36,00 children.

(c) During the current financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs. 34.40 crores for programmes relating to elimination of child labour. State-wise allocation of funds are not made and the funds are released directly to the District Project Societies implementing National Child Labour Projects.

Bonus to Textiles Workers

948. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of State for TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to pay bonus to textile workers of the public sector undertakings as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated October 17, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (b).

Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 35.28 crores has been sanctioned towards payment of bonus to textile workers of sick Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Investment and Profit of ITDC

949. DR. (Shrimati) K. S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of investment made by ITDC on its enterprises in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years and names of places where these enterprises are situated at present;

(b) the total amount of net profit earned by the ITDC during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the ITDC has prepared new projects for development of its units in the above States;

(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) A statement is attached.

(b) The net profit earned by ITDC during last three years was as under :

Year	Net Profit	
	Before Tax	After Tax
	(Rs. in Crores)	
1992-93	10.05	10.05
1993-94	24.02	12.21
1994-95	43.17	28.36

(c) to (e). The Annual Plan proposals for 1995-96 do not include any specific new projects in the above States. The development of new projects/units by ITDC in various States depends upon a number of factors like tourism potential of the Centre, availability of infrastructural facilities, co-operation of the State Government, availability of suitable site on reasonable price, economic viability, inter-se priority, availability of resources etc.

STATEMENT

Unit-Wise Plan Expenditure Incurred By ITDC During the Last Three Years In The States Of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Orissa And Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	State	Name of the Unit/Projects	YEARS		
			1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
			(Rs. in lakhs)		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. TAMIL NADU	1. Hotel Madurai Ashok		6.85	5.82	4.10
	2. Duty Free Shop, Madras		0.50	0.13	-
	3. Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram		-	3.56	34.15
	4. Transport Unit, Madras		-	-	7.79
	Total :		7.035	9.51	46.04

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. MAHARASHTRA	1. Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	2.10	11.45	24.98	
	2. Duty Free Shop, Bombay	30.48	100.91	27.31	
	3. Transport Unit, Bombay	-	-	12.05	
	4. Transport Unit, Aurangabad	-	-	1.69	
	Total :	32.58	112.36	66.03	
3. ORISSA	1. Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneshwar	11.98	5.10	0.58	
4. ANDHRA PRADESH	- NIL -	-	-	-	

Operation of Mini Air Services

950. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate mini air services in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places likely to be covered under the scheme in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) . Government is permitting private airline operators to provide regional air transport services. Madras and Madurai in Tamil Nadu are, at present, air linked by a private scheduled airline operator.

Allied Services of I. A.

951. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines proposes to set up wholly-owned subsidiary to be called allied services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the new company is likely to start; and

(d) in what way this subsidiary is likely to be different from that of Vayudoot?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND

TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) . Indian Airlines floated a wholly owned Public Limited Company in 1983 as a subsidiary in the name of Airlines Allied Services Limited (AASL). The company was set up with the Authorised and paid-up capital of Rs. 5 crores and Rs. 2 crores respectively. It is, at present, a shell company.

(d) Vayudoot was operating independently, whereas AASL will work in coordination with Indian Airlines Limited in operation and will be almost wholly dependent on Indian Airlines for personnel, equipment and infrastructure.

Under Invoicing and Over Invoicing in Trade With U.S.

952. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India loses \$ 4,793 m. Exports to US underpriced, imports over-priced" appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated October 16, 1995 that the possible shift of income of \$ 4.4 Billion from India to U.S during 1993 on the basis of under invoiced exports and over-invoiced imports;

(b) if so, the reasons for abnormalities of trade between the US and India; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to rectify such abnormalities?

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

(b) and (c) . Over-invoicing of imports and under invoicing of exports can lead to flight of capital but it is difficult to form any definite conclusion due to the inter-play of a number of other factors. Contrary to the results of the study under reference, there have also been complaints regarding under-invoicing of imports (to avoid custom duties) and over-invoicing of exports (in order to claim export benefits). Further, results of any such study, as under reference, largely depend on the methodology and assumption used in preparing estimates of flight of capital.

Pilots of Indian Airlines

953. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sanctioned posts of pilots in the Indian Airlines as on April 1, 1995, grade-wise;

(b) the minimum number of pilots, grade-wise required for the optimum operation of the scheduled flights of the Airlines as on October 1, 1995;

(c) the total number of pilots, grade-wise available to the Airlines for the scheduled flights as on October 1, 1995;

(d) the reason for the reported non-availability of adequate number of pilots for operating the scheduled flights;

(e) whether the long standing dispute between the management of the Airlines and the Association representing the pilots is one of the contributory reasons for the non-availability of pilots; and

(f) the main issues in dispute, the stand taken by the Government and the Association thereon; and whether the issues have been settled to mutual satisfaction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) After the exodus of pilots started in 1991, it has not been feasible to determine the standard force of pilots.

(b) The details are as under :-

	Commanders	Co-Pilots
A-300	39	39
A-320	117	117
B-737	55	55
Total	211	211

(c) The details are as under :-

	Commanders	Co-Pilots
A-300	32	47
A-320	84	149
B-737	35	78
Total	151	274

(d) Since 1991, 164 pilots including 103 commanders have resigned from Indian Airlines to join private Air Taxi Operators and other foreign airlines. This has resulted in non-availability of adequate number of Commanders for optimum operation of flights.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The main demands of the pilots are for better pay and allowances, service conditions and their pay scales being always higher than the cabin crew. The management and the Pilots' Association have not held any formal discussion after the 15th august, 1995, because the Association has not withdrawn all the directives issued by it, which was a pre-condition for negotiations. However, informal discussions are continuing with the pilots to arrive at an amicable settlement.

Credit - Deposit Ratio of Banks in Assam

954. SHRI PROBINA DEKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deposits mobilised by all the banks in Assam were much higher than the credit advance during the last few years;

(b) if so, the remedial steps initiated so far;

(c) whether the Government are aware that despite vast potential and requirement of resources in the State, the commercial banks are not ensuring adequate flow of credit to various sectors of the state; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) . The deposits, credit and credit deposit ratio (CDR) of scheduled commercial banks in Assam as at the end of March 1995 were Rs. 392898 lakhs, Rs. 149487 lakhs and 38.0 percent respectively. RBI have stated that the main reasons for low CDR in Assam are the relatively poor industrialisation of the State, receipt of funds in Government accounts during the year-end resulting in temporary increase in the deposit level, law and order situation etc. Bankers have requested the State Government to develop the required infrastructural facilities which would facilitate both industrialisation and agricultural development for increasing credit absorption capacity in the State. The issues relating to deployment of bank credit are monitored regularly in the State Level Bankers' committee meetings.

Foreign Tourists

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

(a) whether the World Tourism Organisation has opined that Indian Tourism has great potentialities for growth;

(b) if so, the steps taken to come up to expectation of World Tourism Organisation in providing adequate infrastructural facilities for them;

(c) whether the Government have made any estimate on the likely arrival of foreign tourists in the country during the next three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for establishing infrastructure facilities

at various tourist centres. During the first three years of Eighth Plan Rs. 3583.91 lakhs were released for developing infrastructural facilities. In addition, the Department of Tourism has launched a campaign to attract more foreign/domestic investment in tourism infrastructure. Various concessions/incentives have been announced by the Govt. of India to attract such investment.

(c) and (d) . A growth of 10% in foreign tourist arrivals is expected during 1995-96 as compared to the year 1994-95. Foreign tourist arrivals in 1995-96 are projected to cross 20 lakhs. On an average 9-10% growth in foreign tourist arrivals (per annum) is expected during the Eighth Plan Period ending 1996-97.

Per Capita Bank Loan in M. P.

956. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita bank loan in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the per capita average bank loan during the same period; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to increase the limit of bank loan in Madhya Pradesh and the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) . The per capita gross bank credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks in Madhya Pradesh and the All-India average during the three years ending March 1992, 1993 and 1994 are given below:-

(Amount in Rs.)

Year	Madhya Pradesh	All India
March 1992	795	1639
March 1993	848	1876
March 1994	868	2000

The above figures reflect the increase in trend.

The actual level of credit in relation to locally mobilised deposits in a particular State or Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, power, rail, road, transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural, industrial production etc. The issues relating to deployment of bank credit are monitored regularly in the State Level Bankers' Committee meetings, Banks have also been advised to achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent in their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an All India basis.

[English]

Special Committee for Direct Investments in Abroad

957. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed a special committee to process all applications involving Indian Direct Investments abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the committee; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has appointed a Special Committee to process all applications involving Indian direct investments abroad beyond US \$4 million or those not qualifying for fast track clearance. The Committee will be chaired by the commerce Secretary, Government of India with the Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, as the Alternate chairman. The Committee will have as members representatives of Ministries of Commerce, Finance, External Affairs, and the Reserve Bank of India. The Committee may co-opt other members, if necessary, in sectors to which the proposals relate. The Committee will consider the proposals keeping in view the extant guidelines and make recommendations accordingly. The

Committee will inter-alia, also review the criteria for the monitor and the progress of all overseas investments under these guidelines and evolve its own procedures for consultations and approvals.

The Committee has been formed in terms of the fresh guidelines for Indian direct investment in Joint ventures, wholly owned subsidiaries issued by Ministry of Commerce on August 17, 1995.

(c) The Committee has already started functioning.

Arrest of Custom Officials

958. SHRI RAM NAIK :

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI P. C. THOMAS :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI have arrested custom officials posted at Indira Gandhi International Airport 1988 under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 on 17th October, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the unaccounted amount seized from the customs officials;

(c) the punitive action the Government have taken against customs officials involved in corruption charges;

(d) whether the customs officials have gone on strike in view of CBI raids;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total loss to exports and imports due to strike; and

(f) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with such incidents in future?

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

(b) As per CBI report, Rs. 1,16,788, US \$ 33 and 100 Saudi Reyls were recovered from customs officials.

(c) 14 officials, 4 Supdts., 9 Inspectors and One Examiner arrested by the CBI were suspended w.e.f. the date of arrest i.e. 17.10.95. Further action will be decided upon receipt of full investigation report from the CBI.

(d) Group 'B' and 'C' officials of New Customs House, Delhi struck work from 17 October to 20th October, 1995 after CBI raid. However, many Customs officials including Group 'B' and 'C' at IGI Airport, New Delhi continued to work during this period.

(e) There was some delay in the clearances but no loss either to revenue or to importers or exporters has been reported because Group 'A' Customs and Central Excise officers posted in Delhi including some probationers from National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics were pressed into service.

(f) Stricter supervision over the clearance work is being exercised by top level officers like Commissioner, Additional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. The officers of Vigilance Wing of Customs House have also been visiting various work stations conducting checks on documents, consignments etc.

Child Labour

959. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any pragmatic and integrated scheme for the eradication of child labour;

(b) if so, the broad feature thereof;

(c) the manner in which this scheme is likely to be enforced strictly; and

(d) the role envisaged for the State Governments in this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) . Under the National Child Labour Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Labour, a major activity undertaken is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary

nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme. Under the National Child Labour Project Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into special schools where over a period of 3 years they are given primary level education, health care, nutrition and stipends.

Presently child labour elimination projects are functioning in 75 districts in 11 States in the country covering around 1.36 lakh children.

The Scheme is implemented through Child Labour Project Societies headed by the District Collector/District Magistrate who are State Government functionaries. In many cases, the scheme is implemented with the help of Non-Governmental Organisation. Funds for the National Child Labour Projects are released in instalments after appropriate checks by the Government of India to ensure that projects are run properly and as per conditions laid down for implementation of these Projects.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act by State Government and U.T.s is being monitored by the Central Government.

Strike by Bank Employees

960. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Bank employees observed a two-day strike during September, 1995;

(b) if so, the main demands of the employees and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether four major Unions of bankmen have also decided to go on strike from December 19, 1995 to press for their demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such breakdown of banking service in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . A large number of employees in the banking industry struck work on 26th & 27th September, 1995 in support of their demands. They were demanding, inter-alia, reconstruction of pay scales for clerical staff and sub staff consequent on the understanding reached between the Indian banks' Association and the Officers Associations.

(c) and (d) . There are reports to the effect that the workmen unions have withdrawn their proposed strike from 19th December, 1995 consequent upon a Memorandum of Understanding reached between the concerned parties on 27.11.1995.

Production of Silk

961. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide scope for increasing production of silk in the country by utilising biotechnological methods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) . Bio-technological methods are already being utilised for improving the quality of mulberry leaf which is essential for production of quality silk. Such improvement is being carried out by adopting bio-technological development and selection of disease resistant varieties, transferring of genes & delimiting undesired ones. Similarly, improvement of silkworm species are being evolved through genetic transfer and genetic manipulation for higher silk production. For enriching the soil with greater nutrient, the use of desirable bacteria and fungi

through mass production & use of biofertilizer has been done.

(c) A Seri Bio-tech Research Laboratory has been established by the Central Silk Board at Bangalore, the Board has implemented 11 Mulberry/Tasar Research Projects in collaboration with the Department of Bio-Technology. Further, financial assistance has been provided to various Universities to undertake Bio-technology related research projects. Besides, efforts are being made to identify new and gap areas in Bio-Technology of silkworms and host plants.

Child Labour

962. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have convened a national level meeting in New Delhi on 13-14 September, 1995 to finalise the strategy to eradicate child labour from the country;

(b) if so, the main decisions arrived at;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been worked out in the meeting in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The main recommendations made in the Workshop included *inter-alia*, the following:

(i) Need to ensure a convergence of programmes of Central and State Governments in child labour endemic districts in order to tackle the child labour problem effectively;

(ii) Strengthening of laws like the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act. 1986 and train and equip enforcement personnel to effectively enforces laws protective of children.

(iii) Achieving effectiveness of child labour projects by strictly monitoring and evaluating them.

(iv) Adoption of effective educational strategies for the education and vocational training of children withdrawn for work.

(v) Carrying out of a sustained media/awareness campaign to sensitize people against child labour.

(c) and (d). The workshop resulted in the sanctioning of 63 National Child Labour Projects with an annual expenditure of Rs. 40.50 crores benefiting a total of 1.20 lakh children in child labour endemic districts. This is in addition to 16,000 children already covered under the National Child Labour Projects. A massive awareness generation campaign has been launched at the central level through major national and regional dailies. Films and sopts have also been prepared for awareness generation campaign in electronic media for the purpose. Further, a total grant of Rs. 6.65 crores has been released for awareness generation activities at the district level to 133 districts. In line with the Workshop's recommendations. 123 districts have also been

sanctioned funds to carry out surveys to identify child labour in hazardous occupations. The total amount released for this purpose is Rs. 2.46 crores.

[Translation]

EPF Defaulters

963. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the details of the top twenty five industrial and business houses of Bihar against whom the amount of provident fund is outstanding; and

(b) the steps being taken to recover these amounts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) A Statement is Attached.

(b) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is already being take to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

STATEMENT

Particulars of top 25 Industrial business houses in Bihar.

S. No.	Name of the establishment
1	2
1.	M/s. Naseruddin Beedi Merchant (Pvt.)Ltd. Biharsharif, Nalanda (BR/1265).
2.	M/s. Sayood Ferozuddin, Biharsharif, Nalanda (BR/3241)
3.	M/s. Lengia Beedi Company, Biharsharif, Nalanda. (BR/2846).
4.	M/s. Kachwar Lime and Stone Company, Banjari, (BR/319)
5.	M/s. High Tension Insulation Factory, Nankan, Ranchi, (BR/1295)
6.	M/s. Realiance Fire Bricks and Pottery Works Co. Ltd. (BR/232)
7.	M/s. Kumardhobi Enginerring Works now know as M/s. Kumardhobi Metal Casting & Engg. Ltd. (BR/06)
8.	Eastern Manganese & Mineral Presently known as B.S.M.D.D.C. Ashok Nagar, Ranali, (BR/446)
9.	M/s. Electric Equipment Factory, Ranali Hazaribagh, (BR/4295)

1

2

10. M/s.Demechanch Mica Factory Bazarihagh, (BR/445)
11. M/s. Hindustan Engg. Products Ltd., Singhbhumi, (BR/4546)
12. M/s. Hind Tools & Dies, Jamshedpur, (BR/1708)
13. M/s.Ganesh Chandra Saha Chakradharpur (BR/1241)
14. Katihar Jute Mills, Katihar.
15. M/s.Bihar Sugar Works, Siwan, (BR/194)
16. M/s. R.I. B. H. M. Jute Mills, Katihar, (BR/03)
17. M/s. Saran Engg. Co. Saran, (BR/18).
18. M/s.H.M.P. Sugar Mill, Bagha.
19. M/s. Betal Beedi Factory Pvt. Ltd., Sahibganj, (BR/2987)
20. M/s. Shyam Bidi Works Pakar, Sahibganj, (BR/2987)
21. M/s. Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills, Gaya, (Unit of NTC) (BR/21)
22. M/s. Behar State Weavers' & Spinning Mills, Patna (BR/1557) (unit NTC).
23. M/s. Samastipur Anumandaliya Khadi, Samastipur, (BR/5671)
24. M/s. Purbi Champaran Zila Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Motihari (BR/5706)
25. M/s. Vaishali Zila Khadi Gramodyog, Hazipur, (BR/5509)

NOTE : According to the available information in Bihar there are 11 establishments which have default of over 10 lakhs.

[English]

Indo-Hongkong Joint-Venture in Clock Trade

964. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 10 members delegation from Hongkong visited India and shown keen interest in joint-venture in clock trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) . A twelve member watch & Clock

delegation from Hongkong representing eight companies visited New Delhi, Bangalore and Bombay from 26 June to 1 July, 1995. The objective of the visit was to explore possibilities for trade and joint ventures in the watch & clock sector.

The Government of India will assist businessmen from Hongkong in setting up joint ventures in India in this and other sectors.

Development of Tourism Sector

965. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to

consider the Gulf region as a tourist potential area and is conducting studies to determine visitor profiles, destination choices, spending patterns and seasons preferences;

(b) whether the Government have received the study report;

(c) the extent to which Government have sought Arab's investment proposals in tourism sector;

(d) the number of Arabian countries agreed to invest in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has a system of collecting tourist statistics and analysing information received on profile of tourists on a regular basis. The information thus available is also being supplemented with the details made available by the overseas offices of the Department from time to time.

(c) to (e) . The Department of Tourism has recently launched a campaign to generate investment in tourism infrastructure from investore located in different countries including the Arabian countries.

Development of Handicrafts

966. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals sent by the various state Government particularly by Gujarat for development of Handicrafts in their respective States during the current financial year, State-wise, till date;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government on such proposals; and

(c) the details of the assistance provided by the Union Government of development of handicrafts during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). The details of proposals received from State Governments and State Handi crafts Development Corporations including those from the State of Gujarat during the current financial year under various schemes of the Government and action taken thereon are given in the attached statement - I.

(c) The details of assistance provided by the Government for development of handicrafts during each of the last three years, state-wise is given in the attached statement -II.

STATEMENT-I

Number of Proposal Received Under Various Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Traning	Marketing Development	Design Development	Craft Development	Welfare Scheme	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	3 (2)	-	-	-	3 (2)
2.	Assam	2 (2)	5 (4)	-	-	-	7 (6)
3.	Delhi	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	(1)
4.	Gujarat	-	6 (5)	-	-	-	6 (5)
5.	Goa	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Haryana	-	5 (2)	-	1	-	6 (2)
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	4 (2)	3	1	-	8 (2)
9.	Karnataka	-	4 (2)	-	-	-	4 (2)
10.	Kerala	-	9 (6)	-	1 (1)	-	10 (7)
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2 (1)	19 (9)	15 (15)	8 (4)	-	44 (29)
12.	Maharashtra	-	2	-	-	-	2
13.	Manipur	-	1	-	-	-	1
14.	Mizoram	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)
15.	Nagaland	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	2 (1)
16.	Orissa	-	7 (6)	-	-	-	7 (6)
17.	Punjab	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	2 (1)
18.	Rajasthan	-	11 (3)	-	2	-	13 (1)
19.	Tamil Nadu	-	3 (2)	-	-	-	3 (2)
20.	Tripura	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1(1)
21.	Uttar Pradesh	-	10 (6)	10 (5)	2	6	28 (11)
22.	West Bengal	1 (1)	3 (1)	-	-	-	4 (2)

Figures in Brackets indicates the number of proposal approved by the Government.

STATEMENT-II

Fianacial assistance provided to states for the development of handicrafts sector (during 1992-93 to 1994-95)

S.No	Name of state. UTs	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Perdesh	36.16	102.03	86.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.31	4.12	-
3.	Assam	15.13	27.56	42.96
4.	Bihar	10.91	17.75	13.54
5.	Goa	8.81	19.74	7.08
6.	Gujarat	18.36	29.77	53.14

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Haryana	28.22	62.59	45.95
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.78	16.79	39.91
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	43.41	37.94	49.95
10.	Karnataka	18.21	36.61	40.61
11.	Kerala	83.35	68.20	46.77
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35.08	85.76	100.51
13.	Maharashtra	16.95	29.30	37.72
14.	Manipur	8.10	17.39	8.29
15.	Meghalya	1.01	2.28	2.09
16.	Mizoram	0.49	1.99	3.00
17.	Nagaland	9.71	10.33	3.09
18.	Orissa	52.87	100.20	80.52
19.	Punjab	16.40	47.52	15.33
20.	Rajasthan	31.38	36.31	30.76
21.	Sikkim	2.50	1.86	0.97
22.	Tamil Nadu	52.29	63.66	69.84
23.	Tripura	9.67	4.46	8.06
24.	Uttar Pradesh	108.99	214.73	352.85
25.	Andaman and Nicobar	1.11	0.62	1.43
27.	Delhi	60.54	117.77	106.79
28.	Pondichery	5.11	7.77	4.07
Total		725.59	1224.64	1308.51

Permanent Account Number To Income-Tax Payers.

967. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal/ scheme regarding allotment of permanent account number to all income tax payers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) With effect from 1-7-1995 every person who has taxable income; or whose business sales/turnover or professional gross receipts are or likely to exceed Rs. 50,000/- in any previous year or Trust/Institution liable to file return under section 139 (4A) act, of the Income- Tax / 1961, is required to apply to his assessing officer for allotment of a permanent Account Number.

(b) The application is to be made in form No.

(c) The scheme is already in existence.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

968. SHRI KUNJEE LAL:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUHDARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have Fixed the minimum wages at the rate of Rs. 20 per day for the agricultural workers ;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the wage rate in the near future ;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not , the reasons therefor ?

The MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) . Under the minimum Wages Act,

1948 both Central and State Government are the appropriate Governments for the fixation/ revision of minimum rates of wages for the areas of scheduled employments falling Under their respective jurisdictions. All the State Government/ Union Territory Administration have fixed the minimum rates of wages in respect of agricultural workers and these rates vary from in respect of agricultural workers and these rates vary from states to states. However the National Commission on Rural Labour in its report Wages for agricultural workers should not be fixed below Rs.20/- per day at the prices prevailing during 1990 The commission also recommended that the minimum wages should consist of a variable linked to Consumer price Index Numbers and the minimum wages should be revised every two years. These recommendations have been communicated to all the state and union Territories for taken necessary action.

Housing Loan Facility For Bank Employees

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend housing loan facilities to public sector bank employees against power or attorney transactions in Delhi or elsewhere in the country; and

(b) if so, the details there of and the requirements to be fulfilled by the beneficiaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the government of India of Indian Banks" Association.

(b) Does not arise.

Textile Labourers

970. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The number of labourers rendered unemployed in NTC, state Textile corporation and other cloth mills in private sector in madhya pradesh during each of the last three years and upto October, 1995;

(b) the steps taken by the Govt. to provide employment and to rehabilitate the unemployed labourers ; and

(c) the funds provided by the Union Govt. to the

State Govts. for their rehabilitation during the said period ?

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) There were no labourers affected due to closure of mills under the management of N.T.C. & S.T.C. in the state of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years (i.e. during the years 1992, 1993, 1994 and from Jan.- Oct 95) .

. The number of workers affected due to closure of cloth mills in the private sector in madhya pradesh during the last three years (i.e. 1992, 1993, 1994, and from Jan. to Oct 95 were as under :

Period	No. of mills closed	No. of workers affected
1992	1	6746
1993	-	-
1994	-	-
1995 (Jan.- Oct.)	-	-

(b) and (c). While there is no scheme to provide alternative employment whenever. Textile workers" Rehabilitation fund has been set up by Govt. to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/ partial closure of textile mills. State- wise disbursement of the funds under the Scheme as on 31. 10. 95 is as follows :

State	Rs./ Crore
Gujarat	61.86
maharashtra	3.90
Tamil Nadu	2.64
Delhi	11.92
Total	80.32

Trade Deficit

971. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH DEORIA :

SHRI CHIRРАНJI LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether India's trade deficit during August, 1995 was higher than the corresponding period of that year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it increased during 1995 ;

(c) the reasons for such increased in trade deficit;

(d) whether the Government have undertaken any study in this regard;

(e) is so the details of out comes thereof ; and

(f) if not ,the steps taken by the Government to reduce the trade deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (f) . The increase in the trade deficit during the year is primarily due to increase in imports consequent upon increased level of industrial activity , increased demand for export related imports and those for mass consumption items and contain price rise , trade deficit perse is not undesirable intermediates, inputs, consumable, spare parts, capital goods etc. The levels of exports, imports and trade deficit are being constantly monitored for taking suitable for taking suitable action.

Zero-Duty Generalised Scheme of Preference

972. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lost the Zero-Duty Generalised system of preferences (GSP) enjoyed by it an the basis of exports from developing countries to developed countries of the European Union from January 31, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the manner in which this policy will effect our exports to European Union countries; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to restore the status-quoante?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The EU's erstwhile GSP scheme provided for zero

tariffs but access was circumscribed by quotas and ceilings. The new scheme valid until December, 1998 has no quotas and ceilings. Admissible products from developing countries have been classified into categories of "very sensitive" (85% of the MFN tariff), "sensitive" (70% of the MFN tariff); "semi-sensitive" (35% of the MFN tariff) and "non-sensitive" (zero tariff). However, all admissible products from least developed countries will continue to enter the EU at zero tariff.

2. The impact of the EU's new Scheme on our exports will be moderated by the fact that our principal competitors will be equally effected. Further developing countries with per capita income exceeding 6000 dollars will not be extended GSP benefits with effect from 1 January 1996.

3. The GSP is a non-contractual instrument by which industrialized countries unilaterally extend tariff concessions to developing countries. While the EU's latest scheme was being formulated a number of suggestions were made by several beneficiary countries including India. The scheme has been autonomously recast by the EU.

Cotton Procurement Scheme

973. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have decided to scrap cotton procurement scheme, and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Government of India does not operate any cotton procurement scheme.

(b) Do not arise.

Amendments In The Labours Laws

974. SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned " Age old rigid laws stunting economic growth : experts.' appearing in Statesman dated November 14, 1995 ;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to re-vamp labour and industrial relation laws to create more jobs and to make it market oriented ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c). Based on the recommendations made by the Ramanujam committee on the New Industrial Relations Law, the deliberations held at various forums and after taking into consideration the recommendations of Inter-ministerial group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have been considered for finalisation at the appropriate time.

Shortage Of Currency Notes And Coins

975. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of currency notes and coins in the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE . (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The annual production capacity of the existing two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas, together , is 5612 million pieces, with the present product mix, whereas the RBI's annual requirement for fresh notes during 1994-95 was 14010 million pieces. Thus the existing two note- printing presses are able to meet only 40.05% of RBI's demand for fresh notes.

Similarly, the existing annual production capacity of four Government mints at Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad and NOIDA (UP) together, is only 1707 million pieces as against he RBI's demand of 4100 million pieces during 1994-95. thus the existing four mints are able to meet only 41% of RBI's demand for coins.

(c) In order to abridge the gap between demand and supply of currency notes and coins, following measures have been initiated: i) Two new note- printing presses are being set up by RBI-one at salbani in West Bengal and other at Mysore in Karnataka.

- (ii) Government has taken up modernisation of existing note-printing presses at Nashik and Dewas and three mints of Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad.
- (iii) RBI has put issuable soiled notes back into circulation by salvaging maximum number of reissuable notes and recycling them.
- (iv) Re.1, Rs.2 & Rs.5 have been coined and the capacity so released is diverted for production of notes of higher denominations .

[English]

Employment in the Beedi Sector

976. Dr. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the prospects for employment of the children of beedi workers in the same sector by the year 2005 AD;

(b) whether any study has been done by his ministry to assess the future employment in the Beedi sector ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G.S. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). No such study has been conducted by the Ministry of Labour.

[Translation]

Schemes for Handloom Weavers

977. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for including the handloom weavers in the on-going schemes of rural development programmes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on such scheme introduced in U.P. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). Yes, sir. The following four schemes have been extended to the handloom weavers under the on-going programmes of Ministry of Rural Development to be implemented over a period of 3 years from 1993-94 onwards :-

(i) Coverage of 3.27 lakh loomless handloom weavers under RDP with an outlay of Rs. 523 crores.

(ii) Coverage of 1.20 lakh SC/ST houseless weavers under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) with a total outlay of Rs. 132.00 crores.

(iii) Training of one lakh handloom weavers under TRYSEM with a total outlay of Rs. 9.85 crores.

(iv) Setting up of 1000 Common Facility Centres under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) with a total outlay of Rs.25 crores .

(c) As per the targets fixed for the State of Uttar Pradesh a sum of Rs. 1,035.78 lakhs is visualised to be incurred on the above.

[English]

Limit of Bank Loans for Joint Ventures Abroad

978. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to raise the maximum limit on bank loans for funding joint ventures abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the RBI has instructed the commercial banks to take immediate steps for streamlining and expediting the processes and procedures in providing finance to the export companies ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the RBI has also decided to impose penal action on banks which fail to submit their account on exports to the RBI in time and similar provisions for companies availing of the bank facilities ;

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

(g) whether the aforesaid measures are likely to help in boosting the exports and earnings of foreign exchange; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) and (b). There are no special guidelines from RBI on bank loans for funding joint ventures abroad .

(c) and (d). Banks have been directed by RBI to achieve a minimum level of 10% of export credit out-

standing to each bank's total outstanding net bank credit. RBI have also initiated steps to ensure free flow of credit at competitive rates of interest. Sanction of fresh enhanced limit for export Credit as also for which interalia include prescription of maximum time limits for renewal of limits; banks being advised to evolve a system to address grievances of borrowers particularly exporters in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of limits; delegation of more powers to various functionaries especially in overseas branches of banks.

(e) and (f). With a view to preventing delayed repatriation of export proceeds RBI has evolved a mechanism whereby concessive rate of interest levied for the initial period of the export bills and higher rate of interest will be charged beyond the due date.

(g) and (h). Though it would be difficult to quantify the specific effect of any particular measure, the exports from the country have registered a rate of growth of 26.37% in the first 6 months of 1995-96 as against 17.9% in 1994-95.

Training Facilities to Pilots

979. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to open its training facilities to pilots of private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the estimated annual income likely to be earned on I.A. as a result thereof ; and

(d) The number of pilots of private airlines being provided training at present ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). It has been decided that the Central Training Establishment (CTE) of Indian Airlines will now function as an independent profit Centre and undertake the training of pilots, Flight Engineers, Flight Despatchers, Cabin crew and operational personnel of other airlines also. The annual income will depend upon the demand for training from private Airlines.

(d) The A-320 and B-737 simulators at CTE are given on dry-lease to the private Airlines and they are utilising their own Instructors for training. A total of 296 pilot training hours have been utilised by the private operators from 1st January, 1995 till 29th November, 1995.

Legislation For Agricultural and Construction Workers

980. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a Central Legislation for agricultural and construction workers; and

(b) if so the present status of the proposal ?

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

(b) Two ordinances namely :-

(i) Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 1995 ; and

(ii) Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Ordinance, 1995 have been promulgated on 3.11.1995 to protect the interests of construction workers.

As regards agricultural workers, a general consensus has been finally reached on the need for a Central legislation in this regard with sufficient flexibility to be provided to the State Governments to implement the legislation according to prevailing local conditions.

Debt Payment

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

(a) whether a rising gap between total expenditure and current levies over the last decade set in motion a vicious cycle of increased borrowing higher debt and increase in interest payments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps taken to break this vicious cycle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Government is compelled to borrow whenever there is a gap between total expenditure and non-debt receipts. As a result, the additional borrowings of the Government during the period 1985-86 to 1994-95 (RE) amounted to Rs. 384220 crore. The interest payment

which was Rs. 7512 crore in the year 1994-95 increased to Rs. 44000 crore as per the revised estimates for 1994-95.

(c) Government would endeavour to control fiscal deficit during the current year at the budgeted level of Rs 57634 crore through maximizing receipts and controlling expenditure.

Assistance by Japan

982. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether official development assistance from Japan is not being utilised properly ;

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

(c) the projects being undertaken with such assistance; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the aid properly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The Official Development Assistance from Japan is being utilised properly .

(c) A list of on-going Japanese assisted projects is enclosed as statement.

(d) Project are reviewed from time to time to ensure smooth implementation.

STATEMENT

S.No	No. and Name of Project	Amount (yen Million)	Terminal date
1	2	3	4
<i>LOAN :</i>			
1	IDP-31 Eastern Gandak Canal Hydro- electric Project	1630	30.6.96
2.	IDP-40 Teesta Canal Hydro-electric Project	8025	31.10.96
3.	IDP-42 Assam Gas Turbine Power Station and Transmission System Construction Project	30000	18.3.97
4.	IDP-43 Srisailam Left Bank Power Station Project	26101	31.12.98
5.	IDP-46 Assam Gas Turbine Power Station and Transmission System Construction Project	13552	10.02.97
6.	IDP-47 Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries Development Project	3198	10.08.96
7.	IDP-52 Raichur Thermal Power station Expansion Project	23142	30.06.96
8.	IDP-53 Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	11414	20.021.97
9.	IDP-54 Tourism Infrastructure Development Project	9244	20.01.97
10.	IDP-56 Upper Kolab Irrigation Project	3769	20.07.98

1	2	3	4
11.	IDP-57 Uppér Indravati Irrigation Project	3744	20.01.99
12.	IDP-59 Mysore Paper Mills Modernization Project	2381	31.01.99
13.	IDP-62 Basin Bridge Gas Turbine Project	2381	31.01.99
14.	IDP-63 Gandhar Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Project	13046	25.09.97
15.	IDP-65 Anpara Power Transmission System Project	19318	30.07.96
16.	IDP-66 Power System Improvement and small Hydro Electric Project	24379	05.02.97
17.	IDP-72 Teesta Canal Hydro- electric Project II	6222	05.02.96
18.	IDP-73 Indira Gandhi Afforestation Project	7869	05.02.98
19.	IDP-74 Quality Control of Health Technologies Project	7964	05.02.99
20.	IDP-78 Gandhar Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Project	42599	19.04.97
21.	IDP-79 Urban City Water Supply Project	6788	30.03.98
22.	IDP-80 Afforestation Project in Aravalli Hills	8095	30.03.99
23.	IDP-81 National Highway-2 Improvement Project	4855	30.03.98
24.	IDP-82 Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project	3745	30.03.99
25.	IDP-83 Anpara Thermal Power Station Project IV	13224	03.12.99
26.	IDP-84 Yamuna Action Plan Project	17773	19.04.2000
27.	IDP-85 Srisaïlam Power Transmission System Project	3806	19.04.98

1	2	3	4
28.	IDP-86 Gandhar Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Project	19538	19.04.97
29.	IDP-87 Udyogamandal Ammonia plant Replacement Project	24482	19.04.99
30.	IDP-88 Anpara Thermal Power Station Project V	17638	11.3.2001
31.	IDP-89 Bakreswar Thermal Power Project	27069	11.3.99
32.	IDP-90 Faridabad Gas Based Power Project	23536	11.3.99
33.	IDP-91 Bridge Across River Yamuna near Naini	10037	11.3.2001
34.	IDP-92 Four Lining of National Highway-5	11360	11.3.2001
35.	IDP-93 Small Industries Development Programme IV	30000	09.02.96
36.	IDP-94 Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station Project II	22567	12.4.2001
37.	IDP-95 Srisaillam Power Transmission Project II	9546	12.4.2001
38.	IDP-96 Assam Gas Turbine Power Station and Transmission Line Construction Project III	15821	12.4.2000
39.	IDP-97 Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station Unit 3 Extension Project	8659	12.4.2001
40.	IDP-98 Purulia Pumped Storage Project	20520	12.4.2003
41.	IDP-99 Kuthagudem A Thermal Power Station Rehabilitation Project	5092	12.4.2002
42.	IDP-100 National Highway-5 Improvement Project II	5836	12.4.2002
43.	IDP-102 National Highway-24 Improvement Project	4827	12.4.2002
44.	IDP-102 Madras Water and sewerage Renovation and Functional Improvement Project	17098	12.4.2001

1	2	3	4
45.	IDP-103 Lake Bhopal Conservation and Management Project	7055	12.4.2002
46.	IDP-104 Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	4219	12.4. 2002
47.	IDP-105 Industrial Pollution Control Project	1525	12.04.2001
48.	IDP-106 Industrial Pollution Control Programme	3000	2.10.2000
49.	IDC-7 Hydro-Carbon Sector Programme	33085	31.12.95
<i>GRANT-IN-AID :</i>			
1.	Improvement of Indira Gandhi National open University (Phase II)	679	31.03.96
2.	Upgrading of Banaras Hindu University Hospital	1058	31.3.96
3.	Construction of Nizamuddin Bridge		
	Phase I	52	29.1.96
	Phase II Term I	444	31.3.96
	Term II	1662	31.3.97
	Term III	672	31.3.98
4.	Improvement of Medical Equipment at Osmania General Hospital, Hyderabad	757	15.3.96
5.	Development of Seed Research Production & Storage Facilities	662	31.3.96
6.	Cultural Grant to Bharat Bhavan Bhopal	46	31.3.96
7.	Cultural Grant to National Archives of India	34	31.3.96

[Translation]

Inflow of Foreign Tourists in Rajasthan

983. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for decline in number of tourists during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government for construction of International Airport at Jaipur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) According to the information available from the State Government the number of foreign tourists who visited Rajasthan during 1992, 1993 and 1994 were as follows:

Year	Number of foreign tourists	%change
1992	5,47,802	
1993	5,40,738	-1.3
1994	4,36,801	-19.2

(b) The decline in tourist traffic to Rajasthan was primarily due to overall decline in international tourist traffic to the country during October and November because of adverse publicity on alleged health hazards in India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Beedi Workers in Gujarat

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

(a) the number of Beedi workers engaged in the country, especially in Gujarat State as on September 30, 1995;

(b) whether the Government have opened hospitals for them;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the details of the facilities available in these hospitals;

(d) the details of extra specialised facilities likely to be provided in these hospitals ;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up some more such hospitals in the country , especially in Gujarat ; and

(f) if so, the State-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There are about 42.50 lakh beedi workers in the country and in Gujarat , the number of beedi workers is estimated to be about 50,000 .

(b) and (c). A statement showing the State-wise details of hospitals/ dispensaries opened for beedi workers is attached while dispensaries provide outdoor treatment only , the hospitals provide both outdoor and indoor treatment to the beedi workers. X Ray and laboratory facilities are also available in the hospitals.

(d) At present, there is no proposal to provide any extra specialised facilities in these hospitals .

(e) and (f). A 50 bedded hospital for beedi workers is under construction at Dhuliyan (West Bengal). It is also proposed to open two more such hospitals - one at Sagar (MP) and the other at Mukkudal (TN). So far as Gujarat State is concerned there is no proposal to open any such hospital in that State at present .

STATEMENT

State	Names of the places where mobile and medical Dispensaries are located for Beedi workers.
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Andhra Pradesh

Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries:

1. Nizamabad Distt. Nizamabad
2. Kamareddy Distt. Nizamabad
3. Amarchinta Distt. Mehaboobnagar
4. Kothakota Distt. Mehaboobnagar
5. Koratla Distt. Karimnagar
6. Nellore Distt. Nillore
7. Siddipet Distt. Medak

8. Srikalahasti Distt. Chittoor

Static Dispensaries :

9. Nirmal Distt. Adilabad

10. Kamalpuram Distt. Cuddapah

Tamilnadu

Static-cum-mobile Dispensaries

1. Vellore Distt. North Arcot
2. Melavishram Distt. North Arcot
3. Tenkasi Distt. Tirunelveli
4. Mukkudal Distt. Tirunelveli
5. Alagulam Distt. Tirunelveli
6. Tiruchirapalli Distt. Tiruchirapalli
7. Old Washermenpet Distt. Madras

Static Dispensaries :

8. Gudiyatham Distt. North Arcot.
9. Melapalayam Distt. Tirunelveli.

Mobile Dispensaries :

10. Tirunelveli Distt. Tirunelveli.

Madhya Pradesh

Static-cum-mobile Dispensaries :

1. Sihore Distt. Jabalpur
2. Jabalpur Distt. Jabalpur
3. Garhakotta Distt. Sagar
4. Deori Distt. Sagar
5. Sagar Distt. Sagar
6. Hatta Distt. Damoh
7. Damoh Distt. Domoh
8. Nohata Distt. Damoh
9. Gwalior Distt. Gwalior
10. Begamganj Distt. Kharagone
11. Bhopal Distt. Bhopal
12. Sanwad Distt. Rewa
13. Rewa Distt. Rewa Kharagone

14. Dhamtari Distt. Raipur

15. Rajnangaon Distt. Rajnandgaon.

16. Ujjain Distt. Ujjain

Static Dispensaries :

17. Indore Distt. Indore
18. Katangi Distt. Jabalpur
19. Warasioni Distt. Balaghat
20. Guna Distt. Guna
21. Burhanpur Distt. Khangawa

Mobile Dispensaries :

22. Satna Distt. Satna

Karnataka

Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries

1. Thumbe Distt. Mangalore
2. Moodabiari Distt. Mangalore
3. Katipall Distt. Mangalore
4. Puttur Distt. Mangalore
5. Derlakatta Distt. Mangalore
6. Harihar Distt. Chitradurga
7. Nipani Distt. Feigaum
8. Bangalore Distt. Bangalore
9. Kolar Distt. Kolar
10. Tumkur Distt. Tumkur

Static Dispensaries

11. Kaikamba Distt. Mangalore
12. Yadgi Distt. Gulbarga
13. Channapatna, Ramanagaran Taluk Distt. Bangalore
14. Gundlupet Distt. Mysore
15. Chamarajangar Distt. Mysore
16. Hubli Distt. Dharwad
17. Sita Taluk Distt. Tumkur

Mobile Dispensaries :

18. Mysore (attached with hospital)
19. Padil Distt. Mangalore

*Kerala**Static-Cum-Mobile Dispensaries :*

1. Cannanore Distt. Cannanore
2. Tellicherry Distt. Tellicherry
3. Alathur Distt. Palakkad
4. Permaunna Distt. Kozhikode
5. Nileswar Distt. Kasargod
6. Kasargod Distt. Kasargod

Static Dispensaries :

7. Kandotty Distt. Malapuram
8. Chavakkaa Distt. Trissur

*Gujarat**Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries :*

1. Patan Distt. Patan
2. Vadnagar Distt. Mehasana
3. Sarsa Distt. Kheda

Static Dispensaries :

4. Ahmednagar Distt. Ahmednagar
5. Borasad Distt. Kaira

Ayurvedic Dispensaries :

6. Palampur Distt. Mehasana

Rajasthan*Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries :*

1. Sujangarh Distt. Churu

Static Dispensaries :

2. Tonk Distt. Tonk
3. Ajmer Distt. Ajmer
4. Beawar Distt. Ajmer
5. Karoli Distt. Swaimadhopur

Mobile Dispensaries :

6. Kota Distt. Kota

Ayurvedic Dispensaries :

7. Swaimadhopur Distt. Swaimadhopur.
8. Nisrabad Distt. Ajmer
9. Baran Distt. Kota
10. Bundi Distt. Bundi

*Bihar**Static-cum Mobile Dispensaries :*

1. Chakradharpur Distt. Singhbhum.
2. Biharshrief Distt. Nalanda
3. Jhajha Distt. Jhajha
4. Madhubani Distt. Madhubani
5. Pakur Distt. Dumka
6. Dalsinghsarai Distt. Samstipur
7. Gaya Distt. Gaya
8. Motihari Distt. East champaran
9. Sitamarhi Distt. Sitamarhi
10. Begusarai Distt. Begusarai
11. Bhagalpur Distt. Bhagalpur
12. Munghyer Distt. Munghyer

Static Dispensaries :

13. Dhaka Distt. West Champaran
14. Gopalganj Distt. Gopalganj

*Uttar Pradesh**Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries :*

1. Jaunpur Distt. Jaunpur
2. Allahabad Distt. Allahabad
3. Amroha Distt. Moradabad
4. Jhansi Distt. Mirzapur
5. Mirzapur Distt. Jhansi
6. Raibareli Distt. Raibareli
7. Rampur Distt. Rampur
8. Gazipur Distt. Gazipur.

9. Sultanpur Distt. Sultanpur

10. Varanasi Distt. Varanasi.

Mobile Dispensaries :

11. Gursahanganj Distt. Farrukhabad

Orissa

Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries :

1. Angul Distt. Dhenkal

2. Salepur Distt. Cuttack

3. Begedia Distt. Dhenkal

4. Dasarathpur Distt. Cuttack

5. Rengali Distt. Sambalpur

6. Parmanpur Distt. Samoalpur

Static Dispensaries :

7. Brahmabarda Distt. Cuttack

8. Gholpur Distt. Cuttack

9. Balijhari Distt. Cuttack

11. Balasore Distt. Balasore

Mobile Dispensaries :

12. Sambalpur Distt. Sambalpur

13. Bhubanswar Distt. Bhubaneswar

14. Gujjidarda Distt. Balasore

Maharashtra

Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries :

1. Tumasar Distt. Bhandara

2. Amgaon Distt. Bhandara

3. Tirora Distt. Bhandara

4. Lakhani Distt. Bhandara

5. Bhandara Distt. Bhandara

6. Gondia Distt. Bhandara

7. Sinner Distt. Nasik

8. Ahmednagar Distt. Ahmednagar

9. Sangamner Distt. Ahmednagar

10. Pune Distt. Pune

11. Sangli Distt. Sangli

12. Khat Distt Nagpur

Static Dispensaries :

13. Kamptee Distt. Nagpur

14. Sholapur Distt. Sholapur

15. Jalna Distt. Jalna

Ayurvedic Dispensaries ;

16. Nanded Distt. Nanded.

West Bengal

Static-cum- Mobile Dispensaries :

1. Bankura Distt. Bankura

2. Cooch-Bihar Distt. Cooch Bihar

3. Magrahat Distt. 24 Parganas (N)

4. Barasat Distt. 24 Parganas (N)

5. Malda Distt Purulia

6. Krishannagar Distt. Nadia

7. Karimpur Distt. Nadia

8. Kharagpur Distt. Midnapur

9. Kaliachack Distt. Malda

Mobile Dispensaries :

10. Calcutta Distt. Calcutta

11. Nimitita Distt. Murshidabad

Chest Clinic :

(a) Nimitita Distt. Murshidabad

Assam

Static-cum-Mobile Dispensaries :

1. Agartala Distt. Agartala.

Hospitals For Beedi Workers .

Bihar

one 50 Bedded T.B. hospital at Karma

Karnataka

one 50 Bedded hospital, at Mysore.

Uttar Pradesh

one 10 Bedded hospital at Gursahaiganj

Home Based Workers

985. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a legislation for the home based workers to formulate modalities to control the inhuman exploitation and to treat them as workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to call a conference of the Trade Unions and Women Organisations to discuss the problems of the home based workers whose number is increasing day by day; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Currency Racket

986. SHRI M.V.V. S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Enforcement officials of Delhi have unearthed a major foreign currency racket in the Capital recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether earlier also a large number of foreign currency and gold were seized at the International Airport at Delhi; and

(d) if so, the total gold and currency seized during the current year till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The Enforcement Directorate have recently detected two major cases of foreign exchange racketeering in the city in which foreign exchange amounting to Deutsche Mark 50, 340, Swiss Franc 700 and US \$ 9450 were seized. Indian currency

worth approximately Rs. 14 lakhs and four gold biscuits were also seized.

(c) and (d). On 24.4.1995, the Enforcement Directorate seized foreign exchange worth approximately Rs. 3 lakhs from a person at Delhi Airport.

During the current year, the Directorate has seized foreign currency worth Rs. 1.25 crores, Indian currency amounting to Rs. 3.08 crores and 16 gold biscuits.

White Paper on Foreign Debt

987. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the foreign borrowings during the last three years as a result of direct investments by the foreign companies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken the preparation of a white paper on foreign debts; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). There has been a decline in net foreign borrowings (net of repayments) during the last three years as per the balance of payments estimates. The direct foreign investments by the foreign companies have, to some extent, made up for the decline in net foreign borrowings. Direct foreign investments, including those by Non-Resident Indians, amounted to US \$ 341 Million in 1992-93, US \$ 620 million in 1993-94 and US \$ 1314 Million in 1994-95.

(c) and (d). The white paper on India's External Debt is being finalised and it is likely to be made available shortly.

Export of Rice by State Trading Corporation

988. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Trading Corporation had concluded a deal for export of 50,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh during the last few months ;

(b) whether STC had availed of the services of a private organisation for mediation in concluding this deal ;

(c) whether the said agency was given commission for services rendered by it;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the profit earned by the STC; and

(e) the reason for availing the services of private organisations in exporting rice ?

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

(c) to (e). Although agency commission is payable, so far no commission has actually been paid and the contract is still under implementation. The agency Commission payable is well within the ceiling prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India. It is not possible to estimate the profit to be earned by STC at this stage since the contracted quantity is being shipped. The agents, M/s. KP&FC, Dhaka are appointed on the basis of market information regarding their utility.

Growth Centres

989. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified some export growth centres in the country ;

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

(c) the details of the facilities provided in these centres ;

(d) the details of total expenditure likely to be incurred on each centre ;

(e) whether the Government had asked them to submit specific export plans ;

(f) if so, the details of such proposals received by the Government, centre-wise; and

(g) the extent up to which the facilities have been provided in these export centres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (g). the Government has identified 23 centres which lend themselves to classification as Export Intensive Areas with reference to specific commodities. A list of these Centres is attached as Statement. The objective is to strengthen the infrastructure at these Centres and facilitate export production. The State Governments have been advised to prepare feasibility studies accordingly. The projects are to be implemented by State Governments, the expenditure at each Centre would depend on the scope of the works proposed . In respect of Tirupur in Tamil Nadu, an expenditure of Rs. 589 crores has been proposed. On regard to Moradabad , the feasibility report envisages an investment of Rs. 462.21 crore. In respect of other centres, feasibility studies are yet to be conducted by the concerned State Government.

STATEMENT

Export Intensive Area Scheme		Identified Centres
Name of the Centre	State	Commodity
1	2	3
Tiruppur	Tamil Nadu	Knitwear & Hosiery
Morabad	Uttar Pradesh	Brassware Handicrafts
Ludhiana	Punjab	Heavy Machinery Hosiery
Surat	Gujarat	Diamonds Jewellery
Panipat	Haryana	Handlooms
Alleppey	Kerala	Coir
Jalandhar	punjab	Sports Goods
Ranipet/abmar	Tamil Nadu	Leather

1	2	3
Nagpur	Maharashtra	Handtools
Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Marine Products
Meerut	Uttar Pradsh	sports Goods
Aligarh	-do-	Brass Locks
Agra	-do-	Leather footwear
Khurja	-do-	pottery
Kancheepuram	Tamil nadu	Silk
Sivakasi	-do-	Safety Match
Salem	-do-	Handtool
Ambala	Haryana	Scientific instruments
Jamnagar	Gujarat	Brass parts
Rajkot	Gujrat	Engine pump
Vapi-ankleshwar	Gujarat	Chemicals
Batala	Punjab	Machine Tools
Bhagalpur	Bihar	Weaving

Design for High Denomination Currency Notes

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

(a) whether the International Intelligence Agencies have warned the RBI against its decision to downgrade the new designs for high denomination currency notes in view of counterfeit currency coming up in the market; and

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

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

(b) : Does not arise.

Production of Coffee

991. SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of coffee during each of the last three years;

(b) the total quantity of coffee exported and the foreign exchange earned there from during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the domestic consumption and export of coffee during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The year-wise total production of coffee during the last three years is :

Season	Production (In tonnes)
1992-93	169,395
1993-94	208,000
1994-95	180,100

(b) The quantity of coffee exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are :-

Year	Qty. exported (in tonnes)	Foreign exchange earned (in US \$ Million)
1992-93	113602	133.51
1993-94	136690	186.90
1994-95	137350	350.13

(c) In order to boost domestic consumption as well as exports, the coffee marketing system has been liberalised by the Government presently small growers having holding size of 10 hectares and below have a choice to sell their entire production either in domestic or export market while other growers can do so upto 70% or their total produce Besides this, in order to make coffee available to consumers at a reasonable price, the coffee board has taken the following steps :

(i) 2500 MTs of coffee have been earmarked to be sold through Coffee Board 's promotional outlets all over the country;

(ii) The Coffee board has come out with a scheme to sell pure quality coffee powder blends at a reasonable price of Rs. 125/kg for Plantation 'c' and Rs. 130/ Kg. for commercial blends.

In order to boost exports, the board under its export promotion programme is taking up the following steps :

- (i) Regular participation in important coffee fairs abroad.
- (ii) Media publicity campaign to popularise Indian coffee besides production of a T.V. film on Indian coffee.
- (iii) Conducting regular market survey and deputation of business negotiation delegation to foreign markets.
- (iv) Inviting market, teams to the country to popularise Indian coffee. A coffee speciality team from USA

will be in India in January , 1996 to study the speciality of Indian coffee.

- (v) Coffee Board in collaboration with the United Planters Association of South India (UPASI) will be holding an International Conference on Coffee at Bangalore in May, 1996.

Custom Excise and Salt Act,1994

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

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Section 4 of Custom, Excise and Salt Act, 1994 to plug loopholes in Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). Many of the problems faced by the Department in operating Section 4 of the Central Excises & Salt Act, 1994 have since been resolved by the Supreme Court's recent Judgements, including their Judgement in the recalled MRF case. As such, there is presently, no proposal before the Government to amend the said Section 4.

Export of Robusta Coffee

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

(a) whether India is a member of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) ;

(b) whether it is bound to adhere to the ACPC's export retention scheme;

(c) whether in view of the international prices for Robusta grade coffee 20 per cent of it's retention is required by the member countries;

(d) if so, the reason therefor and the percentage of export of Robusta grade coffee in the total coffee exports;

(e) whether the continuance of Export Retention Scheme will affect our coffee export targets during the current year; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of Robuta coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). No, Sir, India is not a member of ACPC and, therefore, not bound to adhere to ACPC's Export Retention Scheme.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of reply to parts (a) to (c).

(f) Indian Robusta coffee is considered a premium variety in the International market and therefore, requires no exclusive promotion campaign. However, Coffee Board has requested the International Coffee Organisation to send a speciality coffee team to visit India in the month of January, 1996 to get first hand information on Indian Robusta in order to further promote its use in the International coffee market as a speciality coffee.

Trade with SAARC Countries

994. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage in terms of value the Indian trade with other SAARC countries forms of the total foreign trade by India during 1993-94, 1994-95 and during April-September, 1995;

(b) the steps taken to promote bilateral trade amongst the SAARC countries;

(c) whether all SAARC countries have accorded Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to other SAARC countries and whether SAPA has come into operation;

(d) whether any study has been made recently of the quantum and composition of imports/exports by SAARC countries which could be alternatively met by exports/ imports by India or other SAARC countries respectively;

(e) if so, the brief conclusion thereof ;

(f) whether adequate transport facilities by road, rail and sea for trade among SAARC countries exist;

(g) if not, whether the SAARC has recommended any steps in this direction; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The value of Indian trade with other SAARC countries as a

percentage of India's foreign trade was 2.22% in 1993-94, 2.49% in 1994-95 and 2.91% during April-September, 1995.

(b) The most significant measure taken to promote trade among the SAARC countries is the signing of the Agreement on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) by the member-Countries on 11 April 1993, followed by the conclusion of the first round of negotiations on exchange of tariff concessions among them on a product-by-product basis, and the ratification of the SAPTA Agreement, which is now set to be operationalised from 7 December, 1995. At a recent meeting of the SAARC Committee of Economic Cooperation, held in New Delhi from November 16-17, 1995, agreement has also been reached on further steps to carry forward the SAPTA process, toward its eventual progression to a free trading arrangement among SAARC countries.

In parallel, the business community of the SAARC countries have constituted a SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as a non-governmental form to expand and intensify their mutual interaction, as well as with the SAARC governments, aimed at promotion of trade and economic cooperation among SAARC countries.

Other trade promotion measures on which understanding has been reached among SAARC countries include, *inter alia*, SAARC trade fairvisa exemption scheme for business visits, consideration to facilitate transport and other infrastructure development for trade, commissioning of studies for promotion of trade as well as intra-regional investment and joint ventures, and co-ordination in customs procedures and systems.

(c) (i) No, Sir; Pakistan has not accorded MFN treatment to India.

(ii) SAPTA has to come into operation w.e.f. 7 December, 1995.

(d) and (e). No such study has come to Government's notice which specifies the quantum composition of trade by SAARC countries which could be alternatively met by other SAARC countries including India.

(f) There is a general recognition of the need for further improvement in transport facilities for trade among SAARC countries.

(g) and (h). Consideration of the subject has been initiated by SAARC countries with the commissioning of a preliminary study in this regard.

Registered Unemployed Youths

995. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

SHRI LALIT ORAON :

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered unemployed youths in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise, Union Territory-wise and category-wise particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

(b) the number of unemployed youths provided with employment in the country during each of the last three year, State-wise , Union Territory-wise particularly scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether the Government have taken or propose to take any steps to provide employment or unemployment allowance to unemployed persons in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not , the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a). Information is furnished in the **Statement-I** enclosed.

(b) Information is furnished in the **statement -II** enclosed.

(c) to (e). The Central Government is not in favour of paying unemployment allowance to any category of unemployed on account of resource constraints.

STATEMENT-I

Number of job-seekers on the Live Register for Employment Exchanges in the country at the end of calendar Year 1991, 1992 and 1993.

State/ Union Territories	1991				1992				1993			
	Total	Women	Sch. Caste	Sch. Tribe	Total	Women	Sch. Caste	Sch. Tribe	Total	Women	Sch. Caste	Sch. Tribe
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

States

1. Andhra Pradesh	3208.7	494.4	378.3	79.8	3330.9	527.4	406.6	81.8	2996.6	500.8	398.8	70.9
2. Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	1.3	-	-	5.3	1.5	@	0.5	7.7	2.3	@	0.4
3. Assam	1332.5	275.5	72.7	130.2	1355.1	284.7	74.9	143.5	1377.0	288.0	75.3	140.0
4. Bihar	3574.9	231.8	387.3	216.1	3486.8	227.0	381.2	203.6	3339.3	223.0	379.7	242.8
5. Goa	101.9	31.2	1.1	@	108.2	33.5	1.1	@	116.3	36.9	1.4	@
6. Gujarat	982.3	125.3	165.7	87.2	1027.0	136.0	174.9	91.2	973.6	132.8	172.2	93.6
7. Haryana	667.3	104.7	111.0	@	653.7	104.4	107.4	@	676.3	108.8	110.3	@
8. Himachal Pradesh	464.4	105.1	81.4	14.1	472.4	107.9	84.7	13.6	482.0	110.0	90.3	13.9
9. Jammu & Kashmir	136.5	20.7	7.1	0.1	130.7	20.4	8.0	0.3	137.8	23.7	8.6	0.5
10. Karnataka	1456.5	293.7	161.4	19.2	1501.8	311.9	173.5	24.1	1575.4	330.5	187.5	28.3
11. Kerala	3722.5	1838.1	330.7	17.7	3826.1	1902.1	325.5	18.3	4171.0	2095.7	393.6	20.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12. Madhya Pradesh	1990.9	284.6	252.4	164.0	1982.5	277.7	258.2	176.1	11939.6	275.6	273.7	190.0
13. Maharashtra	3159.3	484.1	494.0	103.0	3320.7	532.3	518.6	189.1	13349.4	559.3	536.4	118.9
14. Manipur	196.8	53.0	1.4	49.2	212.9	58.3	1.6	53.2	229.9	63.0	1.8	54.1
15. Meghalaya	24.0	8.3	0.2	16.1	24.9	9.4	0.2	17.6	27.6	10.6	0.3	18.7
16. Mizoram	37.0	8.9	-	37.0	36.3	8.7	-	36.3	39.9	9.9	-	38.8
17. Nagaland	23.0	6.5	1.6	19.7	20.6	6.2	1.1	20.6	20.7	6.0	1.1	19.5
18. Orissa	903.7	114.1	112.5	69.1	896.9	125.9	114.3	74.0	857.8	126.0	117.1	73.4
19. Punjab	751.4	162.1	203.1	@	721.55	158.4	196.1	@	645.8	142.8	181.3	@
20. Rajasthan	892.6	83.2	128.7	59.3	864.7	84.8	121.5	54.0	828.7	84.7	127.3	57.8
21. Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	3456.1	1007.9	709.6	14.8	3736.7	1123.4	748.1	12.1	13860.0	1168.1	804.4	13.9
23. Tripura	166.6	54.7	10.3	11.5	179.7	59.9	10.8	12.3	189.2	64.0	12.0	13.9
24. Uttar Pradesh	2767.9	212.1	512.0	10.0	2534.7	201.6	474.4	10.4	2379.6	192.2	454.0	9.8
25. West Bengal	5073.5	1049.5	423.4	82.4	5091.2	1075.5	437.2	79.2	4815.1	1028.1	456.1	86.8
<i>Union Territories</i>												
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	17.5	5.0	-	0.7	17.0	5.2	-	0.7	18.8	6.1	-	0.7
27. Chandigarh	160.1	32.3	41.7	7.1	161.9	33.1	42.3	0.1	161.6	33.2	41.9	0.1
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2.5	0.7	0.2	0.9	2.9	0.8	0.2	0.9	3.5	1.0	0.2	0.9
29. Delhi	890.9	179.7	122.7	13.3	905.5	193.9	129.8	16.6	908.0	197.0	138.7	18.6
30. Daman & Diu	2.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	2.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	3.0	0.7	0.2	0.3
31. Lakshadweep	6.3	1.3	-	5.7	6.9	1.5	-	6.4	7.9	1.9	-	6.4
32. Pondicherry	125.3	37.6	9.5	0.1	130.4	39.5	9.5	0.1	135.5	42.2	10.0	@
Total:	36299.7	7307.7	74720.1	1221.1	36758.4	7652.9	4801.0	1256.5	36275.5	7865.3	4974.0	1333.2

Note : 1. *No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

2. All the job- seekers on the live Register of Employment Exchanges are not necessarily unemployed.

3. Figures may not add upto total due to rounding off.

4. @ Figures less than 50.

STATEMENT-II

Number of job-seekers places in employment by the employment exchanges in the country during the calendar year 1991, 1992 and 1993.

(In thousands)

States/ Union Territories	1991				1992				1993			
	Total	Women	Sch. Caste	Sch. Tribe	Total	Women	Sch. Caste	Sch. Tribe	Total	Women	Sch. Caste	Sch Tribe
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>States</i>												
1. Andhra Pradesh	15.4	2.3	2.1	0.6	19.1	2.8	3.6	1.2	16.0	2.4	2.4	0.4
2. Arunachal Pradesh	@	@	-	-	@	@	@	-	0.1	@	@	@
3. Assam	4.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	2.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.8	0.3	0.2	0.3
4. Bihar	13.0	0.2	1.0	3.5	13.3	0.1	0.9	1.9	14.3	0.3	1.6	4.0
5. Goa	0.8	0.2	@	-	1.0	0.3	-	-	0.6	0.1	@	-
6. Gujarat	16.2	1.4	1.9	2.5	24.9	2.5	2.3	4.3	28.1	2.7	2.1	4.4
7. Haryana	7.3	0.8	1.9	@	3.6	0.5	1.0	-	4.5	0.6	1.3	@
8. Himachal Pradesh	3.8	0.9	0.6	0.2	5.3	0.9	0.9	0.1	4.3	1.0	0.9	0.2
9. Jammu & Kashmir	0.7	0.1	0.1	@	0.3	0.1	@	@	0.2	0.1	@	@
10. Karnataka	14.1	4.3	2.7	0.6	10.5	2.4	1.7	0.6	15.6	2.9	2.6	0.7
11. Kerala	16.1	7.4	1.6	0.2	15.6	7.1	1.3	0.1	16.6	8.1	1.5	0.2
12. Madhya Pradesh	14.9	1.6	2.2	3.2	13.1	1.7	2.5	3.9	18.0	2.0	3.2	4.7
13. Maharashtra	29.6	5.4	5.5	2.2	26.9	5.4	6.3	2.1	25.6	5.4	4.7	1.4
14. Manipur	0.1	@	@	@	0.1	@	@	@	0.3	0.1	@	0.1
15. Meghalaya	0.5	0.2	@	0.2	0.3	0.1	@	0.1	0.2	0.1	@	0.1
16. Mizoram	0.8	0.2	-	0.8	0.5	0.1	-	0.3	0.9	0.2	-	0.4
17. Nagaland	0.2	@	@	0.2	0.3	0.1	@	0.4	0.1	@	@	0.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
18. Orissa	7.6	1.4	1.5	1.3	7.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	4.8	0.6	0.7	0.9
19. Punjab	6.4	1.0	2.4	-	5.1	0.6	2.5	-	3.9	0.5	1.7	-
20. Rajasthan	11.1	2.8	1.4	0.9	12.6	2.4	1.7	0.9	9.0	2.2	1.5	0.9
21. Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	38.6	14.6	7.6	0.2	30.2	8.8	5.1	0.1	24.0	6.5	5.2	0.2
23. Tripura	0.4	0.1	-	-	0.9	0.3	@	0.1	2.5	0.8	@	@
24. Uttar Pradesh	17.4	1.4	3.8	0.2	18.9	2.1	5.6	0.3	14.9	1.3	3.8	0.2
25. West Bengal	9.7	1.0	1.2	0.2	7.4	1.0	1.0	0.2	6.5	0.8	0.9	0.2
<i>Union Territories</i>												
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.5	0.2	-	-	0.6	0.2	-	-	0.5	0.1	-	-
27. Chandigarh	1.3	0.4	0.3	@	1.1	0.2	0.4	-	1.0	0.4	0.3	-
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.1	@	-	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	@	@!	-	-
29. Delhi	22.0	2.7	0.4	0.1	16.8	1.8	0.5	0.1	14.4	2.7	0.2	@
30. Daman & Diu	@	@	@	@	@	@	@	@	0.1	@	@	@
31. Lakshadweep	0.1	@	-	-	0.1	@	-	-	0.2	@	-	-
32. Pondicherry	0.3	@	@	-	0.3	0.1	-	-	0.5	0.1	@	-
Total :	253.0	50.9	38.4	17.5	238.7	44.2	38.6	18.2	231.4	42.4	34.9	19.3

Note :- 1. * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this state.

2. @ Figures less than 50.

3. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

Forward Trading

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

(a) whether 'Badla' as a form of financing carry-over transactions for forward trading has been officially recognise Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has been collecting suggestions from the bourse authorities to help them to prepare their final recommendations in view of the Patel Committee recommendation in this behalf;

(d) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has submitted any review recommendations to the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has not reconsider 'Badla' system in stock exchanges as it existed in the past and that it has instead approved a revised carry-forward system of transactions in shares with several prudential conditions and precautions. Under the new system financiers funding the carry forward transactions are not permitted under any circumstances to square up their positions in the stock market until the monies are received back by them. Besides, the shares received by such financiers against these transactions should be deposited and kept in safe custody of the clearing house of the stock exchange/or its Authorised Agent.

(c) the SEBI Board took into account the suggestions of Stock Exchanges while finalising the revised system of carry-forward of transactions in shares referred to above.

(d) No Sir.

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

[Translation]

Survey for Tea Plantation in States

997. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey for the development of tea plantation as a part of rural development has been conducted in the States particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the outcomes thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct such survey in these States; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Study group is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Technical Survey of potential areas for growing tea in Various States including Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has already been undertaken during the Sixth and Seventh Plan period. However, this survey was not linked to rural development programmes. Results of the survey indicate good potentials for tea cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Garhwal and Kumaon hills in Uttar Pradesh, Idukki and Wynad districts in Kerala, Kodagu district in Karnataka, Kodaikanal and Annamalai in Tamilnadu, NC hills and Karbi Anglong Autonomous districts in Assam, Chamba and Mandi districts in Himachal Pradesh.

Survey of all the potential areas having already been conducted, there is no proposal for a fresh survey in these States.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of EXIM Bank of India

998. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Export/Import Bank of India have set up an export services group to make available to interested Indian companies vital business information expeditiously from different parts of the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has been offering a package of services to assist Indian consultants, suppliers and contractors to secure business in projects financial by multilateral agencies such as the World Bank. These services have been enhanced and have now been consolidated into an Export services Group which would bring together under one roof, various fee-based services necessary for globalisation of Indian companies, for marketing products abroad and transfer of technology. These services relate to information access, building capability, financial counselling, overseas commercial services and internationalisation support.

Share of Air India

999. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the share of Air India in International air traffic originating from India in 1980, 1985, 1990 and as at present;

(b) whether there is a decline in its share; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase its share in international air traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Details of market share of Air India and Indian carriers (including Indian Airlines) for the specific years are as follows:

Percentage of Market Share

	Air India	Indian Carriers Including (Indian Airlines)
1980	32.1	41.2
1985	26.1	34.9
1980	24.5	30.9
1994	20.4	30.6

(c) Air India is taking steps to increase its market share by increasing its capacity deployment and improving its product, image and on time performance .

Regulatory Body for Insurance Sector

1000. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a regulatory body for insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the composition and the terms or reference and the status likely to be given to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) to (c). It has been decided by the Government to establish an interim Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) under the overall administrative control of the Ministry of Finance, headed by a Chairman with an *ex-officio* status not below the rank of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India and with 7 members, of whom not more than 3 shall serve full time. The interim IRA will prepare a comprehensive legislation to establish an autonomous Insurance Regulatory Authority, conceptually similar to SEBI. The Chairman of the interim IRA will be appointed as controller of Insurance for the purpose of section 2B of the Insurance Act, 1938 as amended from time to time. The interim body will be ultimately amalgamated with the autonomous IRA as and when it comes into existence.

Operation of Small Air Craft

1001. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the small and big air craft for the operation of which permission has been granted by the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are attaching more priority in granting permission for the operation of big aircraft instead of small aircraft, whereas there are several small air-strips in India; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to grant permission for the operation of small aircraft with a view to ensure more utilisation of small air-strips in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The total number of aircraft permitted to be acquired/imported by the private operators during the last three years is as under :

Year	no. of aircraft
1993	23
1994	20
1995	32

In order to ensure safety, security and orderly growth of air transport services and keeping in view infrastructural constraints, Government is permitting addition of some limited capacity to existing operators and import of aircraft of seating capacity of 50 to new private airline operators.

RRBs in Assam

1002. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of the Regional Rural Banks functioning in Assam at present ;

(b) the main objectives of these banks and the achievement made by them during the last two years;

(c) whether some of these banks are facing resource crunch; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The names of 5 Regional Rural Banks (RRB) functioning in Assam and their Headquarters are given below :

Name of the banks	Headquarters
(1) Cachar Gramin Bank	Silchar
(2) Langpi Dhangri Rural Bank	Diphu
(3) Subansiri Gaonlia Bank	North Lakhimpur
(4) Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank	Nalbari
(5) Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank	Golaghat

(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 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 on March, 1994 as much as Rs. 182.04 crores and as on March, 1995 as much as Rs. 273.18 crores were mobilised by those RRBs as deposits. The credit support provided by these banks amounted to Rs. 118.11 crores (outstanding) as on 31.3.94 and Rs. 147.45 crores (outstanding) as on 31.3.95.

(c) and (d). The accumulated losses of these RRBs amounting to Rs. 62.29 crores as on 31.3.95 have had an adverse effect on the resource position. Government have undertaken a programme for comprehensive restructuring of RRBs which *inter alia* involves infusion of additional capital on need based basis. Of the 49 banks selected in the year 1994-95, there is one RRB from Assam; viz. Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank, Government of India has released its share of Rs. 11.09 crores to this RRB as additional equity.

Increase of Tourist Traffic in Rajasthan

1003. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourist traffic which was increased during 1993 has declined during 1994 in Rajasthan ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government during 1995 to increase the tourist traffic in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) According to the information available from the State Government, The tourist arrivals in Rajasthan during the last three years were as given below :

Year	Tourist Arrivals		Total
	Domestic	foreign	
1992	5263121	547802	5810923
1993	5454321	540738	5995059
1994	4699886	436801	5136687

(b) the decline in tourist traffic to Rajasthan was primarily due to overall decline in international tourist traffic to the country during October and November because of adverse publicity of alleged health hazards in India.

(c) Development of tourism in any State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, information on tourist places in Rajasthan are included in the publicity materials produced and the promotional measures undertaken by the Department of Tourism.

Capital Markets

1004. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to create a system which adequately ensures investors' confidence in the capital markets;

(b) the safeguards imposed to guarantee financial stability and integrity of the depositories as well as to prevent technical systems failure; and

(c) the measures taken to promote the efficient settlement and clearance of securities transactions necessary to modernise India's market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the capital market regulator, has been taking a number of steps to protect the interest of investors. Rules and regulations have been formulated by SEBI which govern the functioning of various market intermediaries such as Stock Brokers, Sub-brokers, Merchant Bankers, Debenture Trustees, Mutual Funds etc. In addition, regulations have also been framed to prevent insider trading, hostile takeovers and unfair market practices. Disclosure norms for the issuers are also reviewed from time to time with a view to ensuring that investors make informed decisions.

(b) The Depositories Bill, 1995 provides that certificate of commencement would be granted by SEBI to a Depository only if the Depository has adequate systems and safeguards to prevent manipulation of records and transactions. The bill further provides that any loss caused to the beneficial owner due to the negligence of the depository, the Depository shall indemnify the beneficial owner. In order to guard against the technical systems failure, the Depositories will have adequate back up facilities at different locations.

(c) SEBI has advised the stock exchanges to shorten their settlement cycles and establish clearing houses for speedy settlement and clearing of trades. As a result, the stock exchanges have, in general, started following a seven day settlement cycle in cash shares. The stock exchanges have also been encouraged to automate their operations with a view to increasing efficiency and transparency in their systems.

New Textile Policy

1005. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of state for TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need for a perspective plan for the textiles industry defining goals and targets for the next five years.

(b) if so, whether any new policy for textiles is being worked out; and

(c) if so, the main features of proposed new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMALNATH) : (a) Long term perspective planning for the textile sector is done at the time of preparation of the Five Year Plan. The targets and strategies laid down therein are monitored on a regular basis. Government keeps a close watch on the developments for review and change, appropriate measures are taken through policy interventions.

(b) and (c). The process for finalisation of the Ninth Five Year Plan has just begun and the textile sector would be appropriately covered. The main objective of the Government would be to ensure that the full potential of the textile industry in the country is tapped so as to meet the twin objectives of making good quality cloth available at affordable prices in adequate quantities and simultaneously give an increased share in the global textile trade.

World Bank Loan

1006. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned loan of 210 crores for nine projects in India for the year commencing from July 1995 ; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects for which the loan has been sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The World Bank Board has approved, since July 1995 two projects namely Bombay Sewage Disposal Project for an amount of US \$ 192 million and Hydrology Project for an amount of US \$ 142 million.

Development of Textile Industry

1007. SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated several steps to help the Indian textile industry to conform to ecological standards which have assumed a great significance in the world market;

(b) if so, whether any concrete programme of action has been prepared in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian woollen industry is still largely dependent upon the Australian and New Zealand wool for manufacture of apparels and carpets; and

(e) if so, when the action plan to help the textile industry with ecological standards is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (e). In order to help the Indian textile industry to meet the growing concern for ecological standards in the world market, Government have initiated a number of steps, such as upgradation and expansion of textile laboratories for providing testing facilities, including those for eco-parameters, within easy reach of the Industry; conducting a large number of extension workshops, seminars etc. with a view to creating an awareness along textile trade and industry regarding the eco-specification requirements of major importing countries and for the dyes to be used for production of eco-friendly textiles etc.

(d) As the indigenous production of fine quality of wool required by organised mills and decentralised sector is limited, Indian woollen industry is largely dependent upon Australian wool for manufacture of apparels and New Zealand wool for blending with the indigenous

wool for manufacture of carpets.

Financial Assistance for Construction of Hotel

1008. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to each State for construction of hotels, motels and guest houses during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of hotels, motels and guest houses constructed with or without financial assistance provided by the Union Government during the same period, State-wise, separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The Central Financial Assistance provided to State/ UT Governments to construct Tourist Lodges, Tourist complexes, Wayside Amenities, Yatri Niwases, Cafeterias, Tented Accommodation etc., during the last three years is given in the attached Statement.

The details of facilities created by the State Governments with their own funds are not mentioned by the Department of Tourism.

STATEMENT

Central financial assistance sanctioned and related to the State Governments/Union territories during Eighth Five Year Plan, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95

(Rs. in Lakhs)

States/Union		1992-93		1993-94		1994-95	
Territories		Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
States							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9.5	7.23	114.28	48.15	171.99	73.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	48.2	28.00	45.40	23.50	-	-
3.	Assam	78.66	37.94	78.11	28.83	52.99	27.0
4.	Bihar	54.41	26.33	9.75	4.95	103.10	24.0
5.	Goa	42.71	22.76	78.82	37.83	76.74	32.6
6.	Gujarat	20.90	8.00	65.76	35.48	14.50	7.5
7.	Haryana	104.97	49.50	226.76	44.70	173.98	45.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	111.94	44.36	369.25	125.92	297.90	100.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	152.75	73.69	236.19	88.38	123.47	61.2
10.	Karnataka	184.66	112.22	177.44	56.53	229.96	104.5
11.	Kerala	150.08	46.43	97.40	26.50	287.05	113.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	39.07	13.70	50.42	7.00	-	-
13.	Maharashtra	201.30	88.69	309.11	86.57	207.39	52.19
14.	Manipur	66.24	34.38	45.50	23.35	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	9.77	5.00	1.85	1.85	-	-
16.	Mizoram	47.70	30.45	88.18	12.50	56.49	28.50
17.	Nagaland	7.17	6.50	16.66	8.00	23.08	11.00
18.	Orissa	72.37	37.63	101.52	61.79	164.60	30.00
19.	Punjab	135.83	42.50	111.21	49.86	113.93	45.50
20.	Rajasthan	153.31	68.60	285.70	136.44	94.86	38.30
21.	Sikkim	49.12	28.10	130.89	86.39	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	107.42	46.10	402.45	196.89	132.45	46.50
23.	Tripura	80.28	36.70	9.31	4.69	46.61	11.72
24.	Uttar Pradesh	97.31	46.88	166.04	66.65	149.62	107.75
25.	West Bengal	94.10	39.00	158.38	67.00	164.87	42.00
Union Territories							
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	53.50	30.50	53.47	26.00	-	-
2.	Chandigarh	13.70	4.25	18.66	8.64	21.38	8.11
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	23.62	4.00
4.	Daman & Diu	28.50	28.50	12.03	7.50	44.29	11.45
5.	Delhi	58.34	19.93	133.71	76.48	37.41	19.00
6.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	19.95	10.00
7.	Pondicherry	-	-	29.75	15.00	-	-
Total		2273.92	1063.87	3604.00	1465.37	2842.29	1054.67

Child Labour

1009. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government released Rs. 3.19 crore for Kurnool district in the first phase as part of its plan for rehabilitation of child labourers engaged in hazardous and dangerous occupations;

(b) if so, the number of working children in the district;

(c) whether any time of working children in the district;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the amount sanctioned so far has been fully utilised ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) against the approved assistance of Rs. 3.19 crore, Government have released an amount of Rs. 31,96,000 to the collector, Kurnool district as its instalment for running a Project Society and 200 special schools to cover 10,000 children withdrawn from work from hazardous occupations.

(b) According to the 1981 census, the number of child labour in Kurnool district is 1,13,630.

(c) and (d). The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address on Independence Day in 1994 announced the Government's resolve to eliminate child labour altogether in hazardous occupations and processes estimated at 20 lakhs in a time-bound manner. Following this announcement, a National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The NAECL adopted a circular on " Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour " this circular has already been forwarded to all the State Governments by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Union Labour Minister for necessary action . This circular covers the range of actions to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations.

The NAECL also recommended that efforts to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations should be started in most child labour endemic districts in the country . Accordingly, a Workshop for Collectors from the most child labour endemic districts in the country was held on 13th & 14th September, 1995 . The purpose of this workshop was to finalise the modalities for

implementing the child labour projects at the district level and getting necessary feedback from the field level agencies for shaping the future child labour elimination programme in the country. The workshop resulted in the sanctioning of 63 National Child Labour Projects with an annual expenditure of Rs . 40.50 crores benefiting a total of 1.20 lakh children in child labour endemic districts. This is in addition to 16,000 children already covered under the National Child Labour Projects.

(e) and (f). Utilisation of funds sanctioned in a particular year is a continuous process throughout the year.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

1010. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of illegal non-banking finance companies are mushrooming at an alarming growth ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to curb these illegal companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) can commence its operations after getting a certificate of incorporation and a certificate of commencement of business (where necessary) from the Registrar of Companies. It is not required to obtain separately a permission from RBI. RBI receives the intimation regarding incorporation of NBFCs from the Registrar of Companies of the concerned States and puts names of such Companies on its mailing lists. The number of NBFCs on the mailing list of RBI was 41.381 on 31.08.95.

(c) Proposals to regulate the activities of NBFCs more effectively are being examined.

Credit Facilities to Exports

1011. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry has requested to the Government for reviewing the credit facility for exporters with a view of achieving export targets ;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the Government have made any new plans for exporters to achieve the target fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. No such request for review has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d). The Government continuously interacts with exporters and fine tunes the policies with a view to increase our exports.

[Translation]

Suggestions By IDBI

1012. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the warning tendered by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) that the domestic capital market is unable to generate resources according to aspirations, challenges and it may lead to dependency on foreign exchange due to which of payment crisis may arise once again; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) IDBI has informed that it has not submitted any such report to the Government.

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

[English]

Development of Tourism Centre

1013. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sought by the administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the development of tourist ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Union Government have made any plan to attract more foreign tourists to these Islands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The Andman and Nicobar Administration has identified 7 projects for seeking financial assistance during 1995-96. However, the Department of Tourism is yet to receive any detailed proposal from Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

(c) and (d). Promotion of tourism is an on-going process and information on these islands are included in the publicity material produced and the promotional measures undertaken by the Department of Tourism.

Bank Credit to N.B.F.Cs

1014. SHRI .R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a relaxation in sanctioning credit to the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) by commercial banks in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present norms for sanctioning credit to NBFCs., the total amount of bank credit given to NBFCs during the last three years, year-wise and the percentage of the credit to NBFCs vis-a-vis the total credit sanctioned by the commercial banks in 1994-95;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently impressed upon the banks to have close monitoring of the loans/credit to NBFCs and to grant credit only after detailed scrutiny of their past record;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely impacts of the aforesaid directions of RBI on the leasing activities of the commercial banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during 1994-95 there had been a substantial flow of credit from banks and financial institutions to NBFCs. It was considered necessary to moderate the overall limits of such lendings. The earlier and new limits are as under :-

Category of NBFC	Earlier overall Limit	New Overall Limit
1	2	3
Equipment leasing/hire purchase companies having not less than 75% of their assets in equipment leasing/hire purchase and 75% of their gross income from these two types of activities as per the last audited balance sheet.	Four times the net owned funds (NOF) of the company.	Three times of the NOF of the company.
Other equipment leasing/ hire purchase companies. Loan & Investment Companies and Residuary Non-banking companies.	Three times the NOF of the company. Two times the NOF of the company.	Two times the NOF of the company. Equal to NOF of the company.

In so far as the flow of bank credit to the NBFCs is concerned, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). As part of lending discipline RBI has been impressing upon banks from time to time, to apprise all proposals relating to sanction of all types of credit facilities on the basis of past performance of the borrowers, audited financial results and future projections.

(e) As banks can also provide lease finance directly or through their subsidiaries there is a possibility of increase in the quantum of lease finance extended by banks themselves.

Financial Status of Public Sector Banks In U.P.

1015. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the present financial status of the public sector banks operating in U.P. bank-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the financial position of these banks during the recent past;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) the financial position of public sector banks operating in Uttar Pradesh as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is given below :

S.I. No.	Name of the Bank	Financial position for the year ended	
		31.3.1993	31.3.1994
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
2.	Andhra Bank	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
3.	Bank of Baroda	Not satisfactory	Good
4.	Bank of India	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory

1	2	3	4
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	Not satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
6.	Canara Bank	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
7.	Central Bank of India	Not satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
8.	Corporation Bank	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
9.	Dena Bank	Not satisfactory	Not satisfactory
10.	Indian Bank	Unsatisfactory	Not satisfactory
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	Unsatisfactory	Not satisfactory
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Good	Good
13.	Punjab National Bank	Satisfactory	Good
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
15.	Syndicate Bank	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
16.	Union Bank of India	Not satisfactory	Satisfactory
17.	United Bank of India	Not Satisfactory	Satisfactory
18.	UCO Bank	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
19.	Vijaya Bank	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
20.	State Bank of India	Good	Good
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	Good	Good
23.	State Bank of Indore	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
24.	State Bank fo Patiala	Good	Good
25.	State Bank of Saurashtra	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
26.	State Bank of Travancore	Good	Satisfactory

(b) and (c). Application of stringent norms for income recognition and creation of sizeable amount of provision for non-performing advances (NPAs), Reversal to interest recognised as income in earlier years on NPAs, writing off of certain loss assets, are some of the reasons for the financial position of some of these banks.

(d) In order to improve the overall financial position of banks, the finding of the annual inspection are discussed by RBI with the Chairman of the concerned bank who is urged to take effective steps to improve the working of the bank. Off-site surveillance, on-site inspection and signing of MOUs, as a pre-condition for disbursement of capital, are some of the other steps being taken to improve the viability of banks.

Board of Directors In Nationalised Banks

1016. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for nominating any person on the Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks;

(b) the details of presently nominated Directors belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Board of Nationalised Banks;

(c) whether the Government also nominate representatives of employees and officers from the General Labour Unions on these boards ; and

(d) if not, the efforts being made for nominating Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes representatives, in consultation with Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes organisations, on the Board of Nationalised Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (c) and (d). Nomination of directors, including a representative each from workman and officer employees, is made by the Central Government of the boards of the nationalised banks in accordance with the procedure and criteria prescribed in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 and the schemes framed thereunder.

(b) The names of non-official directors belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes on the board of the nationalised banks are furnished in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Names of SC/ST representatives on the Boards of nationalised banks.

Sl. No.	Name of the non-official directors	Name of the Bank
1	2	3
1.	Sh. Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka	Andhra Bank
2.	Sh. Krishan Swaroop	Bank of Baroda
3.	Ms. Jhansi Rani Namboori	Dena Bank
4.	Sh. M. Venkatachalam	Indian Overseas Bank
5.	Dr. Satwant Singh Mohi	Oriental Bank of Commerce
6.	Sh. Tej Lal Bharti	Punjab National Bank
7.	Sh. Norbu Barongpa	Punjab & Sind Bank
8.	Sh. R. L. Choudhary	-do-
9.	Sh. Raj Kumar Nagrath	UCO Bank
10.	Sh. Bahura Ekka	Union Bank of India
11.	Sh. Narsing Baitha	United Bank of India
12.	Prof. D.N. Sandanshiv	Vijaya Bank

[Translation]

Expansion of Jaipur Airport

1017. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to build an International Airport at Jaipur ; and

(b) if so , the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Grants to States

1018. SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released the full amount / grants Sanctioned to the States particularly Gujarat State for the Annual Plan of 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date.

(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) The normal Central assistance for States' Annual Plans, Plan Revenue Deficit Grants are released in instalments. The release of normal Central assistance is subject to plan expenditure as approved/ revised by the Planning Commission. In case of a short fall under an earmarked/MNP sector or in overall expen-

diture of the plan as a whole, the Central assistance is reduced proportionately. The last instalment of normal Central assistance in the month of March each year is as per States' entitlement on the basis of anticipated expenditure reported by the respective State. The States entitlement so calculated on the basis of anticipated expenditure is re-calculated on receipt of departmental actuals of plan expenditure which are generally received in the next year. The release of additional Central assistance for externally aided projects is on reimbursement basis. Special Central assistance for area programmes is also released in instalments depending upon the progress of expenditure in States. Loans are also given to States equal to 75% of their net collection of small savings. This loan is also meant for funding of States for their Annual Plans. The grants/amounts sanctioned to States for their Annual Plan 1994-95 and 1995-96, as per their entitlement, stand released.

(b) Statement I and II showing the allocation and release of the amounts to States for Annual Plan 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date are enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

[STATEMENT] - I

STATES	Normal Central Assistance including loan assistance		Spl. Central Assistance		Revenue Deficit Stand for Area Programmes		Small savings Grant (Plan)			Loan	
	Alloca- ted	Reeas- ed	Alloca- ted	Reeas- ed	Alloca- ted	Reeas- ed	Alloca- ted	Reeas- ed	Estim- ates	Reeas- ed	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Andhra Pradesh	706.03	732.75	650.00	570.38	-	-	95.55	95.55	300.00	591.30	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	306.84	306.94	2.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	3.00	5.35	
3. Assam	860.21	851.25	86.80	6.67	46.42	46.42	87.89	87.89	125.00	387.98	
4. Bihar	947.31	914.15	200.00	72.01	-	-	384.80	384.80	250.00	245.10	
5. Goa	47.34	48.86	5.80	0.73	2.11	2.15	-	-	15.00	23.00	
6. Gujarat	260.50	245.51	223.87	141.05	7.93	7.93	-	-	550.00	626.27	
7. Haryana	187.02	171.59	178.12	74.92	-	-	-	-	175.00	237.67	
8. Himachal Pradesh	280.42	293.94	80.00	38.20	-	-	-	-	109.40	266.04	
9. J & K	835.55	1707.48	②	15.00	11.10	17.50	17.50	3.72	50.00	93.21	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10.	Karnataka	305.93	282.78	570.00	373.91	10.18	9.61	-	-	440.00	747.07
11.	Kerala	383.20	378.14	199.65	126.82	8.58	8.51	115.51	115.51	250.00	393.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	553.53	542.60	184.46	94.31	-	-	293.39	293.39	200.00	267.55
13.	Maharashtra	447.21	427.81	550.00	562.58	13.81	13.81	-	-	550.00	766.73
14.	Manipur	217.94	230.65	5.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	3.57	4.95
15.	Meghalaya	211.85	211.94	37.00	0.00	4.23	4.23	-	-	14.00	11.34
16.	Mizoram	196.37	199.67	10.00	0.00	3.25	3.25	-	-	3.50	3.84
17.	Nagaland	195.44	226.60@@		10.00	0.00	-	-	-	2.50	1.78
18.	Orissa	376.99	361.42	270.00	201.72	-	-	206.72	206.72	150.00	211.51
19.	Punjab	762.91	740.94@@@	209.12	99.39	7.89	7.89	15.09	15.09	275.00	411.31
20.	Rajasthan	428.77	422.05	270.00	197.77	80.44	80.44	306.73	306.73	300.00	450.31
21.	Sikkim	134.96	132.40	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.35	2.74
22.	Tamil Nadu	650.45	644.97	764.87	671.69	25.01	25.01	12.26	12.26	375.00	569.91
23.	Tripura	247.58	258.61	35.00	0.00	9.81	9.81	-	-	22.50	16.11
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1289.88	1368.90	1037.24	497.80	197.06	197.06	878.69	878.69	1117.50	1644.17
25.	West Bengal	489.98	519.73	351.27	163.20	45.18	40.00	279.62	279.62	750.00	1351.43
Total		11324.21	12221.68	5954.20	3904.25	479.40	473.62	2679.97	2679.97	6031.32	9329.65

EAPs : Externally Aided Projects. @ Including special Assistance of Rs. 973.00 crores @ @ Including Additional Central Assistance Rs. 18.00 crores and special plan Loan of Rs. 12.00 Crores for Nagaland and special plan Loan of Rs. 600.00 crores for Punjab.

STATEMENT-II

The Allocation and Release (Up to Date) of the Amount to States for Annual Plan 1995-96

(Rs. in crores)

States	Normal Central assistance including loan assistance		Additional Central Assistance for EAPs		Spl. Central Assistance for Area Programmes		Small savings Loan				
	Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released	Allocated	Released	Estimated	Released			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	777.50	515.20	770.00	409.55	0.00	0.00		717.50		438.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	381.80	226.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		6.00		0.56
3.	Assam	946.36	708.91	80.00	2.19	50.16	6.37		150.00		88.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Bihar	1031.15	657.40	150.00	14.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	525.00	325.14	
5.	Goa	57.34	37.60	13.00	0.12	2.32	0.70	19.00	20.35		
6.	Gujarat	331.08	194.84	133.88	81.11	7.99	4.00	630.00	728.00		
7.	Haryana	208.37	138.96	190.00	66.97	0.00	0.00	203.00	206.21		
8.	Himachal Pradesh	395.46	263.20	55.39	28.74	0.00	0.00	110.00	115.27		
9.	J & K	1383.50 ⊙ ⊙	928.85	10.00	4.06	19.25	9.63	85.00	28.90		
10.	Karnataka	378.15	250.40	448.80	125.20	11.22	3.37	450.00	363.75		
11.	Kerala	414.00	275.60	200.00	30.62	9.46	2.84	355.00	263.48		
12.	Madhya Pradesh	665.80	409.70	120.00	67.53	0.00	0.00	250.00	212.77		
13.	Maharashtra	570.24	333.60	1210.00	362.88	15.17	4.55	700.00	990.11		
14.	Manipur	272.34	157.15	5.00	-	0.00	0.00	4.00	1.44		
15.	Meghalaya	227.34	149.15	0.00	-	3.68	1.84	16.00	2.28		
16.	Mizoram	226.37	147.32	15.00	-	2.54	1.27	4.00	1.54		
17.	Nagaland	230.44	152.40	15.00	-	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.45		
18.	Orissa	491.34 ⊙ ⊙ ⊙	290.82	260.00	65.15	0.00	0.00	250.00	129.26		
19.	Punjab	212.92	342.00 ⊙	155.00	64.00	7.95	3.98	425.00	415.85		
20.	Rajasthan	481.54	299.20	350.00	153.01	83.86	41.93	450.00	288.85		
21.	Sikkim	157.46	104.30	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	1.50	-		
22.	Tamil Nadu	667.36	444.00	950.00	247.84	27.53	8.26	400.00	291.40		
23.	Tripura	284.72	183.60	0.00	-	10.20	5.10	20.00	2.28		
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1492.80	958.30	1020.00	245.18	217.07	56.25	1420.00	993.82		
25.	West Bengal	580.01	385.52	400.00	44.31	50.92	35.77	1150.00	1117.26		
Total		12865.05	8555.18	6551.07	2012.92	519.32	185.86	8342.50	7025.94		

EAPs: Externally Aided Project.

⊙ ⊙ Includes Rs. 44 crores as Spl. Plan Loan.

⊙ Includes Rs.200 Crores as special Plan Loan.

⊙ ⊙ ⊙ Includes Rs. 55 crores Spl. Plan Loan.

Paris Meeting on Foreign Investment

1019. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India took part in the Paris meeting where direct foreign investment from the developing countries came up for special discussion;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the likely impact of these decisions on foreign investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). The India Development forum meeting was held on 29th & 30th June, 1995 in Paris to discuss aid requirements of the country. The second day of the meeting was devoted to an interaction with potential investors on this year's theme "Private Sector Investment in infrastructure an enabling environment". The meeting provided a forum for Government to elaborate upon the recent initiatives taken to facilitate private sector entry in the area of infrastructure. The deliberations also provided a unique opportunity to Government to gather the perspective of potential investors on how far the recent policy changes have succeeded in creating the required environment for private sector participation in infrastructure developments. Overall, the meeting confirmed keen private investor interest with regard to the investment opportunities available in the country in the infrastructure sector.

Pay of Government Employees

1020. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pay of Government employees has been increased from 1991 to 15.11.95 and if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) the number of times interim relief given ;

(c) the number of times price index increased and the dearness allowance and interim relief sanctioned and given during the above period ; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken to reduce high prices?

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

MURTHY) : (a) The total expenditure on pay and allowances of Central Government (Civilian) employees including employees of the Union Territories for the years 1991-92 to 1994-95 was as follows :

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	11469.12
1992-93	12976.32
1993-94	14183.65
1994-95	15531.89

(b) and (c). The Central Government employees have been sanctioned Interim Relief twice between 1991-95. Further, the Central Government employees are sanctioned two instalments of Dearness Allowance during a year on the basis of percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960=100) over the base index of 608, to which the existing scales of pay effective from 1.1.86 are related. Thus from 1991 to 1995, 10 instalments of Dearness Allowance has been sanctioned to the Central Government employees.

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government during the current financial year to moderate the growth of prices are as follows :

(i) Strengthening of public distribution system and supplementing supplies, if necessary, by imports.

(ii) Waiving of stock limit for imported essential products.

(iii) Adjustment in trade and tariff policies in the Budget for Current year to ensure that domestic prices for industrial products remain competitive.

(iv) Substantial reduction in excise duties on a number of items.

(v) Reduction of fiscal deficit in the budget proposals for the current financial year.

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

[English]

Pension Scheme for the Journalists

1021. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide pension to the journalists in the near future ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Government have already introduce new Employees' Pension Scheme for all the EPF subscribers including journalists covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952. The Scheme, *inter-alia*, provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement, permanent total disablement, death etc. Minimum 10 years' contributory service is necessary for being entitled to pension. The pension will be worked out on the basis of the average pensionable salary of the last 12 months. The amount of normal superannuation pension with 33 years' contributory service will be 50% of the pensionable salary. The minimum amount of pension for the persons who have been member of the family pension scheme 1971 for 24 years is Rs. 500/- P.M. the minimum amount of the family pension for the widow with two children is Rs. 680/- P.M.

Re-constitution of Tobacco Board

1022. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board was reconstituted recently ;

(b) if so, the details of new members of the Board;

(c) the criteria fixed for the selection of such members; and

(d) the respective sponsorship of each public member nominated recently to the tobacco Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board was reconstituted *vide* Notification dated June 1st, 1995.

(b) the new members on the Board notified on 1st June, 1995 are as under :

1)	Shri Dattatraya Bandaru, Member Lok Sabha	Member -Elected by Lok Sabha
2)	Shri K. V. R. Chowdhary, Member , Lok Sabha.	Member - Elected by Lok Sabha
3)	Joint Deirector of Agriculture, (Special Projects & Crops) Orissa.	Member- To represent Govern- ment of Orissa.
4)	Officer nominated by Government of Maharashtra.	Member - to represent Govern- ment of of Maharashtra.
5)	Shri V. Nageshwar Rao, Khammam District. (AP)	Member - To represent Growers of Tobacco.
6)	Shri P.V. Ramkrishan Rao. khammam District, (A.P)	Member _ To represent Growers of tobacco.
7)	Shri Gade Venkatappa Reddy, Kothareddypalan Guntur District (A.R)	Member - to represent Growers of tobacco.
8)	Shri Vellam Reddy Mastan Reddy. prakasam District (A.P)	Member - to represent Growers of tobacco.
9)	Shri Bondela Reddiah, West Godavari District (A.P.)	Member - To represent Growers of tobacco.
10)	Shri Ramraj Urs, Mysore District (Karnataka)	Member - to represent Growers of tobacco.
11)	Shri R. Gopalakrishna Guntur (A.P.)	Member - To represent Exporters/ Processors of tobacco.
12)	Shri Maddi Laxmiah, Guntur (A.P.)	Member - To represent Exporters/ Processors of tobacco.
13)	Shri M. Umamaheswar, Rao, Guntur (A.P.)	Member - To represent Exporters/ Processors of tobacco
14)	Shri Y. V. Rao, Guntur (A.P.)	Member - To represent Exporters/ Processors of tobacco.

(c) the member of the Tobacco Board were selected as per provisions of 'Establishment and Constitution of the Board' under section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and rules on "Manner of filling Vacancies and terms of office of members" as provided under Rule 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976.

(d) Recommendations for nomination to the Tobacco Board were obtained from the various State Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industrial Development and the Tobacco Board. Nominations were also received directly from individuals, public representatives and other interested bodies. The nominations received were scrutinised, in consultation with the Tobacco Board, to determine the fulfilment of legal requirement of the Act/Rules, and to provide due representation to important tobacco growing areas, trade and industry.

Financial Institution

1023. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a commission to study the need for numerous financial institutions doing the very same kind of job; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Welfare Scheme For Organised Workers

1024. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers in organised sector in Rajasthan as on January, 1, 1995 ;

(b) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide funds for the welfare measures started by the state Government for the welfare of these workers during 1994-95 ;

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

(d) the details of the schemes which have not yet been provided any Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) . The information is being collected and will be laid on the House.

Over-invoiced Goods under Duty Exemption

1025. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Goods grossly over-invoiced under duty exemption; Exporters defraud government of Crores of rupees" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated November 19, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the total number of cases of defraud that have come to light and the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to check the defrauding of the Government of crores of rupees?

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

(b) Investigations carried out by the officers of Delhi Custom House in the recent past against the exporters of Quartz analog watches, computers, exposed films and garbage bags has resulted in detection of suspected over-invoicing of goods. Follow-up action in these cases have revealed purchases of export goods by the ultimate exporter from non-existent companies/supporting manufacturers incorporated in the DEEC book. The consignments were bound for Hong-Kong and Dubai.

(c) 99 cases of over-invoicing have been reported during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto September 1995). Declared value of export goods in these cases is Rs. 3184 lakhs approximately as against accepted/estimated value of Rs. 940 lakhs (approx).

(d) Revised guidelines have been issued for determining the CIF value of import licence under para 49 of the Export-Import Policy. Enforcement agencies have been instructed to be more vigilant, besides conducting close scrutiny of export documents.

Child Labour

1026. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) The number of factories and establishments engaging child labourers and bonded labourers inspected, found guilty under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the factories Act, 1948 and legal proceeding initiated against them during 1993 and 1994;

(b) the number of child labourers and bonded labourers identified and the number out of them rehabilitated so far during last two years; and

(c) the time by which remaining child and bonded labourers are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) a statement showing the Enforcement figures on child labour for 1992-93 and 1993-94 is Bonded Labour System stands abolished under the Bonded

labour system (Abolition) Act, 1976 in every sector. The details of establishments/factories are not maintained where persons might have been in bondage.

(b) As a part of the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, 75 National Child Labour Projects (CNCLPs) are at present under implementation in 11 States covering around 1,36,000 children. A major activity under the National Child Labour Project Scheme is the establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, etc., to children withdrawn from employment.

(c) Following up on a call given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his independence day speech on the 15th August, 1994, a massive programme has been launched to eliminate 20 lakh child labour by the year 2000 A.D.

STATEMENT

Enforement of the Child Labour (prchibition & regulation Act 1986 and Factories Act, 1948

1992-93

Sl No.	States/Uts.	No. of inspections		No. of Violations		No. of prosecutions		No. of convictions	
		C.L. act.	Fac. Act	C.L. Act.	Fa. Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Haryana	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Himachal Pradesh	75	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Kerala	-	4679	-	-	-	39	-	12
4.	Madhya Pradesh	12038	12961	-	5	-	695	-	38
5.	Maharashtra	-	113.74	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Meghalaya	369	75	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Orissa	7	92	-	-	1	-	-	-
8.	Punjab	740	37	-	17	-	704	-	446
9.	Rajsthan	174	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
10.	Tamil Nadu	-	1251	-	2	-	2	1	1
11.	Tripura	9	166	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Uttar Pradesh	11534	533	1883	83	1867	135	162	26
13.	Delhi	-	323	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Chandigarh	74	209	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total :		2502	41047	1834	125	1869	1593	163	874

1993-94

Sl No.	States/Uts	No. of inspections		No. of Violations		No. of prosecutions		No. of convictions	
		C.L. act	Fac. Act	C.L. Act.	Fac. Act	C.L. Act	Fact Act	C.L. Act	Fac. Act
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Gujarat	2440	7885	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Bihar	1321	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Himachal Pradesh	72	61	-	-	14	15	10	17
4.	Haryana	241	143	45	2	-	-	-	-
5.	Kerala	-	3820	-	-	-	3	-	-
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2588	1437	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Maharashtra	731	13415	29	37	21	37	-	-
8.	Manipur	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Meghalaya	290	191	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Orissa	95	45	79	2	-	2	-	-
11.	Punjab	726	277	1	3	1	219	-	204
12.	Rajasthan	181	836	-	-	1	-	-	-
13.	Tamilnadu	-	6612	-	75	-	37	1	5
14.	Tripura	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Uttar Pradesh	7986	263	1645	29	1271	11	254	8
16.	Damin & Diu	15	67	11	12	-	-	-	-
17.	Delhi	187	286	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		16882	35378	1814	160	1308	324	264	234

Agents of LIC

1027. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the service conditions of the agents of LIC;

(b) whether any curtailment has been made in their facilities and rights;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years along with the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering any fresh proposal for the betterment of their service conditions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) It has been reported by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) that the service conditions of the Agents are regulated by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Agents Regulations), 1972.

(b) LIC have reported that no curtailment has been made in the facilities and right of agents.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Life Insurance Agents Federation of India, Nagpur addressed a letter to the Finance Minister on 30th September, 1995 to take up with LIC two issues viz. (i) Medicalim reimbursement to the Club Member Agents (Senior agents serving for more than four years) and (ii) to expedite the early payment of pending agency commission due to the LIC. As desired by the Association the matter has been taken up with the LIC.

(f) While no exact time- frame could be given, a decision in the matter would be taken at the earliest.

Agreement between India and Denmark

1028. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been signed

between India and Denmark for investment promotion and protection under which every kind asset including intellectual property rights invested in accordance with the Laws of the land would be protected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other countries with whom such agreements have with whom such agreements have been signed ?

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

(b) The main provisions of the agreement include, *inter-alia*, protection of investments of either country in the other country, Most Favoured Nation Treatment of investors and investments, National Treatment for investments, Settlement procedure for investment disputes, compensation in case of expropriation/nationalisation and facility for repatriation of returns.

(c) Such Agreements have also been signed with U.K. Germany, Russia, Malaysia, Turkmenistan, Netherlands and Italy.

Import of Aircraft

1029. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have recently relaxed the rules for import of aircraft by private airlines operators ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the proposal to start air taxi services is pending with the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to expedite the clearance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The new operators of air transport services are now permitted to import aircraft of 50 seat capacity as against the previous limit of 30 seats.

(c) and (d). Consideration of proposals for grant of permission to commence air services is an on-going process. As on 28.11.95 there are six Scheduled and

17 Non-Scheduled/ ATOs operating in the Private sector. In addition 'No Objection Certificates' have been issued to 29 applicants to commence private Air Transport Service.

Development of Tourism

1030. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive Master Plan has been prepared by the Government for the development of tourism in Assam and other North-Eastern States;

(b) If so, the approximate amount required for the implementation of the Master plan and the places proposed for development; and

(c) the fund allocated by the Government to implement the Master Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). a professional agency has been commissioned at the instance of the the state Government for the preparation of a tourism in Assam. All the other State Government in the North-Eastern region have also been asked to prepare such plans, since the master plans are still not complete and the amount required for implementation have not been determined.

(c) The Department of Tourism does not make any a priori allocations to State Governments. However, Central Financial Assistance is provided for the development of tourist infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the States, their merits and the availability of funds.

Revival of Textile Mills

1031. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

• DR. MUMTAJ ANSARI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to reply given to unstarred Question No. 1652 on August 11, 1995 and state :

(a) the present status of the modernisation plan for the NTC mills; and

(b) the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES : (a) and (b). The modernisation plan for the NTC has been submitted to the BIFR which is yet to

approve the same. On approval by the BIFR and raising the funds as envisaged in the plan, the plan is expected to be implemented within a period of two years.

Status of Indo-China Border Trade

1032. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the negotiations were carried out in June 1994 in connection with Indo-China border trade; and

(b) if so, the present status of Indo-China trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) During the course of the fifth session of India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology held at New Delhi from 13-15 June 1995, amongst other things, the aspect of India-China Border Trade was discussed.

(b) At present Border trade is being carried on with China through Lipulakh pass in Uttar Pradesh and Shipkila pass in Himachal Pradesh. Negotiations are on with the Chinese side for opening more points for Border Trade as both India and China are agreed in principle on extension of the trade to the other points on the India-China border.

The total value of trade between India and China was Rs. 3167 crores for the year 1994-95.

Fiscal Deficit

1033. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is likely to be slippage in the fiscal deficit for target for 1995-96 which is pegged at 5.5% of the Gross Domestic Product ;

(b) whether in the last two week of June the Government has announced a package of Rs. 790 crores as part of the MPs area development schemes besides providing interim relief to the Government employees;

(c) the extent upto which these measures will put pressure on the fiscal deficit targets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The position will be reflected in the Budget documents for 1996-97.

(b) The provision (Rs. 790 crore) for MPs Local Area Development Scheme has been made in Budget Estimates 1995-96 itself in Grand No. 68 Department of Programme Implementation.

(c) and (d). The impact of additional expenditure arising out of the Government post-budget commitment and how these are to be financed will be reflected in the Budget documents for 1996-97.

**Non Payment of Salaries to Employees
by Loksen Tea Estate**

1034. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employees of the Tea Trading Corporation of India managing tea garden, Loksen are not getting their salaries and daily wages regularly ;

(b) If so, the reason therefor ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). There had been some delay in disbursement of Salaries and daily wages to the workers of Loksen Tea estate due to non-availability of funds with TICI. However, according to the latest information received from TICI Ltd. all arrears and current wages and salaries including ration have been paid to the workers of this tea estate.

(c) Does not arise.

Airport at Sindhudurg

1035. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an airport at Sindhudurg in Bombay :

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the agency to whom work relating to survey has been entrusted in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not giving the work relating to survey to I.A.A.I. ?

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

(b) Do not arise.

Foreign Drug Traffickers

1036. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign drug traffickers have been released on bail ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether these drug traffickers left the country ; and

(d) iff so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d). According to the information received by the government certain foreign nationals who were arrested under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 were granted bail by various Courts. Section 37 of the said Act stipulates that no person accused of an offence punishable for a term of imprisonment or five years or more under the Act shall be released on bail or on his own bond unless :

(i) the public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release; and

(ii) where the Public Prosecutor opposes the application , the Court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.

In the cases in which foreigners are involved, invariably the Public Prosecutors oppose bail applications since if bail is granted to them there is possibility of jumping bail by them. However, in certain cases, the Courts grant bail on the grounds stipulated in Sec. 37 of the Act. As per available information, 318 foreigners were arrested, 60 were granted bail and 58 of them absconded.

Tenth Finance Commission

1037. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed norms for release of grants to States for implementation of the prohibition policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the grants given to each State during the current financial year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKRA MURTHY : (a) to (c). The Government of India at present does not have a scheme to provide grants to States for implementation of prohibition policy in their respective State, No grant has been released to the States during the current financial year in this regard by the Government.

Differences between AI and I.A.

1038. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

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

(a) whether there is a difference in perception between the management of Air India and Indian Airlines on the international route sharing issue especially in Gulf sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to settle the issue?

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

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

[*Translation*]

Free Passes by AI / IA

1039. SHRI KESRI LAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued free passes to some people to travel by Air India and Indian Airlines planes recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for issuance of these free passes ; and

(d) the categories of people to whom these passes have been issued?

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

(b) to (d). during the year 1995-96, 1000 free pas-

sages on Air India and 800 free passages on Indian Airlines have been allocated to Department of Tourism for being released to travel writers, photographers, tour operators and opinion makers visiting India under their Hospitality Programme. 9 free passages have been released since 1.1.95 in favour of persons requiring medical treatment abroad, in consultation with the Director General of Health-Services. The Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism has also sanctioned 225 free passages on Air India services and 121 passages on Indian Airlines services under his discretionary power during the period from 1-1-95 to 30-11-95 to various persons including the members of public on merits of each case.

Permission to Foreign Institutional Investors

1040. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have permitted non-resident Indians overseas corporate bodies and foreign institutional investors participation to participate in primary debt market on a repatriable basis ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the estimated amount of funds in terms of foreign exchange likely to be raised per annum as a result thereof ; and

(d) the other benefits likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India through a circular dated 19.5.95 addressed to Authorised Dealers in Foreign Exchange have permitted the existing or new Indian Companies (both private and public limited companies) engaged / proposing to engage in any activities excluding agriculture/plantation activities, to issue equity shares/convertible debentures on repatriation basis to non-resident Indians Overseas Corporate Bodies and Foreign Institutional investors provided the aggregate allocation of shares/debentures qualifying for repatriation benefits to such non-resident investors does not exceed 24 % of the new issues. Foreign Institutional Investors are however, preclude from investing in unlisted/private limited companies. As availing of the above facility for their public issues is a corporate decision, it would not be possible to quantify the consequential foreign exchange inflows. Announcement of this facility is part of ongoing efforts on simplification of the procedures.

[Translation]

Increase in Domestic Air-forces

1041. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the domestic airfares since November, 1995 ;

(b) if so, the percentage of the increase therein alongwith the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether tourism is likely to be affected by this increase?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Due to increase in cost of various inputs, Indian Airlines increased its domestic rupee fare by an average of 20% w.e.f. 1st October, 1995.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Import of Hazardous Wastes

1042. SHRI MATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes from the OECD to non-OECD countries destined for final disposal of recycling stand banned with effect from December 31, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether over 100 countries have now banned imports of all hazardous wastes including those for recycling and recovery ; and

(d) if so, the stand of the Indian Government on the ban?

THE MINISTER STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir, As per the decision 11/12 adopted in the second meeting of the conference of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of transboundary

Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal held in Geneva in March, 1994, all Transboundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for final disposal from OECD to non-OECD countries stands prohibited with immediate effect. It was also decided to phase out by December 31, 1997, all transboundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for recycling or recovery operations from the OECD to non-OECD countries. During the Third Meeting of the Conference of the parties held during 18.22 September, 1995 this decision was adopted as an Amendment to the Basel Convention with a proviso to emphasise that this would only pertain to those wastes that are characterised as hazardous under the Convention.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir the technical Working Group of the Basel Convention which is involved in the hazard characterisation of wastes subject to Basel Convention would also be evolving a list of wastes which are not subject to Basel Convention. The decision of the Government would depend upon the final list recommended by this Group.

Exemption on Non-Resident Indian Investment

1043. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the Working Group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to review the various schemes and incentives available to NRIs for investment in India and the action taken by the Government in this regard ;

(b) the details of incentive to the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) for the investment made by them in the country ;

(c) whether some incentives out of them are proposed to be withdrawn ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d). Some of the investment schemes presently available to Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are as follows :-

(i) Investment upto 100% equity with full benefits of repatriation of capital invested and income accruing thereon in high priority industries mentioned in Annexure-III to the Industrial Policy 1991, 100% Export Oriented Units, Sick Units under revival, Housing and real estate development companies, etc.

(ii) 40% investment with repatriation benefits in manufacturing companies. new issues/further issues by them

(iii) Investment through Stock Exchange under Portfolio Investment Scheme with a collective ceiling upto 24% for all NRIs.

A Working Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to look into the various schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) has submitted its recommendations to RBI in May, 1995. The recommendations include revamping of the existing investment schemes with reference to their relevance in the liberalised economy and steps towards simplification of approval procedures. Government has considered and concurred in the acceptance of a number of recommendations involving procedural simplification. Follow Mup announcement by RBI, which is in a phased manner, includes; (a) Extension of general permission to OCBs for sale of shares acquired under portfolio investment schemes;

(b) General permission for sale of shares by NRIs/OCBs acquired on repatriation basis under direct investment schemes provided sale is through recognised Stock Exchange;

(c) The procedure for grant of final permission for issue/export of shares to NRIs is being simplified; and

(d) The general permission to NRIs for subscribing to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Indian Companies, which at present covers only companies engaged in industrial activities, is being extend-

ing to cover other permissible activities.

Occupancy in the ITDC Hotels

1044. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of occupancy in the ITDC hotels during each of the last three years in the country ;

(b) the income earned from each of these hotels during the above period;

(c) the expenditure incurred and percentage of receipts in each of these hotels; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the occupancy and business in ITDC hotels?

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

(d) improvement in performance with a view to increase the occupancy and business in ITDC hotels is a continuous process and the steps taken in this regard include: aggressive marketing efforts, renovation/upgradation of hotel properties, monitoring and control of operating costs, introduction of customers satisfaction scheme and Total Quality Management scheme etc. and development of human resource by imparting training.

STATEMENT

Percentage of Operating Expenditure to Turnover for the years 1994-95, 1993-94 and 1992-93 in Respect of ITDC Hotels

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Unit	1994-95				1993-94				1992-93			
	Occupancy	Turnover	Operating	% of op.	Occupancy	Turnover	Operating	% of op.	Occupancy	Turnover	Operating	% of op.
	%		Expenditure	exp. to	%		Expenditure	exp. to	%		Expenditure	exp. to
			T.O				T.O				T.O	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

HOTELS

Agra Ashok	34	134.51	154.78	115.07	44	177.60	136.28	76.73	19	171.43	133.40	77.82
Airport Ashok Cal.	31	852.09	850.42	99.80	29	736.00	724.32	98.41	39	768.53	690.92	89.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Ashok Banqlore	47	1034.80	861.34	83.24	45	816.24	735.48	90.11	19	742.54	632.53	85.18
Ashok New Delhi	72	4247.08	2461.64	57.95	60	2866.35	2118.30	73.90	13	2307.87	2002.71	86.78
Ashok Yatri Niwas	43	521.43	523.38	100.37	42	459.67	479.22	104.25	12	448.47	430.87	96.08
Aurangabad Ashok	26	66.48	93.13	140.09	32	82.26	84.98	103.31	14	94.68	81.78	86.38
Bodhgava Ashok	35	77.33	64.83	83.84	36	81.96	60.19	73.44	34	80.60	55.80	69.23
Hassan Ashok	28	95.08	74.85	78.72	30	81.97	57.62	70.29	34	76.70	44.87	58.50
Jaipur Ashok	23	144.38	146.75	101.64	27	165.95	131.42	79.19	33	168.95	123.59	73.15
Jammu Ashok	16	51.56	73.90	143.33	18	57.84	62.80	108.58	21	51.39	65.81	128.06
Janpath New Delhi	69	874.89	732.43	83.72	76	780.98	585.76	75.00	65	598.63	568.01	94.88
Kalinga Ashok Dhub.	32	120.65	0134.64	111.60	32	90.80	106.37	117.15	37	82.53	100.70	122.02
Kanishka New Delhi	67	1512.49	1173.28	77.57	80	1380.68	1038.55	75.22	69	1101.72	863.38	78.37
Khajuraho Ashok	17	29.18	55.39	189.82	35	59.47	57.89	97.34	32	53.47	46.50	86.96
Kovalam Ashok	61	719.37	519.41	72.20	69	551.88	402.93	73.01	63	425.16	349.75	82.26
L.M.P.N. Mysore	48	315.26	188.25	59.71	51	301.13	167.78	55.72	52	247.50	155.18	62.70
L.V.P.N Udaipur	56	220.69	131.04	59.38	56	220.03	101.89	46.31	57	196.48	99.04	50.41
Lodhi. New Delhi	60	480.87	428.48	89.11	58	416.20	336.20	80.78	47	339.75	329.00	96.84
Madurai Ashok	30	106.11	96.48	90.92	44	102.02	93.52	91.67	14	90.63	75.08	82.84
Manali Ashok	33	47.11	41.18	87.41	41	42.32	33.39	78.90	10	23.13	30.53	131.99
Paiputra Ashok patna	46	103.44	119.06	115.10	54	118.38	114.78	96.96	10	104.72	117.82	112.51
Qutab Hotel New Delhi	69	460.46	282.79	61.41	64	368.89	302.89	82.11	54	271.23	243.76	89.87
Ranjit. New Delhi	45	232.97	278.12	119.38	41	185.01	240.38	129.93	35	150.98	249.93	165.54
Samrat New Delhi	91	1227.22	954.71	77.79	89	1033.73	891.92	86.28	80	799.98	715.17	89.40
Tewole Bav Ashok	54	106.60	83.27	78.11	52	73.02	75.24	103.04	57	54.55	59.74	109.51
Varanasi Ashok	23	146.65	198.10	135.08	31	194.82	183.59	94.24	39	192.06	176.06	91.67
Total :	54	13928.70	10721.15	76.97	54	11445.209323.69	81.46	53	9543.68	8441.93	87.54	

T.O. = Turnover

Project for Development of Civil Aviation

1045. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects approved for the development of Civil Aviation in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the projects on which work has since been started and whether the progress is as per schedule ; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for timely completion of all these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOUR-

ISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). The details of the project approved for the development of civil aviation in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan is attached Statement.

Since construction of facilities, installation and commissioning of equipments involve many agencies, project schedule cannot be maintain strictly. However, close monitoring is being done of each projects, to ensure completion as far as possible, with minimum time and cost overruns.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of Airport	Project/Facilities	Likely Date of completion
1.	Ahmedabad	DME (LP) ASR/MSSR	installed March, 1996
2.	Bhuj (Civil enclave)	Construction of Terminal Building	*State Govt. has been Requested for land Acquisition.
3.	Bhavnagar	extension of Runway to 7500 FT. Dvor	Planning Stage December, 1995
4.	Jammagar (civil enclave)	Dvor DME (HP)	June, 1996 June, 1996
5.	Porbandar	Construction of New Terminal Building	Estimates under preparation. It will take 24 Months for completion after award of work.
6.	Rajkot	Resurfacing of Runway ILS, DME (LP) Dvor & DME (HP)	Estimates Prepared. It Runway Will take one year for completion after award of work Installed
7.	Vadodara	Resurfacing of Runway Construction of New Terminal Building. Construction of Technical Block Cum Control Tower. Extension of Apron And construction of Additional Taxiway ILS, DME (LP) & DME (HP)	Completed Completed Estimates are under Preparation. It will Take 18 months for completion after award of work. Estimates are under Preparation and it will Take 12 Months for Completion after award of work. Installed

* No date has been fixed for completion of this work since land has not yet been handed over to airports authority of India.

Abbreviations

1. XME (HP) : Distance Measuring Equipment (High Power)
2. DME (LP) : Distance Measuring Equipment (low Power)
3. ASR : Airport Surveillance Radar
4. MSSR : Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar
5. ILS : Instrument Landing System
6. DVOR : Doppler very high Frequency Omni Range

Air India Woos Media with Passes.

1046. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "Air India woos Media with passes", appearing in the 'Times of India' on November 2, 1995; and

(b) If so, the details of persons that have received these passes with the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Issue of passes by airlines for purpose of public relations is a normal industry practice. Air India has been issuing such passes for the last 30 years or more and no new system has recently been evolved. Details of passes issued by Air India during the last one year are being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

Air Service in Imphal

1047. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the grievances being forced by the people of North East region particularly of Manipur by not providing air flight service to reach Imphal from Delhi in one day ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to reduce their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received for reintroducing service between Delhi and Imphal. Due to shortage of operating crew, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to provide direct air service between Delhi and Imphal. However, private operators are being encouraged to operate additional services to the North-East.

Deep Sea Fishing

1048. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present role of SCICI in shipping and deep-sea fishing sector;

(b) whether SCICI has completely stiffened the terms of loan for deep sea fishing ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) SCICI has reported that while shipping and fishing industry remain the focus areas of its operations, the company has diversified its lending activities to all sectors of the economy with a view to diversify its risks and build up a healthy portfolio.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Agitation by Aircrafts Engineers

1049. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Air India's boeing currently grounded and since when alongwith the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether an undeclared agitation by aircraft maintenance engineers are going on for the last few months ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to wipe out the depletion in aircraft availability?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) the following boeing aircraft of Air India are grounded at present for undergoing periodic maintenance checks .

S. No	Aircraft	Date from which grounded
1.	B747-300(VT-EPX)	3.11.95
2.	B747-200 (VT-EDU)	10.10.95
3.	B747-200(VT-EGA)	18.5.95
4.	B747-200(VT-EGA)	18.6.95
5.	B747-200(VT-ENQ)	15.8.95

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. to meet the situation and to ensure availability of adequate number of aircraft for operation, Air India has decided to send three aircraft for major maintenance abroad.

Upgradation of Defence Airstrips for Export

1050. SHRIMATI CHANDRAPRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Civil Aviation Ministry propose to take over the Defence Airstrip at Kolar and to upgrade it into a cargo airport for exporting flowers, fruits and vegetables ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to get possession of the above airstrip?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, efforts are being made to upgrade the airstrip for limited cargo operation in consultation with the Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

Air Strip in U.P

1051. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct

an air-strip to promote tourism in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted and sites selected for the same ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Photo Identity Cards Issued by Bureau of Civil Aviation

1052. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Indian Express" on November 13, 1995 captioned under "Government document misused to evade duty at IGI airport;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; in

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

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

(b) Photo Identity Cards (PICs), which enable the holder entry into the airport are issued only to those officials/individuals who have legitimate and bonafide duties/functions at the airport. The holders of the PIC are not exempt from other checks which are carried out by different agencies at the airport. The facts in respect of specific instances quoted in the news item are annexed as statement.

(c) In order to check the misuse of the PIC, the PIC Committee makes frequent checks in the airport area and those found misusing are suitably dealt with.

(1) CASE OF SHRI D.P. SHARMA : Shri D.P. Sharma who is posted as the protocol officer of Rajasthan Telephone Industries Limited, a public sector undertaking of Government of Rajasthan, has been

issued a GREEN PIC in order to facilitate his duties as protocol Officer of a public sector undertaking.

(2) CARD GIVEN TO A SON OF BCAS DIRECTOR GENERAL : Shri Inderjit Singh Sial S/o Shri Bikramjit Singh Sial, Director of M/s A.B. Sukab has been granted a GREEN PIC on the recommendation of State Trading Corporation of India after due scrutiny.

(3) CARD ISSUED TO THE SON OF AIIMS DIRECTOR : Dr. A.C. Kakkar of AIIMS has been issued a RED PIC, which is valid for Delhi Airport in order to facilitate research on the impact of air travel on the ears of passengers.

Procurement of Aircraft

1053. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to procure 40/50 seater aircraft ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the area where these aircraft are likely to put in use?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). As proposal to acquire 50 seater aircraft for operations in the North-Eastern region and other important business and tourist centres of the country is under consideration of the Indian Airlines.

Thirivanthapuram Airport

1054. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations regarding provision of all the facilities at Thirivanthapuram at par with International Airport ; and

(b) the time by which all the infrastructural facilities are likely to be provided to the above airport?

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

(b) Infrastructure/Facilities on par with other international airports have already been provided. Extension of main runway. Extension of international terminal, run-

way lighting system etc. are some of the major works in progress and it is expected that all these works will be completed by June, 1997.

Installation of instrument Landing System

1055. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instrument landing system equipment received for installation at Trivandrum International Airport is likely to be shifted to some other airport ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) if not, the time by which the installation of the instrument landing system is to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Components of the Instrument Landing system are being installed and the facility is likely to be operational by January, 1996.

[Translation]

Arrears of Interest on Loans by M/S Reliance Industrial Group

1056. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) the year-wise details of the amount of interest paid on the domestic loans from financial institutions by the M/s Reliance Industrial Group during the last three years ;

(b) the year-wise details of outstanding amount of interest which could not be paid in time each year during the said period and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to reduce the amount being paid as interest on such loans.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial insti-

tutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(c) the amount of interest payable by a company in respect of loans taken by it from financial institutions (FIs) is governed by the terms of sanction of financial assistance by the FI concerned.

[English]

Structure of Fare

1057. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have hiked fare structure with effect from October 1, 1995 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons therefor ;

(d) its impact on the fare structure of other Airlines operating in India ; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the efficiency of IA?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Indian Airlines has increased its domestic rupee fare by an average of 20% with effect from 1st October, 1995 to offset the impact of increase in cost of inputs since last fare revision.

(d) Private Operators are free to charge any fare on commercial considerations.

(e) The following steps have been taken by Indian Airlines to improve efficiency.

- (i) Rationalisations of deployment of aircraft capacity from less remunerative to more profitable routes.
- (ii) Increase in International Operations with higher yield and lower cost.
- (iii) Freeze on recruitment, reduction in overtime in non-operational areas.
- (iv) Reducing capital expenditure except where operationally essential.
- (v) Increase revenue through Joint Ventures and Tie-up with Air India.
- (vi) Conversion of Jet Engine shop, Central Training Establishment and Ground Support into Profit Centres.

Mangalore Airport

1058. SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to renovate the terminal buildings and expand the Airport in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines have discontinued its operations between Bangalore and Mangalore ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e). A twice weekly B-737 Service between Bangalore and Mangalore was discontinued from 7th May, 1995 due to reduced availability of B-737 Commanders.

Production Of Tea

1059. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a target of 1000 million kgs. of tea production by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the progress made so far to achieve the target;

(c) The financial allocation made to the Tea Board for the promotion of tea;

(d) whether the Government have also assessed the progress in tea Boards Brand Promotion Fund Scheme and sophisticated tea packing Arrangement schemes ; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Tea Board had prepared a perspective plan in 1991 to increase the production of tea to 1000 million kgs. by 2000 AD

(b) An all time high production level of 758 million kgs. was achieved in 1993. Production during 1994 has been of the order of 743.78 million kgs. The slight drop in production in 1994 was on account of adverse agro climatic conditions in some tea growing areas.

(c) For the year 1995-96 Rs. 590.00 lakhs has been allocated for promotion of Indian tea abroad. An allocation of Rs. 34.00 lakhs has also been sanctioned for tea promotion in India.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir, Brand Promotion Fund Scheme of the Tea Board was introduced in the year 1986-87. This scheme was kept in abeyance between April 1992 to December 1993 and was revived in January 1994. Amount disbursed by the Tea Board under the scheme since its inception is Rs. 118.32 lakhs.

The Sophisticated Tea Packaging Machinery Scheme was also introduced in 1986-87. So far, a sum of Rs.16.99 lakhs has been disbursed under the scheme.

Loss of Air India

1060 SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Air India is running into loss;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). During the last three years Air India has made profits. However, the company has incurred a loss during the period April to September, 1995 due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft and reduction in yield due to increase in the cost of operations etc.

(c) Air India is taking steps to control costs and improve yield by consolidating its market share through improvement of its product, image and on-time performance and introduction of new on-line points.

Conference of State Finance Ministers

1061. Prof. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convene

a Conference of State Finance Ministers to discuss matters relating to Additional Excise Duties and allied issues; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Additional Excise Duty

1062. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state : The additional funds received by the State Governments on account of excise duty realisation during the current year, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : A Statement giving the requisite details is attached.

STATEMENT

The State's share of basic Union Excise Duties and Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax paid to the State Government During 1st April 1995 to 25th November 1995.

(In crores of Rupees)

		Basic Union Excise Duties	Additional Exise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	883.12	132.16
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55.64	1.75
3.	Assam	360.99	41.93
4.	Bihar	1158.01	134.26
5.	Goa	29.82	3.92
6.	Gujarat	333.06	101.29
7.	Haryana	101.92	39.97
8.	Himachal Pradesh	194.04	10.01

1	2	3	4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	296.59	14.49
10.	Karnataka	439.53	97.02
11.	Kerala	318.99	63.21
12.	Madhya Pradesh	682.43	122.29
13.	Maharashtra	594.28	203.21
14.	Manipur	83.86	3.36
15.	Meghalaya	78.68	3.15
16.	Mizoram	69.02	1.33
17.	Nagaland	104.72	2.31
18.	Orissa	444.36	56.49
19.	Punjab	120.26	57.82
20.	Rajasthan	469.84	82.32
21.	Sikkim	28.91	0.91
22.	Tamil Nadu	546.35	129.57
23.	Tripura	115.50	4.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1729.56	246.26
25.	West Bengal	615.02	135.80
		9775.50	1689.66

12.00 hrs.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, there is no mention of the promised statement on the price situation in today's list of business. A promise was made day before yesterday that a statement would be made. An extraordinary arrangement was made to raise the discussion. The Finance Minister is here. But we are not told, as per the list of business, that a statement will be made. We want to know what is the situation now.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister had given his commitment here that statement would be made day after tomorrow. This was stated on the floor of the House. Finance Minister is here. I want to know through you as to by what time his statement is likely to come?

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : When is statement going to come?.....(Interruption)

The Minister of Finance (Shri Manmohan Singh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is for the House to decide. We are ready to discuss it any time you want....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There was a promise made.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (North Bombay) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker had said that statement should come within two days. There is no question of whether we will discuss it or not. The question is why what hon. Speaker had said has not been shown here?

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We want to apologise.....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : There was no question of discussion. The hon. Speaker had said that the Government would make a statement today. It was a very clear and categorical direction given by the hon. Speaker ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Let me put the record straight. The day adjournment motion was discussed, the question was raised about price situation and hon. Speaker had allowed hon. Nirmal Babu to raise this question. When it was raised time and again, the hon. Speaker had taken two decision-one was that the Government would make a specific statement about price situation and second was that there would be a discussion about economic situation in totality. I fail to understand why hon. Shukla has forgot the statement that was made on behalf of the Government. The Government is tightshipped and keeping silent on the inflation that afflicts crores of people. What I want to say is that Hon. Manmohan Singh ji should commit that he will give his statement before 4 p.m. today about price situation and then it will be discussed forthwith(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : One by one please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will just

add to that, it was suggested on that day that the Government would make a statement on the same day. The hon. Speaker had directed them that they should come out with a statement. This is the third day after that discussion and yet no statement has come.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : In the statement that hon. Finance Minister had given; there was an assurance(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia is not coming to the will. So, please don't be under that impression.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : There is a big discrepancy between the two statement of hon. Finance Minister, one that is given now and another that was given three days ago. Whereas it was categorically stated that the Government would make a statement on inflation. It appears from the reply given by hon. Finance Minister that he may or may not make a statement. We are not sure of it. Therefore, we need your protection.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, I would like to quote from the proceeding of 29th November. What the hon. Speaker said, I am quoting from the proceeding.

The hon. Speaker said :

"What is this Basudeb Achariaji? The Minister is within his rights to say that we will comprehensively reply to the debate when it is a full scale debate on economic policy. But in my judgement I have thought that this point was pointedly replied to and that is why I requested the Government and the Government it coming forward. I expect the Government to make the statement, may be tomorrow day after tomorrow and come back."

Sir, that is on price rise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs.

....(Interruptions)....

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : This is the contempt of House. We are not used to hear this kind of statement. He should tender our apology from this House(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs. Let us hear from him.

....(Interruptions)....

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no intention on the part of the Government to go back on any Ruling that the hon. Speaker has made or any commitment that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made. I am being absolutely truthful, I did not know that this statement has to be made today and I am ready to make a statement but I need some time to prepare a statement and to have it translated.

I request you to please note that we can make the statement on Monday. The speech will be ready(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has categorically said that he is prepared to make a statement on Monday. Let us be a bit liberal on this issue.

....(Interruptions)....

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, it shows that there should be a censure motion against the Parliamentary Affairs Minister(Interruptions)He has failed(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, what the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that day(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : We are all concerned about the... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You call the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. He had made the Promise. He Should come and apologise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kindly resume your seats. Let us know from the Minister why they could not make the statement.

....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your own subject are there.

.....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Unless you give an opportunity to the Minister, he will not be in a position to clarify it. The hon. Minister is on his legs. Please get back to your seats. Let us hear the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : The day before yesterday when these hon. Member had raised this matter, the hon. Speaker had made certain observations. You please check up what observations have been made.(Interruption) Let me complete first.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You said, " We shall certainly make it".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister make his stand clear. If you are not agreeing, you can rebut it. At the same moment if you were to talk, neither you can be heard nor can be heard.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : According to the observation made by the hon. Speaker, I had discussion with him. We have to decide it today and today we are again going to meet and decide in what manner and in what form it can be discussed. We have decided already that the economic situation in the country will be discussed.

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Why do you get so excited ? I should be given a patient hearing.. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear him. Let us hear the hon. Minister.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We have already decided that the economic situation(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Pal, unless you hear him, how can you rebut it? If it is misleading, you have got a right to speak too.

.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : The economic situation, including the price rise will be discussed on

a Motion either moved by us or by the Opposition. It has been decided. After that, if anything else is necessary, the Speaker has said that he would discuss it with me and give the direction. Whatever the direction the Speaker has given, we shall follow that direction. But we have not so far got any direction from the hon. Speaker. Therefore, unless we get the directions of the Speaker, we will not be able to do anything. We have to have a discussion on the economic policy. That decision has been taken. A date has to be fixed by the Business Advisory Committee and as soon as the date is fixed, we will have the discussion.. (Interruptions) We are subject to your observation. Whatever ruling you give we will follow that.....(Interruptions).

12.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Syed Masudal Hossain and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Have you gone through the proceedings? You have not gone through the proceedings. He is misleading the House....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please go back to your seats.

....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They have misled the House. It is here in the proceedings. They have not gone through the proceedings

...(Interruptions)....

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : You are misleading the House... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Speaker has very categorically said that.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the Minister has said something and you do not agree with that.

.....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Get back to your seats please. You can all make you submissions.

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Shuklaji has said, 'We will certainly make it.' Well, I ask Shuklaji when he made a statement 'May be tomorrow. We will fix it up with the hon. Speaker.'.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : My request is this. Let us do one thing. You get back to your seats.

.....(Interruptions).....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Their allegation is pertaining to the price rise. Did you make any statement in Rajya Sabha?

.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : No statement has been made in Rajya Sabha. The final word is for the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to say....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : No statement has been made by the Finance Minister on behalf of the Government. Whatever direction the Speaker has given, we are bound by that. We shall certainly follow all the directions of the Speaker. All the directions of the Speaker are known to us and we are following those directions. We are following all those directions(Interruptions) Do no shout at me... (Interruptions).

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Mr. Shukla should apologise to this House. You are deliberately misleading the House.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is clear. The Finance Minister has not made any statement before the Rajya Sabha pertaining to the price rise. So, that is being ruled out. Now, the hon. Finance Minister has agreed to make a statement on Monday.

.....(Interruptions).....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a matter of accommodation. Let us give them some time. They are prepared to make the statement on Monday.

....(Interruptions).....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The point is we are not able to take up other important subjects like firing electricity shortage etc. There are other problems also. Anyhow you have also strongly agitated and expressed your feelings. The Government has heard it. The Government has also forward to make the statement on Monday.

.....(Interruptions).....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is on record.

.....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Would you like to hear his once again? May I request the hon. Finance Minister to make the statement once again.

.....(Interruptions)....

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : He should make the statement at 2.30 p.m. today. This was the commitment

.....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They are saying that they have not made any statement in Rajya Sabha. They will make a statement on Monday.

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : On that point I would request somebody from the Government to try to make a statement(Interruptions) The Parliamentary Affairs Minister said, 'may be tomorrow'.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Yes, I said, 'may be'.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Not 'maybe'. It is not correct. He is misquoting. It is the concern of the million and millions of people. That was why we wanted a statement. You were there in the Chamber of the Speaker at that time.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Mr. Acharia is reading out from the verbatim proceedings of the House. The Speaker has said that the statement may be made by the Government(Interruptions) Let him go back to his seat and read from there. I will reply to him(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, It is right.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : I cannot reply when he is speaking from the well of the House.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will read out from where I stand. It is the Speaker's Ruling.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : You read out from your seat.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You go back to your seats.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I am reading out from the proceedings(Interruptions).

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I request whatever has been said now should be expunged(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When the House is in disorder, we cannot do anything

.....(Interruptions).....

12.24 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Syed Masudal Hossain and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : It is quite clear that day before, yesterday there was a clear directions from the Chair that the Government must come forward with a statement on the situation of price either tomorrow or day after. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had categorically said, 'we shall certainly make it.' This is the directions of the Chair. It is for you to decide whether there was any direction from the Chair or not. It is not for me or for Mr. Basudeb Acharia to read out the directions again.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What do you mean by, 'we will certainly'(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : During Zero Hour there is no point of order. There is no procedure and we are not following any procedure for that... (Interruptions) I will read out the observations the Speaker has made(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Achariya, the hon. Minister wants to read out the proceedings of the House. The proceedings are in your hand. The proceedings are in hands of Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee also.

.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Mr. Shukla, the real issue is that you have not informed the Finance Minister about it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You apologise for it.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : I will read out whatever is here. Just wait for a minute(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : The hon. Speaker was pleased to observe :

"The Minister is within his rights to say that 'we will comprehensively reply to the debate when it is a full scale debate on economic policy. But in my judgement I have thought that this point was pointedly replied to and that is why I requested the Government and the Government is coming forward. I expect the Government to make the statement, maybe tomorrow or day after tomorrow and come back."

This is what we are exactly going to do.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please hear him first

.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I had discussed this matter with the hon. Speaker. After fixing up, whatever he wants we will do. If he wants a statement to be made by the hon. Finance Minister or if he wants a full-scale discussion, we will have; and then I will inform the hon. Finance Minister. Without a decision by the hon. Speaker, I cannot tell the hon. Finance Minister to do whatever I want. The hon. Speaker has to say whether a statement is needed or he has to wait till the full-scale debate taken place. If a full scale debate has to be fixed, the date is to be decided by us. The date can be decided and a full scale discussion can take place. If the hon. Speaker says that before holding the debate, a statement is necessary, then I will request the hon. Finance Minister to make the statement. But the hon. Speaker has to say and this is what is going to be decided by the hon. Speaker. As soon as I meet the hon. Speaker, a decision will be taken and whatever direction he gives, either a statement to be made or a discussion to be held, whatever decision he gives, I shall communicate that to the hon. Minister of Finance. Before that, I had not communicated anything to the hon. Minister of Finance because I have not got the direction from the hon. Speaker so far. I have to discuss it with him(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear Shri Indrajit Gupta.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Parliamentary Affairs Minister has misled the entire House. Just now hon. Finance Minister has said that the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has not given him any information to this effect. As per the conventions, hon. Parliamentary Minister should have informed hon. Finance Minister. He has done a very objectionable thing by not giving the information to the hon. Finance Minister. The House cannot be pacified unless he tenders an apology.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first he does not listen to us. And if he listens to us, he does not understand. I have said that I have not told anything to hon. Finance Minister because unless, I talk to hon. Speaker(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called the name of Shri Indrajit Gupta. All other hon. Members are requested to take their seats.

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, do you not have any observations to make?.....(Interruptions) Sir, may I say something?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I have allowed you.

...(Interruptions)....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am not shouting all the time. Will you allow me to say something?.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is very difficult when the Members shout. Please go ahead, Mr. Gupta.

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : All these matters which are being referred to came up before the House, not yesterday but day before yesterday. Day before yesterday the Speaker made some observations which have been read out here. They need not be read out ten times. They have been read out, we all heard and we understand what it is. I do not know whether the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has bothered to read it earlier. He has been reading it now, trying to wriggle out of the situation. He said that until he consults the Speaker and the Speaker gives him some directions, he cannot inform the Finance Minister accordingly. Day before yesterday, this matter was raised. the speaker

made his observations, in which it is quite clear that he said that a specific statement should be made either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. Then why does the hon. Minister say today, after two days have passed, that he is still to consult the Speaker? Why has he not consulted the Speaker already? Two days have passed now.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : I have said that I had talked to him. He is going to give his directions today. Yesterday, we had a talk about it. As soon as he gives his directions, I will comply with the directions. We have no difficulty in giving a statement or in holding a discussion. If he says that a statement has to be made, we will make the statement; if he wants a discussion to be held, we will hold the discussion. But unless we get a specific direction from the Speaker, we cannot go ahead and do anything we want.....(Interruptions)

12.30 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya and some other Hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He should apologise.....(Interruptions) Why cannot he apologise?(Interruptions) He has insulted the House.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.G.NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : The Government is not bothering about the price rise.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : The Speaker has given the direction already.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah) : He has already given the direction.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs. He may come forward with some new proposal

.....(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear him.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Unfortunately the House was adjourned yesterday. On 29th, the Speaker gave the direction. There were no proceedings in the House yesterday. I had discussed it with the Speaker later on, that is, after the House was adjourned(Interruptions) And then he said, he would give the final decision today.....(Interruptions) He said it yesterday that a discussion has to be held.....(Interruptions) I had a discussion with him after the House was adjourned. They are not aware of

the discussion that I had with the Speaker. That is the point.....(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY : Is there any further need for discussions?.....(*Interruptions*) There was a clear-cut direction from the Speaker that a statement will be made. But the Minister is not abiding by that....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 O'clock.

12.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair.*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Will the hon. Minister tender an apology?(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, is he going to apologise or not?(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following what has happened on the subject of inflation. I want to appeal to the Government through you that there is no doubt that the intention of hon. Speaker was that there should be a separate statement on the subject of inflation and Shuklaji too had categorically stated that he would accomplish this work day after tomorrow or in a day or two, but when hon. Finance Minister had stated that he did not know about it. How this is possible that hon. Finance Minister does not know about it because the Government has got collective responsibility to the House. Hon. Shukla ji also speaks on behalf of the Government and this is very shocking that such a big question is being ignored. Our hon. Members had objection to it, due to which a statement was created in the morning. I want to say through you that the Government should have no objection in accepting it, the Government should respond on this subject properly because this is an important question. Hon. Minister should spell out categorically as to when the statement will be made by the Government.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Minister should recognise that in terms of Parliamentary proceedings there was a commitment. There indeed was a commitment ; and that commitment has not been fulfilled. This tantamount to flouting the norms of the house.

Sir, what do we want? We understand what the Finance Minister has stated. The Finance Minister cannot make an off-the-cuff statement like that. It is a failure on the part of the Government. They have failed in discharging their responsibility towards the House.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : Not only towards this House, but also towards the nation.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is this part which the Minister has to recognise in whatever statement he makes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (North Bombay) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question is not of having or not having a statement but there should be a proper communication between various agencies of Government. However, there is a total communication gap and this is a glaring example of this fact only. It appears to me that all Ministers should be apprised of what is discussed here because the way time of this House was wasted is bound to hurt people at large. This is but natural. No statement will be made on Monday but my objection is the objection of all opposition parties and I rise to speak about this objection only. I feel that it should not occur again. It is altogether a different matter. Whether you tender an apology or explanation and whichever language you use for that. As a matter of fact, assurance should be given from this side that such thing might not be allowed to occur any more.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, according to a decision in the Chamber of the hon. Speaker, day before yesterday this matter pertaining to the rising of prices of all the essential commodities was raised on the floor of the House. This issue of price rise is a very vital matter concerning millions and millions of people in our country.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : Not only millions but crores of people.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, That is why we wanted that when the matter was raised, on that day itself the Government should have made a statement on the price situation. But when the hon. Speaker gave a very clear and categorical direction - you have seen it in the proceedings and we have also quoted from the House proceedings of the 29th of November, 1995 - that the Government should make a statement on the inflationary price situation on that day, we agreed to what was suggested by the hon. Speaker. That was a very clear and categorical direction. But today when in the List of Business we did not find any mention of any statement to be made by the Finance Minister on the price situation and on the points which we raised on that day, then only we raised this matter. We wanted and expected that the Government, on its own, would come forward with a statement but what we found in the statement of the Finance Minister was that he was not aware of such a direction. That means, the direction was not communicated to the Finance Minister.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : He also has said that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There was a direction and how could be refute that? This has been recorded in the proceedings in the House also.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Sir, actually it was not a direction; it was an observation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What do you mean by that? If it is an observation made by the hon. Speaker, will you not abide by that observation?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : There is a difference between the two.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The hon. Speaker repeated it a number of times, at least four to five times, that the Government should make a statement.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : That is true, but there is a difference between a direction and an observation.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : It is not a military direction.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, I would expect the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to apologies. The House should not be treated so casually and that was why the Member were so agitated. This cannot be taken for granted. He should express his apologies.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not the issue of any opposition party. The situation of inflation equally concerns the ruling party and the voters. Therefore, this issue concerns the whole House. Differences over the measures for checking inflation is a separate issue. During a debate on this issue, the hon. Speaker drew a line between the financial matters and the price rise. It was also decided that the day fixed for taking up this matter could be tomorrow or the day after. In such a situation it can only be termed as a failure. Yesterday, we came to know of the sudden death a former Minister. A *suo moto* statement should have come from the Government enumerating the reasons for this failure. But the hon. Minister of Finance betrayed his ignorance about it. In such a situation it is difficulty to understand that his Government is a single constituent. Hence, this clarification should naturally have come. This should be debated separately. Both cannot be taken up together.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, I am not going to quarrel or question whether it was an observation or a direction made by the hon. Speaker. I think there was mix up for which I express my regrets. The statement by the Finance Minister will be made on Monday. I would request that the statement may allowed to be made on Monday immediately after the Question Hour so that he can go to Rajya Sabha as he has another statement to make there. After the statement of the hon. Finance Minister, the House can take up Zero Hour submissions and laying of Papers on the Table and all those things.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : All right.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBER : Okay.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now, I am raising a different matter. The day before yesterday, after the hon. Minister's reply, I had declared that I shall be forced to go on an indefinite fast from 30th of the month if the Government does not change its stand. As it was the day of passing obituary references yesterday, I did not think it proper to raise this matter. Hence,

I ever that I shall be on a fast from tomorrow because many friends are under the impression that the hon. Minister has given certain assurances. The hon. Minister had denied what he said in the House and elsewhere and what the Ministry of Railway said. On November 15, the press reported that the train on Samastipur-Darbhanga narrow gauge line would be withdrawn and a train on the broad-gauge line would run. It was cancelled all of a sudden. This has generated large-scale discontentment among the local people and disbelief in the Government. I will not elaborate the reasons thereof.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 24th a notice was pasted at every railway station depicting that the new train would flagged - off on 15th January.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Bhogendra Sahab, please complete it.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am not going into what he told me but he denied everything the day before yesterday. Now, he is saying that it will be completed by January 31 and flag-off ceremony would take place sometime later.

They want to procrastinate it till Lok Sabha elections which will cause a loss of crores of rupees to the Railway. People have given up travelling to Patna and Muzaffarpur by train. In such a situation there is no alternative left for me except going on a fast. I will continue to observe fast until dates of conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge one, setting up of APRON control and date of flag-off is not announced. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I met the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Railway, Shri Suresh Kalmadi with a delegation at 10.00 A.M. today. He assured us that the work of conversion of Samastipur line into a broad gauge one would be completed by December 30. When we insisted on announcing in clear terms the date of inauguration of this line, he said that an announcement to this effect will be made during the current session.

In view of the hon. Minister's assurance, I would urge upon SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA not to go on a fast. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I met the hon. Minister twice but he gave me no assurance.....(Interruptions) SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I met him with a delegation today morning only at 10 o'clock. SHRI PASWAN also accompanied us. He gave a clear assurance. Therefore, I request you to give up the idea of going on fast.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Papers to be laid.

14.17 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the employees Pension Scheme, 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 748 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th November 1995, under section 6D of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8278/95]

Production sharing contract between the Government of India and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. and the Shell India Production Development B.V. with respect to Rajasthan Block RJ-ON-90/1 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : On behalf of Captain Satish Sharma, I beg to lay on the Table

(1) A copy of the Production Sharing Contract (Hindi and English version) between the Government of India and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Shell India Production Development B.V. with respect to Rajasthan Block RJ-ON-90/1

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8279/95]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8280/95]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi for 1993-94 alongwith a statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English version) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8281/95]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council Bombay, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Bombay, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8282/95]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8283/95]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8284/95]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotions Council, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audit Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8285/95]

(7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8286/95]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the India Trade Promotion Organisation and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8287/95]

(8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8288/95]

Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 Annual Report and Review of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Bombay for 1994-95 and Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow for 1994-95 and notification under Custom Act, 1962 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 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 629 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th September 1995 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act., 1992,

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8289/95]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Bombay, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 19 and sub-section (5) of section 24 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Bombay, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8290/95]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, Lucknow, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 30 of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act 1989

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8291/95]

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India. Lucknow, for the year 1994-95.

(4) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :

(i) G.S.R. 610 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Isobutyl Benzene, exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rate of Ten Thousand Six Hundred and thirty four rupees per Tonne.

(ii) G.S.R., 616 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping the People's Republic of China at the rate of Five thousand nine hundred ninety two rupees per Tonne.

(iii) G.S.R. 690 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on duty on 3,4,5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde, exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rate of Five thousand nine hundred ninety two rupees per Kilogram.

(iv) G.S.R. 691 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Theophylline at the rate of Rs. One hundred and Eight per Kilogram and on Caffeine at the rate of Rs. One hundred and One per Kilogram, when exported from the People's Republic of China.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8292/95]

(v) The Project Imports (Amendment) Regulation 1995 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 700 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th October 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(vi) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1995 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Acrylonitrilebutadiene rubber (other than latex) exported from Japan at the rate of Nineteen thousand three hundred and six rupees per metric tonne.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8293/95]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 635 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September 1995, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notifications mentioned therein under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8294/95]

(6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 48 of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981:

(i) Annual Report of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bombay for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Review by the Government of the working of the National Bank for agricultural and Rural Development, Bombay for the year 1994-95.

(iii) Statistical Statement on the Annual Report of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Bombay, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8295/95]

Annual Assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) on the programme and its implementations for accelerating and spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various official purposes of the Union for the year 1993-94

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON) : On behalf of Shri Ram Lal Rahi, I be to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual assessment Report (Hindi and English versions) on the programme and its implementations for accelerations and spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various official purposes of the Union for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8296/95]

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker : No I do not allowed

.....(interruptions)....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : You have to oblige

.....(interruptions).....

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Don't Convert this as a zero Hour(interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have met hon. Minister of State for Railways today morning at 10 am. He has given us assurance. I want that since he is present in the House, this should be announced in this House and he should spell out as to by what time he will inaugurate it.(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is present here, he must announce on the floor of the House as to when this line will be inaugurated.....(Interruption)

SHRI RAM NAIK (North Bombay) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if people keep speaking this way and that too without your permission and this process goes unabated, then how the House will function. Our hon. Member Shri Jaswant Singh is standing and he not managing to express his concern.....(Interruption)

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Our friends have reduced today's proceedings to zero hour from morning itself and other hon. Members are finding it very difficult to express their concern. Therefore, I will urge them through you that they should sit down and should allow the House to function in accordance with the rules. (Interruption)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to interfere in his functioning. Hon. Bhogendra Jha is our senior leader. Keeping in view his health and other matters I would request the hon. Vidya Charan Shukla that if any member feels forced to sit on fast, then the Government must take steps to avoid such situation as this is not a big issue. It has already been decided that Railway line would be laid down and eighty percent work has already been completed. Only a minor work remains to be completed. If announcement to this effect is made on behalf of the Government, then he can call off his fast.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI

VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the request that hon. Jaswant Singh has made to hon. BHOGENDRA JHA is a very genuine request. There is no problem in it. A statement was made yesterday by the Minister of State for Railway SHRI SURESH KALMADI in which fee and a time-limit was also fixed yet, SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA is not satisfied.(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : No: Just a minute. You kindly hear me. the hon. Minister is here . First let me complete this work. After two minutes, the hon Minister....

.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : This can be closed, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER ; Let us follow certain rules.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : This can be closed, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us follow certain rules.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I wanted it to be closed... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, my point is this. In the letter, it is mentioned : Because of the statement made on dated 27.11.1995 that this Statement has arisen. In the letter, it is possible if the Railway Minister says ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chatterjee, will you kindly hear me for a minute? Mr. Jha is on fast. Mr. Jaswant singh has also pleaded his case here. Now, the hon, Minister is here. Our work will immediately be over. In two minutes he will definitely respond to your requests.

.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : I do think, Sir, that this matter, after the Railway Ministers assurance, the other day, need be discussed here, It is because he has given certain date by which this work will be completed. I has requested the Railway Minister to come here at 4 o' clock today. I has also invited Mr. Bhogendra Jha to come over here and discuss the matter so that if there is any lack of understanding or any difficulty in deciding the time limit of completion, it could be sorted out. There could be practical difficulties on both sides. This is what we would like to do at 4 0' clock. Until then we will take up the regular business of the House and go ahead with it.

14.23 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : With Your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 4th December, 1995 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of government Business carried over from today's order paper.

2. Discussion on the Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following ordinances and consideration and passing of the bills replacing these Ordinances :-

(a) The Building and other Construction workers' (Regulation of Employment and conditions of Service) Ordinance, 1995.

(b) the Building & other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Ordinance, 1995.

3. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1995 and consideration and passing of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1995 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

4. Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways) for 1995-96.

5. Consideration and Passing of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1993.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

(1) Discussion on International situation in the light of the observance of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nation and the decision at the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Meeting summits.

2. Discussion on the situation and status of religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities in India in the light of the Annual Report of the Minorities Commission.

[Translation]

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, Following two subjects may please be included in the next week's list of business :

(1) Agricultural and irrigation, industry and employment and trade and commerce are in critical condition due to the acute shortage of electricity in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, the Central Government should make necessary arrangements for the supply of electricity.

(2) Necessary steps should be taken to check the trafficking of foreign made illegal arms in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Strike by jute workers for indefinite period.

2. Issues relating to hawala transactions and involvement of people in high offices.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (HAMIRPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following subjects should be included in the next week's list of business :

(1) A comprehensive bill for the inclusion of Gadariya and Gujjar castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes and 'Tarkhans' doing wood work in the list of Scheduled Castes in the entire State of Himachal Pradesh.

(2) Removal of anomalies in the one-time pension increased in respect of ex-servicemen.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following subjects should be included in the next week's list of business :

(1) renewal of equipment of sick industries at state level from the National Renewal Fund.

(2) The royalty of coal has been fixed by the Government of India on the basis of its weight as a result of which the Government of Bihar does not get genuine royalty. This should be changed and the rate of royalty fixed on the basis of net price of coal.

SHRI PRABHU DAYA KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following motion of mine be included in the next week's list of business:

(1) There is a need to provide stoppage to express train at Firozabad.

(2) There is a need to reconstruct the railway bridge at Firozabad which is in a dilapidated condition.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Following subjects should be included in the next week's list of Business:

(1) to ensure 28 per cent reservation to other backward classes in the combined engineering entrance test of 1996 as per the verdict of the Supreme Court.

(2) Doubling of Ghaziabad Muradabad (Northern Railway) Railway line on priority basis keeping in view the need of this route.

14.27 hrs.

[English]

MOTIONS RE : ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(1) THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : On behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram. I beg to move:

"That in presence of Section 4 (3) (c) of the marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (3) (c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The Motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

FAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : On Behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram. I beg to move.

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The Motion was adopted.

14.30 hrs.

[English]

(i) **Building And Other Construction Workers' (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill***

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :-

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the employment and conditions of service of building and other construction workers and to provide for their safety, health and welfare measures and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 1-12-95

14.30 ½ hrs.

*[English]***(ii) Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Bill***

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1995.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is :

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on the cost construction incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1995.

The Motion Was Adopted.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Sir , I introduce** the Bill.

14.31 hrs.

*[English]***BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE CESS ORDINANCE , 1995**

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : Sir , I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Ordinance, 1995.

14.32 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE DEPOSITORIES ORDINANCE AND DEPOSITORIES BILL*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up item nos. 15 and 26 together. Shri Ram Naik.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 1-12-95

** Introduced with th recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move-

"That this House disapproves of the Depositories ordinance, 1995 (No 11 of 1995) promulgated by the president on 20 September, 1995."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Depository Ordinance and to express my views. The concept of a depository is hitherto new for us . I welcome this concept. but I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it was necessary to promulgate this Ordinance? What extraordinary to promulgate this ordinance? What extraordinary circumstances compelled the Government to resort to promulgation of this ordinance in exercise of the special power conferred on them by the constitution. I do not see any such circumstance but it seems that the government, specially the finance Ministry has become accustom to the misuse of the provisions of the constitution. It is very objectionable and dangerous tendency. I therefore, oppose the ordinance.

A statement stating the need of promulgating this ordinance has been laid on the table of the House by the hon. Finance Minister. You are expected to state the reasons for promulgating the ordinance. I have that statement with me and I would like to quote the reason given in para thereof.

[English]

I quote :

" As both the Houses of Parliament were not in session and the President was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action, the Depositors Ordinance was promulgated on 20th September."

[Translation]

I mean to say that the reason, for promulgation of this ordinance is not given in that para. Everybody known that a ordinance is promulgated only when the Parliament is not in session. You have mentioned that President was satisfied. but you have not made a mention of the reasons , the pleases advanced by you satisfy the President. You have misused the right of promulgating ordinance . Not only this, you should have apprised the House of the reasons which prompted you to promulgate the ordinance , but you did not do so. I make then serious allegation on the Government.

This ordinance was promulgated on 20 September and it has since completed two months. The hon. Minister should also have informed the House as to how rights

conferred on the Government by this ordinance were exercised during these two months. It appears to me that if you do not make the House aware of it then promulgation of the ordinance hardly carried any sense. The way, in which the ordinance was promulgated, is not feasible. It is a comprehensive Bill and you have promulgated this ordinance for this comprehensive Bill, that is a serious matter. On the other hand for the last two years we have been following a new practice that if any new Bill/ comprehensive Bill is introduced in the Parliament, we refer it to the concerned Standing Committee discusses deliberates on the Bill very seriously make their recommendations on it. Thereafter in the light of those recommendations, the Bill is discussed in the House and the loopholes of the bill are plugged. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why a good tradition of referring the Bills to the Standing Committees was discontinued? Sir, therefore, I would like to urge that this Bill should be considered seriously. The House will be in session till 22 December and with the special power conferred on you by the Parliament, you should have sent the Bill to the Standing Committee for further consideration. Hon. Minister was expected to reply to the question as to why did he not request the hon. Speaker for referring the Bill to the Standing Committee.

Sir, the concept of depository is good. I had been a member of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security Scam; I hope you will reply to this Bill, as per chance Dr. Debi Prasad Pal, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance was also a member of the same committee. While I was in this Committee, I found as to how the scam was name of mutual funds by different share brokers. There were no shares, no securities but these were being transferred. In view of the various recommendations of JPC and to check the malpractices the scheme of forming a depository was recommended. We welcome the Bill brought after two years as concrete measure to implement the concept of forming a depository I want to say 2-3 thing in this regard.

The Security scam is the biggest fraud ever committed in the country after independence and the million of people specially middle class people who contribute in the field of trade by depositing their money in banks and investing in shares, have in large suffered heavily. B.R. i.e. Bill receipt had suffered loss of crores of rupees due to this fraud.

It is indeed a good measure to check such frauds. We experienced at that time that the securities or share certificates were not being issued but deliveries were taking place on large scale. This suggestion was given keeping in mind these things. I welcome this Bill Brought by you after two years by this bill should be referred to Standing Committee and considered seriously there.

You must be aware of the transaction going on in stock exchanges for the last 15-20 days and the steep fall witnessed in the shares. The Government at present, is following new economic policy, taking about financial matters and taking external loan.

They are claiming that it has accelerated the pace of economic reforms as was evident with the upward trend in the prices of shares but why are the prices of shares steeply falling in the stock Exchange for the past 14-20 day. This trend has once again raised apprehensions in the middle income group investor, who invests his hardearned money. What measures have been taken to allay these apprehensions They might have implemented some provisions of this ordinance after its promulgations but a bell of danger is ringing in the Stock Exchange today. What is the Government's assessment, about it and what remedial measures have been taken in this regard? The hon. Minister should touch upon all these aspects in his reply. He should also clarify as to how the Government is going to solve the confrontation presently going on among reliance, SEBI and Stock Exchange as reported in the press. The whole country is looking towards the share market today and watching the developments in the Stock Exchange and also find another share broker like Harshad is emerging. The hon. Finance Minister should give a clarification to this effect in the Parliament today.

The constitution of depositories is a well-done step but there is a need to state how they would be established and managed because the small investor who invests his hard-earned money wants some protections. His investment can boost trade and industrial growth and on the basis of it, the Capital market can be build up a fresh. The Government should elaborate the measures of proper reconstruction of capital market with regard to the Bill brought forward in the backdrop of it, I would like to know six main things and also give some suggestions. While relying the hon. Minister should deal with them as well.

It should be clarified as to who or which body will give permission for setting up depositories and to whom shall such permission be grants. In this connection, I suggest that a Committee of officials of SEBI, RBI and the Government of India connected with this trade, rather professionals, whose integrity is beyond doubt should be constituted who shall determine as to whom shall the right to set up depositories be given.

Secondly, there is need to give a serious consideration to the issue of identifying persons who should be given the right to establish depositories and assess their financial capacity. My suggestion in this regard is that if a Public Limited Company is given this

right, its capital structure should be evaluated and it should have a Capital base of at least Rs. 100 crore for acquiring permission for setting up depositories. With such a sound capital base, it can be presumed that they will work in a credible manner on such share securities. Hence, this permission should be given to the companies with high level integrity, transparency and a sound capital base.

My third point is who will audit the functional accounts of the depositories? In the absence of audit, irregularities have been committed in Mutual Funds or Nationalised Banks. thus, in the case of these depositories, a special branch in the office of CAG should be set up to conduct audit on a regular basis. Credibility can be established if there is a concurrent audit of the whole system. Thus, audit should be regular and concurrent.

Fourthly, who will be responsible for any bungling scandal or loss in the working of these depositories? It should also be clearly envisaged in the rules as to whether the depositor or the depositories will be responsible otherwise the natural tendency of putting on us on others shoulders will create difficulties. A rate-schedule of the functioning of depositories, the criteria fixed, the charter of services, their distribution and service charges should properly be chalked out. An element of competition will lead fraud in it hence, the need for standardisation of rates. My sixth and last suggestion in this regard is that there should be transparency in the working of depositories. Computerisation of system will give instant information and results. this function should be assigned to SEBI, RBI and professional representatives of Government of India whose to reply to my points point-wise. He should also clarify why this Ordinance was promulgated. He should be ready to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : Sir, I beg to move:

" That the Bill to provide for regulation of depositories in securities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto , be taken into consideration.'

At present the settlement and transfer of securities in the capital market necessitates physical movement of certificates which causes considerable hardship to the investor in terms of delay in transfer and settlement , loss, forgery and mutilation of share certificates during the process of transfer. In order to eliminate these dis-

advantages of the present system, it is proposed , through the Depositories Bill, to provide a legal framework for establishment of Depositories to enable record as well as transfer of ownership of securities through a book entry form.

Securities transactions are efficiently managed when trading, settlement and delivery times for completing such transactions are minimised. This calls for elimination of , either wholly or substantially, a paper-based system of recording ownership of securities. Establishment of depositories will reduce the time taken to complete a transaction cycle and eliminate several aberrations which characterise a paper-based trading system.

The salient features of the Bill are as follows .

It provides for a legal framework for establishment of one or more depositories. The depository would maintain ownership records of securities and effect changes in ownership (through book entry).

Investors opting to join the depository system will be required to be registered with participants who will be agents for the depositories. The participants could be custodians, financial institutions, brokerage firms etc.

The depositories will be recorded as registered owners on the books of the company on behalf of investors opting for the depository mode. The depository would, in turn, in their records, enter the name of the investor as the beneficial owner. All economic and voting rights will vest with the beneficial owner.

Securities in the depositories mode will be dematerialised. However, the investor has the option to choose between holding securities, as at present, in physical form, or hold in a dematerialised form within the depository. Issues of securities will give investors the option either to receive physical securities or to join the depository mode. At any time , the investors will have the option to enter or exit from the depository .

Securities in the depositories mode will be feugible , meaning thereby that they will cease to have distinctive numbers. Even though the Bill provides for free transferability of securities, the company retains the right to appeal before the Company law Board against transfer for violation of any provisions of SEBI Act or its regulations or of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Ownership changes in the depository system will be made automatically on the basis of delivery versus payment. There will be a regular mandatory flow of information about details of ownership by the depository to the company concerned.

The Bill proposes to make consequential changes in the Companies Act, Income Tax Act, Securities Contracts Regulation Act, Stamp Act, etc. In respect of the Stamp Act in particular, the changes are intended to exempt all transaction within a depository mode from payment of stamp duty.

Detailed regulations will be framed by SEBI to operationalise depositories. Depositories will have to be registered with SEBI who would also issue a certificate of commencement. Depositories will frame bye-laws with the approval of SEBI for crystallising the rights and obligations of participants and beneficial owner as procedures for ensuring adequate safeguards to protect the interests of investors.

It is proposed that the depository arrangement will be implemented in phases so that there is an orderly switch over from the existing system. It is felt that the new system will considerably enhance the efficiency of the capital market and benefit the investors by making the settlement and transfer of securities quicker, more accurate and safer. Depository will help and would greatly enhance the liquidity of capital market through short trading and settlement cycles. Depository was a much needed reform in the capital market which the Bill seeks to facilitate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That the Bill to provide for regulations of depositories in securities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration"

SHRI AMAL DATTA (DIAMOND HARBOUR) : Sir, this is a Bill which is apparently very innocuous and is trying to do good, bring a lot of benefit to those people dealing in shares or investing in shares or debentures of companies. But in fact, if you read between the lines, you find that there is a lot of loopholes being left for the very same type of harm against which it is sought to be enacted. It is said that there is a lot of pilferage, loss, fraud, forgery etc. I do not know how are these pilferages and losses, or at least, the losses and forgeries going to be dealt within this system because it appears to me that when the depositories make a transfer from one shareholder's name to another shareholder's name they will definitely do so on the basis of some intimation signed by the original owner. Now what is there to prevent a forgery in respect of such an intimation? How is it that the depository going to prevent that? That is not explained at all.

I think all kinds of things are said and all kinds of thing are there in every system. But how this system is going to be an improvement of the earlier system? That

is not explained. If the forgery can take place in spite of the scrutiny which a company whose shares or debentures are being dealt depository? It is a big name. But who are these depositories? It is not explained. It has already been pointed out by my learned friend there that there is nothing explained as to what category of persons can become depositories except, that they must be permitted to be depositories by the Securities Exchange Board of India. That is all. What are the guidelines given to the SEBI? There is nothing.

There is another category. This is one thing on which the hon. Minister, if he can, will kindly explain as to how forgery can be prevented. I do not think there is any system by which forgery can be prevented and nothing is said there that if because of loss or because of negligence by the depositories any loss is caused to the investor then it is just said that he will indemnify. That is all. But if a loss is caused not by the negligence of this depository but by a participant, what will happen? There is another category of things, another category of institutions which are brought into picture. I do not know why.

15.00 hrs.

There is a company. Now, this company's shares nominally are being held in the register so far as certain persons, certain of its investors opting to do so are concerned in the register of the depository. The company will not have even the name of the beneficial owner of the shares, in fact, it is the depository whose name will be registered with the company and then the depository also does not deal directly with the beneficial shareholder. He deals through another intermediary who is called 'participant'. Now, why is there a participant? I think this should be explained. First of all, one share he is holding. He is called 'the depository'. The company deals with the depository; the shareholder deals with the participant and the participant deals with the depository on behalf of the shareholders what is this system? I do not know whether such system prevails anywhere else. If there is a person who is dealing directly with the company, then there are many occasions for pilferage, fraud and all these kind of things.

Now, there are three changes. The shareholder deals with the participant, the participant deals with the depository and the depository deals with the company. All these are very weak changes. They are weak, because whatever safeguards you provide theoretically on paper, ultimately are being dealt with by human beings. If they are not careful, if they take things casually, if they are dishonest, if they have no integrity, then a lot of things can happen. Everything which is being sought to be provided against is due not because of the absence

of a good system, but the system did not work, because the people who were asked to hold the system were negligent, they were casual and they were dishonest. So, the same things will happen here and perhaps in a much bigger quantity. The magnitude of such loss will be, I think, Mind-boggling as had happened, because of the breakdown of the system, again because of the callousness of the human beings operating in the system as was done in the scam caused by Harshad Mehta and his colleagues.

So, is there any solvency criteria in recognition or in giving licence as depositories to certain companies? No solvency criteria has been laid down in the Bill as the House is asked to pass. This is a serious lacuna in this Bill. They should have stated what should be the solvency criteria. Even a company may have Rs. 100 crores as equity, may be in reserve and the equity will be invested somewhere. But even then to what extent that company can deal with shares and to what extent it can take the depositor's shares? It cannot do so. In banks, there is no adequacy norm here, because, I think, it did not occur to the persons who have drafted it. The banks are doing the same kind of things, in a way.

Then, as I said, the participant is another intermediary between the depository and the actual investor who is called the 'beneficial owner'. Now, it is said that the beneficial shareholder will still retain the right to get the return of his investment and the right to vote. How? I can understand the return of his investment because the money first goes, the dividend first goes or the interest first goes to the depository and from there it comes either through the participant or directly to the beneficial owner. I do not know whether the depository will actually, in any case, be linked to the beneficial owner directly for this purpose. It is not stated here.

Then comes the question of voting. Now, company issues notice for Annual General Meeting. The notice goes to the shareholders. Many of them do not turn up. Now, here what will happen? The company even does not have the name of the beneficial owner. The name is with the depository. The depository knows that these people are not interested to vote. He collects their proxies or whatever and then he can go and exercise a tremendous amount of voting right in a general body meeting of the company. What is there to prevent him? What is the safeguard against that? Obviously, the depository will not do it his own name. He will some nominee who will be exercising the right as if he is holding proxy. The beneficial owner's names is not there in the companies, register's it is for the depository to sign, I suppose, a proxy form. Who else? He can send so many people knowing that the beneficial owners are not interested to go and vote. Then it gives when the de-

pository known what kind of transactions are taking place in particular shares. Now, he has got the terrific opportunity to corner shares and to play with the shares. Who is going to prevent that? What kind of law we have in this country against that. And even if we pass the law where is the agency and where is the forum to enforce that law? We have got a beautiful Penal Code. But to enforce that penal code to give a punishment to an offender, it takes 16 to 20 years with all the appellate forums, you know, going full cases not able to dispose of them. So, we do not have the machinery. Even if we pass all kinds of very strict laws we will never be able to enforce that in time for something to happen for really the guilty to be punished and really the losses to be recouped. We do not have that system. The judicial system has practically collapsed excepting very very small number of cases which they are able to dispose of because of the priority given to them for one reason or the other.

Sir, I think, all these things should be thought out and the suggestion given by Mr. Naik that it should be sent to the Standing Committee is a very good suggestion. There is absolutely no hurry in passing this Bill. If it is a recommendation of the Joint Committee which went into the securities scam then that was long time ago. If they have waited for such a long time, there is no hurry to have it first brought by way of an Ordinance and then getting it passed in a short session like this and saying that if it is sent to the Standing Committee it will take a long time. What long time? You have already wasted two years and after that you will say it will take a long time; so we do not give Standing Committee one month's time or two months time to go through it, analyse it and make recommendation. Is that why the Standing Committee system has been instituted? What is the need, it has not been explained yet in spite of the fact that this is what Mr. Naik objected to in connection with the approval of the Ordinance that it has not been stated in the objects clause as to why the ordinance was at all promulgated. What was the hurry after such a long time that when the Houses were not in session, this act had to be bought in by way of an ordinance, there was none at all. Nothing has been said. Nothing was there and therefore, nothing has been said about the urgency of passing and bring this statute in the statute book by way of an Ordinance.

Sir, some penal clause has been created there no doubt. But there is nothing which says that who will bear the loss. Who will bear the loss? Nothing has been said about it and there is no provision for the depositories the participants to take out insurance. Otherwise, it is all right to say that they will be indemnified. They say like: 'It is not our fault. You gave us this intimation. You did this, you did that.' And the whole thing will go to court.

There is no insurance . There is no provision for them to take out insurance for making good the loss caused by their own incompetence, negligence, dishonesty or lack of integrity . So, there are many lacunae .

Therefore, I appeal to you, Sir, that the Government should send this Bill to the Standing Committee; wait for a month or so if that is the time required and let it not be done in a hurry. If, I think, this system comes into operation and it is seen that the loss is caused, then this will be held up to the Government. They are in a hurry and there was some motive behind the hurry. The loss was there . This measure has been brought forward in order to help some people. So, they must think of the political consequences which may occur in case this misfires in the very beginning. They cannot even think of that. This is a sorry state of affairs wherein the government cannot think of its own political future and we have to tell them about that. So, Sir, I think that this House should not pass this Bill and should reject this Bill.

Thank you. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this comprehensive Bill has again been brought forward after two years during which many scandals have taken place. Sir, I could understand the purpose if there was any preceding Bill or the Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha or any amendment was meant to be effected in it. My submission is that either the suggestions given by Ram Naik ji and other former speakers be conceded to or this Bill be sent to the Standing Committee.

The hon. Minister said that the settlement and transactions of shares is delayed . To avoid this delay, a record is maintained for which necessary amendments have been made in the law. Then he added that there is also delay in transfer of shares and registration of share certificates. This whole process involves fraud. The certificates get mutilate. This Bill is meant to plug all these loopholes . I Would once again urge upon the hon. Minister to refer this Bill to the standing Committee as this session will go on till 22nd and thereafter elections are proposed to be held in March and may be we will not get an opportunity to present this bill here again. The Standing Committee is composed of people belonging to all the parties who will consider this Bill seriously.

I would like to Know about the configuration of the depository and the reasons behind bringing this ordinance. A copy of this Bill is before me. In it , there is no mention of why was the trouble of promulgating an ordinance given to the hon. President? To my mind the hon. President has also been kept in the dark. The House is not apprised of the reasons thereof.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no mention in it of what facilities will be given to the people. It is true that the scandals and the bank embezzlement have caused a loss of crores and crores of rupees to the middle class people. What will you do on the suggestions given to you with regard to all these matters, whom you will give depository that will be set up. who will compensate for the loss that they might suffer, whether there will be any provision of audit or not and how it will be carried out. I will request the hon . Minister not to bring this bill in haste , without taking into account the loopholes existing in it and without considering as to how deposits will be made, how audit will be made, who will compensate for the loss and how this scheme will be made transparent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you that the bill is a very comprehensive bill and this cannot be passed in such a hurried manner. This must be considered and discussed clause-by-clause. Therefore, you are requested not to pass this bill in haste. Please admit the amendments moved by us and then please refer the bill alongwith the amendments proposed by us to the Standing Committee. 22 December is far off. The standing Committee will give its report after considering this bill. It will be appropriate to move this comprehensive bill in the House again in the light of the standing Committee's report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, like Shri Ram Naik ji I too support this bill, but I want to say that the bill should not be brought in haste . With these words I welcome this bill.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): Sir, A despository is a depository and depositories are convenient instruments. It is not true that this is unique. There is a similar thing . There are similar arrangements within our country . There is one depository, For instance, with the Reserve Bank of India. That is called Subsidiary General Ledger. All those who were connected with the Joint Committee on Securities Scam know about this. The precise thing this Subsidiary General Ledger does is, when the Government securities are transferred from one bank to another, it is recorded there , physical transfers are not necessary unless as a residual . This is a similar kind of thing. This is a depository for all other kind of shares. And the arrangement is that exactly as in the case of banks, there are brokers who deal with it. Here these brokers are the participants and they are registered with the depositories and they function as a go- between the private individual and the depository.

As I said, a depository is a depository. It is convenience and people do not have to indulge in these transactions. Physically, it is de-materialisation. That is a word that has been used also. And that is a convenience of which there is no doubt. That is why there is no objection in principle in setting up this depository. But the problem arises here. A convenience can be used as an inconvenience, a convenience can be used as an abuse. That is how, SGLR functioned with the Reserve Bank of India. The same kind of apprehensions are expressed here also. Who are the people?

Before that perhaps, I should make another point. It has been asked, why should there be an Ordinance? The answer is a simple one. The answer is an answer which wants to suppress. The answer is, 'look at the day- 20 th of September'. During this month what was happening with the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India was very simple. Our foreign exchange are coming down. Our foreign exchange reserve was coming down during that period and the foreign institutional investors who are pumping dollars into our country, they started complaining that it is too complicated. There has to be paper transactions etc. And that was one kind of an argument they used. The real reasons as to why foreign investors were not coming in are different.

The American economy was behaving in one manner, the stock exchange reserves in the world were behaving in one manner. Therefore, capital was swaying away instead of coming there. And therefore, it was felt very urgent that since they have indicated these difficulties and because of the fact that foreign exchange reserves were coming down during that period, an Ordinance was sought to be necessary. So, that precedent cannot be stated here. Why an Ordinance at that time was necessary could not be indicated either in the written statement or in any other statement elsewhere?

But I am talking about depositories. Whatever the reasons, once again, let me repeat. It is a convenience. But the problem with the convenience is what? Who can form a depository? Anybody. It is not a public sector activity. It is to be associated with stock market. It will be a bogus firm and this bogus firm can also be a firm of difficulties there; firms of, say, Reliance and other such companies. They can float a depository. That is why, our colleague Shri Amal Datta referred to and that is why Shri Ram Naik was indicating that it can be nest of corruption. Even under the aegis of, under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India, the department handling the SGLs indulge in corruption. False documents, false entries were being made. And, we have discovered that that is not enough. It has been mentioned here. It is very strange. In other acts, one has been careful to point out these things that it could

be electronic. How fine. Very speedy? we know it and the reports of the JPC would also point out that a pure electronic device is a dangerous device. With this device, you can obliterate any entry. The people sitting there can do whatever they want easy to do with the computer.

In certain acts, therefore, it is provided that along with this, manual records with page marks etc., should be there. It is not provided and, then if there is indulgence, the Board is SEBI. It is fine. But we have said as in the case of banks, that there should be centralized agency for auditing, not individual auditors appointed because one auditor in one bank does not know, what is happening in other banks. Supposing, the auditing job is done honestly, to have links between banks, the links between the depositories, the links between the company issuing the particular Share unless and comprehensive agencies audits all the depositories nothing can be found out. But there is this kind of trouble. That is why he has referred to auditing.

There is another problem, let me tell you. It is very convenient for very large investors. The UTI will say, sell 10 crore of things'. Why? That can be one certificate but even that can be reduced by only a ledger entry. It is true enough. But the problem is this. What happens to the small individual investors? What happens when these large investors are in league with the depositories?

When one says, 'why don't you refer it to the Standing Committee?' The principle of a depository is not objected to, because it is a convenience. But the whole point is, it has to be handled with care and for such care to be taken, the instrument is the Standing Committee. A fuller discussion, clause-by-clause discussion with the officials of the Finance Ministry could have taken place. Instead of that, they have rushed into it by the pressure of the foreign investors and today they feel helpless and that since the ordinance is there. It has to be passed in this Session and therefore, it cannot be referred to the Standing Committee.

Sir, I am not going into the details as we know we are approaching this limit of 3.30 hours for Private Members Business.

The problem is this. On every single clause there can be reservation excepting that the the depositories should come into existence. Every single clause can be amended suitably. They will also agree. We have seen in the past in the Standing Committees that through discussions safety measures could be introduced. No such safety measures are included. The Security Board is responsible. We should remember that before the eyes of the Board duplicate shares are issued and a lot of dif-

faculties are there . The Board is increasing getting over burdened. What additional measures are going to be taken in relation to the depositories? Nothing has been stated. You say it will be in the regulation . My very simple contention is that in many Bills which have been enacted. You have incorporated many things in the Bill itself and not left it to the regulations . That could have been done by the Standing Committee if you had referred it to it. This is the problem which leads us to say that while accepting that the depositories parse are not bad things, the Bill as it is not acceptable .

It is not in the hands of the Government really . It is in the hands of the speaker or the Deputy Speaker to refer it to the Standing Committee. Therefore the request is not to the Government . We are requesting you that because of the importance of this new institution which can be of great convenience, you can refer it to Standing Committee. I am not a believer in share market. The Finance Minister once uttered that one never knows why share market prices go up and down . It is an instrument of speculation. Everybody knows that while the need of a share market for selling and buying shares is there since shares are there , the share markets are nothing but institutions for speculation world-wide. Therefore safeguards have to be introduced. That is the same thing for depositories let me assert . Therefore it is our request, do not push us as they were pushed by the foreign institutions into this Ordinance ; do not push us into passing this Bill in this form. I would request that we hold up the discussion today and meet the Speaker and get it referred to the Standing Committee as the Bill as it is cannot be passed, should not be passed for the sake of at least what has happened in the course last few years.

I don not want to make further points unless I speak again on Monday if you want that , I can do that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have two more minutes at our disposal.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Every depository shall furnish to the issue information about the transfer of securities in the name of beneficiary at such intervals. I think some clarification could also be had. It is perfectly possible . Share certificates, in whose names it would be issued, it can be collected from the depositories . That is perfectly possible. Books are closed on a particular date: as on that date, whatever the ledger records are there with the depositories, they will be transferred to the particular company . I understand that. But supposing there is a malpractice, how do you detect this? Supposing a tumultuous annual general meeting would be held of a company and therefore the records are to be tampered with , what is the guarantee, who oversees these depositories that they

have sent the list correctly? Individual small investors cannot challenge the depository . Who will do that? This is another type of problem which is there to which there is no answer. I know one stock answer could be, the regulations will take care of it. I do not believe in that frankly.

You are looking at the clock. I will be concluding now with the hope that I will be called on Monday. I will continue next time.

I am stopping here, now. I will continue on Monday.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, can we have another fifteen minutes? The Depositories Bill should be put to vote before the Private Member's Business can be taken up. If we can take five minutes more and then allot five minutes more later (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Member's rights cannot be taken away.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : We can sit late. We can sit after six. We can sit upto 6.30 also.....(*Interruption*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We are not against the establishment of depositories but there has to be a substantial improvement. It has to be referred to the Standing Committee. We want to speak, in fact, to the Speaker for getting it referred to the Standing Committee. That is why I say that it be stopped today and we can take it up on Monday. In the meantime, we can meet the Speaker . It has to be substantially improved . It need not be objected to. Otherwise , you force us to object to it... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chacko, at least you are one who is no less Knowledgeable than me and you will agree. I really want that it is referred to the Standing Committee, where you and I would sit together and try to improve it.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (TRICHUR) : That does not form part of the Act.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It has to be exclusively included in the Act itself as a guarantor or you have to agree that the regulation should be debated here, which is not possible . For instance should the provision for having records in both the forms be part of the Act or not?..... (*Interruptions*) I have told him so because I want this to be referred to the Standing Committee..... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What are you wanting ? Do you want to have it passed right now? (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : There is no harm (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Let us now take up Private Member's legislative Business. Shri Amar pal Singh.

15.32 hrs.

[Translation]

THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut): I beg to move that the House do agree with the Forty Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolution, Preserved to the House on the 29th November , 1995

[English]

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : The question is :

" That the House do agree with the Forty-Sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 29th November, 1995."

The Motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : Now Bills to be introduced.

Shri K. Ramamurthy - not present. Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy not present. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi.

15.33 1/2 hrs.

Contitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Insertion of new article 31)

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): I beg to move for leave to Introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : The question is :

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion Was adopted.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary . Part II, Section 2, dated 1-12-95

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri George Fernandes - not present, Shri Basudeb Acharia.

15.34 hrs.

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (Preventive Measures) Bill*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention and Control of spread of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKAR : The question is:

" that leave be granted be in introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention and cannot of spread of acquired Immuno Defficiency syndrome."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

Contitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Insertion of new article 345, etc)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : I beg to move for leave to Introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : The question is :

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion Was adopted.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion Of New Articles 330A And 330B, etc.) - Contd.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up item no.11 of the Private Members' Legislative Business, Further discussion on the motion moved by Shri K.P. Reddiah Yadav.

*Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 1-12-95

Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam may speak now.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Private Members' Bill introduced by Shri Reddiah Yadav. The Amendment proposes insertion of certain articles under Article 330 which is part 16 - special provision relating to certain classes. Under this Article; there is a provision for the reservation of seats in favour of scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Assemblies and Lok Sabha. Our Constitution - makers and our leaders who debated in the Constituent Assembly for the adoption of Constitution of India, very wisely and purposefully has this Article inserted in the Constitution and as a result of that, to a certain extent, people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have come up on par with the forward classes of people. Convention given under this Article has enabled so may Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people to become Members of the Assemblies and Parliament. If this Article were not there and certain reservation were not made, many Members who are now Members of the Assemblies and Parliament could not have got this opportunity because they might not have got the strength and privilege of contesting against the forward classes of people. So, this Article provides concession. It Gives opportunities to people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. After the experience now we have this proposal for having reservation in favour Backward Classes of people. it is a good proposal. so, I strongly support this, considering the prevailing situation in the country. In some parts of the country, there was no peace. Clashes were there between classes of people and there had been difficulties in maintaining law and order even. It is all because of the inequality in different aspects. To maintain social justice, we must put all the citizens, all the people on an equal plane, so, the demand for the amendment of Article 330 of the Constitution, is a right one. The House has agreed to this proposal in special consideration, for the promotion of interests of other backward class of people. Mandalisation has awakened the country or at least the backward classes of people. At one time, people belonging to this class were suffering from many exploitations.

15.42 hrs.

[SHRI P. C. CHACKO IN THE CHAIR]

They thought that they were ordained to suffer from such exploitations. Mandalisation has awakened the people of this class. Now, they got courage to demand for such a proposal. I hope the House will agree to this unanimously.

I will give you an example for this. In the State of Manipur, we have an Assembly of 60 Members. There are 19 seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes and one seat reserved for Scheduled Caste. So, one Scheduled Caste Member and 19 Scheduled Tribes Members are represented in that House. They can serve their class of people by becoming members. In this House also, we have two Constituencies, one is Inner Manipur and another is Outer Manipur. Outer Manipur seat is reserved for Scheduled Tribes; and a Scheduled Tribe member is represented here. He is even elevated to the Minister of State. This is a Facility available under reservation.

I belong to OBC category, Although I have come to this House as a representative of the people, fighting with the forward class people, in the general seat, it is very difficult to fight and contest with the upper class people if there is a seat reserved for OBC, we can contest and come here. These privileges are to be given for having equal social justice and for making the country, a county of all the people who are on equal plane.

I would not take much time of the House. I rose only to register my support to this Bill.

In the Government services and institutions. There are reservations for the OBCs as per the Report of the Mandal Commission. It provides opportunities to the Government servant and other labour classes. It has given them opportunities for promoting their livelihood and social standard. Thus it will help in the development of the country to a large extent.

With these few words, I support the Bill introduced by Shri K.P. Reddiah Yadav.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Private Member's Bills, brought forward by Mr. K.P. Reddiah Yadav for providing reservation of seats for the people belonging to other backward classes. It does not mean that it is a challenge to any other class of people. It should be taken in the right spirit since the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are already given such opportunities.

In certain matters, like elections to the Tamil Nadu Panchayati Raj institutions, we have earmarked backward areas, backward councils and backward villages for the backward class people but this matter is now in the court.

I would like to support this bill as an MP here. I remember my olden days when I was a boy of 12 years. I

went to a temple along with my parents and we were stopped from entering into that temple because I belonged to a particular caste. From that day, I was in the wing of Periyar-Anna. Now I am in the wing of AIADMK manned under the leadership of Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalithaji.

Giving equal opportunity and social justice is one of the main aims of the Indian society. From Kanyakumari to Kashmir, we find that so many communal clashes are going on not only in some parts but also in several other parts of the country. Therefore, create good feeling and good brotherhood and provide equal opportunity. These were the main words used by Pandit Nehru in those days. The Central Government and this august House must realise that.

What will be the position by the year 2000? Will democracy remain in our country or not is the main question. Till date, there is no provision for the backward classes. Therefore, a necessity has been felt for bringing forward such an amendment to the Constitution. Then only, the harmonious feeling, which has now been disturbed, will be regained. Therefore, I support the Bill brought forward by Mr. K.P. Reddaiah Yadav for amendment of the Constitution for reservation of seats in the State Assemblies and in the Parliament for the people belonging to the backward classes. (ends)

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, the subject that is being discussed is indeed very important. But had this society been an egalitarian one, then our society would not have felt the need of this reservation policy. But, today, a class discrimination is very rampant there, and we have developed a tendency to see a person engaged right from his hereditary profession and believe that a person should take up his hereditary profession only. However, no work is frivolous or superior. A work is work, rather service of the society. Those who render service are never considered small but it is conventionally believed that those who render services they form lower strata of the society. In such circumstances, scheduled caste people including the craftsmen render their services to the society and are instrumental in the development of a society. This attitude became so much embedded in the attitude of the Society that while framing our constitution this factor was taken into consideration. The preamble of the Constitution envisaged that We, The people of India solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist Secular, Democratic Republic so as to secure to all its citizens, social, economic and political justice so that social economic and political equality ush-

ers in. It is with this objective that reservation facilities we provided to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes but one class was left out, which renders services to other sections of our society. This class is formed of the artisans, potter, blacksmith, carpenters etc. who play a vital role in the formation of our society. This Constitutional Amendment has been brought for the upheaval of this class whose interests and conditions were not deliberated upon properly. The sentiments behind this amendment has been that reservation is being provided to give representation to this section. Now, we should ensure their representation in the Parliament, and Legislative Assemblies as well and therefore, an amendment to this effect is needed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when a member of Parliament gets elected, then it is expected from him that the person will take care of every class. But only such a person can express the grief, pain and hardship of this section of people who has lived through such experiences. That is why a provision has been made in the constitution that a person will contest his election to Parliament or Legislative Assembly on the basis of his education and ability. Therefore, whether a person is educated or not, that is a different thing, but he should be in a position to represent properly the region from where he has been elected and the persons among whom he lives. On the basis only, a demand is being raised for giving reservation facility to such persons in Parliament. If this demand is fulfilled, then we will have to follow our traditions. But the General impression is that there is no ground for understanding these matters. That is why these provisions are being made. We should make such a provision in the article 330 A and 330 B for OBC. In such a situation, we will have to make provision for their upliftment.

Manav Man Main Bhed Nahin,

Karma Dharma Pardhan Hai.

Samajik Samta Manusya Ka

Janam Sidha Adhikar Hai

Right to equality is birth right of every citizen of India. In the 'Preamble' we have resolved to ensure Justice, liberty, equality, fraternity to all and there can be no compromise without attaining these goals. If this is our commitment, and if we stand firm by these demands, then definitely, these all will find a place in the constitution. In view of the present social dispensation, it is indeed being expected and should be expected that such persons should get reservation and they could get representation in services. This should be expected in the sphere of education also. The general impression is that those who join engineering or medical colleges on

the basis of reservation, they will render services of poor quality but we should understand categorically that it is for entrance only. Reservation has been given for entrance only, and it will be compulsory for them to pass all other course exams and unless and until they pass these examinations they will not get a degree keeping in view the social milieu they have been living in, if this reservation facility is given at the entrance test, they will have some relief. The standards of education being imparted in rural areas is different from what is being imparted in urban areas and convent schools. As a matter of fact, there is no equality in the standard education. One gets education according to the social environment. I do remember that I used to read in the light of a lantern. At that time, also some people had the facility of electricity, whereas then other had the facility of a lantern only. This kind of inequality was there at that time also some have to cooperate in the household job, some others have to work for the livelihood of family. Therefore, such persons should be given an opportunity to go ahead. Keeping in view the adverse circumstances in which they live. We have witnessed that during race that is organized in schools and colleges, an orbit is formed, a placing is made in the race of 440 metre, the person in the inner orbit stands far behind. Such persons have to stand up in the inner orbit but since they have to make the same number of rounds, they manage to cover their distance. If others at the counter orbit are not placed ahead in the same proportion then they are bound to lag behind. Therefore, equality should be sought. Therefore, it is necessary that they should be given some incentives. Reservation should be provided for OBC also in the medical and engineering area also. I will like to say that the Government should pay attention towards this section which has so far been ignored. Laws have to be made in this way for reservation for OBC's. Reservation has been made in the election to the Panchayats also. Reservations has been provided to women also in the election to the Panchayats. Thus, if it is being considered for all, then definitely we should think on giving the same facility to them in the election to the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies also. With these words, my request is that from the point of view of giving a right direction to the society, and in order to strengthen the structure of this society, an amendment is necessary in the Constitution and we should give incentives for implementing provisions made in this direction. With these words only I support this Bill.

[English]

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Amendment Bill. It is because so far as reservation of the minority communities in the different State Assemblies, Councils, in the Parliament

- consisting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - is concerned, they are not getting their due representation in all these Bodies. That is why, this is my earnest request that let there be some reservation for the minority communities in the different State Assemblies, Councils and in the Parliament, etc.

Sir, When we were discussing, in this august House, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill for giving effect to the Panchayati Raj Bill we agreed to give sufficient reservation for women. Thirty three per cent reservation was given to women

16.00 hrs.

On the same pattern reservation was also given to backward communities and other weaker sections of the society. So, I support this proposal and proposition put forward by Shri Reddaiah Yadav in order to bring about some sort of Constitutional amendment and in order to incorporate all such amendments with all the mighty at my command. As far as the Assemblies are concerned, as far as the Councils are concerned, and as far as Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are concerned, our representation has been dwindling very fast. Earlier, in 1967 or 1968, we were elected to this august House in good numbers. Now we are only 27 or 28 in number in Lok Sabha. Similar is the case with Rajya Sabha. The representation that is due to this community is not being given.

As far as recruitment is concerned, there is no reservation at all at any level in order to achieve all-round development and growth of this community, the Muslim community, all over the country. You see, Sir, that there is object negligence of this community at all levels. We are not getting our due share and representation at different levels. So, my request to this august House is, let there be reservation for the minorities in respect of recruitment as well as promotions. This was the proposal which was announced here by the hon. Minister that 10 per cent reservation will be given to the minority communities. Till now this has remained a slogan and an announcement. This commitment has not been fulfilled by the hon. Minister. At what level this is being discussed and pondered over, I do not know exactly. But once an announcement is made that 10 per cent reservation will be given to this minority community, it must be upheld and it must be fulfilled. The hon. Minister must stand by his commitment given on the floor of the House.

As far as recruitment is concerned, as far as the number of people who have been appointed at differ-

ent levels in this country is concerned, before partition this percentage was, I think, 37 or 35 but now, when we have a glance over the appointments of persons, whether skilled or unskilled or labour class or at other levels, we find that this has gone down to 1.5 per cent. This sort of anomaly and this sort of shortage of people at different levels is causing a lot of concern to this minority community.

As far as the position of Parliament, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, is concerned and as far as the position of Assemblies is concerned, at different levels and in different States we find that our number is dwindling very fast. So, my proposal is, let there be proportional representation. This proportional representation will satisfy the wishes of the people. If reservation is granted on the basis of population whatever the percentage of population may be, whatever the caste and the community may be and whatever the class of the people may be there will be no sort of grumbling and grudge from any quarter, from any corner of any community which is living in this country. There will be complete peace and tranquility in nook and corner of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav for providing reservation facility to other backward classes. The reservation to other backward classes as per the Mandal Commission's recommendation has considerably increased awakening among other backward classes. It has been provided in the Constitution that people of every class will get equal opportunities in matters of public employment. As per this provision, the backward classes have benefited to some extent but they have not yet got reservation in a large number of organisations. As the hon. Members who have spoken before me have pointed out, OBC's have not been given reservation in the Private Medical and engineering colleges. There is B.I.T., Mesra in my constituency in which there is no reservation facility for the children of backward classes. I would like that reservation facility should be given to the children of other backward classes in Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges and all other higher educational institutes. Likewise, the backward classes people have not been appointed to higher portions whereby they could take up the issues of their interests at appropriate level and redress the problems of backward classes. As the tribals and Harijans have got reservation in Parliament and Legislatures, similarly, there should be reservation for backward classes in all educational institutes besides in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. Only then, they

could get opportunity to get progress in their life. Every possible measure should be taken for their upliftment because they have not come in the mainstream of the society so far. They are looked with hatred even today. They do not get admissions in good schools, colleges including engineering and medical colleges, so as to hold high offices. Therefore, I urge that reservation should be given to them at all levels so that they could get equal opportunities to progress. With these words, I support the Bill brought by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav and conclude(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You had also participated earlier in the discussion in this Bill.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : I want to mention a new point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down there.

.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please understand.

...(Interruptions)....

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. That is not permitted. This discussion is going on for the third day. Many Members might have forgotten that.

...(Interruption)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already participated. No, please. That is not allowed.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to move the Motion that the Bill be postponed because the mover Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav is not present here. I beg to move :

"That the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1992 (Insertion of new articles 330A and 330B etc.) by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav be adjourned."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1992 (Insertion of new articles 330A and 330B etc.) by Shri K.P. Reddaiah Yadav be adjusted."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, now we will take up Item No. 12, Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy not present.

Item no. 14, Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan not present.

Now item no. 14 Shri Syed Shahabuddin.

**RESERVATION FOR ECONOMICALLY
WEAKER SECTIONS OF THE PEOPLE
(HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT) BILL**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up Item No. 14 Shri Syed Shahabuddin please move the Motion.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for reservation of posts in public employment and of seats in higher educational institutions for various categories of persons belonging to economically weaker sections of the people, be taken into consideration".

Sir, this Bill provides for reservations of posts in public employment and of seats in higher educational institutions for various categories of persons who belong to economically weaker sections of the people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are all aware of the existing provisions in the Constitution. Under Article 15(4) and Article 16 (4) reservation has been provided for a number of identifiable backward classes, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the groups which have been collectively called 'the other backward classes'. As you are also aware, the list has been changed from time to time and now we have got the Central List as well as the State Lists in various States indicating the various social groups which come under the purview of reservation.

Article 15(4) says :

"Nothing in this article or in clause (2) or article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes."

This is a deviation, in principle, from the first subsection of this article which says :

"The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place or birth or any or them."

Similarly, Sir, Article 16 (1) says :

"There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizen in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State."

Article 16 (2) says :

"No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State."

Now, in deviation of this, Article 16 (4) says :

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointment or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens while in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State."

The point I wish to make is that the principle of reservation in public employment and similar reservation in other services provided by the State has been accepted since Article 15 was amended in 1951 under the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951 and, therefore, I would not argue this point. But I would like to say that the Parliament foresaw the shape of things to come and, in fact, tried to deal with the storm before it broke upon the nation. I must, therefore, at this point pay my tribute to the people who had this foreknowledge and who took measures to introduce equality in the society. They realised that theoretical equality in terms of the voting might in terms of adult franchise was not adequate. India was a plural society and in a plural society, there has to be equality of opportunity for every section of the society. They also foresaw the idea that prevailed about the middle of the century of assimilation will not work and the soon an age will dawn when every identifiable group will be conscious of its identity and wish its own face to be reflected in administration, in Government, in the field of education, in all services by the State and this is what is happening before our very eyes all over the world.

Mr. Chairman, it has been said that the world today is standing at the threshold of the age of ethnicity.

Ethnicity is a term, Sir, which cannot really be defined in an inclusive and not in any exclusive sense. It has to be defined in a very broad sense because the different parameters by which a group identifies itself vary from place to place.

In our country caste has been a dominant factor for recognition and identity from time immemorial. We may decry caste but it coexists as a fact of life. Therefore, whether it is caste, whether it is religion, whether it is language, the group has a sense of identity, has a consciousness of being a social group within which it interacts, within which it has social relations. Of course, it also interacts with the rest of the society but there are certain very special characteristics of any group, for example, in terms of marriage, in terms of participation in festivals, in terms of speaking the same language, in terms of having the same cultural pursuits. They develop a certain personality of their own and a time has come for us to say it categorically that the definition of such a personality is not an antithesis of the national personality. The national identity of a person can coexist with the other facets of his identity.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I may say so, the human personality is multidimensional, multifaceted and in every given situation a particular facet of his personality comes into the open and into operation. Therefore, a man may have a particular religion, may speak a particular language, may be a resident of a particular part of the country, may belong to a particular caste all of them together still form a national society which is what we call the nation-state and, therefore, there is no contradiction between the two.

There was a time when it was said, No, all identities must disappear, all identities must go into a melting pot and then something new will emerge out of it. But the Americans tried it for 200 years and they have found that it does not work. The theory of assimilation, the theory of the melting pot has been replaced by the theory of the mosaic. And I do remember a very, very historic speech by the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi towards the end of her life when she spoke of India as a mosaic and not as a melting pot. Sir, the distinction is very simple. In a melting pot, every element, every ingredient loses its identity while in a mosaic, every one of them maintains its identity and at the same time adds lustre and splendour to the whole. That is the beauty of a mosaic. And in any case, we must accept that no one is prepared to sacrifice his religion or language or his any other form of identity. He wants to be what he is and at the same time to be a loyal citizen of the State, at the same time to avail of all the facilities that are available to him as a national of the State. And, there-

fore, we have to accept this and having accepted this, then we can say that different groups, in any society, are at different levels of economic development have different social status, have different educational attainments and, therefore, command different levels of respect in society. But we are living in the age of democracy and we want to run the State, to manage the affairs of the society, in a manner that over a period of time, there is a deliberate movement towards equality. And that is what is meant by Social Justice. Social Justice is a movement to take the unequals, to make the unequals to equal, bring them at a common level so that they participate equally in every walk of life. They are represented equally in every sphere of activity. Whether you take a cross section from the judiciary, or take a cross section from the executive or take a cross section from the university, from the academic field or take a cross section from the Legislature and if everything was equal and if all groups were equal, then you would find that this cross section this mini India will also represent the same demographic characteristics as the rest of the national society. That is the real test. Today what do we find after 50 years of our Independence? We find that there are discrepancies and disparities among various groups which coexist in our society. Even after 50 year when all of us have got the right to vote and are equal at the time of voting, if you look at the composition of the Legislature, you will find that they are still dominated by some class, some groups. Look at the academe. You will find that they are dominated by some groups. Of course, it varies from State to State. For example, I am told, in one of the most progressive States of our country, West Bengal, where a Communist Government has been in power for 17 or 18 years, that the entire amount of public services, the academe, the judiciary, the economic structure is completely dominated. I shall not name them by three social groups who together command only seven per cent of the population. It is only seven per cent of the population. In that sense, perhaps, Kerala is much more democratic. Perhaps the South as a whole is much more democratic.

I want to pay my compliments to the civilized manner in which Kerala has tried to redistribute public employment and representation and in order that every group feels satisfied and every group sees its face reflected in the mirror of administration, in the mirror of Government. They are not disappointed. They are not frustrated. They are not deprived. They have a sense of participation, they have a sense of sharing and that gives them the will to endeavour for the common property of all, for the common good of all. Nobody is sulking in the corner. Everybody's energies are directed towards a common pursuit. That will not happen unless there is social justice and the degree to which we achieve social justice in our society it will accelerate our

effort in the field of development and in the field of national reconstruction. Otherwise you shall be leaving behind half the people who will be sulking in their tents, in their corners saying that they consider themselves to be genetically backward, that they are born backward, that they cannot strive, that they do not have the capacity to acquire education? No. They have, but the society has so far been managed in a manner. I do not say that there is a conspiracy but there is a social system in which people belonging to particular classes who have been born 'low' and remain low. This we have got to change through deliberate effort. And this, I must say, is being done all over the world.

I will give you an example of America, USA, USA. It is said to be one of the most egalitarian societies. Everybody is prosperous. In fact, the definition of poverty in America sometimes makes me laugh! Because the degree of consumption that is available to the so-called poor in America perhaps exceeds the consumption level even of the upper middle classes in India. But let that be. I am not criticizing that. All I want to say is this. Recently some statistics were published and they said, who are the people in America living below the poverty line? They categorised the Americans into five or six categories. They found that the percentage of people living below the poverty line varied from group to group. In the case of the Whites it was only nine per cent. In the case of Asian happily, it was only 14 per cent. Asians includes Indians. In the case of the Hispano Americans, it was about 22 per cent. In the case of the Negro Americans, the black Americans as they call them, the Afro-Americans, it was of the order of 27 per cent. And in the case of the original inhabitants of America who were there centuries before the Whites appeared on the scene, it was 29 per cent. So, the variation was from nine per cent to 29 per cent. To that extent, America is still an unequal society and it still has to move towards the goal of social Justice.

I do not mind a society having a certain number of poor, it may have, relatively speaking. But then why cannot be the incidence be uniform or the burden of poverty be equal for every group? Why cannot the same percentage of every group be living under the poverty line? Today in India what do we see? Sir, it is a known fact. We might juggle with figures and manipulate the statistics. But it is accepted more or less that 40 per cent of the people of India do live below the poverty line. And our poverty is real poverty. It means that you just get enough food to keep your body and soul together, 2400 calories per day. It does not take into account other basic needs of man, his education, his medical treatment, his social responsibilities, his housing, all these are not taken into account. If you just get enough food, not to die, then you are living below the poverty

line. All right. It is 40 per cent for the whole country. But is it uniformly 40 per cent over the whole society? No, Sir. Is it 40 per cent over the entire geography of India? No, Sir. It varies from region to region, within the same State it varies from district to district, in the same district it varies from block to block, in the same block, it even varies from Panchayat to Panchayat. If you look at it in a social sense, you will find that one group has very little element of poverty, may be five per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. And at the other end we have got the tribal people, nearly 75 per cent are living below the poverty line. We have the Scheduled Castes, our Dalit brothers, at least 60-65 per cent of them are living below the poverty line.

And I dare say, sir, that if you took a survey you would find that the religious minorities in various parts of the country, perhaps 50-55 per cent of them, were living below the poverty line. I have heard a very senior economist of the country, Professor A.M. Khusro say that perhaps the Muslim community is about ten per cent poorer than the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I am not complaining about the Muslim community. All I am trying to say is this: this disparity does not behave a democratic egalitarian society, this cannot be our goal. We have not reached the goal of social justice and therefore, that goal remains. If America has to endeavour, I am sure, we have to endeavour much more in that respect. I would say that the method adopted in all countries has been what they loosely call 'reservation'. You may call it 'reverse discrimination', you may call it 'positive affirmation' by whatever name you may like to call it. The idea is that the group which is backward must be given special help, special assistance in order to come up faster, in order to reach the common level of the society. It is exactly the same thing in a family, Sir, Supposing I have more than one children, I may find that the weaker child needs to have a little more food some more medicines, better care. Yes, that is discrimination, but it is a positive discrimination. It is an affirmation of equality, it is the affirmation of the concern and care that a parent must equally bestow upon all his children. Exactly in the same way the society must treat the legates, the backward, the handicapped, the people who have fallen behind for ages in a manner so that within this generation or the next, they can all come up to a common national level. And that is why I would like to submit here.

My first point is that reservation today is universally accepted as a tool of social engineering in order to bring about equality in society.

Secondly, some people have argued that Article 15(4) mentions the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in a particular manner very specifically. Of

course, we now speak in terms of the Hindu society, of the rights of the shudras who have come of age as Vivekananda proclaimed at the turn of the century, the age of the shudras is about to dawn'. He forewarned us.

The society cannot be run by the three upper castes only. So, first, we took care of the lowest, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. Then, we came to the next ones, that is to say, the shudras and they are all being taken care of. But some people say 'oh it is a form of atonement for the sins committed over the centuries' implying thereby that it is a transient phenomenon, it is a temporary measure and it must go away. No, Sir, I beg to disagree. I have said that reservation has been accepted as a universal principle, exactly in the same manner I would say that reservation in a plural society, in a segmented society, in a society which has a large number of identifiable groups, each conscious of itself, of its ethnicity, of its right to equality has to be a permanent phenomenon. A day might come when nobody might care because everything is plenty. But so long as 'anything' is scarce whether it is a welfare service, whether it is a job under the Government, whether it is a place in the power structure, whether it is a place in the legislature. That day is very far when automatically things will equalise themselves. Therefore, until that comes about shall we have to wait. At that time, of course, when the water level on the two sides of the dam becomes equal, you can take away the dam and still the level will remain the same. But so long as there are different levels in the two sides, you have to regulate the flow of the water.

Therefore, in the foreseeable future we cannot just think about it as some sort of a PRAYASCHIT for the centuries of neglect, centuries of ill-treatment. It has to be taken as a permanent phenomenon that in a segmented society, in a plural society where identities are not going to merge in this age of ethnicity, where identities are going to be affirmed, then we must accept it as a matter of national policy that this is a permanent phenomenon. Unless we do that our social perspective will not change.

Now, Sir, let me come to some history. When this matter was being debated in the Constituent Assembly, a Committee was formed on the question of fundamental rights. That Committee submitted its report to the Constituent Assembly.

I do not have the report in front of me but I speak from memory, and if I recollect correctly, that Committee had recommended reservation specifically for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities.

When they reached the end of the Constitution-making about December, 1949, this matter was reconsidered. How and why it was reconsidered? I shall not go into it, but in the Draft Constitution, you will find a provision providing for reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities, both in the Legislature that is the surprising part and in public services. Then, at the last minute, something was done, if I may say so, with due respect to some people whom I would not name, some manipulation, some back-slapping, some deal or whatever it was, and the result was that in the final text of the Constitution, the Minorities were eliminated, the question of public service was put in a different form. Things were managed. So, the point I want to make is this that those who led our freedom movement, those who understood the country much better than any of us does, those who led our freedom movement, those who understood the country much better than any of us does, those who had the feel of the pulse of the nation, those who understood how societies function and how the Indian society can function in harmony and in peace and in order, and progress together, they thought about this principle of permanent reservation. They abolished the joint electorate by they said that there should be reservation. Joint electorate was a divisive device. It had to go, but that everybody should be represented in the spectrum of Government and administration was accepted by the fathers of the Constitution and only at the far end of that Constitution-making, this was changed. In fact, if I remember correctly, Dr. Ambedkar, at that stage, opposed the revision initially on precedential grounds. He said that the Committee's report was already before the Constituent Assembly. The Committee had finished its work. The Committee had no authority to revise its own recommendations. But, However, let the past be past. I only want to point out a historical fact. Now that we have the provisions of articles 15 (4) and 16 (4) reinforced by, what I would say, a historic decision of the Government of Shri V. P. Singh to at least partially implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission and thus bring the other Backward Classes within the orbit of reservation, let us look at the situation as it exists today.

16.33 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANING in the Chair]

I am sorry to say that there are some in-built contradictions which go on bedeviling us at every step. For example, I recall, at this moment, something said to me by the late Babu Jagjivan Ram. He knew me very well and I commanded his affection. He told me: "Shahabuddin, it is strange that my daughter can get

into the IAS under a reserved quota but the son of my cook cannot. His cook happened to be a BRAHMIN." You know, in Bihar we have Maithils Brahmins who are famous as cooks. So, he had a Maithil BRAHMIN. And this sentence of his has stayed in my mind. This is one contradiction that every social group in our country has got a backward tail, has got a backward Section, it may be big, it may be small, the percentage may be high, the percentage may be low, but there is a backward element, a backward section in every single social group in our country, whatever be its overall social status.

And we have to take care of it. On the other hand now, what do we find? The Supreme Court has pointed out the existence of the famous 'creamy layer'. All the reservation that is coming in is now being monopolised by the sons and daughters of those who had themselves availed of the reservation. Sir, it is an open fact whether it is a tribal society or whether it is the Scheduled Caste, and I am sure, after some time the same will be the story as far as the other backward Classes are concerned.

So the ambit tends to be narrower and narrower. Instead of expanding it is contracting. Unless you reach out to every backward section of the society, in every group we cannot hope to reach the haven of equality that we are aspiring to. If the services and places and facilities and concessions are going to be limited, a monopoly limited only to a circle. Then what was wrong with the Brahman society? What was wrong with BRAHMANVAD? I do not see any point in replacing BRAHMANVAD by some other VAD and again relating ourselves only to the welfare and to the good of the upper crust of the society. We must try to go down. We must try to penetrate. We must try to go right to the bottom, to the grassroots to fish out those families who have never done anything more than dreary work and who have been perspiring who have been carrying the society on their shoulders, but who have been creating, who have been producing, wealth and yet have been deprived of all the rewards that the society can offer and whose descendants have been banished into particular occupations as most of them are.

I will not name a person. Again something comes to my mind. Once I was arguing against the dynastic principle in politics. I am not naming any person and speaking generally. A very famous journalist of our country, Shri M.J. Akbar told me, "Mr. Shahabuddin, what is wrong with the dynastic principle in our country?"

[Translation]

When the potter's son becomes a potter, Weaver's

son becomes a weaver and Harijan's son becomes a Harijan, then the King's son will be a prince.

An individual on his own merit, whether he is the son of a cobbler or the son of the aristocrat or the son of the political master must be given equal chance and that is not so in our society today. That is where I have brought in this Bill so that we have to go beyond Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) or, perhaps, to find new meaning in them, new significance in them, to give them a new thrust. Let us proceed in a broader avenue so that all the people of our country can walk with us. And that is why I have suggested that a natural and legitimate aspiration of every identifiable group to be represented in the corridors of power, in the legislature, in the services, in administration must be not only respected but must be realised, so that it also has a sense of participation and a sense of sharing, and then truly we shall be a society of equals.

Many a time the judges have said, in the U.S.A., in India, everywhere that there can be no equality among unequals. You cannot put two persons with different physique in the same arena and ask them to wrestle saying: "Alright, you are equals, you wrestle. We know the result in advance. That is not equality. You have to prepare people and where does this preparation in a society begin?" To my mind the atom of a society is the family. You have to pick out those families which are below a certain level and I have suggested here a formula. It can be changed, but the issue is the principle involved. You define an average level for the society and then say: "Any family which is below that line must be picked up for a special incentive, special encouragement, a special push." So a family is the unit. The beneficiary is the individual. But the individual must come and must belong to such a family before he can avail of these concessions so that it spreads as broadly as possible, as widely as possible and benefits a far larger number of the families living below the poverty line or the line of averages let me say, however, at this point that much is made of a phrase there in the Constitution.

I read out article 15 (4) of the Constitution. It speaks about the advancement of socially and educationally backward class of citizens. Now, the word "socially" has been defined in a very narrow sense, that only those who were subjected to untouchability were socially backward, because they were facing a social handicap. Of course, look at this very clause later. It speaks about the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the people who were looked down upon, because of their occupation, because of the particular castes in which they were born.

Mr. Chairman, there are still parts of our country where people belonging to some communities of some classes will not be served in the same tea cups, will not be permitted to drink from the same well and will not be permitted to walk freely in the streets. Still there are some places like that. So, that inequality persists. But in our society, in a developing society, social status is very much governed by economic status. We have seen this happening and again I remember a sentence by Mr. Kesri the other day at a public meeting. He said that the Government service is very important, because in the village the Brahmin, the MAANT, the PUROHIT, the priest is socially high up. But the DAROGHA who comes, under pour present dispensation, may belong to one of the lowest castes. He may belong to the Scheduled Caste. How does the social situation can change? The Brahmin priest says namaskar every morning to the Darogha who belongs to the Scheduled Caste because of his status, because of his economic status, because of his position in the Government and that is why, what I am trying to say is this. Let us not contract our horizons by a very narrow interpretation of the terms "socially backwardness".

social backwardness is implicit today in economic backwardness. If you are poor, your social status is low. If you are well off, your social status is high. If you are in the Government service, even if you are a peon, you are somebody in the MOHALLA, in the locality. So, these things have to be understood. The society is changing. Our concept of social status goes on changing and today, in a developing society where we are keyed to certain economic parameters, it is very much become subject to economic parameters and that is why, the Mandal Commission was not wrong when it decided to include certain economic parameters in its definition of backwardness.

Today, a time has come when we should have very clear look at it. Subsequently, many commissions came and I particularly like to mention the commission in Karnataka. They tried to define backwardness in a very scientific manner. For example, in Karnataka, if I remember correctly, they chose 24 parameters like the number of graduates per thousand of population, the number of Government servants per thousand of population, the number of members of cooperatives per thousand of population, percentage of illiteracy per capita income and all that. Then, how did they do it? They tested every community on the anvil of these uniform parameters. They had a State average and if any community was below the state average, it had a negative point. If it was above the state average, it got a positive. If the positives were more than the negatives, as a community, as a group, it was considered to be for-

ward and if the number of negatives was more than the number of positives, it was considered to be 'backward' some such exercise should be done at the national level. But here is our Government which even refuses to collect or to publish the caste statistics which are really group statistics. So, I would, just by the way, again make a plea to the Government now that we have allowed reservation for Backward Classes and Backward Castes, in fact, right down to the Panchayats that the time has come for us to collect and publish the Census statistics that are already available.

Sir, some parameters should be found. They should be uniform, they should be universal and they should be nationally accepted so that the definition of backwardness does not vary from State to State. Then, you test every identifiable group which comes forward and says: "I demand reservation" I say, "All right, brother, you demand reservation. Where are your statistics. And if they are found in this scientific manner that they do, in fact, belong to backward class, then the degree of backwardness can be determined."

Some will be 10 per cent backward, some will be 20 per cent backward, some will be 30 per cent backward and some will be 80 per cent backward. The degree of backwardness can be determined. You can even attach an index. Take Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as 100 percent backward. Then how is a particular group placed *vis-a-vis* the scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Is it only 80 percent backward compare to the Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes. It gets an index of 80, other may higher or lower. For example, in Bihar there is a social group called Kayasthas. It is a very small group. But educationally, economically and professionally it is a very advanced group and I admire them. While the average drop out rate in Bihar will be 60 per cent, the drop out rate of Kayastha child at the end of the high school will be perhaps zero. They are so advanced. They have achieved it by themselves not by and reward of the Government. But what I am saying is that even among them there maybe 10 per cent backwards.

So, what I am asking for today under this Bill is a universal system of reservation. Every social group which is identifiable depending upon its population and depending upon its degree of backwardness should be assigned a quota. Since in every case it is not 100 per cent, you will still be left with a general pool so as to take care of the so called principle of merit. That general pool will be available for everybody. But these specific small pools, mini pools will be available for each community. Each social group depending upon its population and depending upon its degree of backwardness. Nobody

can say that I have been subjected to injustice. Of course, there are some jobs at the Central level, there are some jobs at the State level and there are even some jobs at the district level where recruitment takes place at the district. At every level you will have to consider the appropriate demography. The general thing for the entire nation cannot be applied *suo motu* for every State or *mutatis mutandis* for every State. It has to be keyed to the social demography at the particular level of the recruitment. With that refinement you can satisfy the urges, the aspirations, the demands and the claims of every single group in society. Where is the problem? I have been an administrator myself. There will be various mini groups, various small groups whose population in a State may be small less than one per cent. Somewhere you have then to apply a check as a matter of convenience and not as a matter of principle. I would suggest that mini groups whose percentage in population at a given level is below a defined limit say 5 per cent or 1 per cent whatever you have then should have two options. Either these mini groups should aggregate themselves to form a bigger group or each one of these mini groups shall have the facility and the option to aggregate themselves to one of the major groups with which it has some degree of affinity. In this way, you can satisfy everyone.

So, Sir, I will like to refer just to a few more points before I close. While groups are beneficiaries, it is the individual of that group who is the ultimate beneficiary. So, the reservation quota will be given in terms of the backwardness of a group. But the beneficiary must belong to a family which fulfils a particular criteria of backwardness, as I have pointed out. The beneficiary, on behalf of the group, shall be the poor individual, not the rich individual of that group shall be the poor individual, not the rich individual of that group, not the rich family of that group but the poor family. So, it is by bringing up the poor of the group that you can really raise the entire group upward to the national level or the general State level. Therefore, this distinction must be maintained. The quota is based on the population of the group but the individual beneficiary must fulfil, as far as his family is concerned his provenance is concerned, the test of backwardness.

So, I have given here in my Bill a certain scheme of apportionment. I do not mind if suggestions come for changing that in material particulars. I do not mind. But I am trying to put forward a principle. Sir, for the record I would like to say and I have said it here in the Bill that minimum qualifications for any job should not be diluted. That must be there. For example, if there is a surgeon, if he has to have 50 per cent marks in order somebody who has not been able to achieve that minimum qualification.

Therefore, reservation will not mean that minimum qualifications which have been scientifically laid down shall be diluted. But it does not mean that if a particular group does not have sufficient, qualified candidates with minimum qualification to offer in the field, then that unutilised quota lapses. No that unutilised quota should not go into the general pool. It should be re-divided among the other backward classes in proportion of their candidates who are still available, so that the backward quota remains in the backward hands. Just, for instance, I would say this. Supposing there is a quota for the Yadavs and the Yadavs are not able to fill that quota. Then, that unutilised quota should not automatically go to the higher castes. It can then be divided among the other backward classes who are at the same level as that of the Yadav brothers. It is in that sense that I am talking. So, this is one very interesting point that I would like to make.

Then, Sir, I have said something here, to which I am sure some of my friends will not agree with me. I have said that the same individual should not be permitted a concession or a facility more than once in his life after he has entered his career. You cannot spoon-feed people all their lives. The society has a responsibility to bring them up to the starting line and after that say: "All right, run." At every stage in a golf game, you cannot give them a handicap at every hole. The handicap must be given. They should be given an advantage. They should be brought up through the scheme of reservations. But once having reached a point they should prove themselves to be good. For example once somebody becomes a doctor, then he is like any other doctor. He has to prove himself to be a good doctor and, therefore, he has to earn his place in society. Then, secondly, exactly in the same way - I have already made that point - anyone who is in group 'A' or Group 'B' service - these services carry both social status and economic status - those who have availed of reservation to enter into Government service either at group 'A' or Group 'B' level - it is very high - at least their children who had all the advantages in the world, who went to the best of schools, who received private tuition, who had a good academic atmosphere in the house, who had all good things of life, why should they be again brought into this arena? This arena is for the handicapped not for those who have benefited and, therefore, I would say that one category should be very clear. I find that on the question of creamy layer, there is a wide divergence among the various States. The principle was accepted. But there is a wide divergence among the various States. I have requested the hon. Minister of Welfare in a letter that in view of the recent orders of the Supreme Court on the Kerala case, he should call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers and out a national consensus on what constitutes the creamy

layer, what constitutes the upper crust whose children will not be given the benefit. My definition, of course, is much more strict. I am speaking of all the people above the poverty line in defining the families. But whatever be the national consensus, it should be reached. Otherwise, you will have a very anomalous situation, Mr. Chairman somebody will qualify for a quota under the state Government and will not qualify under the Central Government of *vice-versa*. That sort of a contradiction should not be allowed to come.

Sir, I come to my last two points. One is this debate about the limit.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : You have taken more than one-and-a-half hours.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I have spoken only for about 45 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Never mind. Please continue. You are putting the case beautifully.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur) : It is very interesting. We are cooperating with you.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Thank you very much. I am speaking about the 50 per cent limit. The Constitution does not mention any such limit but the courts have. Frankly speaking, I see no justification for it at all because the incidence of backwardness, as I said, varies geographically across the map of our country, from region to region. It will depend upon the social group which inhabit a particular area and their individual degree of backwardness and, therefore, you cannot just draw a cut off an line and say 50 per cent is the limit.

Why ?-Why should it be? I do grant that there should a general pool. I have already said that. I have said that there should be universal reservation but every group shall not be entitled to 100 per cent. It will be entitled only to the extent that it is backward as compared to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes who are getting hundred per cent, who should get 100 per cent. But this idea that it should be limited arbitrarily is, to my mind, completely unjustified. But equally, the idea that it should be pegged at some other number. If not 50, make it 60, make it 65, make it 70 or make it 80, is equally absurd. The limit will vary according to the level of emittent; the social and economic situation at the level the incidence and pattern of backwardness in a given district or State or a Union terri-

tory. It should also be different nationally, again according to the same scheme of things wherever number is reached. And I dare say one thing that the formula that I have submitted to you is a formula of diminishing return because we hope that the level of backwardness will go down and, therefore, with every successive census, a particular group may find hopefully that it has reached a higher level, its index of backwardness has gone down, its quota goes down. Therefore, there should be a provision that every ten year, a National Commission should decide the quota for each social group and that should be totalled up within the domain of district or a State or within the nation as a whole, to give you a total that will vary, therefore, every ten year. That will vary in the same year, at the same Year, from State to State but it will be logical. It will be based on the logic of backwardness. It will be based on the logic of social, economic and educational situation. It should not be just something out of the hat, like a rabbit being taken out of the hat, that the magic number is not 50 but the magic number is 60. To my mind, all these numbers are arbitrary and, therefore, should have no place in the legislation. The legislation should provide for a limit according to a certain criteria and that can be revised every ten year because hopefully we look forward to the day when everyone would have reached a certain common level of economic, social and educational status. Every group shall produce the same proportion of graduates out of its population, it will have the some sort of representation more or less, it cannot be absolutely equal, within the legislature or within the Government service. That day when it dawns, will be the day of victory of social justice, that will be the day when India shall truly become a democracy and a people's democracy.

I do not have any other points to make. I draw your attention particularly to the definition here in this Bill of economically weaker sections of the people, to the definition of public employment which in my view, must include even non-governmental institutions which are based on public funds. For example, we have a whole range of private sector which really depend on flow of credit from the public sector banks, of people's money. And if I may tell you, Mr. Chairman, that in America, there is a fair trade practices Act which empowers a local Commission to go into the recruitment pattern of a local factory, to what extent does it correspond with the local pattern of distribution of population? Supposing there are 40 per cent Blacks in that area. Are 40 per cent Blacks represented in the factory hands? Supposing they are not, then the management is asked to explain and the management might say "look we did consider anybody who came forward. That is subject to proof. The Commission can then call for the original pa-

pers and find out whether in fact, every citizen of the USA was given an equal treatment by his employer. I dare say that the private sector in India enjoys much more freedom in matters of recruitment, is much more arbitrary than the private sector in America. And there is no reason why we should not call its bluff. There is no reasons why we should not call it to the ground of justice. why we should not pillory it and demand that to the extent that you are depending on public funds, you cannot function, you cannot prosper, you cannot flourish, you cannot make a profit, you cannot run your enterprise without the help of public funds.

17.00 hrs.

You must be equally subject to the principle of reservation as the public sector. That is what we must do.

Therefore, I have said it here and that is why I have drawn your attention to this, that the concept of public employment does not mean only the Government employment, does not mean employment only in the public sector undertakings but it also means is those private sector undertakings which derive at least 50 per cent of their working capital from public sources.

that is what, Mr. Chairman, I have to say. I once again plead with you that in 1991, we embarked(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa) : As you have said that reservation should be based on the population *i.e.* 50 percent than why will it not depend upon the social groups?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I have already told you that this Bill was drafted by me in 1993.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : The supreme Court had also said so.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : That is there. You are right. To that extent I may come forward with some amendments also. But I have now been pleading in my principle. This Bill was presented in February, 1993. Thought does not remain static. Thinking does not remain static - I think both nationally and individually. That may submit Mr. Chairman, our thought has been pro-

gressing. We have been widening our horizons. we have been looking at the entire world and we have been trying to work out some formulations, it is not the last word. So, I would welcome any amendment and if I am permitted, I shall myself move my own amendments, to some of the suggestions that I have got here. But basically, the principle remains that the quota for every community, every group depends both on its population and its degree of backwardness which should be determined on the basis of uniform parameters by a Commission appointed for the purpose. If that is accepted then what will happen if you would still have a pool for the so-called operation of the merit principle where everybody can compete on equal term, where sons of the IAS officers and the IPS officers to whichever community they belong, can also come in, and they are welcome.

Sir, I was saying that in 1980, the Mandal Commission presented its report. It took us 10 years to accept it and to partially implement it. I think, the time has come when you have to go beyond public service into the field of education because as I said, many groups will face a difficult that even if you give them a quota, they will not be able to fill sufficient number of candidates because their level of education is so low, because their rate of enrollment at the primary school level is very low, because their rate of drop-outs is extremely high, so, very few of them finally come up and become graduates of the universities, and in order to qualify for Government jobs, far less become professionals in order to qualify for professional jobs. Therefore, our scheme of reservation is incomplete unless we allow reservation in the field of education - at least in higher education. Slowly, we are coming to it that all over the country upto high school level, more or less, education is being provided by the states. Not uniformly as there are still corners which are left out. But hopefully, under the Directive Principles of state policy, which gave us time limit of 10 years, we shall be able to fulfil it in 50 years. So, once the high school level. After that, in every field of higher education and particularly in the field of professional education, the same reservation principle must apply - a pool for everyone *i.e.*... a general quota and a separate quota for each of the communities depending upon their population and degree of backwardness. Only when you combine these two, then we shall really be able to achieve the result and fulfil the aspirations of all the downtrodden people of our country. When I speak all the downtrodden people of our country, I am not speaking of any particular social group because as I mentioned, Mr. Chairman, to begin with, that there is a downtrodden, depressed, frustrated, alienated and exploited section in every community of our country.

Thank you very much , Sir, and I move that this Bill be accepted.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a new subject which might have been in the mind of everybody , has come up here through this Bill but today the human being has become selfish. That is why saint Raidas had said :

Janma Jati Ko Chhorkar, Karni Jan Pradhan,

Ehai Ved Ko Dharma Hai, Kahe Raidas Bakhan.

Raidas had tolerated all these things at that time and he did not get the due honour from the society because of his birth in a low caste family. These lines aptly apply to today's society as well. However, it is true that today, we are independent in India. But, it does not mean that after attaining independence, the circumstances have changed, all the citizens have enjoyed all the comforts and nobody is faced with privations. It appears :-

Bandi Jeevan ke kewal Bandhan Badle, Karagar Wohi Hai,

Bandi Man Ki Asha Lekin Jeevan ka Vishwas Nahi Badla,

Kya Badla Jab Manavta Ki Peeda, Itihas Nahi Badla,

Badal Gaya Hai Kuchh logon Ka Jeevan Lekin,

Annu Peena Walon Ka Parivar Wohi Hai,

Keval Bandhan Badle Hain, Karagar Wohi Hai.

Today, we are working with the commitment to change the circumstances but the circumstances are worsening at a greater pace than they should have changed for the better. We want to go 10 steps ahead but some forces are trying to drag us 10 steps backward. Nothing crystallizes in these circumstances.

Kore Ashwasano se Ret Nahin Bhara Karte,

Vayadon Se Desh Nehin Chala Karte,

Jab Tak Insan Ko Insaniyat ka Farz Nahin Hota,

Apne Ko Apnepan Ka Dard Nahin Hota,

Bahar Aa Jayegi Us Din Jab Apna Bagban Hoga,

Jab Tak Jan Se Tantra Nahin Jurta

Jantar sarthak Nahin Hua Karte.

Unless and until we integrate the system with the people , our dream is not going to come true.

In the present system of our society every class is not feeling secure itself and therefore , reservation is called for in this state of insecurity . Before independence, there used to be a talk of independence only and every citizen resolved to get the country liberated so that their dream of equal opportunities could become true.

I still remember , shri Asfaq Ullah , who had sacrificed his life for the freedom of the nation. He had said in his will :-

"Us Roj Kamyabi par Jab Kabhi Hindustan Hohga,

Tb Is Desh Main Bahut Khushhali Ho Jayegi".

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): He had said "Azad Hindustan Per Jab Suraj Chamkeya."

DR SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Us Roj Jab Kabhi Azad Hindustan Hoga,

Yah Bagwan Hamara Kuskarata Hua Hoga,

Is Bagwan Ka Har Phool Khila Hua Hoga."

But today, we observe that flowers are withering away before they could bloom. It is our duty to make their dream come true . We will have to make them feel secure. This reservation has been provided to protect their interests. Asfaq Ullah had said :

Us Roj Job Kabhi Kamyabi Par Hindustan Hoga,

Riha Saiyad Ke Hathon Se Apna Ashian Hoga,

Chakhayege Maza Barbadiya Gulshan ka Galchi Ko.

This is our duty to see as to how we can be instrumental in the progress of the country . It is our moral responsibility that we should not let others feel that they

are inferior to others. The right of equality has been guaranteed by our constitution but it is not easy to make arrangements and provide facilities and other things necessary for this purpose. How can we remove the disparity continuing for thousands of years? How can unity be brought in diversity? It is not easy to bring the harmony among the people. At present, we all have different opinion but the thing needed for bringing the harmony, is love. But love too has its limits.

"Gaya hain sneh geet, geeton se jale deep,

Jo deep se deep jalaya,

Antar se antar ka,

(dil se dil ki doori ka,)

Antar se antar ka antar nahin koochh rah jaya,

yah antar dilon ka door ho jaye.'

We should once affirm that we certainly want to bring change and social equality. But instead of what we desire something else happens. The concept of high or low caste is our own creation and it is our peculiar frame of mind which suggests us that one is higher and other is lower, one is rich and the other is poor, the man acts as per his thinking. The poverty is the greatest vice that can take any one in its grip. It knows not any caste. Everybody feels appetite and it can be satisfied by food only. Anyone who is hungry, whatsoever he may be, needs food. If some persons are travelling together in a bus and the bus meets an accident or develops some fault then every one sitting in the bus, whether rich or poor feels hunger. Therefore the food is a necessity for every one. If we take it for granted that the rich people need different type of food while poor need different type of food, the rich people will remain hungry for want of desired food and suffer while the poor people will feed upon whatever they manage to get.

There is no definition of hunger. Everyone experiences hunger. It is omnipresent. Therefore, it must be satisfied. The mind functions only when hunger is satisfied. A hungry man thinks of nothing else but of food. Good song, music, attractive landscape and greenery cannot attract him any more. It is a basic need. If a man is hungry, he should be provided food. Food is the paramount requirement of the poor. Therefore he should get food. It means that such measures should be taken as may enable a man to earn or produce by dint of his hard work so much that keeps the pot boiling. It is basic need.

We have made a concept of poverty line. I do not know anyone having seen it. How many of those who

have seen it, have been able to understand it? Even if nobody understands it, the poverty line will be raised up and more and more people will continue to live below it.

There was a time when Rs.5 were enough for one's livelihood but now on getting Rs.50 or Rs. 500 or even Rs. 5000 are not sufficient for his bread and butter because purchasing power of rupee has decreased as it continues to face devaluation. The labour is not properly valued the poverty. The poverty generates hunger and first of all we should make efforts to eliminate this hunger. Therefore the provision of reservation should be made in jobs and education and all such people should get the benefit of reservation who do not have an opportunity to earn their livelihood. If such people are provided with reservation, the standard of the society will be raised.

Just now a point of symphony was mentioned. It one end of U-shape tube is upward and the other one downward, the water contained in the tube will come out due to atmospheric pressure but if the tube is kept in a position in which both the ends are facing upward so that a straight line touches the both ends, the water contained in it will not come out and remain static. Therefore, to bring equality in the society, it is necessary that every class of the society gets equal opportunity to make progress in every field..

Winter, summer and rain affect everyone equally. But it is helplessness of a person if he does not have proper clothing therefore he is sure to be caught by cold. If a person lives without clothes in a temperature of 10 degree Celsius, it is just his helplessness. Mr. Chairman, Sir when term temperature goes below that, one starts shivering, whether he is rich or poor. One can think that since the rich man has afford facilities, he may feel less cold but actually it does not happen and he feels more cold without clothes. Clad in the warm clothes he can save himself, but the poor who falls in the category of have not, will feel more cold but the cold will equally affect them. The cold does not discriminate between rich and poor. If affected by cold, both of them suffer and develop fever. The nature has provided everyone without making discrimination, sensitivity to the weather and strength to bear it.

Now, there comes the issue of housing. The house is needed for safety of the dwellers from winter, summer and rains. What steps are to be taken for this purpose. we build cottages and take various measures. The Union Government also formulates plans. These are not implemented properly. The houses constructed for pors are not strong and collapse in rains or storms. The houses constructed for the pors are cost efficient

but can't withstand roughness of seasons. What does the Government think about construction of such houses. On the one hand, We talk about constructing and beautifying bungalow, making garden there in where butterflies may fly. Why? our first necessity is to construct such houses which can withstand summer, rains and winter. On the one hand a poor has a open hut in which he experiences intensity of all the three seasons and on the other hand one has a sprawling bungalow. Why is it so?

we the people of India attained freedom all alike and all of us enjoy equal citizenship. when everyone is equal in terms of citizenship, then food, houses and the clothes should also be available for everyone equally. It should be decided as to how much cloth does a man need? On the one hand a person is using one hundred mts. of clothes and on the other hand a person is not getting even 2 mts. of cloth. Why is it so happens that one does not get cloth even for one's coffin? There is a person who uses clothes for curtains and cushions whereas other does not get cloth even for his coffin. We claim that our county is free but what type of freedom is it? But I would say that it is not freedom, it is utter selfishness and greed to amass everything for oneself. Unless there is change in tendency, in thinking, any arrangement or system would not make any difference. Nothing is going to happen unless the human mentality changes.

Many good teachings are there in our vedas but nobody practices them. It mention that-

"Vishwani dev savitur duritani parasuva,

Yadbhadram tannah Asuva."

We, by eradicating the sorrows and sufferings of all the human beings of the world, want to make the society happy and prosperous. We talk of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." If the whole world is ours then why one is rich and the other poor? Why does it not prick to us and why do we not sympathies with them. We only want to create an illusion to entice and persuade people by tall talks, speeches and slogans. But I do not think that with such persuasive measures will in any way prove helpful in attaining all these objectives. Therefore, my submission is that there should be no disparity in providing food clothes and houses.

Now comes the question of education. Even today there are no schools in the villages. There are no school building but chaupals. Where will the children go? Someone says that the back of buffalo will be used

as a black board to educate the children. The Government is going to take various steps for literacy. Then why these steps are not being taken. It seems that all these efforts are useless. Our set up is such that we speak a lot but do nothing. My submission is that everyone should have equal educational opportunities. Why the convent education is still continuing? One has the good facilities, wears good uniform and is sent to school with a good breakfast. He has all sort of facilities like bus facility and other facilities. We are not jealous of him but on the other hand another student does not have even proper clothes to wear. He does not have slate and pencil to write. There are no carpets and black boards in the school. This is at several places. Why is it so? One does not have even pen and black-board while the other has all the facilities. In the given circumstances the later will make progress. We are compelling the weaker person to grapple with a wrestler. The weak will not be able to fight with the wrestler and the latter will naturally be given the walk over. He will earn reputation then what will happen to the poor person.

We must ponder over all these things in free India. It seems that we have a democracy of our own convenience. If the same position continues and if we remain self centered like this then definitely, the democracy will never be a success. Such type of disparity in democracy will definitely create abhorrence for democracy among the people and definitely prepare a ground for a new revolution. Therefore, my submission is that if we want to make our democracy meaningful, then we will have to work honestly. "EK Or Praja, Dusri or Tantra Va teesari or Insaf Ka Laga Rakha Hai Yantra" how will it go on? The Executive and the judiciary seems to have no concern for the common people. Therefore, I would like to submit that judiciary and executive should deal all alike. Democracy should be for all. Whatever has been written in the preamble of the Constitution, has been written after a deep thinking but none tries to prove it. It has been written in it that we, the people of India resolve to make India a sovereign Country, but when will it be so? The common man will neither have any such facility nor will he acquire the competency. Therefore, we should think of universalisation of education, which will be beneficial for them. These days education is also proving useless. These days sole purpose of education is to acquire degrees: it is not links anywhere with employment. Recently we were talking about backward classes. The backward class constitute the blacksmith, the carpenter and the other artisans who were earlier available in the villages, but now all such people have no job opportunities in the villages, which will further increase poverty. There are no opportunities for the upliftment of the backwards. The poor man does not have the job

opportunities then where will he go? When the fields do not give him work then what will happen to him? The size of fields have squeezed so much after division of fields that a farmer is hardly able to feed his own family then how will he earn wages. Therefore, my submission is that the concept of poverty alleviation should be followed in such a way as might make all prosperous.

Let us ponder over health aspect. If someone falls ill, he should be compensated for expenditure incurred by him on treatment, if someone suffers from fever or he has pain. Whatever I am saying, listen if you like it. If you do not like it do not listen to me, it is upto you. If our concept regarding health is not clear, Then how the fever will be cured. If someone falls ill in the village, he is not provided with one paracetamol even since he does not have the knowledge nor is he able to pay for it. He is not going to recover if he does not get a paracetamol, which costs 25 paise or 50 paise. The one does not afford to buy a paracetamol whereas another person has a facility of doctor and medicine available and if he is in service then he will avail leave to have rest. If he is an influenced person then he will have many other facilities. One does not afford to buy a medicine of 50 paise, while another spends 500 rupees on fever. In nutshell we should think about health-deeply. If we consider the issue of potable water, it is, not available to all. Muddy water is supplied. Handpumps have no water therefore he has no other option but to take muddy water. He does not have the knowledge that boiled water should be used and even if he knows then there are no facilities for it. In this way keeping all these disparities in mind how can we think of a good Health care for all.

Now, There is the question of employment. It is our biggest problem. Employment enable us to survive. If someone is able to do so he will earn money. We can see that there is no parity in wages and thus in villagers are compelled to labour at Rs. 10, 15 or 20 in the villages. He does not get a job yearlong. The Government prepares all sorts of schemes for providing them with employment. If he is given food grain for work he sells away the food grain in the market and with that money constructs the house for himself. We prepared all such schemes and brought panchayati Raj but we have no means to implement these. He is paid money for his labour but not food grain. The quota of food grain, which is determined from here, is being sold in the market. If it is of good quality then the big business men buy it and mixes it with the foodgrain of inferior quality and sell it at a good price. Who bothers, if it is reaching to the poor or not. If all the schemes go on in this way then we will have to think some other way out as the present democratic set up is not upto the

mark. Therefore, I would like to submit that we all are equally responsible for creating resentment and awareness among the people. If we want to improve this set up then we will have to make good efforts with our full mighty.

Roti Kapda Aur Makan

Saboko Mile Ek Saman

Par Yeh Kaisa Hindustan

Ek Khara jamin Ek Asman

Yadi Bharta Ma Ki Santan

Oonch Nech Ko Nahi Sthan

Ek Arth Abhav Se Vipann Ho Jata

Ek Sarva Suvudha Sampannta Pata.

Why this problem, corp up before us?

Recently it has been said that if a person of a scheduled Caste is in job, then his children should not be given such a facility. The people of Scheduled Castes have been given reservation only due to prevalent practice of untouchability. The society looks down upon him as an untouchable. He is engaged in such works, which the people do not like.

In case someone got a good job after completing his education but his child could not study and thus, failed to attain same position as his father enjoyed, he is looked down as an untouchable. There is practice of untouchability prevails in the society, due to this reason only. Therefore, as long as there is casteism and caste based discrimination in the society this type of attitude towards this section of society will be unjustified. Whenever we think about their upliftment, we must hold a face-to-face consultation with them. I do not agree the suggestions made in this Bill regarding the scheduled castes. Therefore, my submission is that all the Government schemes should be formulated appropriately. We have inscribed on the wall of Parliament House :

SAM GACCHADHAWAM

SAM VADDHAWAM

SAM WO MANANSI JANTAM

SAMAN MANTRA SAMITI SAMANI

SAMAN MANAHA SAHA CHITTAMESHAM

We say that we should move ahead together, we should think collectively, take decisions collectively and derive conclusions collectively. But at the same time we should arrange for its implementation in a proper way and the lacunae should be removed, only then the practice of untouchability and feeling of insecurity will come to an end. Everyone wants that he should have benefit of reservation. One day this feeling will be over. Therefore, efforts should be made to strike at the root cause and make up the deficiency. The root cause of the illness is not being removed while its other symptoms are being treated. If we come to know that someone's heart or kidney is defective and on account of it he has developed headache or back pain; then if we give medicine to treat headache or back pain; it will do no good. Since the pain will not subside unless the root causes of disorder in kidney or heart are diagnosed, these diseases will remain incurable. Therefore, positive measures should be taken to bring parity in the society. Effective measures should be taken to bring an end to the caste based society. We should make efforts to bring economic parity. All measures should be taken to deliver justice to the common man. Only then the preamble of the Constitution will prove to be meaningful. Only then, we, the people of India will be able to make India a democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens the right to freedom of expression, faith, justice and equality and ensure fraternity among them. Only then we will be able to say that we have given ourselves this Constitution in real sense. We only resolve to give ourselves this Constitution but the common man does not know about it and that is why there is discrimination in the society. Efforts should be made to bridge this gap and find out the solutions of these problems.

UTHO KI AB NAI ANDHIYA CHALAO

ARMANO KE MACHLTE TOOFAN UTHAO

KRANTI KI CHINGARIAN MAB SHOLAY
BANEGE

JO ROKEGA RASTA SAMANTA KA WE NAHI
REHENGE.

We should make our efforts in such a way that the people may not get annoyed with us. Our democracy will be meaningful only when we make efforts to bring equality. We should make result oriented provisions and only that will set all these things at right. With these words I conclude.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank you very much for

giving me an opportunity to speak. Besides it I am thankful to Shri Sayed Shahabuddin ji, who has moved this important Bill here. It has given me an opportunity to speak. Whenever the Constitution is discussed, its those Articles are also discussed which provide for reservation to the weaker section so as to provide them extra opportunities. There is a provision in the Constitution and the Acts and rules are enacted to provide reservation to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Class people. We should take into consideration the reservation at first.

Our colleague Shri Syed Shahabuddin ji is not present here. He had expressed moving ideas and spoke in favour of the Bill for 40-45 minutes. He spoke on the circumstances of the country, the social problems and the economic backwardness. But in the Bill presented by him, he has slightly deviated from the provision of reservation envisaged in the Constitution and has instead given his own concept in this regard. He has said on the Bill that reservation will be provided to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of their proportionate population. As per the section 3 (2) of the Act the other Backward Classes or the other groups entitled of reservation will be provided to 50 per cent of their total population. I myself, and on behalf of my party opposes this sub-clause of the Act. Keeping in view the circumstances of the country, there is a need to provide proportionate reservation to the people of suppressed classes so that none can have any complaint and none opposes it. Everyone should get equal justice so that principle of social justice is followed in letter and spirit. Many colleagues may have objection to it but I would like to submit that in the division of property, if a brother gets more share of it, he is called dishonest and then property is divided. Therefore, if we want that all should have equal opportunities, then all the countrymen should be ensured proportional reservation on the basis of population.

Mr. Chairman, sir, just now Syed Shahabuddin ji has told in detail that besides on the basis of caste, reservation should also be provided to the poor. I too have supported it on the basis of the principle of providing special facility of reservation to those who are educationally backward and who belong to S.C., S.T. and the O.B. Communities. Our party and the National Front has envisaged in the election manifestoes and our national executive has also decided that the poor among the cast Hindus should be given 10 percent reservation after amending the Constitution and removing the ceiling imposed by the Supreme Court. Likewise, the provision of reservation should be extended to the people of religious minorities and the weaker and educationally backward classes and linguistically backwards. This is

what our party feels we support it and at present we would like to mention it here.

As far as linking of economic status with the caste based reservation is concerned, it has been settled by excluding the people of creamy layer and it is being demanded that the ceiling on reservation be increased further. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the caste based reservation has not been done deliberately. It is being resorted to as a result of social evil practices which has been creating havoc and sub-castes for the last 35000 years or so and which paved way for a handful to attain higher positions and field power over others to suppress and push them back. Therefore, a provision of special opportunity has been made in our Constitution. In such circumstances if some people level charges of spreading casteism on us, then certainly their intentions are malafide. Just now Shir Satya Narain Jatia ji who is also a poet, was expressing his view through his verses and he has spoken in detail. I remember 2 stanzas of a poem on the issue of casteism being discussed here.

I would like to make the concept of casteism clear by citing. "Dalit Shambuk Ved Padhe, Ekhavaya Shastra Ka Gyata Ho, Ram-Drona Yah Shan Na Sake, Chahey Dwapar Ho Yah Treta Ho." This mentality is seen throughout the history of 3500 years. I have explained this concept through these lines. Even during the era of Lord Rama a conspiracy was hatched against Shambuk because he was a reader of Vedas and he wanted to teach practice of arms to the sons and daughters of Dalits. The obscurantists forced Lord Rama to kill him. Similarly during the Mahabharat era, Drona was imparting arms training to Kshtriya Youths. One day Eklavya, requested Drona to make him his disciple but he was scorned for as he was born of a poor mother - Dhimar and belonged to low caste. However, he considered Drona to be his GURU and when he become a proficient archer he was deprived of his thumb in the name of 'Guru Dakshina.' History is witness to the fact that since 3500 years, the poor have been suppressed and ignored in the name of caste. They were deprived of education in the name of caste. Therefore, I want to make it clear before you that the principle of special opportunity and reservation would continue to enable the poor to catch up with others.

The second thing I want to say is that as per the provision of this Bill, if a person gets a job in the reserved quota in any post mentioned in any of the groups 'A' and 'B' his children will not be entitled to the benefit of reservation. I am against the clause 6 of this Bill. On the one hand we are in favour of this bill and are ready to pass it but on the other hand, as Shri Shahabuddin,

has said we want to create a separate group of such children, who would be denied the benefits of reservation in the groups 'A' and 'B'

I would like to tell you that we still have a backlog of reserved posts, which are still to be filled. The reservation quote of 22.5 per cent for the Scheduled Castes (S.C.) and Scheduled Tribes (S.T.) Children, has not been filled even till now. Who is responsible for this? The Government wants to fill all the vacancies in the reserved quota and it admits this fact in its policy related announcements. All the leaders of various political parties also express their concern over the backlog and we discuss this here. In spite of that the backlog persists. So far they have got only 8-9 per cent reservation instead of 22.5 per cent. The Government should amend the constitution. The hon. Minister is taking this seriously. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to direct the hon. Minister, to sought the opinion of the all concerned and bring about an amendment to the constitution. By including reservation in the Ninth Schedule, it should be made a cognizable offence. In this way, anyone who shows slackness in implementing reservation would be sentenced and fined. This would also bring down the backlog. In other words, I want to say that although we discuss a lot on reservation and support the principle of special opportunity, as per Article 16(4) of the constitution, we do not implement it. We have made provision of reservation for the OBCs, STs and the SCs. My submission is that on the one hand you propound Mandal Commission's recommendations, but on the other hand, globalisation is being effected thereby, defeating the very purpose of these recommendations with regard to reservation in jobs. They given policy-related sermons and assert that the recommendations of Mandal Commission will be strictly implemented and 27 per cent reservation would be provided. If their intention is clear, why don't they implement this and go in for the amendment of the constitution. We all will support this. This amendment in the constitution should ensure 22.5 per cent and 27 per cent reservation to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and to the other Backwards Classes respectively in the private Sector and in the multinational companies. Then only will the country and the World would know that the Government practices what it professes and its intention is clear. On the one hand they implement reservation, according to the Supreme, Court's order but on the other hand, they embark on privatization and hand over railway stations to the Private Sector. Through the private companies and the multi-nationals, they want to end reservations also. Both these things cannot go together. Therefore, the Government must bring an amendment to the constitution to ensure reservation in the private sector and the multi-nationals.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wanted to speak on the first Bill also but since I had spoken on it earlier, I was not allowed to speak. I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention to these burning issues. They have given 27 per cent reservation to the other Backward Classes. On the one hand reservation is given in the UPSC exams, and on the other hand, they are involved in the conspiracy to deny reservations. I want to give an example of this. In 1994, a provision was made for giving reservation to the other Backward Classes also. For the first time in the history of UPSC, in 1994, results for the preliminary exams were declared twice. The reason being that the OBC quota was not filled. For the first time, 1225 students has passed. Taking into consideration, 27 per cent of reservation, 3917 students should have passed. When this matter was reported in the press, the Government became more concerned. I want to thank those newspapers and magazines which revealed this matter. Hence the reason for declaring the result twice.

You would be surprised to know that, similarly, in the Preliminary Examination, 1995 conducted by the UPSC results were declared, but there was no mention of the number of successful OBC candidates. When we made enquiries, we found that the successful candidates of the General category and the reserved quota were clubbed together. Through you, I want to say that if the Government wants to give 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs, then it must be implemented in the Preliminary Examination. When 27 per cent candidates fail to clear the preliminary test, how can 27 per cent clear the final test?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the honorable Minister is busy in the discussion. It was notified and an assurance was given on the floor of the House for giving 27 per cent reservation and that OBC candidates would not be included in the general category. But there is no co-ordination in his Ministry. The Department of Personnel issued a notification contrary to the assurance. With your permission, I would read the notification, dated 7.10.94.

[English]

"The Commission is of the opinion that sufficient number of candidates from these communities are not likely to be summoned for interview for a personality test on the basis of the general standard in order to fill up the vacancies reserved for them."

[Translation]

It is evident from this that general standard is same for the OBCs, the SCs and the STs candidates. It has

been said that the marking standard in the preliminary exam for the general category candidates would be applicable to the OBCs, the SCs and STs candidates. Therefore, I would like to say that the reason for not filling up the backlog of the SCs, STs and OBCs candidates is that the standard set for the general category students is made applicable to the reserved category students also. This is unjust. It smacks of malafide intention. If the Government really wants to give reservation to the OBCs, the SCs and STs, then it must be implemented in the preliminary as well as final stage. How can one pass the final test if one is stopped in the preliminary stage? If permitted, I can give the copy of the order. Those students facing this problem have petitioned in the Madras High Court.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to tell the Government that there can be no worse example than this. This notification relates to the UPSC and the Department of Personnel. I have the copy of the affidavit submitted in the Madras High Court. It has been mentioned in it that reservation will not be given in the preliminary exam. In the personality test, the marking standard for the OBCs, SCs and STs would be same, as is for the general category candidates. Through you, I want to express my concern that although they profess to give reservation to the OBC, but in the personality test they deny this and treat the reserved candidates at par with those of the general category. Under such circumstances, the reserved quota backlog cannot be filled up. I want a reply from the honorable Minister on this. Candidates of the OBCs, SCs and STs who qualify the preliminary or the mains and are treated at par with the general category candidates regarding their evaluation standard should not be considered as belonging to the reserved category. Reserved category candidates who meet the lower standard set for them and qualify, should be considered as belonging to the reserved category. At per the present system of reservation, the OBCs, SCs and STs candidates do not get reservation in the preliminary exam and in case of OBC candidates what benefits are provided by way of equal qualifying marks for both the General and the reserved category candidates are taken away by discrimination at the time of implementation of reservation policy. Therefore, I say that the announcement of implementation of reservation for OBCs is restricted to paper alone. There is only one alternative. No justice can be done unless the whole system is reformed, the intention of UPSC and other examining bodies, interview boards and committees is bonafide and representation of members of OBCs, SCs and STs is

ensured while constitution of these bodies. If a person equipped with arms does not know how to properly handle them, the arms are rendered redundant. If the Government has provided for reservation of OBCs, SCs and STs, it should give equal share to the people belonging to the reserved category at every level in the Boards and Committee conducting competitive examinations. The OBCs, SCs and STs can do justice if they are entrusted with the responsibility of conducting examinations and marking the papers. The General category, OBCs and reserved category OBC candidates were mixed up in 1994-95. The hon. Minister should give reply to it.

Lastly, I would like to submit, through you, that if the Government really intends to implement the principle of special opportunity, an amendment should be made in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution providing for the reservation of the SCs, STs and OBCs. Reservation on the basis of population should be given to all. The constitution should be amended to remove the ceiling imposed by the Supreme Court and 10 per cent reservation should be provided for the upper caste poor people. A provision for reservation of the poor people of linguistic minority and religious minority communities should be made by lifting the ceiling and amending the constitution to this effect, irrespective of their caste or

creed. I request that a necessary amendment should be made to prevent mixing up of General category and reserved category OBC candidates in the examinations conducted by UPSC. With this, I conclude and thank Mr. Chairman.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anadi Charan Das, you can speak for one minute only.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur) : Sir, I can speak next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. You can speak next time.

The House stands ajourned to meet again on 4th December, 1995 at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the
Clock on Monday, December 4, 1996/Agrahayana 13,
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