

acquire the 20% share at the rate of Rs. 532 per share as against the SEBI determined rate of Rs. 218 per share;

(c) if so, whether the said company have made public announcement in this regard as required under Section 40B of the listing agreement; and

(d) if not, what action the Government propose to take against these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) SEBI has informed that Essar group of companies having acquired 80% of Sterling Computers Ltd. made a public offer in February, 1997 to acquire upto 20% of the equity capital of Sterling Computers Ltd.

(b) The offer price of Rs. 532 per share as determined by the acquirer was more than the price that could have been fixed under SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997. The higher rate was in the interest of investors.

(c) The public announcement of the offer was made on November 25, 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

World Bank Aided Projects

5072. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'IBRD flays tardy execution of highway projects', appearing in daily 'Observer' dated the April 23, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the audit mission of World Bank has stated that the projects being set up with the financial aid of World Bank are being delayed and their progress is unsatisfactory;

(c) if so, the reasons for such remarks made by the World Bank audit mission, and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) the audit mission of World Bank has been holding discussions with the representatives of the Central and State Governments, contracting industry and consultants regarding the various issues leading to the delays in implementation of highway projects. The Bank intends thereafter to recommend suitable measures to the Government for reducing such delays in the implementation of future projects with World Bank loan assistance. The question of reaction of Central Government will arise only after the report of the World Bank is received.

[English]

Autonomy to J & K

5073. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government held any discussion with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir with regard to the autonomy proposed to be granted to the State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The Government in its Common Minimum Programme has stated that it is in favour of giving maximum autonomy to the State of J&K within the framework of the constitution of India. The State Government of J&K has set up a committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Karan Singh, to look into this issue. No report or proposals have, however, been received from the State Government so far. Hence the question of any discussions with the State Government in the matter is premature.

[Translation]

Labourers below the Poverty Line

5074. SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conditions of unskilled labourers have not shown any improvement inspite of increase in their minimum wages and they are still living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the norms being adopted by the Government to ascertain the people living below the poverty line;

(d) the State-wise estimated number of such people in the country; and

(e) the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e) The estimates of poverty are not available separately for unskilled labourers. The incidence of poverty is based on the poverty line adopted by the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor constituted by the Planning Commission which defined the poverty line at national level as monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level based on the quinquennial survey data of consumer expenditure

conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest estimates are available for the year

1993-94 based on NSS Consumer expenditure survey of 50th Round is attached as Statement.

Statement

Number and Percentage of Population below poverty line by States 1993-94 (Modified Expert Group)

S.No.	State	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (lakhs)	% age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	% age of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.49	15.92	74.47	38.33	153.97	22.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.62	45.01	0.11	7.73	3.73	39.35
3.	Assam	94.33	45.01	2.03	7.73	96.36	40.86
4.	Bihar	450.86	58.21	42.49	34.50	493.35	54.96
5.	Goa	0.38	5.34	1.53	27.03	1.91	14.92
6.	Gujarat	62.16	22.18	43.02	27.89	105.19	24.21
7.	Haryana	36.56	28.02	7.31	16.38	43.88	25.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.40	30.34	0.46	9.18	15.86	28.44
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.05	20.34	1.86	9.18	20.92	25.17
10.	Karnataka	95.99	29.88	60.46	40.14	156.46	33.16
11.	Kerala	55.95	25.76	20.46	24.55	76.41	25.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	216.19	40.64	82.33	48.38	298.52	42.52
13.	Maharashtra	193.33	37.93	111.90	35.15	305.22	36.86
14.	Manipur	6.33	45.01	0.47	7.73	6.80	33.78
15.	Meghalaya	7.09	45.01	0.29	7.73	7.38	37.92
16.	Mizoram	1.64	45.01	0.30	7.73	1.94	25.66
17.	Nagaland	4.85	45.01	0.20	7.73	5.05	37.92
18.	Orissa	140.90	49.72	19.70	41.64	160.60	48.56
19.	Punjab	17.76	11.95	7.35	11.35	25.11	11.77
20.	Rajasthan	94.68	26.46	33.82	30.49	128.50	27.41
21.	Sikkim	1.81	45.01	0.03	7.73	1.84	41.43
22.	Tamil Nadu	121.70	32.48	80.40	39.77	202.10	35.03
23.	Tripura	11.41	45.01	0.38	7.73	11.79	39.01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	496.17	42.28	108.28	35.39	604.46	40.85
25.	West Bengal	209.90	40.80	44.66	22.41	254.56	35.66
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.73	32.48	0.33	39.77	1.06	34.47
27.	Chandigarh	0.07	11.35	0.73	11.35	0.80	11.35
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.72	51.95	0.06	39.93	0.77	50.84
29.	Daman & Diu	0.03	5.34	0.15	27.03	0.18	15.80
30.	Delhi	0.19	1.90	15.32	16.03	15.51	14.69
31.	Lakshadweep	0.06	25.76	0.08	24.55	0.14	25.04
32.	Pondicherry	0.93	32.48	2.38	39.77	3.31	37.40
	All India	2440.31	37.27	763.37	32.36	3203.68	35.97

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A&N Island.
3. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshdweep.
4. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Damand & Diu.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
7. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
8. Poverty Ratio of Himachal Pradesh is used for Jammu & Kashmir for 1993-94.

Drive to Check Pollution

5075. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation propose to launch any special drive to check pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the date by which this drive is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Refinance Support by NABARD

5076. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has disbursed Rs. 3.523 crore towards refinance support to various financial bodies against their rural investment credit during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the amount disbursed during 1995-96;

(c) the name of financial bodies to whom this fund was provided for rural investment;

(d) to what extent the amount was spent in various States alongwith the names of schemes of which this amount was spent;

(e) whether NABARD has received any report from these institutions for their development works undertaken by them with this fund in the States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has disbursed Rs. 3523 cores as refinance to various financial agencies against their rural investment credit disbursements during 1996-97. The refinance assistance disbursed during 1995-96 was Rs. 3064 crores to various financial agencies. The financial

agencies to whom refinance assistance has been provided for agriculture and rural development are (i) Commercial Banks, (ii) Co-operative banks viz. State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs), and (iii) Regional Rural Banks.

(d) The State/Union Territory-wise amount of refinance provided by NABARD during 1995-96 is given in the attached statement-I. The names of schemes under which the said amount has been disbursed are given in the attached Statement-II.

(e) and (f) Financial agencies undertake periodic monitoring of utilisation of loans disbursed by them. NABARD also conducts, from time to time loan utilisation studies on sample basis in various States/Union Territories covering various investments and financial agencies in respect of the investments refinanced by it. NABARD has reported that it has conducted 98 such studies during the year 1995-96 and 25 studies during the year 1996-97.

Statement-I

State / Union Territory-wise refinance disbursement by NABARD during 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/Union Territory		Amount
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1114
2.	Andhra Pradesh	35401
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	849
4.	Assam	6553
5.	Bihar	14079
6.	Chandigarh	4
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16
8.	Goa	762
9.	Gujarat	19643
10.	Haryana	20583
11.	Himachal Pradesh	3475
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	943
13.	Karnataka	27764
14.	Kerala	18377