

LOK SABHA DEBATES
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SECOND SESSION
ELEVENTH LOKSABHA

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Friday, September 13, 1996/Bhadra 22, 1918 (Saka)

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<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
Contants (ii)/After last line	Add 'National-Song -Played'	3+2 '
8/5	Delete 'Shri Rajesh Pilot'	
8/19 (from below)	add '†' after * 583	
19/15	add '†' after * 585	
37/20	Turicorin Port	Tuticorin Port
56/10	Shri Jai Prakash	Shri Jai Prakash (Hardoi)
269/33	Mr. Speaker	Mr. Deputy Speaker
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326/13	Mr. Deputy Speaker	Mr. Chairman

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, September 13, 1996/Bhadra 22, 1918 (Saka)

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with a deep sense of sorrow, of the passing away of two of our former colleagues, namely, Sarvashri Tek Chand and F.H. Mohsin.

Shri Tek Chand was a Member of First Lok Sabha representing Ambala-Shimla Parliamentary constituency of erstwhile United Punjab during 1952-57.

An advocate by profession, Shri Tek Chand authored several books. Some of his well-known publications are "The Law of Contempt of Court and of Legislature" and "The Law of Legal Practitioners". He also wrote commentaries on 'Punjab Act' and 'Child Marriage Restraint Act'.

He was the Chairman of Book Festival Committee during 1949-52.

Shri Tek Chand passed away at Chandigarh on 16 June, 1996 at the age of 93 years.

Shri F.H. Mohsin was a Member from Third to Seventh Lok Sabha representing Dharwad South Parliamentary constituency of Karnataka during 1962-84.

He was Union Deputy Minister for Home Affairs during 1971-77.

Earlier, he was Member of Mysore Legislative Council during 1956-57 and Mysore Legislative Assembly during 1957-62.

Shri Mohsin actively participated in the Freedom Movement.

An advocate and political worker, Shri Mohsin was also an able and active Parliamentarian. He made valuable contribution to the proceedings of the House. He served as the Chairman of the House Committee and was member of various Parliamentary Committees.

A widely travelled person, Shri Mohsin was a member of the Parliamentary Delegation to the U.A.R., Sudan and Algeria.

Shri F.H. Mohsin passed away on 3 September, 1996 at Bangalore at the age of 74 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these veterans. I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Bank Loan Defaulters

*581. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSOTAMADAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items appearing in the *Indian Express* dated August 16, 1996 detailing the top business/industrial houses defaulting in the repayment of huge bank loans;

(b) if so, the steps taken to realise this huge money from the defaulters and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether these very companies continue to secure loans notwithstanding their adverse record of repayment;

(d) whether the more deserving companies suffer due to this; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps being taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) On the basis of Reserve Bank of India (RBI's) advice all nationalised banks have laid down a number of policies including loan policy and loan recovery policy. Recovery efforts are to be made by banks on a continuing basis in accordance with their loan recovery policies.

(c) RBI have issued general policy instructions to banks under 'Group Approach' concept in terms of which the banks are at liberty to decide on their own to restrict selectively additional credit facilities to borrowers in a group where they have come across wilful defaults and non-cooperation from the promoters of the group in settling the dues of banks. Invocation of group approach in the aforesaid manner is decided by banks in the light of instructions issued by RBI, no approval or concurrence from RBI is envisaged.

(d) No specific complaint appears to have been received by Government in the recent past to the effect

that good credit proposals have been turned down on account of loans being sanctioned to companies with adverse record of repayment.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the big business houses of the country were advanced bank loans worth millions of rupees during the last three years which they have not repaid. Loans worth crores of rupees are outstanding against them. On the other hand, the banks get the properties of poor rural people attached for recovery of petty loans of Rs. 10,000, Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 25,000, and the way they are misbehaved, maltreated and even kidnapped, is beyond my discretion. No action is taken against defaulting big industrial houses. Instructions on phones go from the offices of the Finance Minister, the Prime Minister to financial institutions for grant of loan worth crores of rupees to these business houses. I respect the hon. Finance Minister and do not want to say anything about him, but the loans advanced to these houses are never recovered. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister ; how much bank loan was given to the big industrial houses during the last three years ? The Government had set up some Recovery Tribunals in 1993. May I know what action these Tribunals have taken so far in the matter of recovery of loans and how much loan has been recovered so far ? The poor people face great difficulty in getting loan, they are not even supplied loan forms by scheduled banks, and keeping in view the position of loan recovery, may I know what steps are Government taking in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it is true that there are a large number of accounts where the loans have not been repaid. There may be a variety of reasons why these loans are not repaid. For example, in joint stock companies, the reason why a company is unable to pay the loan could be due to bad management, sometimes even fraud; it could also be because the company has a bad product or technology has overtaken it and competition has edged it out. But the fact remains that large sums are outstanding to the banks. No, the RBI and the banks have revised the system by which they publish a list of defaulters on what are known as 'suit filed accounts'. Whenever suits are filed then that list is published, that is available even to the public. But, in other cases, they have internal guidelines. One guideline is to apply the group approach where a consortium of banks lends to a group of companies under the control of the same management. The suit filed accounts are published and the names of defaulters are known. In order to speed up the recovery of loans in suit filed cases, Debt Recovery Tribunals were set up under an Act.

This is the recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions after 1993. It was decided to establish 10 Recovery Tribunals and one Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal. Now, I have figures of five Tribunals. The amount recovered after cases were instituted in the DRT, Delhi was Rs. 121.96 crore ; in the DRT, Bangalore it was Rs. 20.21 crore; in the DRT, Jaipur, it was Rs. 10.04 crore and in the DRT, Calcutta, it was Rs. 2.67 crore.

This is because the Recovery Tribunals have just started functioning. They have been established between April 1994 and December 1994. I will review to see whether we can speed up the process of recovery through the Recovery Tribunals. It is my intention to ensure that the banks recover outstandings through the mechanism of the Debt Recovery Tribunal as well as through persuasions and asking the accounts to be regularised.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given a good piece of information about loan recovery but certain rules of the Reserve Bank of India do not allow making public the names of big loanees, so does he propose to amend these bank rules ? Regarding recovery position, if he calls for the statements from each state he will come to know that the people encounter great difficulty in getting loans from scheduled banks under various schemes. The government has launched for rural upliftment. These people do not get bank loan. The Reserve Bank has laid down that certain percentages of bank deposits collected in a particular area should essentially be advanced by way of loan to the same area. But the banks do not give loans in specified proportion to those areas from where those banks collect deposits. What steps the hon'ble Minister proposes to take to make loan available in the specified ratio by the banks in the areas from where bank deposits are collected. ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not think that is the kind of case of default we are talking about. The large cases of suit filed accounts really relate to small loans. I am sure that there are some cases of local banks trying to pressure small loanees into paying the amount through normal suits. I think we are talking about large defaults by large groups, large companies and large borrowers. This question deals with that. If there is any specific area or specific State or district where there is a peculiar problem which the hon. Member is aware of, please let me know and I shall certainly talk to the banks there to see that they do not harass the small loanees.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, bank loans of thousands of crores of rupees are outstanding against big Industrial Houses. They get loan without difficulty but the poor farmer goes from pillar to post to get loan under various schemes like I.R.D.P. which are meant for the upliftment of the poor. They do not get loan. May I know from the hon'ble Minister what are the total percentage of loan given to big Industrial Houses and the percentage of loan given to agriculture sector, as also the percentage of loan given for schemes like I.R.D.P. and how these loans are recovered ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is no classification of loans by big industrial houses. In fact, the loans are classified by sectors. No, by and large, one half of the bank credit goes to industry. The other half goes to agriculture, trade, export and other sectors. That is the broad ratio by which loans are distributed. Now for example, as on 31.3.1996, the total credit to industries was Rs. 1,24,992 crore. The total bank credit was Rs. 2,31,697 crore. That is approximately one half. That has been the proportion in the previous years also.

Now, in that, as hon. Members are aware, we require banks to give 40 per cent of net bank credit to priority sector and within the 40 percent, 18 per cent is earmarked for agriculture.

Now, for all public sector bank, the proportion of credit as a percentage of net bank credit to the priority sector, and I have answered this several times in this august House, is 37.75 per cent, against the target of 40 per cent. There is a shortfall of about 2.25 per cent, which, as hon. Members know, is required to be deposited with NABARD to be distributed through the R.I.D.F.

Now, in respect of priority sector, there is a sub-target of 18 per cent, and there also there is a slight shortfall of 18 per cent. But we are trying to make up, as I have said, that shortfall. For export, credit is also provided by the banks. So, this is the broad ratio by which credit is flowing.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply given to the question No. 581 has made it clear that defaulting big Industrial Houses also get loan conveniently. The former Prime Minister of National front Government Shri V.P. Singh had launched a loan relief scheme whereunder loans of village farmers upto Rs. 10,000 were written off. In this connection a report was sought and because of that report and because of announcement of loan relief scheme those farmers have not repaid their loans and now warrants are being issued against them. I come from Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I am coming to the question. I come from Bihar and 111 blocks of Bihar did not receive that report timely but later on the State Government made some amendments and corrections in the report and sent it to Central Government and NABARD. The loans upto Rs. 10,000 had been written off upto 31st October 1989. There are 111 blocks in Sitamarhi district about which the State Government has sent a modified report but they have not been given the benefit of loan relief scheme. I come from Sitamarhi.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : We have 7 blocks such as Kupari, Sarsan, Narpur etc. in whose cases loans have not been written off. Sir, the industrial Houses are defaulting in the repayments of loans. Still they are being given loans. May I know through you, Sir, whether the remaining 111 blocks of Bihar will also be given benefit of the loan relief scheme introduced by the then government ? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is an important question. You will get a reply to it.

[Translation]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. But I would most humbly request him to understand my difficulty. This question relates to loans to business and industrial houses defaulting in the repayment of loans. But if he puts a separate question, surely, I will answer that question.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : May I know from the hon'ble Minister, the loan amount so far recovered by the Government out of the loan amount outstanding against the Indian Express. The big industries are advanced loans without furnishing security while small industries are denied loans even after furnishing security. They do not get loan even after putting in efforts for months together. May I know whether he proposes to simplify the loan granting procedure so that small and cottage industries also get loan ?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I can give broad figures of recoveries and non-performing assets. It will not be possible for me to give the recovery against each account because that runs into thousands.

The recoveries in non-performing assets of public banks in the year 1993-94 was Rs. 3,134 crore. In 1994-95 Rs. 4,199 crore were recovered. In 1995-96 Rs. 4,005 crore were recovered. Hon. Member also asked if there was any simpler procedure to give loans to small farmers and small borrowers. Yes, there are guidelines. But it is our experience—mine as well as yours as Members of

Parliament – that branches of banks, particularly in rural areas, do not adhere to the time limit stipulated there. Therefore, I share your concern that the banks must adhere to the guidelines. I think there are guidelines of two weeks, four weeks or six weeks by which they should give an answer on the loan application saying 'Yes' or 'No', but our experience is different. I will do my best to see what can be done to streamline the procedure. But I would urge all hon. Members also to create public opinion that bank officers and bank staff must see their duty as performing a public duty and they must stick to the deadlines and they must work harder and efficiently. But I will do my best within the limits of my capacity.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Indian Bank has incurred a loss to the extent of Rs. 1,350 crore last year, 1995-96. It is because of a huge amount of loan given to the number of business establishments whose credibility was not examined or studied. They have not refunded the loans. Its non-performing asset is 37 per cent. It is the highest among the public sector banks.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the government will order a probe into the affairs of the Indian Bank to inquire into the corruption and irregularities in the Indian Bank because of which the Bank has incurred loss to the extent of Rs. 1,350 crore ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, inquiries are under way. Government has given concurrence to the C.B.I. to register cases. The Reserve Bank of India is inquiring into the matter. I have personally directed a thorough inquiry and I have received a preliminary report. The amount of Rs. 1,336 crore which is shown in the Profit and Loss Statement of the Indian Bank for the year which has ended is on account of provisioning loss. Huge provisions, to the extent of Rs. 981 crore, have been made for the year 1995-96. There will be no hesitation on my part to conduct a thorough inquiry through the R.B.I. and through the Department of Banking.

I must also add that the Indian Bank is one of our premier banks. Since 1st of April, 1996 and upto the 6th of August, 1996, when I last saw the figures, the Indian Bank has recovered Rs. 105 crore and its deposits have increased by Rs. 681 crore. The Indian Bank management has assured me that recoveries are being made and that a drive is on to mobilise deposits and he has assured me that he is confident that this year the Balance Sheet of the Indian Bank will show considerable improvement ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Six supplementaries have been asked, the House agreed.

... (Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : This question has taken 26 minutes. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the very important thing is he did not let the sense of the House come ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The sense of the Question was that everybody wanted to know ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : I would like to request you to you to fix 15 minutes for one question. We ought to cover at least four questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have taken up next question. You have made a right point. I am moving to next question.

[English]

Please let him speak

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the sense of the question was what is the ratio of recovery from industrial houses and the common man ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, I am sorry. I have moved to the next question.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The hon. Minister gave figures. We are not interested in figures ; we are interested in the ratio ... (Interruptions). There is no accountability in the answer ... (Interruptions) Sir, it is also the duty of the Chair ... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

Capital Investment made in Public Sector Units

*583. *SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital investment made in the Public Sector Undertakings so far ;

(b) the percentage of profit being earned by the above Undertakings out of the above investment at present;

(c) whether the Government have also made any estimate regarding the capital invested in the private sector and percentage of profit being earned out of it;

(d) if so, the details thereof at the end of March, 1996; and

(e) the reasons for the big difference of profit existing between public and private sector industries ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). As on 31.3.1995, upto which period audited information is available, the total investment in Public Sector was Rs. 1,72,438 crores. The net profit earned by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during the year 1994-95 was Rs. 7217 crores. The percentage of net profit works out to 4.19%.

(c) According to National Account Statistics the net Capital Stock in Private Corporate Sector as on 31.3.1995 was Rs. 4,35,812 crores. However, the percentage of net profit being earned out of it is not available.

(d) and (e). Question does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question the hon'ble Minister had stated that the total investment in Public Sector as on 31.3.1995 was Rs. 1,72,438 crore and they earned a net profit of Rs. 7217 crore upto 1994-95 which works out to 4.19 percent. As per my information only 20.41 lakh people have got employment out of 90 crore population as a result of this investment of Rs. 1,72,438 crore, that is only 450th of 90 crore population got employment which is in no case justified. We must bring in such technology under our liberalisation programme as would ensure maximum employment potential. May I know whether government proposes to employ such technology in the Private or Public Sector where such a staggering investment had been made, to ensure employment to maximum people ?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, one of the primary objectives of starting the public sector is to create employment opportunities. That is why, we are incurring losses in certain sectors. For example, we have started some public sector units in backward areas. Naturally, they are incurring losses. This is our programme and it will go on.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KIRSHORE RAI : Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that according to National Accounts Statistics the net capital stock in private corporate sector as on 31.3.1995 was Rs. 4,35,812 crore and as per the 8th August report of 'The Telegraph' this sector earned a profit of 32 percent while the public sector earned a profit of 4.41 percent as mentioned in reply to part 'A' of the question, which is two and a half times more than the profit earned by the Public Sector. The profit of private sector is 32 percent which is 7 times of the profit of the public sector. What are the reasons therefor ? would like to ask the Minister about Part 'A' of my question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot divide the question in so many parts. You have asked your question and he is going to reply.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I would like the clarification from the hon'ble Minister, why the public sector is not changing keeping in view the comparative figures of profit of private sector *vis a vis* public sector ? This is about part 'A' of my question and about part 'B' I would like to know ...

MR. DEPUTY SEPAKER : It is all right. In how many parts you will divide it.

[English]

I am sorry. Please sit down. Let the hon'ble Minister answer.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : About Part 'B' I would like to know whether he proposes to bring about some improvement in those 57 Undertakings which have incurred the losses of more than their amounts of investments ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Rai, will you make four Supplementaries out of one Supplementary ?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAM : Sir, it is true that the rate of profitability in public sector is definitely less in comparison to the private sector.

There are more than three-and-a-half lakhs of companies which are functioning in the private sector; to be exact, there are 3,53,292 companies. It is very difficult to find out the profitability rate. But a sample survey has been made and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy has calculated the profitability of the corporate sector, that is, including the private sector and the public sector. The percentage of net profit, out of the capital employed, during the year 1994-95 was 8.44 per cent. They have taken into account 2,619 companies out of which only 50 units are in the public sector. In comparison, we found that the private sector makes a net profit of 8.44 per cent. But at the same time, the public sector has earned only 4.47 per cent. There is a yawning gap of about four per cent. That is the problem with the public sector. It is not making profits. We have to make it profitable.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, the answer is not satisfactory.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Mr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya.

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister.

SHRIMATI BHAVANABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Has the United Front government given the office of Prime Minister to somebody else ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is nothing like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Gujral ji, it will be better if you don't sit on that seat, the hon'ble Member raising objection.

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the reply to Part 'C' of the question which gives information about investment made in Public Sector Undertakings and Private Sector Undertakings. The Public Sector is reported to have earned a profit of about 4 percent which is too less. These two sectors are supposed to provide employment to the people and financial benefit to the government. But the profit percentage are very meagre. Whether government has evolved some system to find out the reasons for this disparity between these two sectors. What fresh measures are being taken by the government to bring about compatibility between these two sectors and to increase the profitability of the Public Sector Undertakings so as to mitigate this difference and as my colleague has said, to run these Undertakings in profit.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that the profitability rate of the public sector is definitely less than that of the private sector. We know the reasons, but we cannot simply say that all the public sector undertakings are bad. According to the calculations that we have got, about 130 public sector undertakings have made a profit of Rs. 12,124 crore. But at the same time, 109 public sector undertakings have made a loss of Rs. 4,907 crore. This is the difficulty.

Public sector is a part and parcel of our development philosophy. But during the course of time, instead of maintaining commanding heights of economy they have come down and occupied certain sectors which cannot be maintained by the public sector and which are not at all desirable. For example, they entered into the consumer sector, they entered into service sector, they entered into hotels and even bakeries.

In the course of time, out of necessity we nationalised many sick industries. One-third of our losses are because of the take over of loss making private enterprises. That is why, our CMP says that we have to recreate the recurring loss making enterprises. So, there is a need for restructuring, re-engineering and re-organising of the public sector undertakings, especially the loss making undertakings. Sir, we are creating a master plan in our Ministry to re-organise the entire public sector, especially the heavy industries. (Interruptions)

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : The low return of about four per cent earned by the public sector undertakings is mainly due to the inability of the undertakings to run on commercial lines. The reasons—apart from the constant Government interference—are the fact that the public sector undertakings are subjected to

scrutiny of myriad agencies like CBI, Vigilance Commissioner, Auditor General, Committee on Public Undertakings and any number of agencies. For, they are subjected to such rigorous scrutiny by these vigilance and policing agencies, they cannot be expected to run on purely commercial lines.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking in terms of isolating these undertakings from the debilitating influence of these policing agencies which are hampering the functioning of these undertakings on commercial lines.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that public sector undertakings should be given autonomy. I am told that the first Speaker and the second Speaker never entertained any questions about public sector in the Lok Sabha. During Pt. Nehru's time, he often discouraged questions being raised about public sector undertakings. There was a time like that. But now we are going through the monitoring system. The autonomy should be given then only the accountability will follow. I entirely agree with the hon. Member. That is why, we are trying to create a kind of master plan to go into all these problems.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the expressions in the reply are not very clear. For the public sector, the figure is given for total investment and for the private sector, it is given as net capital stock. But I take it as comparable.

If it is so, then the private sector figure is about two and a half times that of the public sector capital stock. But I am doubting the figures about profitability and the CMI thing because in the corporation tax, the contribution of the public sector is more than 50 per cent. That is more than the contribution of the private sector in his kitty of corporate tax. If that be so, the profitability rates in the public sector are comparable. With a lower capital stock, they are providing more than 50 per cent in the corporation tax. If that be so, how are you concluding that the public sector is less profitable than the private sector unless it is further assumed that there is a big leakage in the private sector compared to the public sector ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. I cannot cross swords with him as he is an expert. But as I told you, there are more than three and a half lakhs of companies in the private sector. So, whatever CMI figures I have given are only a sample survey. So it cannot be accurate.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : But why should you say that the private sector is more profitable ?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : It is because the private sector is making more profits. I do not want to condemn

all the public sector undertakings. For example, 130 public sector undertakings have made a profit of Rs. 12,124 crore whereas there are 109 public sector undertakings who have incurred a loss of Rs. 4907 crore. They are dragging our feet. So, there are good and bad public undertakings.

We have to protect and develop the good undertakings. We have to nurse and find a way out to make these loss making enterprises to be efficient and healthy.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : In this connection, I want to ask a question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Generally, when Parliament is in Session, a major policy decision is not given outside. But today, I read in the newspapers that the hon. Finance Minister had given certain views of the Government, which I appreciate and support. He has decided to compartmentalise the public sector into three sectors, namely, strategic, core and non-core. Then, he said that they would like to disinvest upto 51 per cent. In strategic sectors, there is no disinvestment, but they would like to do it in other sectors. Earlier, I had the opportunity to work with some public sector organisations under my Ministry.

Now, the Finance Ministry says that these public sector undertakings have to take care of their own resources as there will be no budgetary support. That is also good and I appreciate it. But Mr. Industry Minister, the gentleman on your left is aware that there was a proposal during our time—Shri Chidambaram shared with us for a particular period—that a portion of the disinvestment money should go to those concerned for modernisation, upgradation and maintenance. As you have very rightly analysed, the loss is not only due to bad management, but it is also due to the resource crunch. Some of them which have incurred a marginal loss can be converted into profit earning undertakings. But they are gradually going down because there is no budgetary support. You cannot expect all industries to make profits all the time. All the ministers do not do well; some are bad and some are good.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sontoshji, please ask the question. What is your question ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Taking that into consideration, I support him. What is your policy about giving some support for the public sector undertakings which are doing well and can do well after the disinvestment which is coming ? Their profit earning will be more and they will be in a comfortable position.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you have followed it, then it is all right.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Shri Sontosh, would you like to be a supporting party or not ? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply. He is going to reply.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That of distinction of core, strategic etc., is as old as the 1956 Industrial Policy Resolution.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, as the hon. Member has pointed out, all these core, non-core and strategic sectors have been started from the Second Five Year Plan and from the second Industrial Policy Resolution. The hon. Member, probably, has not gone through the Common Minimum Programme. I quote :

"The question of withdrawing the public sector from non-core and non-strategic areas will be carefully examined subject to assuring the workers and employees of job security or in the alternative opportunities for retraining and redeployment."

So, that is there in our Common Minimum Programme. There is a scheme, there is a policy decision and there is a Cabinet decision to disinvest in these sectors upto 49 per cent. Upto 49 per cent does not mean that they are going to change the management. Ownership is one thing and management is another thing. That is a different question.

He wanted to know about what we are going to do with the money from the disinvestment. The Common Minimum Programme has made it very clear. The hon. Finance Minister has made it very clear in his Budget speech that it would be used in social sectors especially in health and education. We will create an Investment Fund from which the money will be used for promoting operational efficiency of the particular public sector undertakings. This is very clear.

[Translation]

Development of Textile Industries

*584. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govt. are aware that at present the cotton based textile industry is facing heavy financial crunch despite the fact that there have been record production of cotton ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) It is not correct that Cotton based textile industry is facing any financial crunch. This is evident from the consumption pattern of cotton for the last 4 years by

various segments of textile sector as indicated below. Actual consumption by mill industry has gone up by 10.72% in 1995-96 over 1994-95.

In lakh bales of 170 Kgs each

Year	Consumption by textile mill industry	Consumption by small scale spinning mills	Total	Growth compared to previous year
1992-93	112.81	4.2	117.01	—
1993-94	114.00	5.00	119.00	1.7%
1994-95	119.37	6.17	125.54	5.49%
1995-96	132.50	6.50	139.00	10.72%

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

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has in his reply stated that the cotton based textile industry is not facing any financial crunch. It appears to me that he has not taken into account while framing his reply, the cotton based handloom and powerloom industry. May I know whether the figures mentioned in the reply pertain to major textile mills or they include handloom and powerloom units also ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, probably the hon. Member is agitated about the closure of the 179 mills out of 1,507 mills. As far as handlooms are concerned, there is no financial crunch. In spite of that, I have already spoken to the Chairman of NABARD and he has agreed to provide loan to an extent of Rs. 1,000 crore during this year for modernisation and for working capital both for handicrafts and looms and powerlooms. As far as these mills are concerned, those 179 mills are closed. There was a fresh investment in the private sector to an extent of Rs. 2,100 crore during 1994-95 and Rs. 3,400 crore during 1995-96. This clearly shows that there is no such severe crunch for finances in this sector.

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is well known that India has produced large quantity of cotton needed for cotton based textile industry which is more than the requirement of the country. May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any scheme for export of cotton and the quantity thereof exported this year and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : During this year, we have exported eight lakh bales outside the country. Though we permitted them to export 12 lakh bales, they could

export only eight lakh bales. We are expecting a better crop this year. There will be no limit for export of either yarn or cotton.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am grateful to you for allowing me this opportunity. The cotton industry, specially the traditional industry in our country, is the oldest industry. The cotton industry people especially are from rural areas and the working class people are involved in this industry. The NTC textile mills are facing acute crisis specially in West Bengal, Gujarat and Maharashtra as 179 mills have already been closed and there are many cases pending with BIFR for long though the BIFR have asked the Government to send packages. What steps are the Government going to take to save the industry ? That is number one.

Secondly, the textile workers and the jute growing workers are not getting their salary. This is a very serious problem. Thousands and thousands of workers are going to the industry and they are working for the industry, but they are not getting their salary at the proper time. Will you assure this House that the Government will sponsor the package which is submitted by BIFR and save this cotton industry ? The Government should release the salaries of NTC workers and jute growing workers.

These are the two questions.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : As far as the NTC mills are concerned, they are in a big mess. The House will be surprised to know that the paid up capital of NTC is Rs. 512 crore; the total loss of NTC is Rs. 4,678 crore. It has not happened during my time. This has accumulated over a number of years.

Except Tamil Nadu subsidiary, the rest of the subsidiaries are before the BIFR. There was a turn-around plan for Rs. 2005 crore. A tripartite agreement was signed. But, when I went through it and had discussions with my officers, I was given to understand that 52 to 55 mills cannot be revived at all. So, I have sent my people to each mill to find out the position and let me know the details. Within fifteen days or one month we will be going before the Cabinet for a final settlement.

As far as the wages are concerned, I beg to submit that they are being paid, except our share of the Provident Fund.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They are not being paid salary in a proper manner.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : No, we are paying them. May be, it is delayed. We had spent about Rs. 265 crore during the last year to pay them salary. This year we are spending about Rs. 300 crore to pay them salary. There may be a delay by about fifteen days or one month. Yes, there is a delay. But, when they are suffering from a loss of nearly Rs. 4600 crore ... (Interruptions)... Let them bear with me for a minute. When they are suffering a loss to the extent of Rs. 4678 crore, it is not so easy to provide all the wages on time. It may take some time, about fifteen days or one month. We are paying them otherwise.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please release the salary at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Sir, I feel sad when the hon'ble Minister says that the cotton based textile industry is not facing financial crunch which is far from the truth.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I did not say so.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : He has stated this in his reply. I would like to ask the question because the answer is not satisfactory. Today the entire textile industry is facing closure but the talk of financial crisis is also wrong. The official report says that the production of mills has come down to 942 million square meter from a production of 2589 million square meter in 1991. May I know whether the reason for the financial crisis and declining production in the cotton mills is that the difference in prices of cotton supplied by cotton corporation of India to the mills and those paid to the Cotton growers ? Does the production come down because of the low grade cotton supplied by the Cotton Corporation of India. The weight of the bales supplied also falls short. Whether this is one of the reasons for this crisis and whether some complaints have been received ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The production of cloth in 1993-94 was 17,790 million sq. metres. In 1994-95, I agree with the hon. Member, it has come down to 17,019 million sq. metres. But, in 1995-96 it went up once again to 18,415 million sq. metres. It has gone up during the last year.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : You please tell me about mills. The production has declined. I have report with me which I can give you, in case you do not have it.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : For 1995-96 I do not have the figures. But, in 1994-95 what you have said is correct that the production has come down. For 1995-96 I will send you the figures. For 1996-97 also I will be able to send the figures. About the purchase of CCI, they are purchasing. Their turn-over is to the extent of Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 900 crore every year. They are entering into the market and they are also exporting outside the country to the maximum extent possible.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Sir, my Supplementary has not been answered. The cotton supplied to textile mills is of poor quality. This is one of the factors.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I do not know that. I will get it examined.

DR. ASIM BALA : Sir, in my constituency there are a large number of small and marginal handloom weavers and various small families engaged in cooperative handloom weaving trade. They are suffering from scarcity of cotton yarn. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether cotton yarn would be provided to these small weavers and cooperatives at subsidised rates.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : During the last two years, there was a scheme of subsidising the supply hank yarn to the handlooms, but during the last year the scheme was removed. If it is necessary, if the prices go high, the Government would consider supplying yarn at a lesser price. It might not be too much less, but we would try to supply it at a reasonable price.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question to the concerned hon. Minister is this. As per the information furnished to this august House on the last occasion about 55,000 to 60,000 handloom workmen have not been provided with work in the various cotton mills in Mumbai, Gujarat, Kanpur, Calcutta and elsewhere. My question is, when there is ample work, when ample cotton is available, why have the workmen not been provided with work in the mills ? Is it a policy of the Government to keep them idle and retrench them later ? Or, alternatively, does the Government intend to introduce the voluntary retirement scheme in such mills ? I feel, making all the textile industries sick is the only policy of the Government. The persons who are running those industries are basically responsible for this. Despite having sufficient work, it has not been extended to the workmen. What does the hon. Minister want to say about the kind of condition which is prevailing in all these textile mills ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the hon. Member is right to the extent of fifty per cent.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Does it mean that he is wrong to the extent of fifty per cent ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I did not say that he was wrong. I only said that fifty per cent was not correct. I agree with him. Some mills are closed due to the non-availability of working capital; some mills are very old that their age is about 120 to 130 years, where we cannot rejuvenate them or modernise them and, therefore, they have to be closed. The Government is also thinking of making them retire under the voluntary retirement scheme. That scheme would be taken up with the Cabinet within another month.

[English]

Credit Facilities to Exporters

*585. *SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to strengthen the existing infrastructural facilities to exporters such as ports, power, communications transport facilities and concessional export credit required for export promotions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to remove these infrastructural bottlenecks for export promotion ?

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

STATEMENT

Government is engaged in the continuous upgradation of export infrastructure. The Ministry of Commerce acts in co-ordination with the other Ministries, Departments and agencies for the purpose. Standing Committees on Promotion of Exports (SCOPE) in respect of air cargo (SCOPE-AIR) and sea borne cargo (SCOPE-SHIPPING) are functioning in the Ministry. These help to resolve constraints encountered in export transportation and to advise on long term strengthening of infrastructure. The Ministry of Surface Transport is upgrading the port infrastructure. Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) are being established in various parts of the country to facilitate container transportation of goods and intermodal conveyance. An Inter-Ministerial Committee accords single-window clearance for establishing these ICDs and CFSs. An Open Sky Policy has been adopted to permit uninterrupted clearance of air cargo. Private initiative is being harnessed in creating infrastructure at ports, airports, in upgrading highways and in setting up of ICDs/CFSs, warehouses, etc.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) arranges for and monitors the flow of export credit in rupees and in foreign currency. The schemes in force include—

- (i) Pre-shipment Export Credit in Foreign Currency (PCFC),
- (ii) Pre-shipment Export Credit in Rupees,
- (iii) Post-shipment Export Credit in Rupees, and
- (iv) Export Bill Rediscounting (EBR).

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, in our country, there is ample availability of mineral deposits and raw materials. We can develop our exports to the highest extent. But it is a pity that we are unable to develop our infrastructure for exports. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what specific steps are taken by the Government of India for the upgradation of port infrastructure. I would particularly like to know how much money the Government is going to spend to develop Paradip, Gopalpur and Vizag ports.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : SNO No. 3. Shri Ashok Pradhan. The hon. Member is absent.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very serious issue ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not received reply to my question ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member is absent, what can I do ? The Minister cannot reply in the absence of the Member.

... (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inflation Rate

[English]

*582. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of all the consumer commodities and the rate of inflation have been steadily increasing following the announcement of the General Budget this year ; and

(b) if so, the weekly rate of rise in Consumer price indices and the rate of inflation indicating corresponding figures during the above mentioned period of the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) On the eve of the presentation of the General Budget on 22.7.1996, the annual inflation

rate based on weekly movement of wholesale price index was 5.2% (provisional). It has since risen to 5.7% provisional for the week ending 24.8.1996, upto which the latest price data is available. In the case of essential commodities, the Budget even inflation rate was 4.6% which has now moved upto 5.9% as on 24.8.1996.

(b) The Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, CPI (IW), is made available by the Labour Ministry on monthly basis instead of weekly basis. The annual rate of increase in CPI (IW) in the months June-July 1996-97 for which data is available, is shown below together with the corresponding months in the preceding two years :
Annual Rise (Point-to-point) in CPI (IW)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
June	10.8	10.5	8.8
July	11.1	11.4	8.3

Banking Service for Small Investors

*586. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banks have been urged to improve their quality of service particularly to small investors so as to encourage them to step up savings and investment in the country;

(b) if so the details of the directives issued by the Government to the banks in this regard ;

(c) whether a number of suggestions regarding infrastructure investment financing have also been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The importance of providing improved services to all categories of clientele including small investors had been conveyed to public sector banks from time to time. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed a Committee in September, 1990 on Customer Service in Banks under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Goiporia, the then Chairman, State Bank of India to look into various aspects of customer service in banks. This Committee made a number of recommendations covering the following important areas :

- (i) Improving customer service by enlarging facilities.
- (ii) Opening of specialised branches.
- (iii) Compensating customers for delays in certain transactions.
- (iv) Making employees more responsive and customers friendly.

(v) Technical upgradation and review of systems and procedures.

RBI has already advised banks to implement most of the recommendations of the Committee. All public sector banks have initiated action on these recommendations and in most banks a majority of the recommendations have already been implemented.

(c) A number of suggestions regarding infrastructure financing have been made from time to time, and these have been considered in detail by Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee (Report on Role of the Capital Market in financing of Infrastructure Development).

(d) Having regard to the importance of the infrastructure financing, Government have decided to set up the Infrastructure Development Finance Company.

[Translation]

Policy for Export by Small Scale Industries

*587. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy to boost the export of products of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of items produced by the small scale industries which are likely to be included in the export list under the said policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The Export & Import Policy (1992-97) extends equal opportunity to all Exporters to avail the export promotion schemes provided for therein, to boost exports and increase foreign exchange earnings for the country. However, with a view to encouraging export of products from the SSI sector, double weightage is given on the NFE or FOB value earned by the export of products manufactured by Small Scale Industries for claiming eligibility for attaining the status of Export House, Trading House, Star trading House and Super Star Trading House as per para 139 of the Export & Import Policy. In addition, products manufactured by Handlooms and handicrafts Sector (including Handloom made silk products), Hand knotted carpets, carpets made of silk are given double weightage on FOB and triple weightage on NEF earned by the export of such products. Further 1% extra SIL is also permitted to exporters of SSI, Handloom and Handicraft products (including handloom made silk products), hand knotted carpets, carpet made of silk and sports goods provided the export of these products is more than 50% of their total export. A provision has also been made making small exporters, who are not Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House, eligible for claiming benefits of Special

Import Licence if their average direct export turn over is Rs. 2 crores in the preceding three years or Rs. 5 crores in the preceding year. The benefit of Special Import Licence at the rate of 4% of the FOB value of such direct exports made on or after 1.4.1996 has been made available to such exporters who will be mostly from the SSI Sector.

[English]

Production of Textile Machinery

*588. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether industry relating to production of textile machinery is facing acute recession ;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Recommendations of Malimath Committee

*589. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malimath Committee has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Malimath Committee;

(c) the recommendations that have been implemented by the Government ;

(d) the recommendations which have not been implemented so far; and

(e) the reasons for their non-implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) : (a) The report of the Malimath Committee (known as Arrears Committee) was received by the Government in September, 1990.

(b) The recommendations of the Malimath Committee can be categorised into the following types :

- (i) Changes in legislative enactments such as abolishing the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of High Courts, reduction in appeals, amendments in Civil Procedure Code etc;

- (ii) Administrative and procedural modifications in the judiciary to be effected by the State Governments/ High Court/Central Government. The recommendations like appointment of Judges, transfer policy, increase in Judges strength of High Courts, adherence of punctuality in Courts, grouping and classification of cases for their expeditious disposal, avoidance of long arguments etc;

- (iii) Modernisation and automation of courts, provision of necessary infrastructural facilities for judges to enable them to dispose of cases expeditiously;

- (iv) Constitution of specialised bodies as alternatives to Courts like tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases.

(c) to (e). The recommendations of the Malimath Committee were sent to all the concerned Central Ministries, State Governments and High Courts for necessary follow-up action. Some of the recommendations viz; relating to raising of the pecuniary jurisdiction of District Courts, introduction of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to upgrade infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, setting up of training facilities for legislative drafting, setting up of National Judicial Academy for providing training to Judicial Officers, etc. have already been implemented by the concerned authorities. No action is required to be taken now on the recommendations relating to appointment of Judges, their transfer, policy on review on Judges strength etc. which are now regulated as per memorandum of procedure drawn after the October 1993 verdict of the 9 Judges Bench of the Supreme Court wherein the primacy rests with the Chief Justice of India.

Further, a meeting of the Law Ministers was held at Bangalore in October, 1992 to review the suggestions made by the Malimath Committee so as to reduce the pendency of cases in Courts. As per the decision taken in the Law Ministers Conference, 3 working groups of State Law Ministers were constituted to suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendation of the Arrears Committee, so as to expedite the disposal of cases in courts. The recommendations of these working groups of State Law Ministers was considered by the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices Conference held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. The Conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for speedy disposal of cases in Courts/Tribunals, which have been accepted by the Government and commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/Tribunals for necessary action. Three Working Groups of Law Ministers, thereafter, met to consider the recommendations contained in the above Resolution with regard to rural litigations, arrears of cases in administrative tribunals and alternative dispute resolution. The implementation of December, 1993 resolution and recommendations made

by the Working Groups were reviewed by the Law Ministers at their plenary meetings held in Calcutta in November, 1994 and in Hyderabad, in November, 1995. The resolutions adopted in these meetings have been commended to all the concerned authorities for necessary action.

[*English*]

Industrial Licensing List

*590. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to prune the industrial licensing list;

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

(c) the new items, if any, likely to be included in the revised industrial licensing list ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). At present, there is a short list of 15 industries under compulsory licensing. The process of reviewing the list of items retained under compulsory licensing is an ongoing process. However, no decision has been taken to further delicense and industry.

Import Duty

*591. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economy of Kerala has been adversely affected due to reduction in import duty on rubber, vanaspati oil and Caprolactum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The Government constantly monitors the impact of customs duties and carefully calibrates the duty rates keeping in mind *inter alia* the interests of both producers and consumers.

[*Translation*]

Outstanding Income Tax

*592. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial houses in the country against whom the outstanding amount of income tax/excise duty is more than one crore rupees ;

(b) the reasons for not recovering the said amount; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government is not maintaining any list of industrial houses as the industrial houses are not required to get themselves registered, consequent upon the omission of Section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, (MRTP Act, 1969) by the MRTP (Amendment) Act, 1991 with effect from 27.09.1991. The industrial houses-wise information is also not generated. The number of such industrial houses therefore, does not arise. However, the names of top 20 units against whom maximum amount of Central Excise duty is outstanding are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Names of the Corporate Groups as per the available information against whom outstanding income-tax demands exceeding rupees one crore are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) Main reasons of accumulation of tax-arrears are litigation before the Courts and Tribunals and stay orders granted by them. In so far as Direct Taxes are concerned the arrears are also due to amount pending verification of payments made by the assesseees and demands raised had not fallen due for payment/collection.

(c) Field formations have been directed to take necessary administrative and legal measures envisaged under the statutes to recover the outstanding dues. Concerned courts are also requested for early hearings and vacation of stay orders.

STATEMENT I

Name of the Twenty Companies/Units against whom Maximum Excise duty is outstanding as on 1.7.1996.

Sl. No.	Name of the Company/Unit
1.	M/s I.T.C. Limited
2.	M/s G.T.C. Industries Ltd.
3.	M/s I.P.C.L.
4.	M/s Bokaro Steel Plant (SAIL).
5.	M/s Bhilai Steel plant (SAIL).
6.	M/s Maruti Udyog Ltd.
7.	M/s Burns Standard & Company
8.	M/s Godfrey Phillips
9.	M/s Asia Tobacco Co.
10.	M/s NOCIL
11.	M/s Telco Pimpri
12.	M/s Kitply Ind. Ltd.
13.	M/s New Tobacco Co.
14.	M/s Bharat Seats Ltd.
15.	M/s Kanpur Cigarette Ltd.

Sl. No.	Name of the Company/Unit
16.	M/s D.L.W. Varanasi
17.	M/s Reliable Cigarette & Tobacco Ind. P. Ltd.
18.	M/s I.O.C.
19.	M/s H.F.C. Ltd. Barauni
20.	M/s Goodyear India Ltd.

STATEMENT II

Name of the corporate Groups against whom Income Tax Demands more than Rupees one crore are outstanding

Sl. No.	Name of the Corporate Group
1.	Tata
2.	Aditya Vikram Birla Group
3.	Reliance
4.	Thapar
5.	J.K. Singhania
6.	Larson & Toubro
7.	Mafatlal
8.	M.A., Chidambaram
9.	Hindustan Lever
10.	United Breweries
11.	T.V.S. Iyengar
12.	I.T.C.
13.	Sri Ram
14.	A.C.C.
15.	Essar
16.	R.P. Goenka
17.	Arvind Lalbhai

[English]

Freeze of MMTC fund by U.S.

*593. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "US adamant of freeing MMTC funds to Libya Co." appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated August 18, 1996,

(b) whether the United States of America has frozen 2.5 million dollars of Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. meant for payment of urea purchased from Libya;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to get the frozen amount released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). MMTC had opened a Letter of Credit for US \$2.5 million in favour of National Oil Company of Libya for purchase of 13,000 Metric Tonnes of urea, through Indian Overseas Bank. The urea was received in April 1996. The Letter of Credit was confirmed by the Union Bank of Switzerland. The Indian Overseas Bank routed the payment to Libya through Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, which has frozen the account.

Indian Overseas Bank has taken up the release of the above money to the National Oil Company of Libya through the Ministry of External Affairs.

MMTC has no further liability or role in this transaction.

[Translation]

Special Component Scheme of KVIC

*594 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for selection of the various districts by Khadi and Village Industries Commission under its special component scheme; and

(b) the districts selected under the said scheme, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Districts for implementing Special Employment Programme were selected taking into consideration the backwardness, the wage level and other infrastructure facilities for development of Khadi and Village Industries in the District.

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

List of 71 Selected Districts for Coverage Under the Special Employment Programme for Khadi and Village Industries

I. Andhra Pradesh

1. Kurnool
2. Adilabad
3. Mehboob Nagar
4. Prakasam
5. Kanmnagar
6. East Godavari
7. Srikakulam

II. Arunachal Pradesh

8. Changlang

III. Assam

9. Marigaon

10. Lakhimpur
- IV. Bihar**
11. Saharsa
12. Godda
13. Madhubani
14. Gaya
- V. Gujarat**
15. Banaskantha
16. Panchmahal
17. Kutch
- VI. Himachal Pradesh**
18. Chamba
- 1 9. Kully & Mandi
- VII. Haryana**
20. Rewari-Ambala
- VIII. Jammu & Kashmir**
21. Anant Nag
22. Jammu
- IX. Karnataka**
23. Kolar
24. Raichur
25. Dharwad
26. Chitradurga
- X. Kerala**
27. Alleppey
28. Pathanamthitta
29. Thrissur
30. Kozikode-Wyanad
- XI. Madhya Pradesh**
31. Sarguja
32. Bhind
33. Guna
34. Raipur
35. Jhabua-Dhar
36. Betul
- XII. Maharashtra**
37. Chandrapur
38. Yavatmal
39. Raigarh + Ratnagiri
40. Beed
41. Nanded
- XIII. Manipur**
42. Imphal
- XIV. Meghalaya**
43. East Garo Hills
- West Garo Hills
- South Garo Bills
- XV. Mizoram**
44. Lunglai & Aizwal
- XVI. Nagaland**
45. Dimapur & Kohima
- XVII. Orissa**
46. Kalahandi
47. Phulbani-Koraput
48. Dhenkanal-Kendrapada
- XVIII. Punjab**
49. Hosiarpur
- XIX. Rajasthan**
50. Dausa
51. Tonk
52. Udaipur
53. Jaipur
- XX. Tripura**
54. Tripura (West)
- XXI. Tamil Nadu**
55. Ramanathpuram
56. Tirunelveli
57. Dharampuri
58. North Arcot
59. South Arcot
- XXII. Uttar Pradesh**
60. Mau-Balia
61. Almora & Pithoragarh
62. Chamoli & Utrkashi
63. Mathura

64. Shahjajanpur

65. Jhansi

66. Jaunpur

XXIII. West Bengal

67. Birbhum

68. North 24 Parganas &

South 24 Parganas

69. Malda

70. Nadia

XXIV. Sikkim

71. Sikkim

[English]

Export of Turmeric

*595. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India enjoys the monopoly in turmeric in the world market and annual export of turmeric is around 5 per cent of its total production;

(b) if so, the reasons for this low percentage in the exports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of turmeric ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world accounting for 6.60 lakhs M.T. (1994-95). Our annual exports are 27000-28000 M.T., which is 4-5 per cent of the total domestic production.

(b) Domestic demand for turmeric in the country is very high due to its various applications in food/non-food segments. However, more than 70 per cent of the total world demand is met by the supplies from India.

(c) Some of the steps undertaken to boost exports of spices, including turmeric are sponsoring trade delegations abroad, inviting overseas buyers for interaction with exporters, participation in trade fairs, awarding of logo/spice house certificate in recognition of maintenance of quality, assistance for investment in processing facilities, providing financial assistance for setting up laboratories, technology transfer, process upgradation and product developments facilities.

Investment in Kuwait

*596. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian companies have applied for setting up their units in Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the total investment being made by the Indian investors;

(c) whether the Government have given permission to Indian Companies to set up their units in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). Approval has been granted to two Indian companies for setting up their units in Kuwait in the field of power, desalination plant and telecommunications. The total equity investment approved in these two units is equivalent to Rs. 179.52 lakhs. No application from Indian companies for making investment in Kuwait is pending.

Assistance to Exporters through Spices Board

*597. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Spices Board has formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance to the spice exporters;

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

(c) whether the quality of spices has lowered due to lack of high technique;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide grant-in-aid for setting up new technology to the spices processing industrialists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Spices Board is implementing a number of schemes with financial assistance for the benefits of exporters. These include :

(i) Grant-in-aid for technology transfer & process upgradation;

(ii) Reimbursement of air freight/courier for sending spice samples abroad;

(iii) Grant-in-aid for printing brochures

(iv) Providing interest free loan to exporters of spices with approved brands in consumer packs to create a brand image for branded consumer packs of spices in overseas markets;

(v) Grant-in-aid for developing consumer packs for export purpose;

(vi) Providing grant-in-aid for setting up/upgradation of quality control laboratories.

- (vii) Grant-in-aid for purchase of equipment for monitoring pesticide residue;
- (viii) Grant-in-aid for acquiring ISO 9000 accreditation;
- (ix) Providing assistance for constructing warehousing facilities at major spice producing centres;
- (x) Scheme for manufacturer exporters of spices for purchase of power generator;
- (xi) Scheme for installation of alternative power generating system by spice house certificate/logo awarded exporters;
- (xii) Reimbursement of part of the cost of packaging for, export of spices in logo packs.

(c) No Sir, on the country continued increase in exports of spices, particularly value added spices indicates an overall improvement in quality.

(d) and (e). Schemes implemented for technological and quality upgradation are :

- (1) The Board is providing financial assistance to spices processing units to adopt and absorb new technology to develop new products as per the market requirements and consumer expectations.
- (2) In order to equip exporters to have their own testing and analysing facilities, the Board is rendering following financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid :
 - (i) Purchase of basic testing and analysing facilities in the quality control laboratory;
 - (ii) Purchase of equipment for pesticide residue analysis;
 - (iii) Encouraging spices exporters to have ISO 9000 accreditation for their units through financial assistance.
- (3) Awarding Indian Spices Logo to exporters meeting quality standards of spices as a mark quality.
- (4) Awarding Spice House Certificate to exporters/processors having cleaning, grading, processing and warehouse packing facilities as a mark of producers of quality spices.

Diversification of Jute Industry

*598. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a decision has recently been taken to diversify the jute products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any 'Status paper' is being prepared which throws light on all the operational aspects of this sector, especially on the marketing of raw jute and role of Jute Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). In 1992 Government approved a 5 year national programme for jute sector with the financial assistance from UNDP. Under this programme an assistance of the order of US\$ 23 million from UNDP in conjunction with Government of India's matching contribution has been provided. The major objectives of this programme are to enhance the welfare of jute farmers by implementing schemes to improve productivity facilitate the diversification of the jute sector by developing new technology, promote employment opportunities by encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing facilities for jute-based items, assist development of the indigenous machinery manufacturing sector for catering to the diversified products programme both in the textile-related and non-textile areas and strengthen R&D efforts in these fields. As a part of this programme institutions are concentrating on product development based on new technologies and manufacturing process, new marketing strategies and R & D activities. At present, around 20 projects are under implementation at various stages of progress under this programme. Some of the ongoing various stages of progress under this programme. Some of the ongoing projects are use of jute for paper production, jute based needle-punched carpets, development of multi-component yarn from wool, jute and other fibres by using friction spinning technology for floor coverings, bankets and knitwear, human resource development etc.

(c) Two such status paper has been prepared under the UNDP Programme.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Companies in Non Priority Areas

*599 KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign companies to set up wholly owned subsidiaries in non-priority areas in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether Government have formulated guidelines for Foreign Investment Promotion Board in this regard and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have been allowing 100% Indian subsidiaries of the foreign companies as per the existing foreign investment policy, the sectoral policies and guidelines, the need for investment & technology for different sectors & the merit of the proposal submitted for consideration.

(c) and (d). Detailed guidelines are under preparation.

[Translation]

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna

*600 SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed to give employment to youths each year under PMRY;

(b) if so, the number of youths sanctioned loan so far during the Eighth Five Year Plan under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana State-wise;

(c) the average time taken by the banks to disburse the loan amount after the same is sanctioned by the District Industry Centre;

(d) whether Banks take their own time again in the name of scrutiny; and

(e) whether the Government propose to disburse loan by issue of demand draft by the District Industry Centres within the stipulated time ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The PMRY Scheme was launched on 2nd October, 1993. The Youth to be assisted for 1993-94 were 40,000 and, thereafter at the rate of 2,20,000 for each of the remaining 3 years. During 1995-96 a higher target of 2,60,000 was set to cover up the backlog of the previous two years. Each enterprise when operational was on the average estimated to provide employment to two persons. From the year 1993-94 upto 1995-96 the number of cases sanctioned is 5,27,125. For the year 1996-97 the cases as reported by the States/UTs have reached the sanction figure of 15,204.

(b) The number of youths sanctioned loan State-wise is annexed as Statement.

(c) and (d). The applicants are interviewed by Task Forces and thereafter the District Industry Centres sponsor the cases to the banks. Under PMRY as per Reserve Bank of India Instructions banks are to scrutinise and dispose the applications by way of sanction or otherwise, upto a credit of Rs. 25,000 within a fortnight and, applications above Rs. 25,000 within 8-9 weeks. After the sanction the applicant is given an Entrepreneurship training and, has to complete banking formalities prior to disbursement.

(e) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

Number of Persons Sanctioned Loan Under
Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

Sl. No.	State/UT	Applications Sanctioned by Banks (Nos.) for the year 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96	Applications Sanctioned by Banks (Nos.) for the year 1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55825	2722
2.	Assam	17074	42
3.	Bihar	31500	39
4.	Delhi	6528	235
5.	Goa	862	90
6.	Gujarat	16424	2013
7.	Haryana	14745	781
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5085	324
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4682	119
10.	Karnataka	32678	263
11.	Kerala	26853	487
12.	Madhya Pradesh	56398	688
13.	Maharashtra	71793	1240
14.	Manipur	3545	—
15.	Mizoram	498	—
16.	Orissa	14631	3
17.	Punjab	21949	333
18.	Rajasthan	19196	374
19.	Tamil Nadu	36617	1672
20.	Tripura	2178	27
21.	Uttar Pradesh	64379	2442
22.	West Bengal	18837	1240
23.	Andman & Nicobar	194	14
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	594	—
25.	Chandigarh	417	—
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	390	—
27.	Daman & Diu	208	7
28.	Nagaland	586	—
29.	Lakshadweep	45	—
30.	Meghalaya	1019	—
31.	Pondicherry	1151	—
32.	Sikkim	244	47
Total		527125	15204

*Ending July, 1996. Other States/UTs are for earlier months.

*[English]***Cotton Export Scam**

5582. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate has currently investigated a major cotton export scam involving crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the cartel of traders; and

(c) the effective measures taken to bring this cartel to book and prevent such scam in future ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Enforcement Directorate has taken up investigation of alleged over-invoicing of cotton exports. Action as warranted by the law is proposed to be taken.

(c) Strict vigil is kept by the Government through its enforcement agencies and action as envisaged under the law is taken as and when any contravention is detected.

Tuticorin Port

5583. SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare the Tuticorin Port as Free Port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). An advisory Committee set up to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Free Port in India has recommended Goa as a suitable location for setting up of a Free Port. The Committee has also suggested Tuticorin as a suitable site for a second Free Port on the east coast. No definite time frame can be indicated for a final decision in this regard.

*[Translation]***Export by Foreign Companies**

5584. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several foreign companies have entered into industry and trade of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such companies set up under the liberalised economic policy of the Government during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there has been any increase in the export from the country as a result of the above;

(d) if so, to what extent these companies have helped in the said increase in export and the country benefited due to entry of foreign companies in India.

(e) whether any assessment has been made or proposed to be made in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the foreign exchange earned as profit and sent outside India by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g). Yes Sir, as per information available, 1540 cases were approved in 1993-94, 1997 cases were approved in 1994-95 and 2398 cases were approved in 1995-96. Of the above, only 63 cases are bound by an export obligation against the foreign collaboration approval. However, in view of the gestation time taken by the projects for starting commercial production, export performance reports are not available from the parties so far. As per information available from Reserve Bank of India, profit/dividend remitted by Indian companies having non-resident interest for the year 93-94 and 94-95 are as follows :

(Rs. in Thousands)	
1993-94	48,88,680/-
1994-95	18,35,941/-

*[English]***Captive Coal Washeries**

5585. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the cement industry to set up captive coal washeries;

(b) if so, the number of coal washeries proposed to be set up by the coal based cement manufacturing units; and

(c) the details of the places where these coal washeries are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). A techno-economic study on coal washeries for cement industry conducted by the Ministry of Industry through Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI) has recommended setting up of five coal washeries at Sasti (Western Coalfields Ltd.), Dipika (South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.), Bina (Northern Coalfields Ltd.), Urimiri (Central Coalfields Ltd.), and Bhubaneswari (Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.). The Cement Manufacturers Association is negotiating with a Build-Own-Operate (BOO) contractor to set up a washery at Dipika for meeting the coal requirement of cement plants in Bilaspur cluster of Madhya Pradesh. Western Coalfields Ltd./Coal India Ltd. are proposing to set up another coal washery at Sasti, Maharashtra on BOO basis. At present, there is no concrete proposal from cement industry to set up the remaining three coal washeries.

Cases pending with CAT

5586. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the cases filed against the Coal Controller, Calcutta by the employees, pending with the Central Administrative Tribunal as on date;

(b) the number of the judgements awarded by the Central Administrative Tribunal which have not been implemented so far by the Coal Controller, Calcutta;

(c) the reasons for not implementation of the judgements of CAT;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the officers responsible for non-implementation of the Tribunal awards; and

(e) the efforts taken for the settling the cases through conciliation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Four cases filed against the Coal Controller by the employees of the Office of the Coal Controller are pending with the Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta.

(b) No judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Calcutta is pending for implementation by the Coal Controller.

(c) to (e). Do not arise, in view of (b) above.

[Translation]

Industry in Backward Areas in Bihar

5587. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the assets, business and profit earned during the year 1995-96 and till June, 1996 by 25 top business houses;

(b) whether any of these industrial Houses has sent the proposal for setting up an industry in the backward areas in the country, particularly in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Large Industrial Houses are no longer required to be registered with the Central Government, and as such the list of assets, and profit earned by large industrial houses/monopoly houses are not centrally maintained.

(b) and (c). During 1.4.95 to 30.6.96 out of 7358 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed, 60 were filed for locating industries in Bihar.

[English]

Restructuring of PESB

5588. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings Officers Association has submitted any Memorandum for restructuring of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB);

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

(c) the number of Board level vacancies exist sector-wise in the PSUs and the likely vacancies during the current year;

(d) whether board level vacancies are unfilled for over a year to two years and two years and above; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay in filling up the vacant posts ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As per available information, 108 Board level posts of chief executives and functional directors were lying vacant in various Central Public Sector Undertakings as on 1.7.1996. The schedule wise break up of these vacancies is given below :

Schedule A : 07

Schedule B : 52

Schedule C : 38

Schedule D : 11

24 vacancies are likely to occur during the remaining period of the current year.

(d) Yes, Sir. A few of these posts are lying vacant for more than 1 year and 2 years.

(e) Board level posts are filled up in accordance with a prescribed procedure which includes selection by the Public Enterprises Selection Board and appointment by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments. Completion of all the requisite formalities takes more time in some cases.

Scope of Joint Ventures

5589. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy on foreign participation has been relaxed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to widen the scope of foreign tie-ups; and

(d) the details of the programme drawn up by the Government in this regard for 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). The Foreign Direct Investment Policy as enumerated is constantly under review to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

MFN Status to India

5590. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries which have accorded Most Favoured Nation status to India so far;

(b) the countries with which negotiations are on at present to get such MFN status.; and

(c) the details of progress made in respect of trade conducted by India with countries who have accorded MFN status to India so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As provided in Article I of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), all countries that are members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are obligated to extend the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to each other. As on 26 July 1996, the membership of the WTO stood at 123 countries.

In addition, the non-WTO member countries which accord MFN treatment to imports from India under bilateral agreements are Afghanistan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Moldova, Oman, Republic of Yeman, Russia, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Amongst the WTO members, Pakistan does not accord MFN treatment to imports from India. This issue has been taken up bilaterally with Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

(c) During 1995-96, India's exports rose to Rs. 106.465 crore from a level of Rs. 82,674 crore in 1994-95. India's imports in 1995-96 aggregated to Rs. 121,647 crore in comparison to Rs. 89,971 crore in 1994-95. During 1995-96, India's exports countries that accord MFN status to India accounted for over 90 per cent of the country's aggregate exports.

Assets of Industrial Houses

5591. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the position of the top twenty industrial houses in the country as per their total assets ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : No data of industrial houses as per their

assets are maintained by the Department of Income Tax or by the Department of Company Affairs.

[*Translation*]

Recovery of Loan from Agriculture and Industrial Sectors

5592. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative details regarding recovery of bank loans industrial and agriculture sector as on July 31, 1996. State wise, with particular reference to Rajasthan;

(b) the details of loans given to agricultural and industrial sectors in the States separately particularly in Rajasthan during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the loans to agriculture sector ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they do not have State-wise details regarding recovery of bank loans in industrial and agriculture sectors and also the State-wise details of loans given to these sectors. However, the details of overdues as a percentage of outstanding advances of Public Sector Banks to large and medium industries and agriculture as on September 1994 (latest available) is as given below :

Sector	Overdues as a percentage of outstanding advances
Large and Medium Industries	15.76
Agriculture	24.95

The position in respect of advances of scheduled commercial banks to Agriculture and Industrial Sectors as on the last Friday of the quarter ended June for the last 3 years is as under :—

	(Rs. in crore)		
	Position as on the last Friday of June		
	1993	1994	1995
1. <i>Agriculture and Allied Activities</i> :			
Advances	526	702	1185
Sanctioned			
Outstanding	312	414	672
2. <i>Industrial Sector</i> :			
Advances	41557	53079	62247
Sanctioned			
Outstanding	29060	28973	37473

(c) RBI has reported that a number of steps have been taken to increase the flow of credit to agriculture sector which, *inter alia*, include :

- (i) Within the overall target of 40 per cent to priority sector, 18 per cent of net bank credit is earmarked for agriculture. Public Sector Banks which have not achieved the agricultural lending sub-target of 18 per cent of net bank credit as on the last Friday of December, 1994, are required to make contributions to the Rural Infrastructural Development Fund equivalent to the shortfall in achieving the sub-target subject to a maximum of 1.5 per cent of their net bank credit;
- (ii) Prescription of scales of finance for crop loans worked out for each district and their uniform adoption by banks;
- (iii) Disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks;
- (iv) Commercial banks to set up at least one specialised Agricultural Finance Branch in each State to deal with high tech agricultural loans;
- (v) Introduction of the Agricultural Credit Card for farmers with good track record to enable them to secure production credit from banks without procedural formalities each season; and
- (vi) Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the rural branch managers so that majority of loan applications from weaker sections are sanctioned at branch level itself.

[English]

Waiver of Bank Loans to Sugar Mills

5593. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount of loan extended by different public sector banks to the sugar mills and is due as on date;
- (b) whether the Government have taken a decision to waive the loan taken by those sugar mills; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by banks in that direction so far ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per information available from Reserve Bank of India, the Gross Bank Credit of Sugar Industry of all scheduled commercial banks, outstanding as on the last Friday of March 1995, was Rs. 3007 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance to Projects

5594. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the amount provided by IDBI/ICICI/IFCI and other financial institutions for the projects sanctioned by or sponsored through the national Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during each of the last three years, project-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI), Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) have reported that they have not received any proposals for sanction of financial assistance to projects sanctioned by or sponsored through the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.

Sonepur Bazari Open Cast Project

5595. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the present position of the Sonepur-Bazan Open Cast Project;
- (b) whether this project is running behind time schedule;
- (c) if so, the details therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In Sonepur Bazari Opencast project of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL), initial delay of about 6 years occurred due to delay in getting physical possession of land and the work at the project could not be started as per project report approved by Govt. in July, 1983. After possession of land, the implementation of the project is progressing satisfactorily and as per revised cost estimate sanctioned by the Govt. in January, 1995, the project is expected to be completed by March, 1997 as per revised schedule.

Capital Market

5596. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the foreign investors have shown their reluctance to invest in the Indian capital market;
- (b) if so, whether any memorandum has been received by the Government in this regard ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The net investments made by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) during the last three years and the first quarter of the current year have been as follows :

Year	Dollar Million
1993-94	1634.1
1994-95	1528.3
1995-96	2035.7
1996-97	1078.6
April-June 1996	

Net investments by FIIs have been increasing each year.

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

[Translation]

Duty Draw Back Scheme for Carpets

5597. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Carpet Export Promotion Council has made a request to his ministry in July, 1996 to provide Duty Draw Back Scheme for carpets and other floorings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) submitted a representation to Minister of Commerce on 3.7.96 demanding, *inter alia*, upward revision of All Industry Duty Drawback Rates for carpets and other floor coverings.

(c) Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Revenue) vide their notification No. 40/96-CUSTOMS (N.T.) dated 2.8.96 revised the duty draw back rates w.e.f. 25.3.95 from 5.5% of FOB value to 7% of FOB value for carpets and other floor coverings.

[English]

Refinancing Facilities by NABARD

5598. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provide refinance assistance for setting up cottage, tiny and village industries; and

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided by NABARD to West Bengal for the purpose during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance assistance to banks for financing of cottage, tiny and village industries under its non-farm sector schemes.

The details of the refinance assistance provided by NABARD in West Bengal during the last three years for the purpose is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Amount of Refinance provided under non-farm sector	Of which amount provided for cottage/tiny/village industries
1993-94	965	753
1994-95	1371	921
1995-96	1379	751

Export of Woollen Garments

5599. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. has imposed any curbs on the export of woollen garments from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and present position of the same; and

(c) the terms and conditions for the original agreement for the export of woollen garments from India to U.S. ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). Under the provisions of the Indo-US textile agreement and the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of the Uruguay Round, the U.S. Government had imposed unilateral restraints (quotas) in 1995 on the import of woollen garments from India in categories 434 (Gents Coats); 435 (Ladies Coats) and 440 (Woven Shirts and Blouses), since the U.S. felt that the sharp and substantial increase in imports of these products from India was causing serious damage or actual threat thereof to their industry producing these woollen garments.

Under the provisions of the ATC, the Textiles Monitoring Body (TMB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) had reviewed the U.S. action. The unilateral restraints imposed by the U.S. on categories 434 and 435 have since been dropped. In respect of category 440, Government have taken up the issue in the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO and a Panel has been set up by the DSB to give its findings in the matter. The first substantive meeting of the Panel has been held on September 9 and 10, 1996 and further hearing in the matter would be held by the D.S.B. shortly.

(c) The Indo-US bilateral textile agreement, which was signed under the aegis of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA), which was valid till December 31, 1994, covered woollen garments under Group III. Though there was no restraint on the exports of woollen garments to the USA before 1995; there was a provision in the bilateral textile agreement for introducing restraints at any stage, subject to the fulfilment of the provisions of the MFA.

Venture Capital Fund

5600. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the broad guidelines for providing venture capital fund formulated by Industrial Development Bank of India.

(b) the details of projects sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the funds released therefor so far.

(c) the number out of them reached at completion stage and the extent of success thereof;

(d) the number of projects yet to receive the required fund for completion; and

(e) the steps taken by IDBI for monitoring the progress of projects and to remove the problems thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the main features of IDBI's guidelines for providing assistance under the Venture Capital Fund (VCF) scheme are as follows :

(A) The borrower should be an industrial concern as defined under section 2 (c) of IDBI Act, 1964

(B) Assistance is to be provided for :

- (i) The Development and commercialisation of indigenous technologies or,
- (ii) Adaptation/modification to process/product based on imported technologies, and/or
- (iii) Development of innovative products, articles, appliances and services which are in their early stages of life cycles, and/or
- (iv) Ventures promoted by entrepreneurs having track record of proven leadership qualities and sound business ideas for projects, which demonstrate high growth and more than normal returns on investment.

In addition to high technology ventures, all types of innovative products/services which have high potential for growth are covered under the VCF scheme. Ventures which may not be first in technology but would be one of the first few with potential for substantial return would also be covered.

(C) The project cost should normally be less than Rs. 5 crores.

(b) to (d). IDBI has reported that 78 projects have so far been sanctioned during the Eighth Five Year Plan period and an amount of Rs. 53.43 crores has been disbursed to these projects. Out of the above 78 projects, 46 ventures have been completed of which 26 ventures are successful. IDBI has further reported that 32 projects are under implementation.

(e) The following steps have been taken by IDBI for monitoring the projects and rectifying the problems:

- (i) Periodic progress reports are obtained and scrutinised
- (ii) Site visits are undertaken to monitor the progress during the implementation period and thereafter for monitoring the performance of the venture;
- (iii) Holding discussions with the promoters.
- (iv) Appointing nominee directors on the Board of Directors of the assisted venture

Closure of Coal Mines

5601. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the names of coal mines closed in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, as on June 30, 1996,

(b) whether the Government propose to reopen any of these closed coal mines,

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

(d) the quantum of coal blocked in these closed mines,

(e) the value of the same in the present market price,

(f) the number of workers rendered jobless/surplus due to closure of these mines; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The names of coal mines closed in Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 30.6.96, since nationalisation are given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c). CIL does not have any proposal for immediate reopening of any of the closed mines listed in the annexure since the mines have been closed for reasons of exhaustion of extractable reserves, safety considerations and economic non-viability.

(d) and (e). The quantum of extractable coal blocked in these mines, other than those where extractable reserves are exhausted and its value are 31.77 Million Tonnes and Rs. 2408.55 crores respectively.

(f) and (g). No worker was rendered jobless due to closure of mines since the workers were deployed gainfully in other working mines.

STATEMENT

Details of mines closed since nationalisation upto 30.6.96

ECL (54)

- 1 Sanctoria
- 2 East Jamehari

3. Ratibati 5 & 6
4. KLS Chalbalpur
5. Chalbalpur Khas
6. New Jemehari Khas
7. Pure Searsole
8. Damoda
9. Seetaldasji
10. Belrui Disergarh
11. North Brock
12. Gogia/Adjoy Bank
13. Manderboni 1, 2 & 4
14. Deoli
15. B. Dhemo/Ramjibanpur
16. Banksimulia 7 & 8
17. Brights Rana
18. Madhusudanpur 1 & 2
19. Central Jamuria
20. Nabakajora/
Ghanasyam
21. Jote Janki
22. Ratibati OC
23. Purusottarpur OC
24. Nimcha OC
25. Sheedpur OC
26. Mahabir OC
27. New/Central satgram
28. Alkusha Gopalpur OC
29. Benalee
30. Kenda/Dobrana OC
31. Darula
32. Krishna Nagar
33. Seetalpur
34. Shankarpur
35. Ginmint
36. Rana
37. Mahabir
38. Kankartalla 1&2
39. Tara

40. Dhandadih OC
 41. Barmondia
 42. Dabor OC
 43. Gangaram Chak
 44. Poidih OC
 45. Ranipur
- NCL (NIL)**
46. Dalurband OC
 47. Palasthali
 48. Chapapur-1
 49. Badjna/Pusar OC
 50. Kapsara OC
 51. Laimatia JG
 52. Laimatia OC
 53. Shampur-A
 54. Dalmiya OC

BCCL (16)

1. Murlidih
2. Bera OC
3. Ena
4. Basdeopur OC
5. Laxmi OC
6. Tasra OC
7. Jhunkundar OC
8. Victoria
9. Kankanee
10. Kenduadih
11. Dharmaband
12. South Tisra
13. Kujama
14. Gaslitand
15. Bhurungia
16. Teturiya

SECL (15)

1. Domnara OC
2. Burhar No. 3
3. Rungta
4. North Jhakrakhand

5. Burhar No. 1
6. Pure Chirimiri
7. Korba 1 & 2
8. Korba 3 & 4
9. Chachai OC
10. Banki 5 & 6
11. Jarwahi OC
12. New Jhimar
13. Banki 7 & 8
14. S. Jhakrahand-Old
15. Ramnagar

MCL (NIL)**WCL (30)**

1. Barkuhi UG
2. Barkuhi West UG
3. Bhamori Jhantachapa
4. Datla East UG
5. Datla West
6. Dhao
7. Shibpuri OC
8. Ghorawari Hirdagar
9. Ghorawari Kalan
10. Ballarpur OC
11. Kalichapar
12. Newton Chikli
13. N. Chandametta
14. Nandora
15. Sial Ghogri

16. Nakoda OC
17. Sasti Pit
18. Ballarpur 1 & 2
19. Robartson Inc./
Beloora Inc./
Ghughus
20. Konda OC
21. New Majri No. 1
22. Dhuptala OC
23. Shibpuri-2 OC
24. Taroda OC
25. Sethia OC
26. Bellorra OC
27. New Dhuptala RPR OC
28. Rakhicole
29. Chikalmau
30. Umrer

CCL (10)

1. Semra
2. Pakri Barwadih
3. Sugia OC
4. Pure Dhori
5. Mael UG
6. Chalkari
7. Karkatta
8. Dhodidih
9. Gidhania
10. Rauta

NEC (NIL)**10th Finance Commission**

5602. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reconstituted Planning Commission propose to implement the 10th Finance Commission's recommendations regarding the pooling of all Central taxes for sharing with the States;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if so, the time-frame fixed for it ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Planning Commission has not taken a view regarding implementation of the 10th

Finance Commission's recommendations regarding the pooling of the Central taxes for sharing with the States. However, Government of India is examining this recommendation of the 10th Finance Commission. This recommendation will require consultation with States followed by Constitutional amendment, if necessary.

Import of Rubber

5603. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of natural rubber has taken place under advance licence, without duty, during 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date; and

(b) if so, the quantum of rubber imported during the above period, company-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. natural rubber is allowed for import under the Advance Licensing Scheme without payment of basic customs duty for manufacture and export of products where it is required as an input material.

(b) No separate data for import of any specific commodity, including natural rubber, is maintained company-wise, under the Advance Licensing Scheme. However, total quantities and values of imports of natural rubber (including natural rubber imported under the Advance Licensing Scheme) during the period 1995-96 and 1996-97 till June, 96 are as follows :

Period	Quantity in MT Quantity	Value in Rs. Lakhs Value
AM95-96	50728	27,582.73
1996-97 till June'96	3680	2,303.63

(Source : DGCI&S)

Looksan Tea Estate of TTCI

5604. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Looksan Tea Estate under Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) is in deplorable condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand-over this Estate to any other organisations under his Ministry.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to revive the above Tea Estate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). There are five tea gardens with the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI). All these gardens, including the Looksan Tea Estate, are suffering cash losses. In view of persistent losses suffered by these gardens it had been decided to dispose them of, including Looksan Tea Estate, throughout right sale. Following this, Looksan Tea Estate, was offered to M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. who were the highest bidder for the tea estate. The sale process could not however, be completed due to court cases and financial problems faced by Andrew Yule & Co.

Government are keen to complete the process of sale of the gardens including Looksan Tea Estate as early as possible and all possible steps are being taken to expedite the sale process. In the meanwhile, salaries/wages, rations

etc. of the workers of Looksan Tea Estate have been paid by TTCI upto August, 1996.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Export Promotion Parks in U.P.

5605. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Government for setting up Export Promotion Industrial Parks in Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the estimated cost of the above parks and the extent of State Governments participation therein; and

(c) the details of objectives of these Parks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Allocation of funds for setting of Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIPS) is not made state-wise. An amount of Rs. 91 lakhs was released in 1995-96 to Government of Uttar Pradesh for the EPIP at Surajpur-Kasna, Greater Noida. No proposal has so far been received, on the basis of progress of implementation for release of Central Grant during 1996-97.

(b) The project proposal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh envisages the share of State Government, in the total estimated cost of the Park of Rs. 20.19 crores, to be Rs. 5.19 crores.

(c) The objectives of the EPIP include involving the State Governments in export efforts and building up of infrastructure facilities for export oriented production.

[*English*]

Delicensing of Liquor Industry

5606. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to delicense the liquor industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loan from Financial Institutions for Industrial Growth in Assam

5607. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial assistance from the All India Financial Institutions for the industrial growth in the State of Assam has been on the decline over the years.

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government while considering the backwardness of the State of Assam, proposed any modification of the norms of lending by the financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that during the last three years, there is an overall increasing trend in the institutional assistance sanctioned to projects in Assam. The details of financial assistance provided by All India Financial Institutions to industries in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

Year	Sanctioned	(Rs. crores)	
		Sanctioned	Disbursed
1993-94	62.00		75.62
1994-95	114.31		65.20
1995-96	639.77		120.05

(c) and (d). IDBI has reported that the decision to locate a project in a particular State/Region vests with the promoters and they in turn are guided by such factors as availability of infrastructure, raw materials, skilled labour, proximity of the location to the market for their products and incentives from the State Government. Financial Institutions assess the location from the angle of its suitability to the project.

IDBI has further reported that all financially, economically, commercially viable and technically feasible projects are supported by institutions irrespective of their location.

Extra Charges on Premiums of L.I.C.

5608. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether extra 5% is being charged on premiums by LIC when a policy holder pays monthly premiums instead of quarterly ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in case of discontinuance of policy before its paid-up stage, the capital amount is refunded only after the period of its maturity to the policy holders;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The premium tables are prepared by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on quarterly basis. These rates are adjusted for yearly, half-

yearly and monthly quotations. The tabular rates without any charge are used for monthly payment through Salary Saving Scheme because of bulk business. However, 5% extra is charged in cases where payments are made through bank order or debit instruction, to meet the expenses on extra work load on administration and loss of interest.

(c) and (d). The premium paid by a policyholder in the first three years is just adequate to meet the procurement cost and administrative expenses such as medical Examination Fees, Stamp Duty, stationery costs, etc. Therefore, the policy does not acquire any paid-up or surrender value, which can be paid either immediately or on maturity date under such policies.

(e) Does not arise.

Bank Frauds

5609. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 457 on March 1, 1996 regarding fraud in Banks and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Information received from Reserve Bank of India regarding cases of issue of cheque books and encashment of cheques on forged signatures/requisition slip that took place in the public and private sector banks in Delhi from September, 1995 to February, 1996 is given in the Statement attached.

While the precautions to be observed for the issue/safe custody/payment of cheque books/drafts are incorporated in the manuals/books of instructions of banks, Reserve Bank of India also advises the banks from time to time regarding precautions to be taken in this regard. The Ghosh Committee has, in its report, also made a number of recommendations/suggestions and the banks have been advised to implement these recommendations. The banks have been mainly advised :

(i) to exercise due caution for verification of the drawer's signatures, custody of specimen signature cards, supervision over issue of cheque books and control over custody of blank cheques books/leaves;

(ii) to introduce a practice of examining cheques/drafts for large amounts under ultra violet ray lamps,

(iii) to treat blank draft and mail transfer forms as security items and usual precautions for such instruments should be exercised in regard to their custody and issue;

(iv) that amounts on draft/mail transfer may be written by protectograph machines or pin point typewriters or similar other suitable device to minimise the chances of their being chemically altered. At smaller branches

where the drafts are written in hand, reverse carbon should be used on the reverse of the instruments.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Name of Bank	No. of cases of issue of cheque books and encashment of cheques on forged signatures/requisition slips in Delhi during 1.9.95 to 29.2.1996	Nature of such cases in brief (Case-wise)	Action taken (Case-wise)
1	2	3	4
1. Vijaya Bank	one	Cheque book was issued by Barakhamba branch to an imposter on forged requisition slip and the culprit withdrew Rs. 9000 by forging the signature of the account holder.	Police complaint lodged on 15.11.95
2. Dena Bank	one	A cheque book on the basis of a fake requisition slip was issued. 5 cheques amounting to Rs. 2 lakhs were paid by Rajendra Place, N. Delhi branch	Action is being initiated against staff member.
3. Bank of India	one	A cheque book on forged requisition slip was issued and two cheques for Rs. 60,000 were fraudulently encashed from Friends Colony branch, N. Delhi	Matter reported to police. Z.O. is investigating. Bank will reimburse the amount if forgery is established.
4. Central Bank of India	Two	One cheque book each was issued by Parliament Street and Connaught Place branches against forged requisition slips.	Culprit was arrested. Complaint lodged with police. No loss suffered.
5. Punjab National Bank	One	2 cheques for Rs. 65,000/- from two closed Saving A/cs were paid at Delhi Cantt. branch. Later it transpired that the signatures were forged	Three staff members are suspended and explanation called for. Explanation also called from 3 other staff.
6. Punjab and Sind Bank	One	Two cheque books of 100 leaves each were issued to a firm. Subsequently on the basis of requisition slip from the first cheque book another cheque book was issued to a person. Rs. 2.15 lakhs were withdrawn on different dates by 6 cheques from this cheque book.	(i) The earning official has been transferred to non-operational area and charge sheet issued. (ii) FIR has been lodged by the firm.

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Allahabad Bank	One	Cheque book on forged requisition slip issued by Parliament Street branch. 2 cheques for Rs. 1.30 lakhs were encashed. Signatures were cleverly forged and tallied with the genuine ones.	Based on the investigation report accountability is being fixed.
8.	Bank of Maharashtra	—	The type of frauds under reference have not occurred in the bank. The bank has however reported that on 22 occasions, amount aggregating Rs. 61, 850/- were withdrawn from two a/cs maintained with Vivek Vihar Branch by forging signatures on withdrawal slips. Similarly on three different occasions, amount of Rs. 5500 was withdrawn from one a/c maintained in Connaught Place branch, New Delhi.	Investigation is in progress.
9.	State Bank of India	Two	(i) Cheque book was issued by Indra Prashtha branch on request letter purportedly issued by an account holder. Two cheques aggregating Rs. 41,000 were paid through cash and clearing. (ii) A cheque book was issued by Parliament House branch on 9.7.91. Two cheques for Rs. 2.45 lakhs and Rs. 1.98 lakhs were paid through clearing to the Deogragh branch and Telemotho branch of Bank of India. Receipt of cheque book and issue of cheques disputed by drawer.	Explanation of official called for. Official replaced and investigation has been ordered.
10.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	Two	(i) Cheque book was issued against forged requisition slip by Karolbagh branch and 7 cheques aggregating Rs. 4,40,000/- encashed by forging signature. (ii) Another cheque book was issued by the Karolbagh to employees of a firm who fraudulently encashed several cheques aggregating Rs. 2,90,500 through clearing.	The culprit was nabbed and handed over to police. No amount recovered. Complaint lodged with police. Culprits arrested. Rs. 2.23 lakhs recovered. Articles worth Rs. 25000 seized by police.

Foreign Direct Investment

5610. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign direct investment to the tune of 51% of equity in unlisted companies by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the apprehensions expressed by the industry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government are taking to allay such apprehensions ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Export of Synthetic and Rayon Textiles

5611. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of synthetic and rayon textiles exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned during the above period and the net profits therefrom; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to enhance the export of synthetic and rayon textiles in future ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA)

(a) and (b). The export of synthetic and rayon textiles during the last three years have been as follows :

	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Million US \$)
1993-94	113871	587.81
1994-95	149386	784.59
1995-96	169580	935.21

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to increase the exports of synthetic and rayon textiles, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc

Acquisition of Land by CIL

5612. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land acquired by the subsidiary units of Coal India Limited after the nationalisation of the coal industry alongwith the area of land on which possession has not been given so far, subsidiary-wise;

(b) the number of families displaced as a result of this in each subsidiary, separately;

(c) the policy adopted for providing compensations and employment to these families;

(d) the number of families provided employment and compensation in each subsidiary, separately;

(e) the amount provided as compensation, unit-wise; and

(f) the number of remaining displaced families which are yet to be provided employment and compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Electronic Voting Machines

5613. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 15 lakhs electronic voting machines worth about 75 crores of rupees were purchased in 1989 and were utilised during the elections;

(b) if so, the utility assumed in respect of the size of ballot papers, problems of their printing problems related to booth capturing, fake voting, sealing of ballot boxes and counting of votes and the experiences came across in each case separately;

(c) whether the Election Commission had again recommended the purchase and use of electronic voting machines in the elections in 1991 and 1993;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on both methods, the electronic voting machines system and present system in the elections of a common parliamentary constituency; and

(f) the comparative expenditure likely to be incurred in the process of these machines are used in the elections of two parliamentary constituencies and two legislative constituencies in the same area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). 1.5 lakh electronic voting machines were purchased in 1989 at a cost of around Rs. 75 crore but these machines have not been used so far. In case the machines are used, no ballot papers or ballot boxes would

be needed. On the contrary these would facilitate quick counting after the polls and also help in checking booth capturing.

(c) The Election Commission in 1991 had recommended to Government the purchase of additional electronic voting machines to cover the entire country.

(d) In May 1993, Government requested the Election Commission to use the available electronic voting machines to the extent feasible in the Assembly elections that were then to be held for Delhi as also in other elections in order to demonstrate the reliability and versatility of the machines.

(e) and (f). Data relating to comparative expenditure are not available. However, it is expected that the use of electronic voting machines would, in the long run, reduce Government expenses on elections.

Value of Rupee

5614. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a decline in the value of Indian rupee during the last month of February in comparison to that of the American dollar, Pound, Sterling, Deutsche Mark, Frank and Yen;

(b) whether the rate of export growth was 22.1 per cent in terms of dollar during April, 1995 to January, 1996 whereas the rate of import growth was 30.1 resulting in heavy decrease in the foreign exchange reserves;

(c) whether the average bank loans of Government increased by 11.7 per cent last year; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The table below shows the monthly average value of the Indian rupee in comparison to the foreign currencies mentioned in the question, during January and February 1996 :

	Rupee per Unit of foreign currency (Average of buying and selling rates)	
	Jan., 1996	Feb., 1996
American dollar	35.738	36.634
Pound Sterling	54.769	56.272
Deutsche Mark	24.514	24.989
Frank	7.133	7.271
Yen	33.910	34.630
(Rupees per 100 Yen)		

The above table shows that value of the Indian rupee declined in February, 1996 in comparison to January, 1996.

(b) There was a decline in foreign exchange reserves during April 95-January, 96 partly in reflection of booyant economic activities resulting in import growth in excess of export growth. Movement in the foreign exchange reserves during any period broadly reflects all external transactions recorded in the country's Balance of Payment and not only trade transactions. During April 1995 to January 1996, apart from the trade deficit, there was a moderation in capital inflows and higher debt servicing payments, which also contributed to the decline in the foreign exchange reserves of India. Part of the reserve loss was recovered during March, 96.

(c) Net Bank Credit (both of Reserve Bank and other banks) to Government (Centre and State) increased by 9.1 per cent in 1994-95 and 15.7 per cent in 1995-96

(d) Government is making every effort to reduce expenditure and increase revenue.

Justice to the Farm Labourers

5615. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts are being made by the Government for providing cheaper and prompt justice to the farm labourers and small farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). Under Section 12(h) of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which has been brought into force with effect from 9th November, 1995, every person, including farm labourers and small farmers, who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services if that person is in receipt of annual income less than Rs. 9,000/- or such other high amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs. 12,000/- or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government, if the case is before the Supreme Court.

[English]

Allocation of Coal

5616. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation of coal is made on linkage and sponsorship basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) As per the distribution policy, coal supplies are arranged only to actual consumers of coal as per linkages established and/or sponsorship issued by the sponsoring authorities. Linkages to consumers in the power sector are being given by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) set up by the Government in the Ministry of Coal. All consumers in the Steel Sector are given linkages by Linkage Committees set up by the Ministry of Steel. Similarly, all consumers in Cement Sector are given linkages by a Linkage Committee set up by the Government in the Ministry of Coal. Other consumers in the non-core sector i.e. industries other than power, cement and iron and steel are given linkages by a Linkage committee set up by the coal companies themselves. However, a No Objection Certificate is required to be obtained from the Government whenever the coal companies wish to give a linkage for a quantity of more than 5000 tonnes per month in favour of such consumers.

[Translation]

Job to Youth in Industries

5617. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of youths likely to get jobs in the industries set up by the Union Government and industrialists and the target fixed, if any, in this regard; and

(b) the number of persons likely to get jobs in the industrial sector in the coming years alongwith the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The rate of growth of employment generation in industrial, or in any other sector is contingent upon pace and pattern of the GDP growth in the sector. Projections for future are made as part of Five Year Plan exercises. The Eighth Five Year Plan had targetted an employment growth of 3.7% per annum in the manufacturing sector.

[English]

Article 371-F

5618. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have replaced the old laws of Sikkim like Income Tax Manual of 1940s without the consent of the people of Sikkim; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D.

KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Sir, the Central Acts are generally extended to the State of Sikkim in consultation with the Government of that State. However, keeping in view the overall national interest the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 and the Gift-tax Act, 1958 were extended to that State without the concurrence of the State Government in exercise of the powers conferred under clause (n) of article 371-F of the Constitution.

[Translation]

Sand Policy

5619. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new policy has been formulated to extract the sand in U.P.;

(b) if so, the districts where leases have been awarded by the Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether the leases have also been awarded in Jalaur, Banda, Fatehpur and Allahabad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the date by which the leases will be awarded ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The subject matter does not relate to this Ministry. Information is being collected from the Ministry of Mines and the UP State Government and would be placed before Parliament on receipt at the earliest.

Agro Based Industries in Rural Areas

5620. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government to set up agro-based industries in rural areas during the year 1995-96, State-wise; and

(b) the success achieved by the Government so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Import of Machine for Hydel Power Scheme

5621. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals/memoranda from the State Government of Gujarat in regard to import of machinery from abroad for Hydel Power Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard, so far; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised and the reasons for the delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Illegal Export of Cloth

5622. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some persons have been arrested in Gujarat for indulging in illegal export of cloth and readymade garments,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons out of them arrested under FERA;

(d) whether some Custom officials are also involved in these irregularities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons involved in these illegal exports ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No Sir.

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

[English]

U.T.I.

5623. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India propose to split its corpus and fund management activities into five to six distinct operating units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Unit Trust of India (UTI) has no corpus of its own. UTI currently manages schemes, with each scheme having its own corpus and separate identity. Accounts of every scheme are required to be maintained separately under the UTI Act. UTI has also planned an organisational restructuring to be in conformity with the regulatory requirements of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

[Translation]

Reservation for Ex-servicemen in CIL

5624. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies belonging to Ex-servicemen under the different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and the details of allocation of work to these companies during the last three years company-wise;

(b) whether work allocation is being made to those companies also which are not following the norms laid down by the Government ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the persons responsible for the said allocations of work alongwith the action proposed to be taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) During the last three years, 91 transport companies of ex-servicemen were engaged in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. The subsidiary-wise break up is as under :

Name of the coal company	No. of ex-servicemen transport companies
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	10
Central Coalfields Ltd	18
Western Coalfields Ltd.	9
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	24
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	30
Total	91

Details of allocation of work to these companies during the last three years, company-wise are furnished in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c). Transport Companies of ex-servicemen are engaged by the coal companies on the basis of sponsorship of Directorate General, Resettlement of the the Ministry of Defence.

STATEMENT

List of Ex-Servicemen Companies

Name of the Ex-Servicemen Companies	Allocation of work during last 3 years
1	2
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	
1. M/s. Pragati Carriers (P) Ltd., Dhanbad.	Block-II
2. M/s Ex-Servicemen Patiliputra Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Block-II/Sijua
3. M/s. Jai Jawan Coal Carriers (P) Ltd., Dhanbad	Block-II
4. Keonjeon Coal Carriers (P) Ltd., Govindpur	Govindpur Area
5. M/s. Karanpura Transport Co., Dhanbad	Barora/Bastacolla & Lodna
6. M/s Paradise Transporter (P) Ltd., Dhanbad	PB/Bhalgora/Lodna & Bhowra Area
7. M/s Rawal Transcon (P) Ltd., Dhanbad	Lodna
8. M/s Black Gold Transporter (P) Ltd., Burdwan (WB) Dhanbad	CV Area
9. M/s Sainik Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Sijua/Block-II
10. M/s Sainik Goods Carriers (P) Ltd., Dhanbad.	Katras
Central Coalfields Limited	
1. M/s Randev Associates (P) Ltd., Hazaribagh	KOCP/Jharkhand (H Bag Area) to Gidi Washery.
2. M/s Patnot Transport (P) Ltd., Ranchi.	Tapin South (H Bagh) to NP/CP Siding KOCP (H' bagh) to Kodla CHP KOCP/Jharkhand to Gidi Wsy. Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra/Churi Siding.
3. M/s Vijayant Transport (P) Ltd. Ranchi	Kuju Inclines to Gidi Washery KOCP/Jharkhand (B'bagh Area) to Gidi Washery.

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| 4. M/s Rajdhani Carriers (P) Ltd., New Delhi. | KOCP/Jharkhand (B bagh Area) to Gidi Washery. Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra/Churi Siding. |
| 5. M/s Pushpak Transport Co (I) Ltd., Ranchi. | Piparwar FC Stock to Bachra/Chuwu/KD (Old) Siding. Ashoka FC./Stock to to KDH Sdg. |
| 6. M/s Annapurna Coal Carriers (P) Ltd., Hazaribagh. | KOCP/Jharkhand (H'bagh) Area) to Gidi Washery. Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra/Churi Siding. |
| 7. M/s Adarsh Bulk Carriers (P) Ltd., Hazaribagh. | KOCP/Jharkhand (H' Bagh Area) to Gidi Washery. Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra/Churi Siding
KSDH Face to Stock/FC/
CHP Ashoka OC Face to KDH Sdg. |
| 8. M/s. Maurya Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Bihar | Rajrappa OC Face to Rajrappa Washery. Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra/Churi Siding. |
| 9. M/s. Jawan Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Bihar. | Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra/Churi/PD (O) Sdg. KOCP/Jharkhand to Gidi Wsy. Wagon Loading at PD (O) Sdg. |
| 10. M/s Chindit Carriers (P) Ltd., Ranchi. | Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra Siding. Ashoka Face to Dakra Manual Sdg. |
| 11. M/s Gurudev (Ex-Serv.) Tpt. Co. (P) Ltd., New Delhi) | Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra Sdg. Ashoka Face to Dakra Manual Sdg. Ashoka Face to stock KDH Face to Stock/FD/ CHP. |
| 12. M/s Panther Carriers (P) Ltd., Ranchi. | Piparwar FC/Stock to Churi KD (Old) Siding. |
| 13. M/s A.B.T. Carriers (P) Ltd., Calcutta. | Piparwar FC/Stock to Bachra Siding. |

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| 14. | M/s. Panchi Carriers (P) Ltd.,
Ranchi | Gidi "C" Stock to CHP
Piparwar FC/Stock to
Churi/FD (Old) Sdg.
Wagon Loading at
Saunda Sdg. |
| 15. | M/s Tribhuvan Carriers (P)
Ltd., Ranchi. | Ashoka Face to Dakra
Manual Sdg. Parej East
to Gidi Washery. |
| 16. | M/s Take Off Associates
Pvt. Ltd., Ranchi | KDH Face to Sdg.
Ashoka OC Face to
Dakra (M) Sdg. |
| 17. | M/s Essar Transporters
& Contractor Pvt. Ltd. | Sirka OC Stock to CHP
Dhori FB to Sdg. |
| 18. | M/s Eagle Carriers (P) Ltd.,
New Delhi | Karkatta OC face to
FB/Stock. Piparwar FC/
Stock to KD (Old). |

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Pioneer Ex-SM Carriers (P) Ltd. | Lingaraj |
| 2. | Super Freights Carriers (P) Ltd. | Lingaraj |
| 3. | Sunrise Road Lines | Bharatpur |
| 4. | Black Panther | Bharatpur |
| 5. | Konark Transport | Bharatpur |
| 6. | Ashish Transport | Kalinga |
| 7. | Konark Transport | Kalinga |
| 8. | Ambi Coal Carriers | Kalinga |
| 9. | Chetak Enterprises | Kalinga |
| 10. | Subhadra Transport | Kalinga |
| 11. | Hingula Transport Co (P) Ltd | Kalinga |
| 12. | Renuka Carrier (P) Ltd | Lilari |
| 13. | Garuda Carriers (P) Ltd. | Iajkura |
| 14. | Kirat Ex-SM | Samleswari |
| 15. | Samleswari Coal Carriers (P) Ltd. | Lakhanpur |
| 16. | Arvind Transport (P) Ltd | Lakhanpur |
| 17. | Garuda Carriers (P) Ltd. | Lakhanpur |
| 18. | Seba Ex-SM Coal Carriers (P) Ltd. | Lakhanpur |
| 19. | Premier Ex-SM Transport Services | Belpahar |

1	2
20. Arvind Transport (P) Ltd.	Belpahar
21. Seba Ex-SM Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Belpahar
22. Raj Coal Carriers	Lakhanpur
23. Ambhi Coal Carrier	Jagannath
24. Vivek Transport	Jagannath
25. Som Road Lines	Balanda
26. Kalinga Ex-SM Carriers Ltd.	Ananta
27. Ananta Sainik	Ananta
28. Som Road Lines	Ananta
29. Konark Carriers (P) Ltd.	Ananta
30. Viru Carriers Ex-SM (P) Ltd.	Ananta
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	
1. Garuda Transport Pvt Ltd.	Gevra
2. Rohini Associates Pvt Ltd.	Gevra
3. Ex-SM Kanhai Rubber (P) Ltd.	Sohagpur
4. B.K.M. Associates (P) Ltd.	Bisrampur
5. Rayshils Transport (P) Ltd.	KSM/SGP/HSD
6. Koyala Vahan Transport (P) Ltd.	Gevra
7. Koyalanchal Transport Co. (P) Ltd.	KSM/Johilla
8. Ex-SM Gaurav Transport (P) Ltd.	Kusmunda
9. Bilaspur Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	SGF/Johilla
10. Kala Pathar Transport (P) Ltd.	Korba
11. Ex-SM Yuvraj Transport (P) Ltd.	Kusmunda
12. Akalpurkh Ex-SM Transport (P) Ltd.	Kusmunda
13. Baba Mastnath Transport (P) Ltd.	Bisrampur
14. Masters Transport (P) Ltd.	Sohagpur
15. Ex-SM Vir Transport (P) Ltd.	Gevra
16. Ex-SM Abhimanyu Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Gevra
17. Param Mitter Coal Movers (P) Ltd.	Gevra
18. Jagannath Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Jamuna Kotma
19. Gagan Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Kusmunda
20. Maa Kami Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Bisrampur
21. Chanakya Transport Pvt Ltd.	Hasdeo

1	2
22. MB Ex-SM Transport Pvt. Ltd.	Johilla
23. Shivani Transport Pvt. Ltd.	Bhatgaon
24. Dipka Coal Carriers Pvt Ltd.	Gevra
Western Coalfields Limited	
1. Fauji Sand & Coal Carriers Pvt Ltd	Sasti OC, Sasti Mini CHP, Sasti Rly Sdg, Gouri OC, Gouri CHP & Gouri-I.
2. Shivaji Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Neeljai-I OC, Neeljai-II CHP.
3. K.L. Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Neeljai-II OC Ghughus OC Phase-II
4. Everest Carriers (P) Ltd.	Chargaon-I OC, Kolar Pimpri.
5. Sanjay Coal Carriers (P) Ltd.	Naglone/NMC-2/ NMC-3, Ghughus OC Phase-I, Rajur Colliery.
6. Prince Road Carriers (P) Ltd.	Sasti Colliery, Durgapur Rayatwari UG
7. Vanguard Carriers (P) Ltd	Durgapur OC
8. Ex-SM Swarup Coal Trans- port Pvt Ltd	Neeljai-I Quarry and CHP
9. Shatrujeet Transport Co Pvt. Ltd	Ghugus OC

Issuing of Coal D.Os

5625. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether many D.Os for coal were issued to the people during the last three years.

(b) if so, the details of the persons to whom the D.Os were issued;

(c) the criteria laid down by the Government to issue D.Os for coal;

(d) whether D.Os were issued to the above said persons according to the proper criterion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (e). Coal supply is arranged only to actual consumers of coal as per the linkages established in accordance with the procedure in vogue and or sponsorship issued by the concerned sponsoring authorities. Some coal is also sold under various Liberalised Sales Schemes in vogue after following the procedure prescribed for such sales.

The supplies of coal to consumers lifting coal by road is made against delivery orders (also known as D.Os) issued by the Coal Companies. Such delivery orders are issued only for the quantity for which a customer is entitled and after the receipt of the coal value including statutory charges etc.

Delivery orders are issued for various customers who have been drawing their coal supplies on a monthly basis

from a large number of Collieries and Areas. Such details are not maintained centrally. It is felt that the time and effort required for collection and compilation of these details may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

[English]

Tax on Pan Masala Manufacturing Companies

5626. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pan Masala Industry in the country is one of the highest tax evador sector;

(b) if so, the estimated outstanding excise duty against the Pan Masala Industry during 1994, 1995 and 1996 (till date) and which of the manufacturers of the product are the biggest excise tax evadors; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the excise tax dues from the Pan Masala manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Up-to-date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MRTPC Investigation against Multi-National Soft Drink Companies

5627. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Investigation and Registration of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has investigated into multi-national soft drink companies franchise agreements;

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

(c) whether the Government have received the recommendations from the Directorate General of Investigation and Registration so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether any action has been taken by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission against these companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the recommendations are likely to be received from the DGIR ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Director General of Investigation & Registration (DGI&R) has scrutinised 23 agreements entered into by M/s. Coca Cola Company, USA and M/s Pepsico Inc, New York, USA with bottlers in India and noticed that several clauses of these agreements relate to restrictive trade practices. The DGI&R has, therefore, filed 23 applications with the Monopolies and Restrictive

Trade Practices Commission under Section 10 (a) (iii) of MRTP Act, 1969 for institution of restrictive trade practices inquiries against M/s Coca Cola Company, USA with their 22 bottlers and M/s. Pepsico Inc New York, USA with their one bottler for having entered into the bottler's agreements containing alleged restrictive clauses attracting the provisions of Section 33 (1) read with Section 2 (0) of the MRTP Act, 1969.

(c), (d) and (g). The DGI&R does not make any recommendation to the Government in such cases. The DGI&R files applications under Section 10(a) (iii) of the MRTP Act, 1969 before the MRTP Commission for necessary enquiry into the alleged restrictive trade practices arising out of the terms and conditions of the agreements.

(e) and (f). Out of the 23 applications filed by DGI&R, the MRTP Commission has last heard two applications pertaining to M/s. Coca Cola Company, USA with their bottler M/s Brindvan Agro Industries, Hathras and M/s Pepsico Inc New York, USA with their bottler M/s. Agra Beverages Corp. Ltd. on 20.8.1996 and 27.8.1996 respectively and in both cases the Orders have been reserved by the Commission.

Export of Soyabean

5628. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Soyabean was not exported during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95. The country-wise details of exports of soyabean during 1995-96 (April-Feb. 96) are as follows :

Country	Oty. (in Mts)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)
Bangladesh	15	1.15
Myanmar	18	3.93
Total	33	5.08

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) To enhance production and productivity of oilseeds including soyabean, Technology Mission on Oilseeds was launched in 1986. Currently exportable surpluses at competitive prices are not available.

Foreign Direct Investment

5629. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign direct investment received during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of it invested in the infrastructural sector, and

(c) the plans drawn up to encourage more foreign investment in future ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The total foreign direct investment received during the last three years i.e. from January, 1993 to June, 1996 is as under :

Year	Amount (Rs in Crores)
1993	1786.71
1994	2981.85
1995	6370.16
1996 (Upto June)	3911.32

Actual inflow of foreign direct investment/break-up thereof is monitored by Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Government constantly reviews the policy frame work of foreign investment, so as to make it increasingly investor friendly. In addition, the Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. The Government has also constituted the Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) to conduct sectoral studies and identify Projects and market them to interested investors.

For promoting investment and attracting entrepreneurs to backward areas, the State Governments are offering a variety of incentives such as, capital subsidy, sales tax exemption, power subsidy, allotment of land on priority, setting up of Growth Centres and Transport subsidy in hilly areas.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Jharkhand Region by Financial Institutions

5630. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the deposits mobilised by the financial institutions from the State of Bihar particularly from the Jharkhand region during the last three years along with the details of loans disbursed by the said institutions for various activities like industry, agriculture, power, housing and employment in the State separately ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Transportation of Coal

5631. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the names of the private companies which are transporting coal of different subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) whether some fake companies are also operating in the name of companies of ex-servicemen;

(c) if so, the names of such companies;

(d) whether there is any difference between the freight charges of private and ex-servicemen companies for the same work; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) A list of the companies/firms engaged in the transportation of coal in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Only such companies of ex-servicemen are engaged by the coal companies for transportation of coal as are sponsored by the Directorate-General of Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir, The rates in respect of ex-servicemen operators are worked out on the basis of studies conducted by the coal companies whereas the rates in respect of non-ex-servicemen operators are awarded on the basis of open tenders.

STATEMENT

List of the Names of Companies which are Transporting Coal in the Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited

Eastern Coalfields Limited

1. CALCUTTA INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CORPORATION.
2. M/S. S.P. SHARMA
3. M/S. B.D. SIGH
4. M/S. KAUSIK MUKHERJEE
5. BABA CARRIERS
6. RAJESWAR PRASAD SINGH
7. SHRI BHAWANI TRANSPORT
8. UMESH KUMAR SINGH
9. RAJNARAYAN DUBEY
10. B.K. ENTERPRISE
11. A.N. CHOUBEY & CO.
12. PARCO & CO.
13. KAMALA TRANSPORT SERVICE
14. FRIENDS & CO.
15. KOCHAV TRANSPORT

16. JAI AMBA TRANSPORT SERVICE
 17. BISHNU TRANSPORT CO.
 18. VICTOR TRANSPORT CO.
 19. AYACHI BHAR VAHAK
 20. SHARAN TRANSPORT SERVICE
 21. R.L. DEOGHARIA
 22. M/S. B.D. SINGH
 23. AMIYA KUMAR GHOSAL
 24. JMD TRANSPORT
 25. JAY MATARA TRANSPORTING
 26. M/S. N.U. UPADHYAY & ASSOCIATES
 27. KHUNTETA TRANSPORT
 28. MISHRA CONSTRUCTION
 29. MA KAL YANESWARI CONSTRUCTION
 30. BISHNU TRANSPORTING AGENCY
 31. JAGDEO PRASAD AGARWALA.
 32. DILIP SINGH
 33. A.S. KHAN
 34. M/S S. KHAN
 35. BISHNU TRANSPORTING AGENCY
 36. M/S. HIMMAT A. AMBANI
 37. KHAITAN TRANSPORT & CO.
 38. N.C. PAUL & CO.
 39. DILIP SINGH
 40. UNIVERSAL CARRIERS
 41. AMRIT COAL CARRIERS
 42. UNITED COAL CARRIERS
 43. N.C. PAUL & CO.
 44. M/S. B.D. SINGH
 45. VIVEKANANDA TRANSPORT AGENCY
 46. P.K. GHOSH
 47. AJOY KUMAR PAN
 48. S.N. CHATTERJEE & CO
 49. MONDAL TRANSPORT SERVICE
 50. BABA TARAKNATH TRANSPORT CO
 51. MAHESWARI TRADERS
 52. MAHAMAYA TRADER
 53. RAJENDRA NATH BANERJEE
 54. N.C. PAUL & CO.
 55. AMIYA KUMAR MUKHERJEE
 56. MAHALAXMI TRANSPORT
 57. S.N. CHATTERJEE & CO.
 58. DURGAPUR TRANSPORT CO.
 59. JAGDEO PRASAD AGARWALA
 60. U.K. UPADHYAY
 61. MALACHI
 62. FATEHPURIA ROADWAYA
 63. CONCRETE
 64. UNIVERSAL CARRIERS
 65. DINESH TRANSPORT
 66. TIKMANI TRANSPORT CO.
 67. FATEHPURIA ROADWAYS
 68. SHIBAM & CO
 69. NABIN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
 70. M/S. BAHULA TRANSPORT
 71. M/S. COALFIELD TRADER
 72. JHUNJHUNWALA TRANSPORT
 73. S.K. TRADERS
 74. M/S. HEMFNDR A OJHA & CO
 75. M/S. BISWANATH DUTTA
 76. COAL CARRYING CORPORATION
 77. N.C. PAUL & CO.
 78. JASMER SINGH
 79. PRAKASH SINGH
 80. FRIENDS TRANSPORT AGENCY
 81. S.N. CHATTERJE & CO
- Bharat Coking Coal Limited**
1. M/S. VIJOY LAXMI TRANSPORT
 2. M/S. SURYA UDYOG
 3. M/S. SREE LAXMI
 4. M/S. G.T.S. COAL SALES
 5. M/S. KHUNTERA TRANSPORT
 6. M/S. B.K. TRADERS
 7. M/S. SHANKAR COAL TRANSPORT
 8. M/S. MALA KUMAR ENGINEERING

Central Coalfields Limited

1. M/S. SAHAY TRANSPORT AGENCY
2. M/S. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CO.
3. M/S. GLOBE TRANSPORT CORPORATION
4. M/S. RUNGTA PROJECTS LTD.
5. M/S. SHANKAR TRANSPORT CO.
6. M/S. CHANANI TRANSPORT CO.
7. M/S. DEORAJ SINGH
8. M/S. LALLAN PD. SINGH & CO.
9. M/S. JYANT TRANSPORT CO.
10. M/S. SHAKTI TRANSPORT CO.
11. M/S. G.N. DUBEY & CO.
12. M/S. SIVA RAM & CO.
13. M/S. BKB TRANSPORT (P) LTD.
14. M/S. A.N. SINGH
15. M/S. SARWAGHWARI ENTERPRISES
16. M/S. NAMESH TRANSPORT CO.
17. M/S. MD. IZRAIL
18. M/S. JAI AMBEY TRANSPORT CO.
19. M/S. R.K. PANDEY & CO.
20. M/S. NAM COALFIELD CARRIERS
21. M/S. AJAY TRANSPORT CO.
22. M/S. E.C. BOSE (VISHKAPATNAM) PVT. LTD.
23. M/S. AJAY TRANSPORT CO.
24. M/S. N.L. SINGH & CO.
25. M/S. ALOK COAL AGENCY
26. M/S. A.K. TRANSPORT CO.
27. M/S. TKMANI TRANSPORT CO.
28. M/S. SHARMA & CO.
29. M/S. BHARAT CONSTRUCTION CO.
30. M/S. VIKAS TRANSPORT CO.
31. M/S. NAWEEN COAL AND COKS
32. M/S. NAWA JIWAN TRADING CO
33. M/S. BANSDHARE SINGH
34. M/S. NARENDRA KUMAR
35. M/S. SIDHARTH BUILDERS & TRANSPORT
36. M/S. KHALSA TRANSPORT CO.

37. M/S. B.P. AGARWALLA
38. M/S. JAI MAHALAXMI TRANSPORT CO.
39. M/S. R.K. TRANSPORT (P) LTD.
40. M/S. LAND LOOSER MOTOR PARIVSHAN
41. M/S. TIRUPATI ENTERPRISES
42. M/S. SANTOSH COAL AGENCY
43. M/S. JAGDISH TRANSPORT CO.
44. M/S. INDRA PD GUPTA
45. M/S. RAJU GUPTA

Northern Coalfields Limited

1. M/S. BHAIYALAL SHUKLA & CO
2. M/S. RUNGTA PROJECTS LIMITED
3. M/S. A.K. TRANSPORTS
4. M/S. OM SHIV TRANSPORTS
5. M/S. VANDANA ENTERPRISES
6. M/S. R.B. TRADERS
7. M/S. E.C. BOSE (VISHAKHAPATTANAM) PVT. LTD.
8. M/S. TKMANI TRANSPORT COMPANY
9. M/S. CALCUTTA INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY COMPANY
10. M/S. ALOK COAL AGENCY

Western Coalfields Limited

1. VIDARBHA COAL LTD.
2. BANDWARI LAL AGARWALLA
3. M/S. MAHESHWARI TRANSPORT CO.
4. M/S. JAY AMBEY TRANSPORT CO.
5. M/S. PUNYA COAL ROADLINES
6. M/S. S.K. JAIN
7. MATHURADAS BANSILAL BARDIA
8. BANDWARI LAL AGARWALLA
9. PUNJAB TRANSPORT COMPANY
10. M/S. NATIONAL TRANSPORT CO.
11. M/S. A.P. BARIAR & SONS
12. M/S. SANWAL CAOL CARRIERS
13. M/S. SAINI ROADWAYS
14. SRI B. HIMMATLAL AGARWAL
15. M/S. RAJEEB GOYAL
16. M/S. SARWESHWARI ENTERPRISES

17. M/S. EX-SERVICEMEN SPARTANS
18. M/S. KHANDUJA COAL TRANS. CO.
19. M/S. KUMAR MIN. & FTRANS. CO.
20. M/S. MAHARAJ TRANS. CORPN
21. M/S. PM SAINI, BAPAT NAGAR
22. M/S. FAUJI BAND & COAL TRANSPORT CARRIERS
23. M/S. EX/SERVICEMEN SHIVAJI COAL CARRIERS
24. M/S. EX-SERVICEMEN SANJAY COAL CARRIERS
25. M/S. EX-SERVICEMEN K.L. COAL CARRIERS (PVT) LTD.
26. M/S. EX-SERVICEMEN SWARUP COAL TRANSPORT CO.
27. M/S. VANBUARD CARRIER PTV. LTD.
28. M/S. SARVATRA COAL CARRIERS (P) LTD.
29. M/S. SHATRUJEET EX-SERVICEMEN TRANSPORT CO.
30. M/S. EX-SERVICEMEN EVEREST CARRIERS (P) LTD.

South Eastern Coalfields Limited

1. M/S. MONGATRAM BANWARILAL
2. M/S. SINGH TRANSPORTERS
3. M/S. NIRANJANLAL AGARWAL
4. M/S. RAJESH KUMAR MURARKA
5. M/S. NEELKANTH CONSTRUCTION CO.
6. M/S. KARAMJIT SINGH & ASSOCIATES
7. M/S. CHHATWAL CONSTRUCTION CO
8. M/S. BHULLAR CONSTRUCTION
9. M/S. OWN TRANSPORTERS
10. M/S. AJAY CONSTRUCTION CO
11. SRI KAILASH KUMAR AGARWAL
12. M/S. COAL CARRIERS, RAIPUR
13. M/S. JAGIR SINGH NAGRA & CO.
14. M/S. BC NAHA ROY
15. M/S. NAGRA TRANSPORT CO
16. M/S. GOYAL TRANSPORT
17. SRI. PRAHALAD RAI AGARWAL
18. M/S. CHUNNILAL RADHESHYAM
19. M/S. ANIL CONSTRUCTION CO
20. M/S. KULDEEP SINGH KALRA
21. M/S. KRORIMAL AGARWAL

22. M/S. KAILASH KUMAR KHEDIA
23. M/S. JET CONSTRUCTION & CARRIERS
24. M/S. SARDAR ROAD LINES
25. M/S. AZAD ROAD LINES
26. M/S. SUPER CARRIERS
27. SRI R P ANAND
28. M/S. KARAMJEET SINGH & CO PVT. LTD
29. M/S. ARUNODOYA COAL AGENCY
30. M/S. EARTH MOVERS. SURGUJA
31. SRI RAMESH KUMAR
32. SRI VISHNU PRATAP AGARWAL
33. SRI PAD GOYAL
34. SRI MADANLAL AGARWAL
35. SRI NARESH KUMAR AGARWAL
36. M/S. BIHAR CONSTRUCTION CO

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

1. M/S. PANI BROTHERS
2. M/S. NARAYAN SATPATHY
3. M/S. GAJANAND AGARWAL
4. UTKAL HIGHWAYS
5. M/S. ORISSA STEVEDORES LTD
6. M/S. BANWARILAL AGARWAL
7. M/S. CALCUTTA INDL SERV CO (P) LTD
8. M/S. A.N. CHOUBEY & CO
9. M/S. O.S.C.T.C.
10. M/S. JALARAM TRANSPORT
11. M/S. OWN TRANSPORTER
12. M/S. ANIL MODI
13. M/S. SRI BALAJI TRANSPORT
14. M/S. COAL CARRIERS
15. M/S. DAS TRAVELS
16. M/S. SAINIK TRANSPORT
17. M/S. KALINGA COAL MOVERS
18. M/S. VIJOY LAXMI TRANSPORT
19. M/S. PAWAN PUTRA PARIWAHAN

North Eastern Coalfields

1. SHRI A TALUKDAR & CO.
2. BLOOMINTON ENTERPRISE
3. SRI BHASKAR SARMAH & CO.
4. SRI SUBHAS MITRA & CO.

Export of Electronics and Software Items

5632. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of Electronics and Software items during Eighth Plan and the achievement made thereunder till date;

(b) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export of electronics and software goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The overall target of export growth was set at 13.6% in real terms for the Eighth Plan. The export projection for engineering items was 15% however, no separate projections were made for electronics and software items. The export details of Electronics and Software items during Eighth Plan period are given below

Achievement till June, 1996
(US \$ million)

Electronic goods	2025.59
Software	3087.81
Total	5113.40

Source : Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. There is vast scope to increase the export of electronics and software goods. For the year 1995-96 the share of electronics and computer software and services in India's total exports is estimated at 6% and it is expected that our strengths in the software sector, in particular, will contribute to increasing the share of this sector in our overall export basket. Steps to boost the exports of these products include participation in exclusive Indian electronics and software shows, and in international exhibitions, and conduct of market surveys, etc., through the aegis of the Electronics and Software Export Promotion Council. Besides export production is promoted through the scheme of Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHIP) Scheme and Software Technology Parks (STP) duty free import of raw materials/capital goods, assistance under Market Development Funds, etc.

Pending Demands of Bank Employees

5633. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demands of Bank employees are pending before Government for a long time, and

(b) if so, the details of their pending demands as on date and the reaction of the Government on each of the demands ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that the wages of the workmen staff in the banking industry were revised by a settlement with the workmen unions on 14th February, 1995. However, the workmen unions later raised a dispute alleging that the officers were given a better pay package compared to award staff employees. A Fact Finding Committee was appointed by IBA to find out the facts relating to the dispute, which submitted its Report on 3.5.1996. The unions are also demanding for settlement of certain residual issues and revision of limits for housing loan, vehicle loan, etc. Efforts are afoot by IBA to arrive at a solution and several rounds of discussions have already been held by them with the workmen unions to resolve the issues.

Resident Director of MPEDA Office in New York, USA

5634. SHRI P. C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in filling up of the key post of Resident Director of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Office in New York, USA;

(b) the decision taken by his Ministry earlier in the matter;

(c) whether this post is being filled up by a civil servant who has no knowledge of fisheries and marine products exports;

(d) whether the MPEDA Officers Association has represented against this move;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review the matter on the basis of the recommendations of MPEDA;

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The requirements of adhering to the prescribed procedures as determined by the Department of Personnel & Training in the Government of India for filling up the post of Resident Director in the Trade Promotion Office of Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in New York, had to be fulfilled. The steps involved the circulation of the post, re-advertisement if needed, convening meetings of the Selection Committee/Civil Services Board etc.

(b) A panel of 3 officers drawn from MPEDA, alongwith other Ministries/Department was sent to the Department of Personnel and Training of the Government of India.

(c) The Government of India is yet to take a final decision in the matter of selection. However, Civil servants are also entitled to be recruitment rules for the post.

(d) MPEDA's Officers Association has demanded that the post of Resident Director in New York office should go to an MPEDA employee.

(e) and (f). The decision of the Government will be based on the factors of suitability and within the ambit of the eligibility criteria prescribed under the recruitment rules.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Revival of Small Scale Industries in Bihar

5635. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to promote Small Scale Industries under the minimum common programme; and

(b) if so, the details of the SSIs proposed to be revived in each State particularly in Bihar under the above programme, alongwith their locations ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Promotion of small scale industries is a part of the minimum common programme of the Government.

(b) As per the data collected by Reserve Bank of India from the Scheduled Commercial Banks, total number of sick small scale units as at the end of March 1995 were 2,68,815. Of these, 15,539 units were considered as potentially viable. Banks have put 10,371 viable units under nursing. There were 26,749 sick small scale units in the State of Bihar as at the end of March 1995. Of these, 367 units were potentially viable. Banks have put 289 units under nursing.

Based on the Nayak Committee recommendations, RBI has advised banks on modified definition of sick SSI units, reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Office to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects. State Level Inter Institutional committees exist under the chairmanship of Secretary Industries of the State Governments for revival of sick units.

Insurance Claims of Vehicles

5636. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken in settlement of insurance claims of vehicles by insurance companies;

(b) the number of claims received during each of the last three years in this regard, company-wise;

(c) the number of claims pending for one year, two years and three years, separately, company-wise;

(d) whether any responsibility is fixed on any officer in case of delay in the settlement of such claims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) While the claims relating to damage to vehicles are normally settled immediately after the receipt of requisite documents from the claimants, the Third Party claims are settled after the awards are passed by the Courts.

(b) The requisite information is as under :

(Fig. in lakhs)

Name of the Company	Year		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
National	1.04	1.09	1.50
New India	1.63	1.71	2.14
Oriental	1.25	2.03	1.85
United India	1.47	1.26	1.30
Total :	5.39	6.09	6.79

(c) The requisite information is as under :

No. of claims pending (Figures in thousand)

Name of the company	No. of claims pending (Figures in thousand)		
	upto one year	upto two years	upto three years
National	35.58	2.81	1.98
New India	107.68	16.31	11.34
Oriental	25.97	22.05	10.92
United India	58.65	25.28	17.19
Total :	227.88	66.45	41.43

(d) to (f). The companies have already initiated various measures for expeditious settlement of claims and the Conduct, Discipline and Appeal (CDA) Rules of the companies provide for necessary action in case an Officer is found guilty of any lapse.

[English]

National Institute of Fashion Technology Centres

5637. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a few more Centres of the National Institute of Fashion Technology to impart best of training and to meet world standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students are proposed to be admitted in those centres; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to upgrade the technology skill of the work force employed in the garment industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). Five branches of NIFT were set up at Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Madras and Mumbai in the year 1995.

(c) There is a provision for admitting 30 students in the Fashion Design course and 30 students in the Garment Manufacturing Technology course in each Centre every year.

(d) With a view to upgrade the technological skills of the workforce employed by the garment industry, the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) has decided to set up Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDC) at various places in the country—Mumbai, Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon, Ludhiana, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Madras, Tirupur, Bangalore, Calcutta and Hyderabad. These centres will train manpower employed at the shopfloor level e.g. sewing machine operators, pattern makers and cutters, production supervisors and quality controllers, finishing/packing supervisors, machine mechanics etc.

Fifth Pay Commission

5638. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government employees staged a day-long dharna and participated in a rally at the Central Pay Commission's Office in New Delhi on the 16th August, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Fifth Pay Commission is submitting its report to the Government over a gap of ten years after implementation of the Fourth Pay Commission report;

(e) whether during this period of ten years, three wage Boards have been set up for the public sector employees;

(f) if so, the reasons for this disparity between public sector and Central Government employees;

(g) whether most of the employees associations have threatened with a country wide agitation if the Fifth Pay Commission report is implemented from January 1, 1996 instead of January 1, 1994; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) & (b). The Pay Commission has informed that a rally was organised by the Central Government Employees National Confederation on 16th August, 1996. The Commission has further informed that the demands of the employees were (i) the third instalment of Interim Relief may be treated at par with two earlier instalments, (ii) the Report of the Commission be submitted without further delay and its recommendations given effect from 1.1.1994; and (iii) minimum wage be fixed at Rs. 3000/ per month.

(c) The Government will take a view on receipt of the recommendations of the Pay Commission.

(d) Yes. Sir.

(e) The wages of the employees of Public Sector Undertakings are generally revised every 5 years.

(f) The Fourth Pay Commission had observed that the Central Government is a vast and complex organisation and that the wages of the employees of Central Government cannot be based on a simple comparison with the wages in the Public Sector Undertakings. The pay structure of the Central Government employees is, therefore, considered and settled on merits.

(g) There is a demand to give effect to the recommendations of the Commission from 1.1.94.

(h) A view on this aspect will be taken after the submission of the final Report by the Commission.

Sub-Committee for UTI

5639. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.T.I. has funds under different schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to form Sub-Committees to look after the funds being managed by the Unit Trust of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. The unit capital under the schemes of UTI for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 (provisional) are given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d). UTI has planned an organisational restructuring to be in conformity with the regulatory requirements of SEBI.

STATEMENT

SCHEME OF UTI

(Year : July-June)	(Rs. Crore)	
Schemes	Outstanding 1994-95	Unit Capital 1995-96*
1	2	3
U.S. 1964	15281.73	12943.31
U.S. 1971	2160.04	2550.06
C.R.T.S. 1981	733.67	778.17
C.G.S. 1983	523.69	73.38
C.G.G.F. 1986	1572.13	1821.01
U.S. 1995	174.00	203.50

1	2	3
P.E.F. 1995	175.10	179.93
G.I.U.S. Pool	53.73	3.97
M.I.S.G. '90 Pool	3678.16	3676.01
G.M.I.S. Pool	2051.45	2051.45
G.M.I.S. B. '92 Pool	820.93	820.93
M.I.S.B. '93/MIP 93	1329.13	1329.13
D.I.U.S. 1990	105.26	60.26
D.I.U.S. 1991	204.74	204.74
D.I.U.S. 1992	128.55	128.55
D.I.U.P. '93	375.64	375.64
U.S. '92	302.21	257.99
G.C.G.I.P.	223.51	223.51
Omni Plan 1991	1.73	34.77
B.G.V.M.I.P.	2.40	2.51
I.I.S.F.U.S. 93	1292.83	1265.98
M.I.P. 94	442.81	442.81
M.I.P. 94 (II)	619.61	619.61
M.I.P. 94 (III)	736.83	736.83
M.I.P. 95	536.76	536.76
U.G.S. 2000 (Rights)	346.52	319.71
U.G.S. 5000 (Rights)	216.27	296.87
M.E.P. 1991	165.83	144.75
M.E.P. 1992	1170.92	926.13
M.E.P. 1993	392.78	360.06
M.E.P. 1994	737.29	737.29
M.E.P. 1995	1159.71	1159.71
M.E.P. 1996		190.04
Mutual Fund Scheme 86	758.43	758.43
Master Plus 1991	910.00	910.00
Mastergrowth 93	408.60	408.60
Grand Master 93	74.84	74.84
C.G.U.S. 1991	76.69	50.06
C.G.U.S. 1992	4278.06	2487.05
H.U.S.	18.95	18.95
R.U.S.	529.02	529.02
S.C.U.P.	40.73	51.62
C.C.C.F.	48.39	62.69
R.U.P. II	105.49	195.89
G.U.P.	98.53	123.38
R.B.P.	25.14	69.81

1	2	3
IISFUS 95		0.00
I.I.S.F.U.S. 95		176.76
D.I.P. 95		98.51
M.I.P. 95		344.23
M.I.P. 95 II		382.60
M.I.P. 96		364.54
M.I.P. 96 II		297.94
E.O.F. 96		25.28
VECAUS I	64.62	64.62
VECAUS II	95.11	95.11
VECAUS III	20.00	20.00
India Fund	85.88	203.19
India Growth Fund	67.45	144.73
Columbus India Fund	15.96	16.24
Total	45437.86	43429.47

*Provisional.

[Translation]

Multinational Security Agency

5640. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Public Sector Undertakings have employed a multinational security agency;

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

(c) whether the employees of multinational security agency in PSUs is against the norms laid down for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the action taken against such Public Sector Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Production/Consumption of Salt

5641. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the production and consumption of salt in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the quantity of salt exported during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand over Samber salt area to Rajasthan Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The production and consumption of common salt in the country during the last three years is as under :

(in thousand tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption Edible	Incl.	Total
1993	13727.8	5989.4	4819.9	10809.3
1994	12344.2	5799.4	5020.5	10819.9
1995	12544.0	4849.4	5591.9	10441.3

Statewise break up of production & consumption is furnished in the Statements I and II.

(b) The quantity of salt exported during the last three years is as under :

(in thousand tonnes)

Year	Quantity export
1993	605.4
1994	472.6
1995	516.4

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Transfer of Sambhar Salt Works to the Government of Rajasthan is not considered to be in the overall interest of the Hindustan Salts Ltd.

STATEMENT I

State-wise Common Salt Production

(In thousand tonnes)

S. No.	State	Common Salt Production		
		1993	1994	1995
1.	Rajasthan	1242.6	1096.7	1526.2
2.	Gujarat	9313.7	8681.4	8824.4
3.	Maharashtra	252.2	185.8	224.3
4.	Karnataka	22.5	21.9	17.2
5.	Goa	—	2.2	1.7
6.	Tamil Nadu	2465.6	2010.9	1738.8
7.	Andhra Pradesh	337.8	262.0	139.9
8.	West Bengal	19.0	14.2	19.3
9.	Orissa	53.5	50.6	26.5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3.1	2.1	1.9
11.	Daman & Diu	17.8	16.4	23.8
Total		13727.8	12344.2	12544.0

STATEMENT II

(In Thousand Tonnes)

S.No.	State	1993			1994			1995		
		Edible	Inds.	Total	Edible	Inds.	Total	Edible	Inds.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	296.1	119.7	415.8	339.7	132.0	471.7	253.4	134.9	388.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	—	2.8	3.5	—	3.5	4.1	—	4.1
3.	Assam	173.5	20.6	194.1	184.4	27.6	212.0	179.6	45.4	225.0
4.	Bihar	629.0	67.7	696.7	580.0	57.1	637.1	709.9	58.0	767.9
5.	Goa	3.7	—	3.7	3.7	—	3.7	1.8	—	1.8
6.	Gujarat	909.3	2840.4	3749.7	1425.9	2847.2	4273.1	188.3	3224.7	3413.0
7.	Haryana	6.7	41.9	48.6	5.8	74.6	80.4	39.0	60.1	99.1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.7	3.0	7.7	2.1	2.1	4.2	9.0	1.9	10.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.1	—	21.1	19.7	—	19.7	26.5	0.1	26.6
10.	Karnataka	279.7	84.1	363.8	164.0	127.6	291.6	161.2	82.4	243.6
11.	Kerala	201.4	95.2	296.6	161.3	87.6	248.9	137.4	108.7	246.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	149.4	201.3	350.7	181.5	210.3	391.8	245.4	272.3	517.7
13.	Maharashtra	305.1	269.6	574.7	358.6	261.2	619.8	538.3	306.7	845.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.	Manipur	10.6	—	10.6	12.3	—	12.3	15.3	—	15.3
15.	Meghalaya	5.4	—	5.4	3.6	—	3.6	12.4	—	12.4
16.	Mizoram	5.5	—	5.5	5.0	—	5.0	3.4	—	3.4
17.	Nagaland	8.8	—	8.8	11.0	—	11.0	10.1	—	10.1
18.	Orissa	210.0	29.7	239.7	167.5	38.5	206.0	185.9	44.6	230.5
19.	Punjab	32.0	161.6	193.6	29.4	214.7	244.1	65.0	190.0	255.0
20.	Rajasthan	18.3	268.2	286.5	42.0	280.7	322.7	114.0	248.8	362.8
21.	Sikkim	3.2	—	3.2	3.3	—	3.3	6.9	—	6.9
22.	Tamil Nadu	1288.2	340.8	1629.0	676.1	384.4	1060.5	533.3	418.6	951.9
23.	Tripura	8.6	—	8.6	13.2	—	13.2	11.6	—	11.6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	708.8	95.0	803.8	606.8	137.6	744.4	653.3	191.4	844.7
25.	W. Bengal	496.6	26.7	523.3	571.4	19.8	591.2	496.4	32.0	528.4
26.	Delhi	179.1	124.8	303.9	216.1	85.5	301.6	223.4	132.2	355.6
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	—	0.2	0.6	—	0.6
28.	Diu & Daman	6.3	—	6.3	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.0
29.	Chandigarh	7.7	—	7.7	5.2	2.0	7.2	13.5	11.2	24.7
30.	Defence	5.6	—	5.6	5.0	—	5.0	6.8	—	6.8
31.	Pondicherry	11.0	29.6	40.6	1.1	30.0	31.1	3.6	27.9	31.5
32.	Lakshdweep	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.0
Total :		5989.4	4819.9	10809.3	5799.4	5020.5	10819.9	4849.4	5591.9	10441.3

New Economic Policy

5642. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether arrival of multinational companies in the industrial sector as a result of new economic policy of the Government are the cause of concern for the small scale industries in the country;

(b) whether the Government have received memorandum from certain organisations and associations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save the interest of small scale industries ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Occasional complaints from Industry Associations and small scale units have been received expressing their fear about the entry of multi-national companies into the areas reserved from small scale sector. It is a policy of the Government that once an item is reserved for manufacture in the small scale sector, no medium/large scale undertakings including multinationals are allowed to manufacture the item except under 75% export obligation. In Foreign collaboration approval letters granted for setting

up joint venture companies, a standard condition is stipulated that items reserved for small scale sector shall not be manufactured. Besides, violation of the provision under the Reservation Policy is punishable under Section 24 of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. In case of any violation of the provision of Reservation, the concerned administrative Ministry/Department including DGFT have to initiate action against the violating firm.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Sick Units

5643. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sick industrial units for which proposals to provide financial assistance are pending with the Government for more than three years;

(b) the reasons for delay in granting financial assistance to these units; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared finally ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). As per provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA)

sick industrial companies are required to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for determination of remedial and other measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. BIFR has reported that the cases of sick companies registered with it are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of SICA.

The list of sick companies as well as their requirements for financial assistance is not static as they undergo changes on account of changes in the financial performance and the modifications in the overall revival packages and sacrifices demanded from the Government, financial institutions, labour and other agencies. The proceedings before the BIFR, which are quasi-judicial in nature also proceed in accordance with such analysis and the appraisal of operating agencies. As the Government have to examine all these aspects, it will not be possible to fix time limits for clearance of these proposals.

[English]

Bank Loans to Farmers in Tamil Nadu

5644. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of

FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in Tamil Nadu provided with bank loans for installing/boring tubewells by Cooperative Banks, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks in the State separately during each of the last three years and in the current year so far and the quantum of money so granted;

(b) whether any irregularities in granting loans has been noticed;

(c) if so, the corrective steps taken in regard thereto; and

(d) the total value of loans which has since been repaid?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The details of the loan assistance provided by Cooperative Banks, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Tamil Nadu to small and marginal farmers for installation of bore/tube wells, for the last three years, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Cooperative Banks		Commercial Banks		Regional Rural Banks		Total	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1993-94	48	27.7	12	7.5	—	—	60	35.2
1994-95	114	48.2	71	38.3	—	—	185	86.5
1995-96	89	31.0	101	37.3	—	—	190	68.3
1996-97*	41	21.5	—	—	—	—	41	21.5

*As on 31.8.1996.

(b) NABARD has reported that no irregularities have been reported in granting loans.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The repayments are spread over a number of years and only a part becomes due for repayment in any year. The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the overall recovery as a percentage of demand for primary land development banks in Tamil Nadu is as under :

Year	ending	% recovery (provisional)
June,	1993	60
June,	1994	71
June,	1995	82

Cotton Stock

5645. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of cotton in stock after consumption in the year 1995-96;

(b) the estimated domestic consumption for the year 1996-97; and

(c) the likely production of cotton for the year 1996-97 season ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) In its meeting held on 26/8/96 the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) estimated a balance stock of 36.02 lakh bales of 170 Kg. each at the end of cotton year 1995-96 (Sept.-Aug.)

(b) and (c). No estimates have been made for the country's cotton crop and domestic consumption for the year 1996-97 as yet.

Seizure of Goods

5646. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of goods seized at various Airports from January, 1996 till date;
- (b) whether the Government have sold these goods;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the procedure adopted for disposal of seized goods?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Goods such as gold, silver, Indian & Foreign Currencies, electronic goods, computer parts, cellular phones, precious stones etc., valued at Rs. 8816.42 lakhs were seized at various Airports in the country during the period 1.1.96 to 31.8.96. During the same period Rs. 3505.80 lakhs have been realised by sale of goods seized/confiscated under the Customs Act, 1962 at various Airports in the Country.

(d) After completion of adjudication proceedings the seized consumer goods which have been confiscated and are ripe for disposal are disposed by retail sale at customs counter or through NCCF and Consumer Co-operative Societies. Bulk or trade goods are either auctioned or sold through tender, while hazardous and dangerous goods are destroyed as per instructions issued by the Ministry. Goods of perishable nature which have limited shelf life are disposed off immediately after seizure itself. Confiscated gold and silver are authorised to be disposed through Customs retail counters at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras.

[Translation]

Information Bureaus of CIL

5647. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the places in the country where Information Bureaus of Coal India Ltd. have been set up;
- (b) the annual expenditure incurred by Coal India on its Information Bureaus; and
- (c) the objectives behind setting up of these Bureaus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from Coal India Limited, no Information Bureau has been set up by the Company.

- (b) and (c). Do not arise in view of answer to part (a).

Interest Rates on Loans for Backward Classes

5648. SHRI O.P. JINDAL :

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide loan to people belonging to backward classes at lower rates of interest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that public sector banks hesitate in giving loan to the people of backward classes living in rural areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, banks grant loan to eligible borrowers in the weaker sections at a concessional rate of interest of 4.0 per cent per annum.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have not received any specific complaint regarding public sector banks' hesitation/reluctance to give loans to persons of backward classes residing in rural areas.

[English]

Share of Export Earnings to States

5649. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give a share of foreign exchange earned through exports to States so as to ensure greater involvement of State Governments for boosting exports in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Export earnings accrue to the exporters only and the foreign exchange equivalent thereof is reckoned and strengthens the nation's overall balance of payments. States stand to gain from encouraging export oriented units through the linkages these offer to technological upgradation, foreign investments, expansion of employment and heightened competitive advantages.

Bogus Exporters

5650. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Authority in Bombay detected 170 exporters who had shown bogus exports documents to export PFY Yarns, cloth having weight with a view to get more advance licence etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Customs authorities have investigated suspected cases of export frauds by 178 exporters and identified 111 exporting firms who have indulged in bogus or mis-declared exports. Out

of this, the Customs authorities in Bombay have investigated 88 export firms involving duty evasion of Rs. 98.57 crores (approx.). These exporters have inflated the net weight of export goods by using forged documents or misdeclared the blend of the fabric, with a view to import excess quantities of Polyester Filament Yarn under the Duty Exemption Scheme. An amount of Rs. 22.23 crores has been recovered during the investigation.

(c) 46 persons including exporters, clearing agents and the persons concerned with exporting firms were arrested, out of which ten persons have been detained under COFEPOSA. Two Customs officers were also arrested under the Customs Act, 1962, besides, six officers placed under suspension. The Licensing authorities have cancelled 184 licences so far. Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax authorities have also been informed in the relevant cases to initiate necessary action under their Acts.

Verification of Coal Stock

5651. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the present coal stock position in Coal stockyard of Western Coalfield Limited;

(b) whether the physical verification of the coal stock position in the WCL have ever been held during the past three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the responsibility fixed by the Government against those who are showing wrong stock positions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is not operating any stockyards. However, the overall coal stocks in the mines of WCL as on 31.3.96 were 1.39 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) to (d). Coal India Limited have reported that physical verification of coal stock position in WCL has been done during each of the three previous years.

During the physical verification of stock by CIL Team for the year 1993-94, one case of shortage beyond the permissible limit of 5% was detected in Shivpuri under ground mine of Pench area. Necessary disciplinary action has been initiated.

Further as per check measurement carried out by WCL Head quarter team for the year 1993-94, three cases of shortages beyond permissible limit at Sasti opencast mine, Niljai II opencast mines and Kukurkunda opencast mine were detected. These cases are under investigation for taking appropriate action as per policy in force.

MOU System

5652. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for taking the decision for signing MOU regarding sick public sector undertakings;

(b) the expected result of the extension of MOU system to cover sick PSUs.

(c) the allocation made for the year 1996-97 for augmenting the MOU Scheme; and

(d) the further steps being taken to strengthen the said scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) This was done primarily to focus the attention of the managements of sick PSUs on all relevant factors in a set order of priority so as to make the revival package of sick PSUs more broad based and thus enhance the success of the package.

(b) It is expected that the extension of MOU system to cover sick PSUs will help in revival of these sick PSUs through focus on improvement in efficiency, productivity and better profitability.

(c) No separate allocation is made for MOU scheme. The expenditure is met out of the Budget for Department of Public Enterprises.

(d) The following steps have been taken to strengthen the MOU scheme.

(i) The ACRs of the Chief Executives of MOU signing PSEs has been linked to the MOU score in order to improve accountability.

(ii) To improve target setting, bench marking studies are being carried out by professional bodies in respect of various sectors. One such study in respect of Fertilizers sector has been completed.

(iii) 60% of weight in the MOUs has been allocated to financial criteria in order to ensure fiscal discipline.

Loan Waiver Scheme in J & K

5653. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan proposed to be waived from the accounts of various banks in Jammu and Kashmir and the criteria laid down for such waiver ;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to pay the amount back to the banks as a measure of public accountability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). As per the statement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister in both the Houses of Parliament on 2nd August, 1996, announcing an economic package for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government proposes

to write off the outstanding loans and interest of all borrowers in the tourism, transport, small scale industry and trade sectors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir whose original borrowings were less than or upto Rs. 50,000/-. The modalities for implementation for such waiver are being worked out.

[Translation]

Industrial Units in U.P.

5654. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether not a single industrial unit is set up in many districts of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to declare them as 'No Industry Districts'; and
- (d) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). During the period August, 1991 to July, 1996, 78 Industrial Licences and 249 Letters of Intent were granted for setting up industries and 2573 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda were filed for setting up industries spread over various districts of Uttar Pradesh. After the liberalisation of Industrial Policy it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create congenial atmosphere and providing infrastructural facilities for industrial development of the State/district. At present Government of India have no proposal to declare any district as a 'No Industry District'.

Loan Repayment Credibility

5655. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether inspite of India's improved balance of payments position, there is no possibility of upgradation of India's status interms of loan repayment credibility by International Credit Rating Organisations;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any request has been made to these organisations to review the status of the country in terms of loan repayment credibility;
- (d) if so, whether these agencies have decided to review the status of India interms of loan repayment credibility; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). International Credit Rating

Organisations undertake detailed annual reviews of India's balance of payments situation and other major economic indicators, in order to review India's Credit Rating. During recent years, the 2 major international Rating Organisations viz. Moody's and Japan Bond Research Institute, have already upgraded India to the 'investment grade'. Standard & Poor's have completed their latest review in August 1996, and their Report on the same is awaited.

[English]

Coir Industry

5656. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to modernise the coir industry in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under modernisation scheme of Coir Industry, financial assistance is extended for retting of green husk fibre in concrete tanks using 'coirret', a bacterial strain developed by Coir Board in lieu of the traditional method of immersing it in backwaters. This process will replace the natural retting of coconut husk in backwaters creating pollution of surface water and eliminate drudgery in fibre extraction. To eliminate surface water pollution due to natural retting, treatment of effluent generated during retting is also envisaged. Pith is a waste product accumulated in large quantity in the fibre production centres and creating environment pollution. Converting coir pith into organic manure by using 'pith plus', a fungus developed by the Coir Board is part of the scheme.

Popularising motorised ratt for mechanically spinning coir yarn instead of the traditional manual process, extending financial assistance for construction of loom sheds for the manufacture of coir products and setting up of Common Facility Centre for use of small units for dyeing and bleaching are also part of the scheme. For mechanised process of manufacture, financial assistance is extended for setting up of units and for modernisation of the existing coir units in brown fibre sector. The scheme envisages popularising semi automatic looms and fully automatic looms for weaving coir matting. Further, assistance for implementation of the Integrated Coir Development Project in coir producing States is also covered under the scheme of modernisation.

Under the Integrated Coir Development Project of Kerala which is the modernisation component of the cooperativisation scheme, establishment of 100 defibering units for mechanical extraction of coir fibre and 20,000

motorised ratts for spinning coir yarn are envisaged. Similar projects in other States are also being formulated.

Coir Board has extended financial assistance to 10 cooperative societies for construction of RCC tanks for treatment of green husk fibre to make golden fibre within 72 hours using coirret. Financial assistance is also extended to 34 coir units for the production of organic manure from cori pith. In addition 461 small scale units were also assisted for construction of workshed. Financial assistance is also given for setting up of Common Facility Centres. 444 women spinners were assisted for purchase of motorised ratts. Coir Board has also implemented a scheme of Mahila Coir Yojana for popularising the spinning of coir yarn on motorised ratt. 342 coir units were assisted in the brown fibre sector amounting to Rs. 1.56 crores.

Units Registered with ACASH and State Handloom Corporations

5657. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production capacity of units manufacturing blanket barrancks which are registered with State Handloom Corporations and ACASH;

(b) the total quantity of blanket barrack supplied by these units during the last three years, unit-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the performance of these units during these years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The production capacity of blanket barracks claimed by units registered with ACASH is given in the Statement I. Production capacity of units registered with State Handloom Corporations is not maintained by ACASH as such units effect supplies to ACASH through State Handloom Corporations.

(b) and (c). The State-wise, unitwise details of blanket barrack supplied by ACASH during the last three years are given in the Statement-II which also reflect the performance of these units.

STATEMENT I

Monthly Production Capacity for Manufacture of Blanket Barrack Claimed by Units Registered with ACASH

S.No.	State	Unit Registered With ACASH	Monthly Capacity (Nos.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	A.P. State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd.	5,000
2.	Haryana	Haryana State Handloom & Handicraft Corporation Ltd.	10,000
		Haryana Handloom Weavers Apex Cooperative Society Ltd.	20,000
		Haryana State Small Industrial Export Corporation	10,000
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Handloom Development Corporation	10,000
		Jammu & Kashmir Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Ltd.	5,000
4.	Madhya Pradesh	M.P. State Textile Corporation	2,500
5.	Punjab	Punjab State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd.	25,000
6.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	2,500
7.	Uttar Pradesh	National Handloom Development Corporation	10,000
		U.P. State Handloom Corporation	5,000

STATEMENT II*State-wise, Unit-wise detail of Blanket barrack supplied by Units Registered with ACASH*

(Value in Rs. lakhs) (Quantity in lakh nos.)

Sl. No.	State	Units Registered with ACASH	1993-94 Quantity	1994-95 Quantity	1995-96 Quantity
1.	HARYANA	Haryana State Handlooms & Handicrafts Corporation	0.06	0.21	0.12
		Haryana State Handloom Weavers Apex Society Limited	0.23	1.10	—
		Haryana State Small Industries Export Corporation	—	0.32	—
2.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	J&K Handloom Corporation	0.25	0.30	—
		J&K Marketing Fabrics	—	—	0.03
3.	PUNJAB	Punjab State Handloom Weavers Apex Society	0.10	—	—
4.	UTTAR PRADESH	National Handloom Development Corporation	—	0.25	—

*[Translation]***I.T. Scheme for Small Traders**

5658. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the recovery made by the Department of Income

Tax under the scheme announced for the small traders in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The State-wise information is not available. However, the desired information, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Region-wise, is given below :

CCIT Region	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	No. of cases	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of cases	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of cases	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ahmedabad	6996	98.28	9432	133.03	9937	139.83
Bangalore	23361	327.78	52350	738.93	26533	378.65
Bhopal	3580	50.14	18143	253.01	7362	103.08
Bombay	4739	70.29	13059	184.57	24631	346.98
Calcutta	3172	49.14	6396	89.92	5233	73.39
Cochin	2275	32.09	6846	95.84	1325	18.55
Hyderabad	53933	755.06	81578	1142.09	52677	737.48
Jaipur	9692	135.69	12737	178.32	14196	198.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madras	4593	67.74	6812	102.13	5145	72.03
Delhi	10971	153.56	8296	117.07	6798	95.52
Chandigarh	45979	636.14	90455	1267.66	63139	884.34
Kanpur	2503	35.21	16378	233.18	6491	91.01
Lucknow	2761	41.27	6526	70.42	5765	80.52
Pune	14412	207.65	13799	197.63	12006	168.79
Patna	6633	93.32	13515	192.02	10586	150.52
Total	195600	2753.36	356322	4995.82	251824	3539.43

[English]

Banking Frauds in RBI

5659. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of fruds in the branches of Reserve Bank of India have been noticed;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last

three years, branch-wise; and

(c) the number of bank officials found involved therein together with the amount of fraud and the steps taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information regarding cases of frauds in the offices of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during 1993-94 is given below :

Year	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of officials involved
1993	—	—	—
1994	3 (One in Bangalore Office and two in Mumbai Office)	339.86	Out of three cases, staff involvement has been established in two cases involving one ledger posting machine operator of Bank's Deposit Accounts Department and four machine operators of National Clearing Centre.
1995	1 (In Mumbai Office)	428.36	Staff involvement not established.

RBI have reported that as a precautionary measure, all clearing houses have been alerted about the *modus-operandi* being followed by the fraudsters besides, tightening physical security in the National Clearing Centre and advising banks for creation of Special Task Forces for expeditious reconciliation of clearing differences. Disciplinary proceedings have also been initiated against the officials for their lapses.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Maharashtra

5660. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal required by Maharashtra Government for its various industries;

(b) whether there is any difference between its demand and supply ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the supply of adequate quantity of coal to Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). The demand for coal is not assessed State-wise, but is assessed Sector-wise for the country as a whole. Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies coal to the consumers based on the programmes submitted by them in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the concerned sponsoring authorities in the State. During the year 1995-96, a quantity of 1.698 m.ts. (provisional) was despatched to all industries in Maharashtra other than power sector as against the despatches of 1.637

m.ts. (provisional) made during the year 1994-95. The despatches to industrial consumers in the country including in Maharashtra would have been more but for the higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector.

Coal Companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Maharashtra by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirement of linkages/ sponsorships. Option of import of coal is also now available.

[English]

Modernisation of Jute Industry

5661. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has sponsored a programme funded by it for the modernisation of jute industry in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and the funding arrangement;

(c) whether there has been been Tripartite discussion on the advisability and feasibility of the programme; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) to (d). A National Jute Development Programme was taken up in 1992 by Government of India with assistance from UNDP. The programme is for a period of five years and had an original commitment of US\$ 23 million from UNDP and Government of India's contribution of around Rs. 50 crores. The main objective of the programme were Rejuvenating the jute industry, facilitating diversification of jute and uses, strengthening the R&D capacity, providing infrastructural support for product development, technology transfer market promotion and enhancement of exports, development of indigenous machinery sector, promoting employment opportunities, developing an institutional framework for HRD jute sector, enhancing the welfare of the jute farming community and implementing systems of effective management and coordination.

While drawing up the programme a detailed analysis of the jute sector was made with Experts—National and International and the findings of the study were discussed with industry and trade. The programme also includes beneficiary oriented scheme for various target group including farmers, industrial workers, poor artisans in the handicrafts and the handloom sectors and women.

As far as organised jute industry in the country including West Bengal is concerned, a few programme for spinning

fine yarns, development of geo-jute application and production of deodorized bags have also been taken up. A proposal for modernisation of jute industry for technology upgradation, adaptation of existing equipments and manufacture of conversion kits has also been proposed by the Indian Jute Industry Research Association and the Indian Jute Mills Association. No decision has yet been taken on this proposal.

Refinancing by National Housing Bank

5662. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has been providing refinancing facility to the rural banks of Assam for construction and repair of houses in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of amount provided during each of the last three years in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Housing Bank has reported that it has not received any proposal for financial assistance from rural banks of Assam for construction and repairs of houses in the State.

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Ventures with U.S.A.

5663. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Orissa Government to set up joint ventures with U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). No such proposal from the State Government of Orissa to set up Joint Venture with USA has been received.

Improvement in Quality of Tobacco

5664. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of production of tobacco per acre in the country in comparison to the standard production per acre in the developed countries during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Tobacco Board during the last three years for improving the quality, curing, storing facilities and yielding of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco in tune with the International Standards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The average yield per acre of FCV tobacco in India and some

other major FCV tobacco producing countries for the last three years is as under :

Country	Average yield : kgs/per acre		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (prov.)
India	409	416	409
Brazil	754	722	723
Canada	1018	1040	1044
USA	1069	896	996
Zimbabwe	1004	1066	988

(b) Steps taken to enhance production and productivity of tobacco, *inter-alia*, include :

- (i) Providing financial assistance for use of approved seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, irrigation equipments, suckercides and roof insulation of barns;
- (ii) Supply of tarpaulin at subsidised rates for storage of cured leaf;
- (iii) Co-ordination with Central Tobacco Research Institute for evolving high yielding disease resistant varieties;
- (iv) Supply of coal for curing of tobacco;
- (v) Conduct analysis of soil and water samples to advice farmers on its suitability for growing tobacco, and
- (vi) Imparting training to farmers on improved package of practices.

Writing Off of Bad Debt

5665. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have written off crores of rupees in the public sector banks that have been lost by the banks over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, bank-wise, together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a budget provision for the year 1996-97 has been made to make up the losses of such banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds distributed so far, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government had permitted in 1994-95 and 1995-96 the following nationalised banks to write off their accumulated losses against paid-up capital. In the case of Punjab National Bank (PNB), with the merger of Erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI), the uncovered accumulated losses of ENBI as on the date of merger were set off against the capital of PNB. In the case of Bank of India and Dena Bank, they were allowed to set off their losses to enable them to clean up their balance-sheets for accessing the market for mobilising resources.

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount allowed to be written off (Rs. in crores)
1.	Punjab National Bank	425.43
2.	Bank of India	1369.91
3.	Dena Bank	136.29

(c) and (d). A Budget Provision of Rs. 1532 crores has been made during the year 1996-97 for writing off accumulated losses of Vijaya Bank, Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. No funds have been sanctioned so far during 1996-97.

Declaration of Assets

5666. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for candidates to declare their assets before filing their nomination papers for election to Parliament and State Legislatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such a legislation is likely to be brought before parliament; and

(d) the steps the Government have taken so far for checking corruption among the elected representatives of the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The proposed Lokpal Bill, 1996 would be a measure to check corruption.

Registration of Patent

5667. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of patents registered on an average in a year in the country ;

(b) the number of patents registered during each of last three years; and

(c) the number of patents de-registered during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The number of patents registered (granted) on an average in a year in the country during the last 10 years is 1898.

(b) The number of patents registered (granted) during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of patent registered
1993-94	1746
1994-95	1759
1995-96	1533

(c) During last three years, one patent, namely, Patent number 168950 entitled "method of producing transformed cotton cells by tissue culture" was de-registered/revoked in public interest under the powers vested in Central Government by virtue of provisions of Section 66 of the Patents Act, 1970.

Mishra Committee and Manmohan Committee

5668. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mishra Committee and Manmohan Committee set up for small scale industries have made many recommendations;

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

(c) the details of recommendations accepted by the Government and implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Government is not aware of such Committees set up for small scale industries.

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

Garment Export Quota

5669. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3586 on August, 19, 1994 and state :

(a) whether final report regarding investigation by C.B.I. has since been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken and a law suit would be filed against the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The final decision would be taken in the case only after completion of the investigation.

Export of Snake Skin

5670. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

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

(b) the details of the policy for exporting snake skin; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the lives of habitants from snake-bite deaths particularly in the flood prone areas of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). As per the provisions of the current Export and Import Policy (1992-97), export of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products are prohibited. Snakes are covered under the definition of wild animals, hence, export of the same in any form is prohibited.

(c) As per available information Snake bite treatment is available in the Primary Health Centres. A referral system is also available in the rural areas to send such cases to the nearby community Health Centre or to the District Hospital for urgent treatment.

Financing of Private Plantation by NABARD

5671. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of NABARD in the matter of financing private plantation/forestry of commercial nature such as teakwood; and

(b) the details of the norms followed for financing the private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides, *inter-alia*, refinance assistance to banks for financing plantation/forestry projects including teak wood plantations. However, NABARD has reported that it has so far not received any project for teak wood plantation in the private sector for sanction.

(b) The type of private sector forestry schemes eligible for refinance from NABARD are, as follows :

(i) Forestry plantations on wastelands which are in conformity with the national forest policy;

- (ii) Captive plantation on degraded land by the user industries with a view to raising raw materials for their industries;
- (iii) Farm forestry/agro-forestry schemes for generating additional income to the individual farmers;
- (iv) Nursery schemes to support plantation and afforestation activities;
- (v) Tree patta schemes to benefit the permit holders.

As regards plantations for captive use by industries, a minimum area of 5000 hectares (to be taken up over three years) has been stipulated. For cooperatives and private entrepreneurs with tie up with user industry, the stipulated minimum area is 100 hectares.

D.A. to Family Pensioners

5672. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various Central Administrative Tribunals have directed the Central Government to release forthwith D.A. to the family pensioners who have been appointed on compassionate ground or already in service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of implementation at which the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). As per existing orders, dearness relief on pension/family pension remains suspended during the period the pensioner/family pensioner is employed under the Central or State Government or a Corporation/Company/Body Bank under them in India or abroad including permanent absorption in such organisations. The rationale for this restriction is that a pensioner/family pensioner gets compensated during his employment against price rise by way of D.A. on pay. If dearness relief on pension/family pension is also allowed it will amount to double compensation. Some Central Administrative Tribunals did allow D.R. on pension during employment. However, the Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 8.12.1994 has upheld the Government decision of disallowing D.R. on pension/family pension during the course of employment.

Jute Corporation of India

5673. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the future plan to augment the functions of the Jute Corporation of India for the interest of jute growers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Jute Corporation of India has been instructed to go for Minimum Support Price operation in jute when the need so arise during 1996-97 Jute season.

Excise Duty Benefits to Consumers

5674. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any mechanism to ensure that the benefits of reduction in the excise duty especially relating to consumable goods announced in the budget are passed on to the ultimate user ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken or being taken against companies which do not pass on the entire benefit to consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The prices of commodities are generally determined by market forces and depend on a multiplicity of factors, of which excise duty is only one.

There is no legal mechanism to ensure reduction in price to the extent of reduction in excise duty, where there is no price control.

Sanction of Two Parliamentary Constituencies

5675. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to sanction two Parliamentary Constituencies for Leh and Kargil districts separately in view of vastness of area (about 10,000 sq. km. of Ladakh region);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present there is a Constitutional bar on increasing the existing number of seats allotted to a State in the House of the People.

Income Tax Act, 1961

5676. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had upto last financial year enlarged Section 81 (A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to provide an industrial undertaking located in North Eastern Region which began production/manufacture/operates cold storage plant and generates power on or after April 1, 1993, would get 100% Income Tax relief for the initial 5 years and 30% for the next five years;

(b) if so, whether this concession has been considerably curtailed by the Minimum Alternate Tax proposed in the Finance Bill 1996; and

(c) if so, the effect of this curtailment in the Industry-starved N.E. Region of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI. P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes Sir, under section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, Industrial undertakings commencing operation in certain notified backward states of the country are provided tax concession. In the north-eastern region, this benefit is available to the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

(b) and (c). Profits of industrial undertakings located in backward States and fulfilling the conditions laid down in section 80-IA have been exempted from the purview of the Minimum Alternate Tax, by Government amendment to the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1996.

Import of Silk

5677. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of silk (including silk yarn, silk garments etc.) imported during the last three years;

(b) whether there is persistent demand from silk growers in the country to impose completely ban on import of silk; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). There have been demands for banning/restricting import of raw silk. Under the current Export-Import Policy raw silk is already in the Negative List of imports and presently it is being allowed only under the Adyance Licensing Scheme (ALS) to enable Indian silk exporters to meet their raw material requirements at international prices. As such it is not considered desirable to impose complete

ban on import of raw silk. However, the policy is reviewed from time to time and modified to ensure that it may not affect sericulture industry in India.

The imports of silk are primarily in the form of raw silk/silk yarn and quantum of such imports in the last 3 years were as under :

	(in tonnes)	
1993-94	4892	
1994-95	5403	
1995-96	4195 (Provisional)	

Schools run by E.C.L.

5678. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited propose to run schools itself as it done by other Public Sector Undertakings of the coal industry ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ECL has moved the Government of West Bengal for recognition/affiliation of the schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) None of the schools located in and around coal mines under ECL are run by ESL Management.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Not applicable in view of reply at (c) and (a) above.

Additional Resources Mobilisation by States

5679. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked different States to work on the additional resources mobilisation;

(b) if so, the steps taken by different States in that regard during Eighth Plan; and

(c) the State-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government of India have not asked the States to work on the additional resources mobilisation. However, the Planning Commission have impressed upon the States at the time of Five Year Plan and Annual Plan discussions to mobilise resources for the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c). A Statement indicating the State-wise additional resources mobilisation, targetted for the Eighth Plan and achieved during the first four years of the Eighth Plan, is enclosed.

STATEMENT

*Additional Resources Mobilisation by
State Governments 1992—97*

(Rs. crore)

States	Eighth Plan Target (at 91-92 prices)	Achievement during first 4 Years (Provisional) (at 91-92 prices)
1	2	3
A. Special Category		
1. ARUNACHAL PRADESH	32.44	10.74
2. ASSAM	55.10	385.81
3. HIMACHAL PRADESH	0.00	94.14
4. JAMMU & KASHMIR	0.00	59.30
5. MANIPUR	41.32	0.00
6. MEGHALAYA	111.54	32.62
7. MIZORAM	0.00	1.67
8. NAGALAND	53.70	14.58
9. SIKKIM	0.00	0.00
10. TRIPURA	8.69	26.61
SUB-TOTAL (A)	302.79	625.47B
B. Non-Special Category		
1. ANDHRA PRADESH	4062.72	2586.83
2. BIHAR	5462.54	507.52
3. GOA	237.35	164.74
4. GUJARAT	6019.34	1988.34
5. HARYANA	1222.85	806.03
6. KARNATAKA	3976.83	2812.11
7. KERALA	1852.02	1584.43
8. MADHYA PRADESH	2053.36	1881.61
9. MAHARASHTRA	6737.46	5553.88
10. ORISSA	2496.36	1602.82

1	2	3
11. PUNJAB	2060.88	2575.52
12. RAJASTHAN	2827.55	1427.53
13. TAMIL NADU	2605.00	2767.90
14. UTTAR PRADESH	5711.68	4631.12
15. WEST BENGAL	1916.03	1653.78
SUB-TOTAL (B)	49241.97	32544.16
TOTAL (A + B)	49544.76	33169.63

Premium Collection by L.I.C. in West Bengal

5680. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of premium collected by LIC from the policyholders in West Bengal during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount invested in developmental works by LIC in West Bengal during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The requisite information is as under :

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(Rs. in crores)	830.66	965.02	1272.57

(b) The requisite information is as under :

Particulars	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. State Government Securities	65.00	74.55	70.00
2. Electricity Boards Bonds	12.00	—	—
3. Financial Corporation Bonds & Shares	2.00	5.00	4.00
4. State Government for Housing	17.32	—	—
5. Municipal Committees	0.43	—	—
6. Electricity Boards	41.97	41.97	50.08
7. Term Loans to Companies	1.92	3.16	0.86
8. Short Term Loans to Companies	10.50	4.80	36.75
9. Debentures	42.35	4.49	40.02
10. Equity Shares	10.96	74.45	43.13
Total	204.45	208.42	244.84

Index Linked Bonds

5681. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue index-linked bonds as a cost-effective instrument of Government borrowing;

(b) if so, the details of broad features of the index-linked bonds;

(c) the quantum of money which the Government propose to borrow through these bonds; and

(d) the time by which these bonds are likely to be floated ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). No decision has been taken in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for the Infrastructure Projects

5682. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank through its subsidiary the International Development Agency has offered a \$ 250 million low interest (0.5%) 30 years loan to fund relief and rehabilitation (R&R) expenditure connected with large infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Tasar Silk

5683. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of Indian Tasar silk has increased in the foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand the areas of production of Tasar silk; and

(d) the amount spent for development of this sector during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The programmes for increasing tasar silk production are primarily formulated and implemented by the concerned State Sericulture Departments. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the States, the Central Silk Board has set up a network of units to extend necessary R&D. Extension Training & Infrastructural support for the development of tasar sector. Besides, CSB is also organising preparation/supply of tasar silkworm seed and demonstration of improved techniques of tasar cocoon cooking, reeling & spinning. Further, in order to support tasar cocoon growers financial support has been provided to marketing organisations to strengthen the existing marketing system.

(d) The expenditure incurred by the CSB for development of tasar silk industry during last 3 years is as under :

	(Rs. in crores)
1993-94	3.34
1994-95	3.40
1995-96	4.05

[English]

Import of Newsprint

5684. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of newsprint imported during 1994 and 1995 and proposed to be imported during 1996;

(b) whether domestic supply of newsprint is not sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the estimated gap between demand and supply of newsprint in the country at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of newsprint ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The import of newsprint during the last three-years has been as under :

Period	Quantity (Lakh MT)
1993-94	3.11
1994-95	2.92
1995-96	3.45

During the current year, upto 30.6.96, a quantity of 0.91 lakh MTs of newsprint has been imported.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The demand of newsprint and its production in the country during the last three years has been as under :

Period	Demand	Production (in lakhs MT)
1993-94	5.80	3.61
1994-95	6.00	4.02
1995-96	6.30	4.10

(d) Government have taken the various steps to increase the indigenous production of newsprint. These include.

(i) A capacity of 6.55 lakhs tonnes by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of intent has been sanctioned.

(ii) Under the new Industrial Policy, newsprint units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished.

(iv) Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.

(v) Such paper mills which are producing paper conforming to BIS standards for newsprint subject to their products being used by newspapers and its quality being found satisfactory, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 as mills manufacturing newsprint.

- (vi) All types of newsprint including glazed newsprint has been made freely importable with effect from 1.5.95 at nil customs duty.

Projects Under VCF

5635. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether sanctioning of the Venture Capital Funds Projects require any security from the promoters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the assets created under the Venture Capital Fund Projects is hypothecated;
- (d) the maximum amount disbursed to any single project so far under Ventre Capital Funds; and
- (e) the number of companies under VCF scheme having industrial licences issued by Ministry of Industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has reported that assistance under the Venture Capital Fund (VCF) scheme is given by way of equity and/or conditional loan. The conditional loan is secured by a first mortgage and charge on all immovable and movable assets (present and future) of the company. Further, irrevocable and unconditional personal guarantee is taken from the promoters.

(c) SIDBI has reported that hypothecation charge has been created in all cases, where disbursements have been made by way of conditional loan under VCF scheme.

(d) The maximum amount disbursed to a single project under VCF scheme of SIDBI is Rs. 93.75 lakhs.

(e) SIDBI has reported that no unit assisted under VCF scheme of SIDBI has obtained industrial licence. However, units assisted by SIDBI under the scheme have obtained small scale industries (SSI) registration from the District Industries Centre.

Tyre Production Units

5686. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of tyre producing units set up in public/private sector as on date;
- (b) whether any of the above unit is having foreign investment;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of complaints received regarding quality of tyres during the last three years; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). There are 29 tyre companies having 36 tyre factories in the public/private sectors as on date.

Out of these 29 companies, 4 companies have foreign investment of their foreign collaborators. These are : M/s. Ceat Tyres of India Limited with M/s. Yokohama Rubber Co. Ltd., Japan; M/s. Dunlop Indias Ltd. with M/s Sumitomo Rubber Industries Ltd., Japan; M/s. Goodyear India Ltd. with M/s-Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company, USA; and M/s. Modi Rubber Limited with M/s. Continental A.G. Germany.

(d) and (e). Large tyre companies follow a warranty scheme, whereby a consumer is given pro-rate adjustments in manufacturing defect in tyres. However, if a complaint is brought to the notice of the Government regarding quality of tyres, the matter is taken up both with the manufacturer concerned as also with the Industry Association for immediate attention.

[Translation]

Janata Cloth

5687. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of yarn supplied to handloom weavers in Madhya Pradesh by the National Handloom Development Corporation under Mill Gate Price Scheme during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for manufacturing Janata Cloth during the year 1995-1996 in Madhya Pradesh under Janata Cloth Scheme and to what extent this target has been achieved;

(c) the target fixed for production of such cloth in the State during 1996-97; and

(d) the profit earned by the Government since the introduction of Janata Cloth Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The quantity of yarn supplied to handloom weavers in Madhya Pradesh by National Handloom Development Corporation under Mill Gate Price Scheme during last three years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (in lakh Kg.)
1993-94	2.57
1994-95	1.03
1995-96	1.52

(b) During 1995-96, Government of Madhya Pradesh had been allocated a target of 10.00 million square metres under Janata Cloth Scheme. The achievement as reported is about 6.30 million square mtrs.

(c) The Target fixed for 1996-97 in favour of Government of Madhya Pradesh is 3.75 million square metres.

(d) Government of India does not earn profit by implementing the schemes rather reimbursement the subsidy in favour of beneficiary agencies.

Import of Coal Machinery

5688. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of machines imported for B.C.C.L. during the last three years;

(b) whether these are operating in accordance with their capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether penalty has been imposed on the foreign suppliers for the machines which had not worked in accordance with their capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Details of machines imported for Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during the last three years are as under :

S.No.	Description	Quantity	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Wet Drum Magnetic Separator	1	3.68
2.	Breathing Apparatus BG-174	19	33
3.	Pumping Unit	12	220.16
4.	Submersible Pumps	8	171.32

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (f). In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

Prices of Coal

5689. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of different qualities of coal have gone up by 10 to 20% in the recent months after these were decontrolled;

(b) if so, the details of the said price rise in respect of the different qualities of coal, grade-wise, during the last six months;

(c) whether after nationalisation of coal sector, the production of coal has witnessed only five to six per cent increase whereas the prices thereof have been increase twelve times;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The details of the deregulated varieties of coal and prices fixed for each of them by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) alongwith the percentage increase are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The current average price of coal produced by CIL is Rs. 469.02 per tonne which is about 12.5 times of the average price of Rs. 37.50 per tonne at the time of nationalisation.

The current average price of coal produced by SCCL is Rs. 530 per tonne which is about 10.5 times of the average price of Rs. 50.50 per tonne after nationalisation.

The coal production by CIL and SCCL together during 1995-96 is 264.05 million tonnes (approximately) which is about 3.51 times of 75.27 m.t. of coal produced by these two companies during 1973-74.

(d) Coal prices are increased owing to escalation in the cost of various inputs, increase in wages, etc. whereas coal production is increased over the years to meet the targetted demands of various sectors of economy. The increase in coal prices has, therefore, no nexus with the increase in coal production.

(e) The main factors influencing the cost of production of coal are the increase in the cost of inputs and wages, over which the coal companies do not have any direct control. The Government attempts to control prices by taking steps to check inflation in the economy and by insisting that productivity is improved.

STATEMENT

Coal prices fixed by CIL and SCCL in March-April, 1996 after the Government decision on deregulation of pricing of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal—percentages of increase after such price fixation.

(i)	CIL (Rs. per tonne)	MCL	WCL
Catego- ries of Coal	CIL subsidiaries other than MCL & WCL as revised on 1.4.1996	as revised on 1.4.1996	as revised on 22.3.96
	2	3	4
Coking Coal			
SG-I	1310 (25%)	1310 (25%)	1310 (25%)
SG-II	1094 (25.2%)	1094 (25.2%)	1094 (25.2%)
Washery-I	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)
Washery-II	785 (25%)	785 (25%)	785 (25%)

1	2	3	4
Washery-III	580 (20.08%)	580 (20.68%)	765 (58.38%)
Washery-IV	540 (20%)	540 (20%)	628 (39.5%)
Semi-Coking-I	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)	946 (25.06%)
Semi-Coking-II	785 (25%)	785 (25%)	785 (25%)
Non-Coking			
A	771 (20.09%)	739 (15.10%)	936 (45.7%)
B	692 (18.08%)	663 (13.13%)	880 (50.1%)
C	590 (15%)	565 (10.13%)	795 (54.97%)
(ii)	SCCL		
Categories of Coal	As revised on 19.4 1996		
Non-Coking			
B		880	
C		795 (20.45%)	

SCCL do not produce coking coal. They produce only B and C grades of non-coking coal, the prices of which have been fixed by them with effect from 19.4.1996. Earlier they were not producing B grade of non-coking coal.

[English]

Fraud in IDBI

5690. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware of the fraudulent encashment of the Industrial Development Bank of India interest warrants worth Rs. 3.25 crores;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry committee has been constituted in the matter;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry committee and action taken thereon; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). IDBI have reported that as per the arrangement with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) used to issue interest warrants drawn on RBI in favour of the Bondholders and such interest warrants were invariably backed by corresponding advices to RBI. In December, 1994, it was brought to the notice of IDBI by Crime Branch, CID, Mumbai that two forged interest warrants dated November/December, 1994 for amount of about Rs. 3.25

crores have been presented for payment on IDBI's account with RBI. On verification, it was revealed that the said interest warrants were unauthorised instruments. IDBI also lodged a police complaint in April, 1995 and the investigation has not yet been completed.

Economic Growth

5691. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister assured the industrial sector that Government would clear bottlenecks in the way of faster economic growth, streamline procedures for speedy clearance of projects and tone up the infrastructure as a whole;

(b) whether the Prime Minister had also called meeting of the representatives of trade and industry in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the representatives have suggested certain measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Review of policy parameters and dialogue with Trade and Industry at various levels with a view to streamline the procedures and remove irritants wherever possible is a continuous process. Suggestions also continue to be received from various quarters on policy aspects. These are given due consideration.

Maintenance of Share Transfer Registers

5692. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of top 20 private sector companies in terms of their Market Capitalization which maintain register and share transfer functioning in-house and which have out-sourced them;

(b) the details of the companies which are keeping arms-length relationship with their Registrars and Transfer Agents;

(c) whether SEBI has any proposal to direct such listed Companies to entrust their functions of Registrar and Transfer Agents to separate entities which have an arms-length relationship with their Registrars and Transfer Agents;

(d) if so, whether SEBI has formulated any guidelines to ensure compliance by the listed companies;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the manner in which the investors interest is proposed to be protected by the SEBI ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The details of 20 such companies and the names of their Share Transfer Agents as furnished by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) are given in the attached Statement. Out of these companies, only 2 companies which are listed at sl. No. 14 and 20 in the Statement have an arms-length relationship with their Share Transfer Agents.

(c) to (e). A recommendation that SEBI should consider amendments to the SEBI (Registrar to an Issue an Share

Transfer Agents) Rules and Regulations 1993 in order to provide that there should be an arms-length relationship between a company and its Registrar and Share Transfer Agent is under examination in SEBI.

(f) SEBI Act 1992 and various rules and regulations under the Act provide a regulatory framework for protecting the interests of the investors.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Share Transfer Agent
1.	THE TATA ENGINEERING AND LOCOMOTIVE COMPANY LIMITED	TATA SHARE REGISTRY (TSR)
2.	HINDUSTAN LEVER LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
3.	RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED	RELIANCE CONSULTANCY SERVICES LIMITED
4.	TATA IRON & STEEL COMPANY LIMITED	TATA SHARE REGISTRY (TSR)
5.	BAJAJ AUTO LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
6.	ITC LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
7.	LARSEN & TOUBRO LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
8.	HINDALCO INDUSTRIES LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
9.	TATA CHEMICALS LIMITED	TATA SHARE REGISTRY (TSR)
10.	BROOKE BOND LIPTON INDIA LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
11.	GRASIM INDUSTRIES LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
12.	THE INDIAN HOTELS COMPANY LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
13.	MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
14.	COLGATE-PALMOLIVE (INDIA) LIMITED	SHAREPRO
15.	CASTROL INDIA LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
16.	HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION	IN-HOUSE
17.	MOTOR INDUSTRIES COMPANY LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
18.	BSES LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
19.	RANBAXY LABORATORIES LIMITED	IN-HOUSE
20.	GUJARAT AMBUJA CEMENT LIMITED	EPIC FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY

Export of Jaggery Under Sugar Quota

5693. SHRI TARIO ANWAR :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the *Economic Times* dated July 31, 1996 under the caption "Now, a jaggery export scam";

(b) if so, the total quantity of jaggery exported to European Union under the preferential quota for sugar during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made by the Government to the illegal exports and the role of Export Inspection Council in the matter ;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government and the representations of the sugar industry to sort out the matter with the European Union ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantity and value of raw cane jaggery exported to the European Union under the preferential quota during the last three years is as under :

Year	Qty. (Mts)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1993-94	—	—
1994-95	—	—
1995-96 April-Feb. '96)	10500	1909.28

(c) to (e). No illegal exports of raw cane jaggery have taken place. However, some consignments of raw cane jaggery, mainly exported to U.K., which were issued Certificates of Origin under the Generalised System of Preferences Scheme by the Export Inspection Agency with the endorsement "Preferential Sugar Regulation No. (EEC) 2782/76" have been debited by the European Union authorities to the preferential quota of sugar. Resolution of this issue has been taken up with the European Union authorities through our Embassy in Brussels and in this connection representatives of Indian Sugar General Industries Export and Import Corporation have also met the European Commission officials on 16.7.96.

Restructuring of IFCI

5694. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consultancy organisation has made certain recommendations regarding the restructuring of Industrial Finance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the consultancy;

(c) whether in accordance with the recommendations main regional offices of IFCI are going to be closed down; and

(d) if so, the number and details of such offices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., (IFCI) has reported that the main recommendations made by the consultancy organisation relate to strategy for current business, strategy for new business, business process re-engineering, organisation review and information technology.

(c) No, Sir. However, as per consultant's recommendations, IFCI proposes to reorganise one regional office and five branch offices into satellite offices in the first phase.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to M.P.

5695. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the annual consumption of coal in the various power stations of the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) the total quantity of coal supplied to these power stations during the last three years;

(c) the total shortage of coal in these power stations; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to supply the required quantity of coal to the power stations of the Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). The total demand of coal for the power stations of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) as assessed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and actual despatches of coal during each of the last three years are given below :

Year	Demand	Despatches	(In 000 tonnes)
			Data Provisional % Satisfaction
1993-94	11.640	10.831	93.05
1994-95	12.430	12.552	100.96
1995-96	12,625*	13.114	103.87

* Pro-rata demand to the agreed level of supplies to power sector by CIL.

The above table illustrates the fact that supply of coal to the power stations of MPEB have been going up steadily and has been maintained close to levels of demand of these stations.

(d) Supply of coal to power houses is accorded highest priority. Supply of coal to power houses is monitored regularly by Inter-Ministerial Group and corrective action taken wherever necessary to supply coal in order to sustain power generation.

[English]

Production of Oleo Pine Resin

5696. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of production and import of oleo pine resin during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of oleo pine resin has come down drastically while the demand for its industrial use has increased significantly leading to increase in its import; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of oleo pine resin and make it available to cottage and small scale units at a cheaper rate in each State particularly in Maharashtra, J&K and Haryana ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). As per the Forestry Statistics India, 1995, published by ICFRE, Dehradun, the State-wise production of Oleo Pine Resin during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below :

State/UT	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (in Metric Tonnes)
Arunachal Pradesh	309900	308615	288980
Himachal Pradesh	8669	10523	11422
Karnataka	—	19	3
Maharashtra	NA	NA	NA
Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orissa	NA	NA	NA
Punjab	198	225	237
Sikkim	NA	NA	NA
Uttar Pradesh	8637	—	—
Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil

Extract from the Statistics of foreign trade giving the details of import of Oleo Pine Resin during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (Upto February) are given below (Source DGCIS, Calcutta) :

Period	Article	Qty. in Kg.	Value (Rs.)
1993-94	Pine Oleo Resin	Nil	Nil
1994-95	Pine Oleo Resin	17178297	272062250
1995-96 (upto Feb., 1996)	Pine Oleo Resin	9151675	188619764

(c) Representations have been received about the shortages of Oleo Pine Resin, and the import is allowed freely without any restrictions.

Role of Financial Institutions

5697. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to curtail the role of Financial Institutions by lowering their equity share; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the question relates to the suggestion made recently by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for lowering the financial institutions' shareholding in a company to a maximum of 24 per cent.

No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Trade Deficit due to Import of Consumer Goods

5698. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trade deficit of the country in the first two years prior to the current financial year has grown by 180 per cent over the trade deficit registered in comparison to the corresponding period of last year;

(b) whether the Government have decided to import consumer goods in pursuance of obligations under World Trade Organisation is likely to further widen the trade deficit.

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb the Trade deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per the available DGCIS data, the trade deficit in the first two years, prior to the current financial year was around US \$ 2324 million in 1994-95 and US\$ 4539 million in 1995-96.

The trade deficit in the first 4 months of the current financial year April-July 1996-97 (as per latest available data from DGCIS) is estimated at US \$ 1082.31 million which is lower than the trade deficit at US \$ 1525.89 million in the corresponding period of last year 1995-96.

(b) and (c). Under the current exim policy a few consumer goods are allowed to be imported freely or under the SIL route. Import liberalisation of consumer goods is a part of our strategy to gradually shift away from quantitative restrictions to tariff restrictions under the liberalised trade regime and is in tune with the international trade regime and is in tune with the international trade practice. Most developing countries no longer maintain import restrictions on consumer goods. Review of export and import policy and liberalisation is an ongoing process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

(d) They try to reducing the trade deficit lies in increased exports. Export promotion is a continuous activity based on interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions. Export promotion measures are taken by the Government through policies and promotional schemes. Measures taken to promote exports include simplification of export and import policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Tea and Coffee

5699. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of tea and coffee in the country at present;

(b) whether it is sufficient to meet the domestic requirement; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of tea and coffee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Production of tea during the year 1995 is estimated at 753.92 million kg. Production of Coffee during the year 1995-96 (from July to June) is estimated at 2.23.000 tonne

Present production of tea and coffee in the country are sufficient to meet domestic requirement.

[English]

K.V.I.C.

5700. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

(Rs. in crores)

YEAR	KHADI	VILLAGE INDUSTRIES	TOTAL
1993-94	357.28	2876.58	3233.86
1994-95	389.71	3234.35	3624.06
1995-96	440.00	3560.00	4000.00
(Anticipated)			

(c) The details of funds allocated and provided to KVIC for the last two (2) years and the current year are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	FUNDS ALLOCATED			FUNDS PROVIDED		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto July, 1996)
1. Administrative Expenditure	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	6.00
2. Various Programme and Project	216.00 (Plan)	319.00	319.00	216.00	313.00	—
(Non-Plan)	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	—
Total	259.00	362.00	362.00	259.00	356.00	6.00

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Khadi and Village Industries/Institutions functioning under KVIC as on March 31, 1996;

(b) the value of total production of Khadi and Village Industries during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount of funds allocated and provided to KVIC for administrative expenditure and for various programmes and projects run and sponsored by it during each of the last two years and also during the current year; and

(d) the number of persons involved/employed in the field of Khadi and Village Industry, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At present, under KVIC, there are 30 State KVI Boards, 4500 registered institutions, 30080 cooperatives, 170 departmental units and 15180 sale outlets operating in 2.41 lakh villages.

(b) Value of total production of Khadi and Village Industries for the last three (3) years is as under :

In addition to above the following amount was allocated as book adjustment and renewal of past loans under Plan and Non-Plan.

(Rs. in crores)

	1994-95			ALLOCATED 1995-96			1996-97		
	KHADI	V.I.	TOTAL	KHADI	V.I.	TOTAL	KHADI	V.I.	TOTAL
SUBSIDY IN LIEU OF INTEREST (BOOK ADJUSTMENT)									
(i) PLAN	20.00	15.00	35.00	19.00	5.0	24.00	19.00	5.00	24.00
(ii) NON-PLAN	23.00	11.00	34.00	23.00	11.00	34.00	23.00	11.00	34.00
RENEWAL OF PAST LOANS									
(i) PLAN	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) NON-PLAN	—	—	263.70	—	—	245.00	—	—	237.00
			332.70			303.70			295.24

(d) State-wise number of persons involved/employment generated under Khadi and Village Industries for the year 1994-95 & 1995-96 is given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT**KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT**

(Persons in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States & Union Territories	1994-95			1995-96		
		Khadi	V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
I. STATES							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.32	3.17	3.49	0.34	3.25	3.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	0.18	0.80	0.98	0.19	0.81	1.00
4.	Bihar	2.01	1.17	3.18	2.12	1.15	3.22
5.	Goa	—	0.05	0.05	—	0.05	0.05
6.	Gujarat	0.52	0.42	0.94	0.55	0.42	0.97
7.	Haryana	0.43	0.42	0.85	0.44	0.43	0.87
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.09	0.51	0.60	0.09	0.55	0.64
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.32	0.58	0.90	0.34	0.58	0.92
10.	Karnataka	0.40	1.34	1.74	0.42	1.37	1.79
11.	Kerala	0.15	1.84	1.99	0.16	1.88	2.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.22	0.82	1.04	0.23	0.84	1.07
13.	Manipur	—	0.41	0.41	—	0.42	0.42
14.	Maharashtra	0.18	4.81	4.99	0.19	4.94	5.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Meghalaya	*	0.12	0.12	—	0.12	0.12
16.	Mizoram	*	0.06	0.06	—	0.06	0.06
17.	Nagaland	—	0.07	0.07	—	0.07	0.07
18.	Orissa	0.03	1.76	1.79	0.03	1.81	1.84
19.	Punjab	0.77	0.82	1.59	0.80	0.83	1.63
20.	Rajasthan	1.18	2.58	3.76	1.24	2.62	3.86
21.	Sikkim	0.01	0.05	0.06	0.01	0.05	0.06
22.	Tamin Nadu	0.82	9.69	10.51	0.87	9.93	10.80
23.	Tripura	*	0.41	0.41	*	0.42	0.42
24.	Uttar Pradesh	4.98	5.55	10.53	5.25	5.55	10.80
25.	West Bengal	0.55	2.61	3.16	0.60	2.65	3.25
Total : I		13.16	40.06	53.22	13.87	40.80	54.67

II. UNION TERRITORIES

1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	—	0.01	0.01	—	0.01	0.01
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	0.02	0.17	0.19	0.02	0.18	0.20
6.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Pondicherry	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.04
Total : II		0.03	0.21	0.24	0.03	0.22	0.22
Total : I + II		13.19	40.27	53.46	13.90	41.02	54.92

*Figures not available.

SEBI

5701. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of heads of SEBI Regional Offices was held at Mumbai on the August 13, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues raised therein and the decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among other things, SEBI has decided to further decentralise its operations. With effect from 16.9.96, Regional Offices have been empowered to :

- (i) vet offer documents for issues upto Rs. 20 crores;
- (ii) grant registration for Merchant bankers of category II and below; and

(iii) to inspect stock-exchanges falling in the respective regions except the stock-exchanges at Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.

Setting up of Rubber-Wood Processing Industries

5702. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rubber-wood processing industries set up in the country with their production capacity, marketing and exports performance during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have made any plan to set up more such industries during 1996-97 with the Government support; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) There are forty eight rubber-wood processing units in different parts of the country which are processing and marketing

rubber wood. Generally, these units are in the private sector. Rubber Board does not collect details of production and marketing of rubber-wood by these units. However, it is estimated that the annual installed capacity of the important rubber wood processing units is around 66300 cubic metres of sawn timber.

(b) and (c). Duty 1996-97, one rubber wood processing unit is likely to be set up in the joint sector with equity participation from Rubber Board under the world Bank assisted Rubber Project which is under implementation.

Coal Controller

5703. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether appointing of Coal Controller has been made by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in making the appointment; and

(c) the role of the Coal Controller in the distribution of coal to various States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A proposal for selection to the post of Coal Controller, after following the prescribed recruitment procedure has been sent to the Union Public Service Commission. Recommendations of the Commission are awaited. Pending receipt of recommendation of the Union Public Service Commission one senior officer of the Ministry of Coal has been entrusted with the additional charge of the office of the Coal Controller.

(c) Under clause 12A of the Colliery Control Order, 1945, Coal Controller has been appointed a competent authority to allot quota of coal to any person or class of persons subject to the guidelines issued by the Govt. However, if for any reasons Coal Controller is not able to do so, coal companies have been allowed to distribute coal on the basis of linkages/sponsorships. As per a recent amendment made by the Government no new allotment of coal is required to be made by the Coal Controller for coking coals and such grade of non-coking coal as may have been notified by the Government. Coal can be allotted by Coal Controller subject to linkages granted by the Central Government or by the Coal Companies in the case of non-core sector consumers. Once the linkages are granted by the Central Government or coal company coal is allotted on monthly or quarterly basis subject to availability of coal and for actual consumption. Keeping in view the *inter-se* priority of various competing consumers.

Service Area Approach for Banks in U.P.

5704. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages covered under the scheme of service area approach by a branch of public sector bank in States particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the norms fixed by the banks in regard to giving loans for rural development ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that at the time of introduction of Service Area Approach (SAA) Scheme i.e. April, 1989, approximately 15 to 25 villages were identified and allotted to each rural and semi-urban branch of commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The average number of villages allocated per branch worked out to 14.7 on an all India basis at that time. In Uttar Pradesh, the average number of villages per branch (rural and semi-urban) works out to 16.

(b) Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have given general instructions to promote lending in rural areas. As per extant RBI guidelines, 40 per cent of the net-bank credit outstandings of all commercial banks (excluding foreign banks) is to be directed towards the priority sector. Out of this 40 per cent, atleast 18 per cent is required to be directed towards agriculture. Further, poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme are also directed towards rural areas.

[Translation]

Textile Mills

5705. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number spinning mills set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total production capacity of these spinning mills; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the setting up of these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) The expenditure incurred on setting up of mills is not maintained centrally.

STATEMENT

As per available information (dt. 10.9.96), number of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Spinning Mills that commenced production during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and their production capacity State-wise is as under :

States/U.Ts	No. of Spinning Mills								
	No. of Mills	Spindles (93-94)	Rotors	No. of Mills (94-95)	Spindles	Rotors	No. of Mills	Spindles (95-96)	Rotors
Andhra Pradesh	6	81104	576	4	55488	—	2	7680	—
Daman & Diu	—	—	—	1	3264	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	2	24192	1152	3	18880	672	4	32032	1224
Haryana	7	—	4464	16	—	8776	13	14058	5824
Himachal Pradesh	1	19872	—	1	11520	—	1	8640	—
Karnataka	3	38400	336	1	8064	—	—	—	—
Kerala	1	28224	—	1	5160	—	1	—	1152
Madhya Pradesh	5	78720	768	1	20000	—	3	28656	600
Maharashtra	12	120024	5328	9	75760	2184	8	34464	1432
Pondicherry	—	—	—	1	2880	—	1	—	768
Punjab	4	25060	2644	3	43200	504	2	18240	—
Rajasthan	2	9216	600	2	62088	144	3	32184	600
Tamil Nadu	23	183728	1539	46	368696	4488	40	224844	1712
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	4	60896	—	1	12960	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	1	11520	—	—	—	—
Total	66	608540	17407	94	747416	16768	79	413758	13312

[English]

Profit/Loss in Hindustan Paper Corporation

5706. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS :

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the profit/loss position of each unit of Hindustan Paper Corporation for the last three years, year-wise alongwith the production of each unit;

(b) the stock of paper accumulated in each unit as on date; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production in each unit and also to reduce losses ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) (i) Profit/(loss) for the last three years of the

two units (Nagaon Paper Mill and Cachar Paper Mill) of Hindustan Paper Corporation was as under :

	(Rs. in crore)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)
Nagaon Paper Mill	(124.98)*	(34.62)	(10.61)
Cachar Paper Mill	(121.86)*	(55.20)	(25.91)

*Includes penal interest for previous years.

(ii) PRODUCTION (MT)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Nagaon Paper Mill	67482	72165	80855
Cachar Paper Mill	51432	70596	72015

(b) The stock of paper in these units as on 31.8.96 was as follows :

	(In M.T.)
Nagaon Paper Mill	14537
Cachar Paper Mill	20967

- (c) (i) Action has been taken by Hindustan Paper Corporation to improve efficiency in the areas of pulp mill, recovery section and paper machine and to increase capacity utilisation.
- (ii) Hindustan Paper Corporation has also taken up special drive for production of value added paper like maplitho, copier and base paper to increase the margin of profit.
- (iii) The proposal for financial restructuring of Hindustan Paper Corporation has been approved by Government.

Cut in IDA aid to India

5707. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "IDA aid cut to India likely says Report" published in *Times of India* (Mumbai) dated June 27, 1996;

(b) whether India is likely to get less International Development Assistance during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for effecting such a cut ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The international development assistance likely to be pledged to India for the year 1996-97 will be known only after the conclusion of India Development Forum Meeting, scheduled to be held in Japan on 19-20 September, 1996.

Creation of Additional Irrigation Potential by N.A.B.A.R.D.

5708. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has sanctioned any project for creation of additional irrigation potential in the States through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details of the States proposed to be brought under the project;

(c) the estimated area likely to be covered in the project, State-wise; and

(d) the estimated outlay sanctioned for the project ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Selected projects, including irrigation projects from all States are eligible for assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

(c) and (d). The scheme of RIDF-I is operational since 1995-96. According to information made available by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), a loan assistance of Rs. 1990.96 crores has been sanctioned under the scheme so far for over 2500 projects with a combined irrigational potential of about 20.50 lakh hectares. NABARD has further reported that it has sanctioned 133 minor irrigation schemes in three States under RIDF-I during 1996-97. The State-wise details are as under :

Arunachal Pradesh	—	34	schemes
Manipur	—	63	schemes
Tripura	—	36	schemes
Total	—	133	schemes

The details of the area likely to be irrigated by these projects and the financial outlay there against is indicated below :

State	Area (hectares)	Financial Outlay (Rs. crores)	NABARD assistance (Rs. crores)
Arunachal Pradesh	4474	9.21	3.36
Manipur	4579	3.72	1.75
Tripura	1423	4.38	1.82

Further, as announced in the budget speech for 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 2500 crores has been earmarked for RIDF-II.

Non-Banking Financial Institutes in Tamil Nadu

5709. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of non-banking financial institutions permitted by the RBI for operating in Tamil Nadu, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that many of these institutions have duped the depositors on large scale;

(c) if so, the action taken against these defaulting units;

(d) whether the Government propose to ban these institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as on 1st Aug., 1996, 4982 Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), having their registered offices in Tamil Nadu, were included in the mailing list of RBI of which 118 are registered with RBI. As the information relating to the locations of the NBFCs in Tamil Nadu is voluminous, time and effort involved in collecting and compiling the information would not be commensurate with the purpose likely to be achieved.

(b) and (c). RBI has reported that it has no information about cheating by NBFCs. However, complaints alleging default in repayment of principal/payment of interest were received by RBI against two companies in Tamil Nadu during the last one year. Under the provisions of RBI Act, 1934 and the directions issued thereunder, RBI is not empowered to enforce payment of deposits or payment of interest thereon in the event of default. However, RBI issued directions for regulating quantum of deposits upto specified ceiling related to Net Owned Funds and prescribe minimum and maximum tenure of deposits and maximum rate of interest on deposits etc. Wherever it is found that NBFCs are violating the RBI directions, RBI is empowered to prohibit the company from accepting further deposits from public. In exercise of these powers, 6 companies in Tamil Nadu have been prohibited from accepting further deposits.

(d) and (e). Proposals have been initiated to regulate the activities of NBFCs more effectively.

[Translation]

Production of Coal

5710. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the production of coal in the country during the last three years, State-wise, company-wise and their subsidiary-wise;

(b) the number of employees working in these coal companies, company-wise;

(c) whether there is any reduction in the employees of these companies during above period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the safety measures being adopted by the Government in coal mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The production of coal in the country during the last three years, State-wise,

company-wise and their subsidiary-wise was as under :
(million tonnes)

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	23.21	25.65	26.77
Assam	1.20	1.19	0.82
Bihar	73.27	72.41	74.53
Madhya Pradesh	72.86	75.12	79.76
Maharashtra	20.45	21.00	22.82
Orissa	24.30	27.32	32.70
Uttar Pradesh	12.14	13.70	14.80
West Bengal	16.61	17.34	17.93
Total	246.04	253.73	270.13

Company-wise/ Subsidiary-wise	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	22.61	24.85	27.81
BCCL	29.04	28.75	27.81
CCL	33.51	31.21	30.76
NCL	31.41	32.50	35.20
WCL	26.50	27.24	29.01
SECL	47.53	50.00	53.17
MCL	24.30	27.33	32.70
NEC	1.20	1.99	0.82
CIL	216.10	233.07	237.28
SCCL	25.21	25.65	26.77
CAPTIVE COLLIERIES (TISCO, IISCO & DVC)	4.73	5.01	6.08
TOTAL	246.04	253.73	270.13

(b) The number of employees working in these coal companies, company-wise in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) was as under :—

Subsidiary Co.	Manpower / as 1.4.94	1.4.95	1.4.96
1	2	3	4

Coal Producing

ECL	171,727	163,805	161,675
BCCL	156,576	149,972	147,439
CCL	95,676	94,404	92,816
NCL	16,165	16,298	16,661
WCL	84,585	84,309	94,857
SECL	97,523	98,371	99,928

1	2	3	4
MCL	22,060	22,642	22,923
NEC	5,098	4,894	4,826
SUB TOTAL	649,910	634,695	630,285
NON-COAL PRODUCING			
OMPDIL	4,180	4,086	3,982
CIL (HQS)	1,658	1,614	1,567
DANKUNI COAL COMPLEX (DCC)	696	698	701
SUB TOTAL	6,534	6,398	6,250
GRAND TOTAL	655,944	641,093	636,535
SCCL	114,971	114,496	113,823

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. There has been overall reduction of manpower in CIL & SCCL and reasons thereof were natural wastage, resignation, and voluntary retirement scheme (Bureau of Public Enterprises) and voluntary retirement against other schemes.

(e) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps, Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels, training and retraining of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards.

[English]

Capital Investment

5711. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for constituting a board to monitor capital investment at district level in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government at present do not have such a proposal.

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

[Translation]

Illegal Mining of Coal

5712. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal coal mining on large scale is going on in the forest areas of Bihar and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop such illegal coal mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Illegal coal mining is not taking place on a large scale in the forest areas within the leasehold areas of the subsidiary companies of CIL.

(c) Following steps are taken by the CIL subsidiaries to check illegal mining :

- (i) As far as possible, the exposed coal faces in unused/abandoned quarries and underground abandoned workings are blocked with debris.
- (ii) The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the company's security personnel regularly patrol the areas where illegal mining have been reported earlier. The CISF in association with local police, also conduct raids on illegal mining sites wherever information reaches the authorities.
- (iii) On receipt of information on illegal mining and after preliminary enquiry, a First Information Report is filed with the local police.
- (iv) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State/District authorities and the police to keep a check on illegal mining.
- (v) Surprise checks and raids are conducted by the security staff of the coal companies.

Losses to P.N.B.

5713. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank has suffered a loss of Rs. 95 crores during 1995-96 as has been reported in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated August 19, 1996;

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

(c) the details of other public sector banks which have suffered losses during 1995-96 and the quantum of loss so suffered by them individually; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to check the losses in the public sector banks ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has shown a net loss of Rs. 95.92 crores during 1995-96 mainly due to higher provisions towards depreciation on investment.

(c) The details of other public sector banks which had shown net losses during 1995-96, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given below :

Name of the Bank	Net Loss (Rs. in crores)
State Bank of Saurashtra	230.31
Central Bank of India	73.55
Indian Bank	1336.40
Punjab & Sind Bank	132.10
UCO Bank	236.66
United Bank of India	234.46
Vijaya Bank	250.95

(d) Government/RBI have taken various steps to improve the overall functioning of banks. Based on the discussion with the top executives of banks for finalising performance commitments, specific advice was given on matters relating to strengthening of credit management to improve the quality of assets, toning up of internal control and other measures that facilitate the improvement of bank's health. Banks reporting operating and net losses are precluded from incurring fresh capital expenditure, fresh recruitment etc. It is also being continuously impressed upon the banks to make every effort for reduction of Non-performing assets to certain targetted levels. The setting up of Debt Recovery Tribunals is also expected to help banks in recovering certain disputed or defaulted dues.

[English]

Computerisation in DGCIS

5714. SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether office of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta has been completely computerized;

(b) if so, whether the upto date figures of import and export of the country for every month is now available instead of quarterly figures; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The Office of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics has not yet been completely computerised although the services of mainframe computer

are being used. Presently, DGCIS releases provisional foreign trade data on aggregate exports and imports within one month for the reference month. Provisional data on imports and exports by major commodity groups/countries and ports are released monthly in the form of a bulletin at the 2-digit level.

Fuel Linkage to Thermal Power Stations

5715. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. is reviewing its long term fuel linkages with 33 thermal power projects in the country;

(b) whether managements of some of these thermal power projects are reluctant to pay the earnest money demanded by the C.I.L.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present position in this regard and the action proposed to be taken by the C.I.L. in those cases in which earnest money is not received by it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). Long-term coal linkages for Thermal Power Stations are considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) functioning in the Ministry of Coal. Wherever long-term coal linkages are agreed subject to conclusion of a fuel supply agreement, power plants are required to enter into such an agreement with the Coal Companies.

CIL Board has reviewed the matter concerning fuel supply agreements and with the approval of the Board, CIL has *inter-alia* framed a policy that Independent Power Producers (IPPs) would have to pay earnest money equivalent to one month's value of coal supplies at the time of execution of the fuel supply agreement. Since no fuel supply agreement with any IPP has so far been executed, the occasion to pay earnest money has so far not arisen. IPPs with whom fuel supply agreement has been initiated have been told about the need for payment of earnest money.

[Translation]

Textile Units

5716. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the status of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat in Textile industry of the Country;

(b) the number of units producing Handloom, Powerloom, synthetic yarn, readymade Garments, Cotton cloth, Hosiery & Khadi and the quantum of various type of clothes produced by them in these States;

(c) the expenditure incurred for the development of textile industry in these State by the Union Government during each of the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of cloth exported out of the cloth produced by these units and the steps being taken by the Government to promote the export ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) The status (ranking) of the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat in the Textile Industry of the country, in terms of various parameters related to the said industry, is indicated herein below :

STATUS (RANKING)

Sl. No.	Parameter	Raj.	U.P.	Gujarat
1.	No. of Mills	9th	5th	3rd
2.	Spinning capacity	9th	4th	3rd
3.	Production of spun yarn	5th	6th	3rd
4.	Loomage Capacity	8th	3rd	1st
5.	Regd. No. of Powerlooms	9th	5th	2nd
6.	No. of Handlooms	17th	5th	20th
7.	Production of mill cloth	6th	7th	2nd

(b) No. of Units & quantum of Production in Rajasthan, U.P. & Gujarat as under :

Particulars	Raj.	U.P.	Gujarat
(i) No. of Handlooms	30959	190286	21414
(ii) Production Handloom	Not Maintained		
(iii) Regd. No. of Powerlooms (As on 31.12.1995)	31471	65366	302280
(iv) No. of Synthetic yarn manufacturers	42	54	55
(v) Production of Blended cloth & 100% Non-Cotton cloth	19.0m. sq. m.	8.3 m.sq.m.	203.4 m.sq.m.
(vi) Cotton cloth No. of Units	7	14	90
(vii) Cotton cloth production	38.4 m.sq.m.	21.1 m.sq.m.	248.2 m.sq.m.

*Figures in respect of Khadi & Readymade Garments are not maintained due to decentralised nature of these sectors.

(c) Expenditure incurred by Union Govt. for these states in last 3 years is as under :

Powerloom Sector :

Year	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh	Gujarat
1993-94	3.90	3.36	4.46
1994-95	4.15	4.12	5.33
1995-96	5.28	5.16	6.29

Handloom Sector :

1993-94	495.56	3852.50	454.27
1994-95	239.00	1953.08	297.51
1995-96	524.67	1515.34	95.51

(d) The data in respect of export of cloth unit-wise & statewise are not maintained. The various steps taken up by the govt. to promote exports of textiles include removal of minimum floor price condition for export, setting up of Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PD EXCIL), lowering of peak import duty from 65% to 50%, setting up of special window for import of fabrics with normal import duty & setting up of ecolaboratories at various places in the country.

[English]

Foreign/Joint Venture in Automobile

5717. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Indian, foreign or joint venture companies engaged in the production of various types of the automobiles vehicles including two and three wheelers in India;

(b) the details of those companies which are engaged in manufacturing and which are assembling vehicles;

(c) the total outflow of foreign exchange on account of profits, royalty, salaries, bonus and other charges by these companies;

(d) whether more foreign automobile manufacturers are planning to enter India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) This information is not maintained by the Ministry of Industry.

(d) and (e). Two industrial licence applications for manufacture of passenger cars from M/s Mainu-Amerigon and M/s Shakuns Motarick, have been received.

STATEMENT

The names of the major Indian, foreign and joint venture companies engaged in the manufacture of various types of automotive vehicles are :

CAR**(a) Indian Companies**

Hindustan Motors.
TELCO
Premier Automobiles Ltd.

(b) Joint Venture

Maruti Udyog Ltd.
General Motors India Ltd.
Pal-Peugeot Ltd.
SIEL-Honda Motors Ltd.
Mercedez-Benz India Ltd.
DCM-Daewoo Ltd.
Hero Cycles with BMW of Germany
Mahindra Ford India Ltd.
Sipani Ltd.-Rovers Group of U.K.

(c) 100% Foreign Owned Co.

Hyundai Motor Co. of Korea

Commercial Vehicles**(a) Indian Companies**

TELCO
Ashok Leyland Ltd.
Bajaj Tempo Ltd.
Mahindra & Mahindra.

(b) Joint Ventures

Swaraj Mazda.
DCM Daewoo
Eicher Motors Ltd.

Two-/Three Wheelers**(a) Indian Companies**

Bajaj Auto Ltd.

(b) Joint Venture

LML Ltd.
TVS Suzuki
Hero Honda
Escorts Yamaha Ltd.
Kinetic Hond.

The joint-ventures recently approved in the passenger car sector envisage assembling of cars through SKD/CKD import in the initial stage only.

[Translation]

Financial Service Scheme

5718. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial services scheme for small scale industries corporation are in operation in each State ;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria being adopted for providing financial assistance to the entrepreneurs in each State; and

(c) the details of the financial assistance/services provided to the entrepreneurs during each of the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The financial services scheme of National Small Industries Corporation Limited are in operation in most of the States through its 8 Regional Offices spread over the country.

(b) The Corporation is offering four schemes to the entrepreneurs under the Financial Services viz. (i) Raw Material Assistance (ii) Bill Financing (iii) Working Capital Finance and (iv) Export Development Finance.

The criteria adopted for providing assistance under this Scheme are (i) the unit should be a registered small scale unit ; (ii) the technoeconomic viability of the unit to ensure timely repayment of the loan sanctioned under the Scheme; (iii) the unit is required to furnish securities in the form of Bank Guarantee/Letter of Credit/Shares/Fixed Deposit etc.

(c) The Corporation's Scheme is being implemented through its 8 Regional Offices. The Region-wise data is given below :

		(Rs. in lakhs)		
S.No.	Regions	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
		(Provisional)		
1.	Regional Office Delhi	622.00	4444.29	4175.69
2.	Calcutta	666.00	2503.01	2382.55
3.	Madras	2522.00	9778.91	16923.11
4.	NOIDA	156.00	778.08	742.06
5.	Ahmedabad	744.00	4465.60	19064.75
6.	Bombay	2525.00	5745.71	8156.00
7.	Guwahati	11.00	442.41	674.36
8.	H.O. Delhi	1786.00	856.77	1563.11
		9032.00	29,014.78	53,681.63

The State-wise data is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Interest on GPF

5719. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of prevailing rate of interest on deposits in the foreign banks/companies/nationalised banks for a minimum period of one year or more ;

(b) whether the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPFs) is much less in comparison to foreign banks and other organisations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on GPF also ;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Under the interest rate structure presently prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks are free to fix their own deposit rate on domestic term deposits of over one year. According to information available with RBI, as reported by banks, the interest rates on domestic term deposits of above one year offered by major nationalised banks and foreign banks is as given below :

Duration	Rate of interest (per cent per annum)
(i) Nationalised Banks	
Above one year and upto two years	11.00
Above two years and upto three years	12.00
Above three years	13.00
(ii) Foreign Banks	
Above one year and upto two years	12.0 to 14.0
Over two years	12.5 to 15.0

RBI has further reported that Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are allowed to pay interest at a rate not exceeding 15.0 per cent per annum on the deposits for the period of one year and above and upto five years. However, registered NBFCs which comply with the prudential norms, minimum investment grade credit rating and other regulations have been, *inter-alia*, permitted to fix interest rates as determined by them on the deposits of one year and upto five years after they obtain a certificate from the FBI regarding compliance with the aforesaid requirements.

(b) to (g). The interest being paid on GPF is 12 per cent. The interest is totally exempted from income tax without any ceiling and the subscriptions also qualify for tax rebate. There is no proposal under consideration at present to increase the interest rate on GPF.

[Translation]

Import and Export of Tea and Coffee

5720. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tea and coffee that has been imported/exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for the export of these commodities during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed for the export of these commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Details of export/import of coffee and tea in the last three years are as follows :

(Qty. in tonne)(Value Rs. crore)

Year	Qty.	Value
<i>Export of coffee</i>		
1993-94	136690	586.99
1994-95	137395	1096.33
1995-96	167956	1492.60

Import of Coffee

Import of roasted/decaffeinated coffee was allowed only from 1.4.95.

(Qty. in Mn. Kg.) (Value Rs. Crore)

Year	Qty.	Value
<i>Export of tea</i>		
1993-94	154.55	1062.04
1994-95	152.16	989.41
1995-96	163.65	1191.19
<i>Import of Tea</i>		
1993-94	0.87	3.99
1994-95	0.20	1.10
1995-96	0.46	2.41

(b) The targets for export of tea and coffee for the year 1996-97 is are follows :

Tea	180 Million Kg.
Coffee	1,50,000 tonne.

(c) Steps taken by Coffee Board to boost exports include:

- (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) regular market survey and deputation of business negotiation/delegation to foreign markets; and
- (iv) inviting foreign market teams to the country to popularise Indian coffee.

Steps taken by Tea Board to boost exports through promotional campaigns by the Board's-office consist of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness of unique characteristics of Indian tea; (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through the Tea Board marketing symbol; and (iv) support to various foreign brand containing Indian tea. Tea Board has also undertaken 'Darjeeling' 'Assam' Logo campaign in U.K. along with brand promotion schemes abroad to popularise classic Indian teas.

[English]

Renovation of Cycle Corporation

5721. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any plan for modernisation/renovation of the Cycle Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). In its last hearing, BIFR had formed a *prima facie* opinion that Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) was not viable on long term basis. Further proceedings of BIFR have been stayed by the Calcutta High Court and the matter is *sub-judice*.

Export of Cement

5722. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of cement during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the export of cement during the above plan is as per the targets till now;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). While no specific target for export of cement during the Eighth Plan has been fixed, export of cement/clinker has been increasing during the last few years, except in 1995-96 when there was a decline mainly due to higher demand in the domestic market. The year-wise export of cement/clinker is as under :

Year	Export (Million Tonnes)
1992-93	1.18
1993-94	2.85
1994-95	3.17
1995-96	2.38

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

[Translation]

Evasion of Excise Duty

5723. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI RAMSAGAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central excise revenue is being evaded by the manufacturers with impunity in large number of cases and the central excise authorities do not seem to be serious about that;

(b) if so, the number of assessment of the central excise revenue evasion during 1995 been made and if so, how much does it work out; and

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to strengthen the central excise department to check such evasion by undertaking more number of visits to the manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). It is not true that Central Excise authorities are not serious in detecting evasion of central excise duty by manufacturers. 5566 cases involving central excise duty of the order of Rs. 1276.16 crores have been booked by the Central Excise Department during the year 1995.

The Central Excise Department has stepped up preventive activities to curb evasion of central excise duty. As a result, gathering of intelligence, surprise checks of production and clearance, and transit checks have been intensified with a view to preventing clandestine manufacture and removal of excisable goods.

Provision for charging interest on delayed payment of duty, imposition of mandatory penalty equal to the central excise duty evaded and introduction of self assessment and selective audit are some of the legislative changes aimed at discouraging evasion of central excise duty by manufacturers.

[English]

Panel for Disinvestment

5724. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Disinvestment Commission is likely to study and suggest steps to improve the working of sick public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to make sick units viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Sick Public Sector Industrial units are referred to BIFR for formulation of their revival/rehabilitation packages. In respect of other loss making units, enterprises specific measures are taken by the concerned management in consultation with the administrative Ministries to improve their efficiency, productivity and profitability.

Investment made by STC in Sugar Deals

5725. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of funds invested by State Trading Corporation in sugar deals during each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made by STC thereof; and

(c) the projections made or plan formulated by STC for sale/export of sugar during 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No investments were made by STC on sugar business during the last three years. L/C limits were, however, used by the Corporation for import of sugar.

(b) The total imports and exports of sugar made through STC during the last 3 years were as follows :

Import	(Quantity MTS)	
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
—	—	4,70,685
Export		
13,585	46,565	35,000

(c) No projection has been formulated by STC for import export of sugar during 1996-97. STC undertakes these operations on the authorisations of the Government.

[Translation]

National Renewal Fund

5726. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up National Renewal Fund to give assistance for training of workers; and

(b) if so, the number of personnels belonging to general category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes trained so far separately ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the information available from the nodal agencies that have set up Employees Assistance Centres for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers with the assistance from the National Renewal Fund, 11,752 workers have availed of retraining as on 31st July, 1996. The details of number of workers belonging to general category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Regional Centre for Design and Technical Development

5727. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the name and location of each regional centre for design and technical development;

(b) the total number of designs dealt with in each regional centre during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) the percentage of designs accepted by the trade during the above period;

(d) whether any evaluation of technical wings of these centres has been made;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The location of Regional Design & Technical Development Centre run by the Government is as under :

1. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi.
2. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, (Design Wing), Church Street, Bangalore.
3. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, (Technical Wing), Victoria Road, Bangalore.

4. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Old Court House Street, Calcutta.
5. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Govindpura, Bhopal.
6. Design and Technical Training Centre, 3rd Floor, Sitaram Mill Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai.

(b) and (c). The total number of design developed and the percentage of design accepted by the trade during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

	Desing Developed	
	1994-95	1995-96
1. Regional Design & Technical Developemnt Centre, New Delhi.	17 (50.0%)	368 (58.0%)
2. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Calcutta.	426 (84.5%)	612 (96.2%)
3. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre (Design wing), Bangalore.	186 (57.8%)	192 (31.3%)
4. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Bhopal.	44 (20.0%)	nil

(Figures in brackets indicate the % of design accepted by the trade).

Victoria Road Centre at Bangalore is a technical wing and Design Training Centre at Mumbai has yet to start functioning

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The evaluation of technical wing has not been made so far owing to the fact that the technical wings of the Regional Design and Technical Development Centres are functioning according to the Action Plans formulated by the Government.

[Translation]

Coal Stock Yards

5728. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and locations where the coal stock-yards have been set up in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the norms adopted for setting up coal stock yards; and

(c) the details of new coal yards to be set up in near future, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). 11 Stockyards are beign presently operated by CIL in various States as mentioned below :

West Bengal	6
Orissa	2
Madhya Pradesh	2
Uttar Pradesh	1

These stockyards are to be closed after disposal of residual stocks. Under the current policy, the responsibility for setting up and managing new stockyards vests with the respective State Governments. Coal Companies offer coal for these stockyards in accordance with the sponsorships received from the State Governments.

[English]

Trade with Bangladesh

5729. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trade between India and Bangladesh has been on increase since 1990 through Petrapole-check post on the Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) if so, the value of trade transacted and revenue earned during each of the last three years, item-wise;

(c) whether infrastructural deficiencies on Indian side of the border impede the export growth from the above check-post;

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) whether out of these deficiencies one cause is transport congestion at the N.H 35 and the road at Changrabandha in Coochbehar has also become unusable; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Value of total trade between the two countries during the last three years transacted through Petrapole Land Customs Station is given below .

(Value in Rs crore)/provisional

Year	Total Trade
1993-94	955.70
1994-95	1409.13
1995-96	1,759.59

Source ; DGCI & S.

For item-wise trade figures, DGCI&S Publication titled Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March, 1995 and 1996, available in the Parliament Library may be consulted.

(c) to (f). Infrastructural deficiencies like narrow roads, lack of parking space, shortage of warehousing facilities etc. are resulting in congestion and delays at the Petropole Land Customs Station (LCS). Government have approved a few projects for improving infrastructural facilities at the LCS, which include construction of warehousing facilities at Petropole LCS, construction of a four lane by-pass at Haridaspur International Check Post, development of a truck terminus at Bongaon, strengthening and widening of the approach road, widening of stretches of NH 35 etc.

The road at Changrabandha, in Coochabehar District requires repairs but trade is continuing through this road.

Smuggling of Rice

5730. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of rice in a large scale from Assam to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected so far, and

(c) the action taken to stop such smuggling activities ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such incident has been reported to the Government.

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

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of rice from Assam to Bangladesh.

World Bank Assisted Projects in Orissa

5731. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects working in Orissa with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Orissa Government to set up some other projects with the assistance of World Bank;

(c) if so, the number of projects pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(d) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are eight state/multistate on-going projects being implemented with World Bank assistance in the State of Orissa. Besides these eight

projects, there are several central sector projects being implemented across the country, including the state of Orissa.

(b) to (d). There are two multistate projects which are already under consideration of World Bank for possible assistance. These are the State health Systems and State Roads Project. World Bank is carrying out the appraisal of both the projects in a timely manner.

Cotton Ginning and Pressing Mills

5732. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to create funds for modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing mills;

(b) if so, the details of the funds earmarked for this purpose during the current financial year and during the last three years ?

(c) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the old ginning and pressing mills in order to improve the quality of cotton fibre and also to avoid fibre loss in outdated ginning machine; and

(d) the position of Indian cotton fibre in the International market alongwith the details of export of cotton fibre during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The Cotton Corporation of India pays financial incentives to the Ginning and Pressing Factories for improving the general Standards of ginning, processing and gradation of cotton with the objective to control contamination in cotton.

(d) Because of the wide range in quality from non-spinnable cotton like Assam Comilla to extra fine cottons like DCH-32 and suvin capable of spinning 80s to 120s counts, India cotton is well known in the International market. The details of export of cotton during the last 3 years are as under :

Year	Export Qt. Reqd.	Shipped (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1992-93	17.855	13.766
1993-94	5.695	3.90
1994-95	1.856	1.08

Investment in Kenya and Tanzania

5733. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian companies have made investments and set up their units in Kenya and Tanzania; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas in which Indian companies have made investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government approval has been granted to Indian companies to invest in overseas joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in Kenya and Tanzania for manufacturing of paper, auto parts, cables, chemicals, pharmaceutical formulations, cotton ginning etc. and in the field of trading insurance, promotion of tourism etc.

Performance of Banks in Ladakh

5734. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of nationalised banks functioning in the Ladakh region in Jammu and Kashmir location-wise;

(b) the total amount stands deposited by local residents in each of the banks separately, as on March 31, 1996;

(c) the total amount advanced to the local residents during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, Bank-wise;

(d) whether the advances made by the banks commensurate with the standard ratio fixed for making advances; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) State Bank of India, lead bank of the District Ladakh have reported that there are 13 branches of commercial banks operating in Leh. State Bank of India has four branches and Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. nine branches.

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

Demand of Tender Coconut Water in International Market

5735. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for tender coconut water in the international market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The Tender Coconut Water in small quantity is traded in the International market.

(b) The Coconut Development Board has initiated a project for preservation and packing of tender coconut water through the Defence production Research Laboratory, Mysore and the possibility of exporting it will be explored after perfecting the technology. Some steps taken by Government to enhance the export of tender coconut water include :

(i) Stepped up outlay in the Eighth Plan for both Central Sector and Centrally sponsored project for integrated development of coconut industry;

(ii) Enhancing coconut production and productivity by making available quality planting material, encouraging expansion of cropped area, undertaking rejuvenation, disease management and extension activities.

Occupational Health Assistance

5736. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6121 on May 18, 1995 and to state :

(a) whether the information have since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited, 94 persons were appointed as Occupational Health Assistants (Trainees) in South Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited in 1993-94. No such appointments were made either in the previous year or the subsequent year. These appointments were for meeting an *ad-hoc* need and, as such, no qualifications stood prescribed nor was any formal procedure adopted therefor. As stipendiary trainees, these appointments were not covered by the National Coal Wage Agreement.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Spices

5737. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different kind of spices exported at present;

(b) the annual export target set for each of the spices for Eighth Plan and actual achievements made thereunder so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of spices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The major items/groups of spices exported include (i) Pepper; (ii) Cardamom (Small); (iii) Cardamom (Large); (iv) Chillies;

(v) Ginger; (vi) Turmeric; (vii) Coriander; (viii) Cumin; (ix) Celery; (x) Fennel; (xi) Fenugreek; (xii) other spices include aniseed, ajwan seed, dillseed etc., (xiii) garlic; (xiv) spices including tamarind, asafoetida, cinnamon, cassia, kokam, saffron etc.; (xv) curry power; (xvi) mint oil; (xvii) spice oils and oleoresins.

(b) Government has not fixed spiece-wise targets for exports. However, the export projections made by the Planning Commission for the spices as a whole for each year of the 8th Plan period (at 1991-92 prices) and actual exports (at nominal prices) are given below :

Year	(Rs. Crores)	
	Export Projections (At 1991-92 prices)	Exports (at Nominal prices)
1992-93	384	418.64
1993-94	398	547.25
1994-95	414	607.34
1995-96	431	785.89
1996-97	447	—

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance production/ productivity and exports of spices include :

(I) Production/Productivity

(i) Supply of planting material of high yielding variety; (ii) establishment of demonstration plots; (iii) adoption of prophylactic plant protection measures against quick wilt; (iv) supply of mini kits; (v) area expansion; (vi) distribution of plant protection equipment; and (vii) soil conservation measures.

(II) Exports

Apart from the general trade policy reforms, the steps taken to enhance export of spices include abolition of cess with effect from 1.8.1996 on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), saffron, cardamom and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in international markets brand promotion scheme like "Logo Promotion", grant of "Spice House Certificate", product development to meet international needs and participation in international fairs and arranging buyer-seller meets.

Export of Human Material

5738. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian genetic resources sold to US on the sly" appearing in the "Sunday Observer" dated August 11-17, 1996;

(b) whether the Government are aware that United States based Human Genome Diversity Project is procuring human genetic resources from indigenous Indian communities through several hospitals of the country :

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to stop or regulate the exports of human material and press the US to enter into a specific agreement on the transfer of technology and other economic benefits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no knowledge of this. However, there is a Health Ministry Screening Committee on research proposals involving foreign collaboration/assistance which permits the restricted transfer of biological materials abroad under certain circumstances and conditions for purpose of research only.

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

Provident Fund

5739. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any suggestion has been made by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry that Government should and set aside a part of the provident fund for investment in the capital market to induct liquidity into the system;

(b) whether the large amount of funds presently blocked in Government securities are not yielding adequate returns to the provident fund subscribers;

(c) if so, the details regarding the suggestion have been placed before the Government's consideration ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No suggestion has been received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce in this regard.

(b) Provident Fund moneys are required to be invested according to an Investment Pattern laid down by Government which is designed to provide risk free, reasonable and tax-free return.

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

Performance of L.I.C.

5740. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of turnover of Life Insurance Corporation during each of the last three years till date in Delhi;

(b) the investment made in Delhi during the said period in comparison to the above;

(c) whether Life Insurance follows certain specific guidelines in regard to the investment in the States where it is running its business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The business figures of LIC during each of the last three years in Delhi is given below :

Year	Number of Policies	Sum Assured (Rs. in Crs.)	First Premium (Rs. in lakhs)	Total First Year Premium (including FP in Column 3) (Rs. in lakhs)	Total Renewal Premium (Rs. in lakhs)	Total Income (Premium) (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	312036	1725.89	6771.20	8898.79	44006.38	52905.17
1994-95	331639	2439.00	7168.29	9298.68	52838.20	62136.88
1995-96	343867	2252.35	9066.26	11273.45	51250.38	62523.83

(b) Investments made in Delhi during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	130.17
1994-95	449.34
1995-96	606.26

(c) and (d). Investment of the Corporation's fund is governed by the provisions of modified Section 27A of the Insurance Act, 1938. The statutory framework provided by the above section, as made applicable to the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the guidelines issued thereunder by the Government of India from time to time, envisage that the Life Insurance Corporation of India shall invest in each year and at all times keep invested out of the accretions to the Controlled Fund in accordance with the following :

Socially Oriented Sector :

- In Central Government Securities being Not less than (including loans to National Housing Bank being not more than 5%) 25%
- In Central Government and State Government Securities including Government Guaranteed Marketable Securities including (1) above being not less than 30%
- In Socially Oriented Sector, including Public Sector, Co-operative Sector, House Building by Policyholders, OYH Schemes including (2) above being not less than 75%

Balance to be invested (excluding funds in Pipeline)

- In Private Sector.
- Loans to Policyholders, and
- Construction and Acquisition of Immovable property by LIC.

Investments of LIC in the Socially Oriented Sector by way of loans to State Governments are made as per state-wise and Sector-wise allocations conveyed to LIC by the Planning Commission. As and when State Government loans are announced by Reserve Bank of India, LIC decides the total amount to be invested in State Govt. securities depending upon its fund position at the time of issue. LIC also indicates the State-wise amount of subscription that LIC would like to make keeping in view the size of the issue made by each State More or less on proportionate basis, but actual State-wise allotment is finalised by RBI.

Electro-Manganese-Dioxide Projects

5741. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IDBI has sanctioned a number of projects under venture capital fund scheme for promotion and transfer of technology including EMD projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the EMD projects scheme and the progress made by the project authority so far;

(c) whether before sanctioning of a new EMD project in Andhra Pradesh there was another EMD project in Kerala which was under funding by IDBI; and

(d) if so, the basis for funding the new project ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it had provided assistance to one company in June 1989 for setting up of a pilot plant of one tpd. capacity for manufacture of EMD. The project has not made any significant progress in its implementation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) IDBI has reported that the project taken up in Kerala in 1974 was based on a technology developed by National Metallurgical Laboratory (MML). The technology failed and the company remains closed since 1984. Subsequently, NML modified its process and the new project was an attempt to establish the modified process and produce EMD of consistent quality to the satisfaction of dry-cell manufacturers on a pilot scale.

[Translation]

Despatch of Coal

5742. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway sidings and despatch posts in the B.C.C.L.;

(b) the number of railway sidings and despatch posts out of it where there is facility of weighbridge;

(c) the quantity of coal, coke, wash-coke, dilling and other quantity of coal despatched after weighing and without weighing on weighbridges through railways during each of the last three years;

(d) whether any complaints of shortage in the coal which was despatched after weighing on the railway weighbridge have been received during the above period;

(e) if so, the quantity of shortage separately in each case; and

(f) the amount of loss incurred due to shortage of coal which was despatched without weighing or after weighing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SIGH) : (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL), BCCL is presently having 62 railway sidings. All the sidings have the facility for weighment of coal despatches.

(c) the details of weighed and unweighed quantity of coal, coke washed coal middlings despatched by BCCL during each of the last three years were as follow :

(In lakh tonnes)
(Data Provisional)

Commodity	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96		
	Total Qty despatched by Rail	Qty weighed	Qty unweighed	Total Qty despatched by Rail	Qty weighed	Qty unweighed	Total Qty despatched by Rail	Qty weighed	Qty unweighed
Coal	139.61	90.74	48.87	141.69	100.59	41.1	129.37	94.44	34.93
Coke	1.68	1.68	Nil	1.37	1.37	Nil	1.02	1.02	Nil
Wash-coal	40.51	40.51	Nil	42.80	42.80	Nil	41.16	41.16	Nil
Middling	10.84	10.84	Nil	9.35	9.35	Nil	11.16	11.16	Nil

(d) to (f). Coal is despatched by rail on FOR basis and the responsibility of the coal companies ceases once coal is despatched from the sidings and no claims of short receipt are entertained thereafter. BCCL have intimated that no specific complaints have been received regarding short supply of coal. However, as per the agreement with major consumers for the coal rakes which have been weighed at the loading end, such weighment results forms the basis for raising bills and payments is to be made accordingly. However, for unweighed wagons, the billing is initially done on the basis of carrying capacity of the wagons. The weighment at the unloading point is later accepted and claims allowed provided the consumers give proof of

weighment at the destination end. Such claims are received periodically and settled after reconciliation etc.

The claims accepted by BCCL during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 on account of difference in weight were as follows;

Year	Amount
1993-94	Rs. 556 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 330 lakhs

For the year 1995-96, BCCL has received claims from the power houses to the extent of Rs. 592/- lakhs. The claims are in the process of reconciliation and settlement.

The actual claims which are allowed shall be known after the final settlement is arrived at.

Production of Cloth

5743. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people employed in powerloom sector and handloom sector separately;

(b) the quantum of cloth produced separately in each of these sectors during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the handloom sector was less benefited as compared to the benefits of concessions given to the textiles industry for export during these year; and

(d) if not, the value and quantum of cloth exported in 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 out of total cloth manufactured in each of these sectors alongwith the capital invested therein during these years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The number of people employed in Powerloom and Handloom Sectors are 6.8 million and 12.9 million (approx.) respectively.

(b) The Quantum of cloth produced by the Powerloom and Handloom and sectors during the last three years are given below :

(in mn. sq.m)

Sector	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)
Powerloom	15994	15976	16332
Handloom	5851	6180	7020

(c) No Sir. In fact the handloom sector has exported cotton fabrics and made-ups more than the targets during 1993-94, 94-95, except 95-96.

(d) The value of cloth Cotton fabrics & made ups exported during the last 3 years in Handloom & Powerloom Sectors is as below :

(Rs. in Crores)

Sector	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Targets)
Mill made			
Powerloom	3394.47	4620.64	5535.53
Handloom	1297.48	1504.60	1491.32

The quantity-wise export figures for separate sectors & figures on capital invested in the above segments of Textiles sectors are not maintained because of decentralised nature of vast fringe of each segment.

[English]

Rise in Price of Cement

5744. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been unprecedented rise in price of cement during the last three years;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to bring down the price at the level of 1994-95; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. There has been no abnormal increase in price of cement during the last three years. During 1993-94, the price did not increase due to fall in demand and general recessionary conditions. During 1994-95 price increased on an average by Rs. 20-25/- per bag of 50 kgs. cement. This was mainly due to increase in the price of inputs, cost of fuel, transportation and overheads. During 1995-96 prices have been stable except during the period December-March which is a period of peak demand for cement. There were also short term rises in prices in a few markets like Bombay due to temporary shortages caused by transportation bottlenecks, strikes, etc.

(b) The control on price of cement has been removed with effect from 1st March, 1989. The industry has also been delicensed. Government has been encouraging creation of additional capacity and higher production of cement so that there is a healthy competition in the market and control on price. Government is providing all infrastructure support to the cement industry such as supply of coal and rail wagons on a priority basis.

(c) Does not arise.

Banking Support to Essar Group

5745. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI's Department of Supervision (DOS) recently investigated into exposure of the banking system in the Essar group;

(b) whether the DOS investigation of the Essar group revealed that the total exposure of all banks and institutions together was over Rs. 4000 crores which was completely out of line with the group's turnover;

(c) whether RBI's DOS has suggested that the entire exposure of the financial institutions in the Essar group be classified as substandard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that based on a complaint received by it, the matter of alleged misuse of banks' funds by the Essar Group of companies was got investigated by the State Bank of India (SBI). The report submitted by SBI has revealed that in certain cases, transfers were only book entries and no clear idea could be formed about their end-use. RBI is advising the SBI to get the matter investigated by an independent Chartered Accountants firm.

(c) and (d). RBI has reported that further action in the matter will be taken after the Chartered Accountants firm's report is available.

Poverty Alleviation Scheme

5746. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move to restructure the existing poverty alleviation schemes for their effective implementation;

(b) if so, whether the Government have revived the credit linked self-employment scheme;

(c) whether there are a large number of schemes whose implementation has resulted in loss;

(d) whether the Government are considering to revive all the schemes to make them profitable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). In a recent meeting with the representatives of some Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and banks to review credit linked programmes, it was recognised that considering the large number of credit linked poverty alleviation and self-employment schemes sponsored by various Ministries of Government of India as also State Governments, there was a need for rationalisation of these schemes into simple categories with well understood procedures. The meeting also took into account the fact that these schemes were targetted towards different sections of society with their own characteristics. It was, therefore, recommended that RBI will constitute a Group to study and make detailed recommendations on the integration and rationalisation of schemes. Accordingly, a Group has been formed with representatives of some State Governments, some public sector banks and a few Ministries of Central Government. Pending the submission of the report and its acceptance, it is not possible to spell out the details of restructuring of the existing poverty alleviation and self employment generation schemes.

Sick Industrial Companies Act

5747. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have some changes in the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such changes are likely to be incorporated? ↴

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Pursuant to the announcement made in Finance Minister's speech on the Budget for 1996-97, Government have initiated a total review of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985

(SICA) and the working of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with the intention to bring a new bill in Parliament.

Supply of Coal

5748. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy for distribution of coal to small industries and general consumers with special reference to Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the non-availability of coal in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to make coal available in deficient areas of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A well defined policy is being followed for supply of coal to industrial and other non-core sector consumers including those in Bihar. Coal supplies to the consumers in the non-core sector are made as per the linkages given by the coal companies and/or sponsorship received from the respective sponsoring authorities.

(c) There has been significant growth in despatches of coal to the consumers in Bihar during the year 1995-96. The total despatches of coal to all consumers in Bihar have been of the order of 12,993 m.ts. as against 11,874 m.ts. during the year 1994-95.

(d) Coal companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Bihar by increasing production of coal. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Scales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirement of linkages/ sponsorships.

Silk Export

5749. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether silk export have declined both in terms of value and quantity during 1995-96 as compared to previous year ;

(b) if so, the extent of decline during the above period;

(c) the names of the countries which have reduced import of silk from India; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost export of silk ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Export of silk goods during 1995-96 were 49.2 million metres valued at Rs. 845.16 crores as against exports of 61 million metres valued at Rs. 927 crores during 1994-95.

(c) The major countries which have reduced import of silk goods from India are USA, Germany, U.K., France, Netherlands, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia.

(d) In order to increase the exports of silk products, the Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organising generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, publicity in foreign trade magazines, sponsoring of sales-cum-study tours and buyer-seller meets, dissemination of overseas trade information among exporters, etc. Besides, the Government has taken several measures to boost silk exports such as the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export production, etc.

IDBI Loan to U.P. and Gujarat

5750. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by Industrial Development Bank of India particularly from the entrepreneur of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat during each of the last three years and the number of applications approved and rejected out of them separately, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided to industries by the IDBI to each of the above States during the said period, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The numbers of applications received, sanctioned and rejected under direct finance schemes of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat during the last three years is given below :

Year	Uttar Pradesh			Gujarat		
	Rece- ived	Sanc- tioned	Rejec- ted	Rece- ived	Sanc- tioned	Rejec- ted
1993-94	100	93	1	197	255	7
1994-95	154	120	2	261	211	3
1995-96	135	97	1	163	138	3

(b) Details of financial assistance disbursed to the industries by IDBI under direct finance schemes in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

Year	(Rs crore)	
	Uttar Pradesh	Gujarat
1993-94	395.7	737.7
1994-95	646.7	1575.3
1995-96	742.2	1634.9

Export to Latin American Countries

5751. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give double weightage to exports made to the thrust market of Latin American countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Vide Public Notice No. 363 (PN)/92-97 dated 1.8.96, the benefit of double weightage on NFE or FOB basis earned by exports made on or after 1st April, 1996 to 43 countries including all Latin American countries has been made available for the purpose of claiming eligibility for recognition as Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House. A copy of the said Public Notice is available in the Parliament Library.

Financial Assistance to Tamil Nadu by NABARD

5752. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided by NABARD to Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years and in 1996 so far, Scheme-wise;

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom during this period particularly in the backward areas of the State;

(c) the amount of loans recovered therefrom so far; and

(d) the criteria for sanctioning financial assistance by NABARD ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is primarily an apex refinancing institution which provides refinance assistance to banks. The details of the amount of refinance provided by NABARD to institutions in Tamil Nadu during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto 31-8-1996), scheme-wise, is given the Statement attached.

(b) NABARD does not provide loans to farmers directly. However, the refinance provided by NABARD augments the resources available with banks for providing loan assistance to farmers.

(c) The data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the overall percentage of recovery to demand of various institutions in Tamil Nadu is as under :

Year ending	District Central Cooperative Banks	Primary Land Development Banks	Regional Rural Banks
June, 1993	76	60	73
June, 1994	78	71*	62
June, 1995	85	82*	68

*Provisional.

(d) The criteria prescribed by NABARD for sanction of financial assistance *inter-alia* includes :

- (i) Schemes which are found technically feasible, economically viable and bankable are eligible for NABARD refinance assistance;
- (ii) The quantum of refinance depends on the purpose and the agency;
- (iii) The eligibility of banks to draw refinance from NABARD under schematic lending is linked to their recovery performance also; and
- (iv) NABARD may consider providing special exemption from/relaxation in the eligibility criteria for extending refinance to banks for thrust areas such as watershed development projects, 100% export oriented schemes, wastelands' development projects on merits of the case and on the basis of specific requests from the banks.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
			(upto 31.8.96)	
Minor Irrigation	729.8	536.5	455.8	153.1
Rural Electrification Corpn.	1340.3	2199.8	1275.5	—
Land Development	55.2	32.7	106.4	1.4
Farm Mechanisation	4112.3	4585.5	4654.8	2312.5
Plantation & Horticulture	754.8	1368.9	553.2	215.1
Dairy Development	2870.0	3183.0	3662.8	1143.8
Poultry	650.7	1006.3	1624.4	148.5
Sheep/Goat/Piggery	2818.4	3365.9	3470.6	1343.1
Fishery	693.1	689.8	674.0	10.2
Sericulture	151.1	95.5	136.1	79.4
Storage/Market Yard	2.8	10.4	37.7	—
Forestry	151.0	145.2	88.9	27.7
Seed	—	93.1	36.7	0.2
Agro-Industries	168.1	71.3	547.4	0.5
Biogas	233.0	163.1	117.7	31.9
IRDP	—	1531.3	1160.2	514.1
Non-Farm Sector	6676.0	3401.8	4394.4	3369.1
Others	—	3338.9	3610.7	64.0
Total	21406.6	25819.0	26607.3	9414.6

[Translation]

Obara Carpet Industry

5753. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Obara Carpet Industry of Bihar which had received President's award is lying closed from quite some time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide assistance for the revival of this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Government is not aware of the fact that the Obra Carpet Industry of Bihar is lying closed from quite some time. It is estimated that there are nearly 275 looms operating in and around obra.

(b) For development of Obra carpets in the State of Bihar, the Government of India has set up a Carpet Weaving Training Centre at Kharanti, P.O. Obra which endeavours to upgrade the skills of carpet weavers in the region. Since its inception in 1987, 165 trainees have been trained so far and they are gainfully employed in the same trade. The exporters participate in various international trade fairs through the Carpet Export Promotion Council for boosting exports of Obra carpets among others.

[English]

Merger of Nationalised Banks

5754. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for merger of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such proposals and objective of such merger ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No Sir.

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

Production and Export of Mica and Mica Paper

5755. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Mica and Mica Paper in the country and the total quantity exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any export of the above items declined during the Eighth Plan in comparison to Sixth and Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of those items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of total production of mica and mica paper, total quantity exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are given in the Statement attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Technological obsolescence, collapse of demand in CIS and other East European countries, synthetic substitutes and the operational problems faced by MITCO before its merger with MMTC resulted in the decline of exports of mica and mica products.

(d) Government formulates commodity-wise export strategies having regard to products and markets in concert with the concerned export promotion councils. Due input and promotional support is thus extended to the Mica and Mica Paper Industry towards boosting exports.

STATEMENT

Production and export of Mica and Mica Paper

Unit : MT

Year	Production in India (Crude & Waste)*	Mica Paper**
1991-92	5957	79.00
1992-93	3997 (P)	77.00
1993-94	3113 (P)	123.00
1994-95	N.A.	107.00
1995-96	N.A.	85.00

* Source : IBM Nagpur

** Production of Mica Division of MMTC (Formerly MITCO)

Total quantity exported and foreign exchange earned

Year	Quantity (in MT)	Value (in Rs. Lakhs)
1992-93	29930	4168
1993-94	33899	4332
1994-95	33116	4397
1995-96	7443	1181

Source : MMTC Limited

Credit in Foreign Currency Scheme for Jewellers

5756. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has withdrawn concessional rates of interest for post-shipment finance and abolished the post-shipment credit in foreign currency scheme in regard to the gems and jewellery exports;

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

(c) whether the RBI/Government have received representations from the gems and jewellery exporters in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that effective from February 8, 1996, interest rate on post-shipment export rupee credit for a period beyond 90 days and upto six months from the date of shipment has been freed and banks are allowed to determine the rate of interest on such credit on their own. The interest rate on post shipment credit upto 90 days continues to be 13% per annum. The scheme of post-shipment export credit denominated in US Dollars (PSCFC) was terminated with effect from February 8, 1996 as in the context of the sizeable forward exchange premia, the effective rate of interest on this facility had become negative and was discouraging normal repatriation of export proceeds. These were general policy changes and not restricted to any specific commodities like gems and jewellery.

(c) and (d). RBI had received representations from the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council in February and March 1996 *inter alia*, regarding interest rate on PSCFC. The rationale of the measures has been explained to the Council by the RBI.

Non-Conventional and Non-Polluting Industries

5757. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce non-conventional and non-polluting Industries in Agra in view of the industrial vacuum being created after the Judgement of the Supreme Court to close down polluting industries including brick and kiln industry;

(b) if so, the action initiated by the Union Government so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any non-polluting industry that has to be set up by private entrepreneurs in Agra will have to be set up by them in accordance with law and subject to necessary permission from the Pollution Control Boards and the observations and directions/orders of the Supreme Court. Entrepreneurs are free to take investment decisions and implement them within the parameters indicated above.

Foreign Owned Mutual Funds

5758. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of foreign-owned mutual funds that have set up business in India and the number of Indian partners amongst them;

- (b) the total amount of money mobilised by these funds;
- (c) whether any complaints against the functioning of these funds have been received; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), 14 Mutual Funds with Asset Management Companies (AMCs) having participation of Foreign Financial Institutions have been registered with SEBI under the (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993.

(b) As on 1.9.96 these mutual funds have mobilised Rs. 4146 crores.

(c) and (d). All mutual funds are regulated under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993. S appropriate action in all cases of violation of the provisions of the Mutual Funds Regulations.

[Translation]

Irregularities in NTC Mills of Gujarat

5759. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names and the location of National Textile Corporation Mills in Gujarat particularly in tribal concentrated areas as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the unrest, mismanagement and irregularities prevailing in National Textile Corporation Mills in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the plan of the Government to implement the declared schemes of making the workers self-reliance for voluntary retirement and giving assistance from National Renewal Fund for development of National Textile Corporation mills in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The names and location of the 11 mills under NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. are as follows :

S.No.	Name of the Mills	Location
1.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
2.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills.	Ahmedabad
3.	Himadri Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
4.	Jehangir Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
5.	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	Ahmedabad
6.	Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 1	Ahmedabad

7.	Rajnagar Textile Mills No. 2	Ahmedabad
8.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	Bhavnagar
9.	Petlad Textile Mills	Petlad
10.	Rajkot Textile Mills	Rajkot
11.	Viramgam Textile Mills	Viramgam

There are no mills in the tribal concentrated areas.

(b) and (c). The complaints received in the past have been investigated and found to be unsubstantiated in most of the cases. However, a few allegations involving medical claim, lignite transportation and purchase of inferior dyes and chemicals etc., were investigated by CBI which recommended prosecution of the accused persons. These cases are subjudice in the Courts of Ahmedabad. Complaints received from time to time are enquired into for taking necessary action.

(d) The revised Turn Around Plan approved for NIC (Gujarat) Ltd. envisages, *inter alia*, rationalisation of surplus work force through Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Government have formulated a scheme for rehabilitation of workers rationalised under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Under the scheme, the workers can start their own project by purchasing old looms from NTC at a nominal price or can purchase new power looms/reeling machines from machinery manufactures. The requisite finance is available from the banks. The company would also provide production incentive in such ventures after successful operation for six months from the date of commissioning. As on 30.6.96, 1715 looms have been delivered to 419 workers who opted for the scheme.

Further each NTC Mill in Gujarat has established Employees' Resource Centre (ERC) with Labour Welfare Officer as incharge. This centre helps the employees opting for VRS by suggesting suitable methods for achieving self reliance by the workers. Gandhi Labour Institute at Ahmedabad has been declared as a Nodal Agency by the Government under National Renewal Fund.

Foreign aid for the Development Projects

5760. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give to the States the entire amount of foreign assistance received for the development of various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total foreign assistance provided during each of the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE OF (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). External assistance received by Government of India against expenditure incurred by the States towards the externally aided projects, is passed on to the States in the form of Additional Central Assistance

(ACA) as 100% additionality. ACA is passed on to the States on the same terms as Normal Central Assistance, which entails 30% of funds being released as grants and 70% as loans. For the special category States, the ratio of grant and loan is 90% and 10%, respectively. The State-wise total foreign assistance provided during each of the last three years in the form of Additional Central Assistance is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Statement showing state-wise Additional Central Assistance Released during the last three years

(Rs. cores)

S.No.	State	ACA	ACA	ACA
		Released 1993-94	Released 1994-95	Released 1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	893.65	570.38	444.10
2.	Assam	3.64	6.67	2.81
3.	Bihar	24.89	72.01	32.02
4.	Goa	0.00	0.73	0.11
5.	Gujarat	147.45	141.05	106.12
6.	Haryana	79.56	74.92	87.52
7.	Himachal Pradesh	38.61	38.20	40.16
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.87	11.10	6.51
9.	Karnataka	349.40	373.90	145.76
10.	Kerala	118.43	126.82	29.37
11.	Madhya Pradesh	78.38	94.31	67.69
12.	Maharashtra	927.56	562.58	721.20
13.	Orissa	128.72	201.72	142.33
14.	Punjab	54.14	99.39	96.75
15.	Rajasthan	151.94	197.77	301.54
16.	Tamil Nadu	502.35	671.69	320.60
17.	Uttar Pradesh	316.09	497.80	369.71
18.	West Bengal	88.24	163.20	85.75
Total		3910.92	3904.24	3000.05

[English]

Exemption of Income Tax

5761. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to exempt Dearness Allowance, received by wage/salary earners from income tax;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI. P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Government receives numerous representations asking for change in tax policy, which are examined as part of budget exercise. The current policy of the Government is reflected in proposals entailed in Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1996, which reiterates the Government's policy to tax dearness allowance under the head "Income from salaries".

Cotton Policy

5762. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new cotton policy to avoid anarchy in the cotton industry where the prices are manipulated and eliminate the middle man to enable the cotton growers to get more money for their produce and to stabilise the price of cotton in the country;

(b) whether suggestion have also been received or invited by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the new policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d). As per the current policy of the Government, the Union Ministry of Agriculture fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of two varieties of cotton F-414/H-777 and H-4 on the recommendation of commission for Agricultural Costs and prices, MSP for other varieties of cotton are thereafter fixed by the Textile Commissioner based on normal price differentials. Government closely monitors the price of cotton, it being an essential commodity. In the event of the price dipping below the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India is required to carry out price support operations. However, the price of cotton has continued to be above the MSP for quite some years now. CCI has thus been engaging only in commercial purchases.

Supply of Cotton Yarn

5763. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of cotton yarn by handlooms and powerlooms sector during each of the last three years alongwith supply of cotton yarn made during the above period; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to increase the supply of cotton yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The demand for cotton yarn depend on a variety of factors such as the demand and prices of cotton cloth, prices of cotton yarn etc. and would vary from time to time. It is therefore, difficult to arrive at quantitative estimates of demand for cotton yarn for handloom as well as Powerloom

sector. The supplies of cotton yarn made to Handloom and Powerloom Sectors during last three years is as follows :

Year	(in million Kg.)	
	To Powerloom Sector	To Handloom Sector
1993-94	632	422
1994-95	567	438
1995-96 (Provisional)	557	493

(b) The Government has taken several measures to increase the availability of cotton yarn e.g. (i) ensuring the availability of raw material i.e. cotton through policy interventions, whenever necessary, (ii) adoption of restrictive approach towards export of cotton yarn, to augment the availability of such yarn in the country. During the year 1996, export of cotton yarn of counts 40s and below is allowed within a quantitative ceiling of 80 million Kgs. in two equal bi-annual instalments of 40 million Kgs. each. Certain categories of cotton yarn are however exempt from the ceiling i.e. export by 100% EOUs, export by EPCG units, all exports against bilateral quotas, all exports of 41 counts and above and export of processed yarn. In an export of processed yarn. In addition, export of bank yarn in the count group 1-60s is also not allowed.

[Translation]

Assistance from National Renewal Fund

5764. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of such State Governments which have submitted proposals for getting financial assistance from the national Renewal Fund;

(b) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if no decision has been taken so far, by when the decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Proposals for financial assistance from the National Renewal Fund have been received from the Governments of the fourteen States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) and (c). The proposals of the State Governments would be taken up after guidelines and operational modalities for grant of assistance from the national Renewal Fund have been finalised.

[English]

Coal Washeries

5765. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Limited had invited tenders for setting up washeries nearly 4 years back to meet the growing requirement of washed coal particularly by the thermal units and also to meet the requirements of minimising ash pollution as prescribed by the Environment Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in scrutinising the tenders and present status thereof; and

(d) the details of investment proposed for setting up net-work of coal washeries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). In the first instance Coal India Limited (CIL) had floated a tender enquiry inviting offers for setting up of washeries on build-own-operate basis in August, 1993. In view of inadequate response from the domestic bidders, CIL floated a global tender in June, 1994. Twelve bidders out of 14 pre-qualified bidders submitted the offers.

(c) In view of the techno-commercial offers received from the tenders not being in line with the requirement of the tender specifications and 'build-own-operate' being a new concept, clarifications had to be sought from the tenderers. As such, finalisation process took longer period.

On the basis of final evaluation of commercial bids, CIL have issued Letters of Intent to private investors during April, 1995 to June, 1995 for setting up of washeries on 'build-own-operate' basis at four sites.

(d) Total investment in the setting up these four washeries is estimated at Rs. 500 crores.

Assistance to Victims of Natural Calamities

5766. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to the victims of natural calamities during each of the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise with particular reference to Assam; and

(b) the number of persons benefited therefrom, State-wise, particularly in Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued standing guidelines to banks in August, 1984 to be followed by them for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities/riots etc., without waiting instructions from RBI each time. These guidelines *inter-alia* envisage

(i) conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans; (ii) rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments; (iii) provision of additional need based crop loans working capital and (iv) relaxation in security and margin norms. The guidelines also envisage provision of consumption loans upto Rs. 1,000/-. The rates of interest are to be charged by the banks as per the directives on interest rates issued by RBI from time to time. However, those borrowers who meet the eligibility criteria under the Scheme of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) are to be provided credit in accordance with the DRI scheme. In respect of current dues in default, no penal interest will be charged. The banks also suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

The above guidelines were issued to enable the banks to take uniform and concrete action expeditiously, particularly to provide financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units, artisans, small businesses and trading establishments affected by natural calamities in any part of the country, including the State of Assam. However, the existing data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for.

Export of Groundnut

5767. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of groundnut exported and oreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether there is any scope for exporting groundnut to European Union; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity and value of groundnut exported during the last three years is as under :

Quantity : in Metric tonnes
Value : in Rs. Crores

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	254207	171.12
1994-95	51123	101.32
1995-96 (P)	1000953	224.35

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India Published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports are :

(i) dissemination of information on international quality standards to exporters/processors;

(ii) participation in International seminars/workshops;

(iii) sponsoring delegations abroad;

(iv) arranging buyer seller meets; and

(v) participation in international trade fairs.

[Translation]

Export of Inferior Quality of Rice to Bangladesh

5768. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of rice has been exported to Bangladesh during April, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is likely to affect the bilateral and commercial relations between the two countries; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons/establishment found guilty in this regard and to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). A few complaints have been received alleging supply of inferior quality fo rice which are presently under investigation.

In respect of cases where it is established that actually sub-standard goods have been exported, immdiate deterrent action is initiated under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992, and the Rules framed thereunder against the concerned exporters, for cancellation/suspension of Importer-Exporter Code Number of the party concerned, without which imports or exports cannot be undertaken by him, and for imposition of fiscal penalties.

Such isolated incidents would not effect the relations between the two countries.

[English]

Despatch of Coal

5769. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the quantum of coal despatched by different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited for each of the last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Coal despatched by

different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited for each of the last five years was as under :

Company	(Million Tonnes)				
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	22.47	22.21	22.30	24.21	25.79
BCCL	24.98	26.72	28.55	28.34	26.49
CCL	28.00	32.31	32.98	31.11	30.74
NCL	30.37	30.30	32.37	32.91	35.08
WCL	24.45	24.98	25.52	27.24	30.35
SECL	63.02	44.93	46.91	47.82	52.28
MCL	—	22.51	23.99	26.91	34.31
NEÇ	0.99	0.86	0.75	0.83	1.03
TOTAL	194.28	204.82	213.37	219.37	236.07

NOTE : MCL was carved out of SECL w.e.f. 3.4.92.

Tractor Industry

5770. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the tractor industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give any incentive to the tractor manufacturing units to increase the production of tractors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The manufacture of Tractors has been delicensed under the new Industrial Policy and there is now no capacity constraint in the production of Tractors. The excise duty on tractors has been reduced to a nominal rate of 10%. No excise duty is being levied on tractors upto 1800 cc capacity.

Misuse of MODVAT Credit

5771. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate loss of revenue resulting from the misuse of MODVAT scheme during the last two years, till date;

(b) the loopholes noticed by the Government in the MODVAT scheme; and

(c) the steps being taken to plug them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The approximate alleged revenue loss on account of misuse of MODVAT scheme detected during last two years is as under :

Year	Amount Involved (in crores)
1994-95	Rs. 696.00
1995-96	Rs. 944.00

(b) The alleged misuse of MODVAT which has been noticed, consists of availment of credit on ineligible inputs on inputs used in or in relation to the manufacture of exempted goods and issue of forged Modvatable invoices etc.

(c) The Government is constantly reviewing and monitoring the MODVAT scheme and necessary administrative and legislative steps are being taken to prevent the misuse. The measures include registration of dealers, maintenance of certain documents, filing of monthly returns etc. In pursuance of the Budget 1996-97, Government has restricted issue of invoice upto two stages of dealers and that the invoice issued by the second stage dealer shall be pre-authenticated by the Department for the availment of input credit and reversal of credit on inputs used in the manufacture of exempted goods upto 8% of the value of exempted goods. A provision have also been made for charging interest on wrong availment of credit and for imposition of mandatory penalty.

[Translation]

R.N. Mishra Committee Report

5772. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers and employees in B.C.C.L. who had been chargesheeted on the basis of the report of R.N. Mishra Committee;

(b) the number of officers out of them against whom act has been taken and the nature of the action taken;

(c) the reasons for not taking action against the remaining officers;

(d) the time by which action was to be taken on the basis of R.N. Mishra Committee report;

(e) whether action is being taken within the time frame;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which action is likely to be completed on the basis of the report of Mishra Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from BCCL, Chargesheets have been issued against 90 executives of the Company in the cases arising out of the findings of R.N. Mishra Committee Report.

(b) Out of 90 BCCL executives chargesheeted, action against one was to be taken by the Ministry of Coal since he became a Board level officer before issue of the chargesheet. Action against that officer has ben completed by issue of an order on 23.8.96 from the Ministry of Coal imposing a penalty of recovery of 50% of his gratuity.

Out of 89 cases where action was to be taken by BCCL, action has been completed in 80 cases. The break-up of action taken is given below :

Removed from service	:	3
Demoted	:	13
Reduced to lower stage	:	8
Increment stopped	:	8
Censured	:	2
Warned	:	7
Cautioned	:	2
Exonerated/dropped	:	37
Total	:	80

(c) BCCL has given the following status of the cases pending against the balance 9 executives :

Inquiry completed and report referred to Coal India Limited for advice	:	1
Subjudice	:	1
Inquiry completed and report under examination	:	1
Inquiry in progress	:	6
Total		9

(d) No time frame has been stipulated in the R.N. Mishra Committee Report for completion of action.

(e) to (g). The disciplinary proceedings are quasi-judicial in nature and completion of the proceedings depends on several factors. However, Minister of Coal and CIL keep watch on early finalisation of the pending cases.

[English]

Investment by Pepsi

5773. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pepsi Co. propose to invest Rs. 500 crores in India to augment its core and export business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of people employed by the above company and the number of more people likely to be employed after the above investment is made ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. M/s. Pepsi Co. Inc. has been allowed to invest US \$ 255 million to promote exports projects and fruit juice manufacturing capacities etc.

(c) As per information furnished by the company, they are currently providing direct and indirect employment to over 35,000 people. In addition they provide substantial employment to small artisans, painters and small business people helping them in market place activities.

[Translation]

Longwall Technique for Production of Coal

5774. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced longwall technique for the production of coal in the country;

(b) if so, since when the said technique has been introduced in the country and coal institutions by which it was introduced;

(c) whether any expert opinion was also taken regarding its utility in Indian circumstances before taking a decision for its use;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount spent for using the technique; and

(e) the additional coal likely to be produced by the use of the technique ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) have introduced longwall technology in some of their underground mines.

(b) After the Nationalisation of the Coal Industry, conventional longwall equipment was introduced in 1976 in CIL. In SCCL the longwall technology was introduced in 1983.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The feasibility of application of longwall technology in Indian conditions was examined by experts under the aegis of the British Overseas Development Agency. CIL have procured 17 Powered Support Longwall face equipment for its different subsidiary companies and the total amount spent for procurement of these equipment is Rs. 307.42 crores. In SCCL, 9 longwall faces have been arranged with an investment of Rs. 403.38 crores.

(e) 8 powered support longwall faces at present in operation in CIL mines have a capacity of 15,470 tonnes per day. The capacity of the 9 longwall faces in SCCL is 18,560 tonnes per day.

[English]

Export of FCV Tobacco

5775. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for Indian tobacco has been increasing in the World;

(b) whether Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco exports is likely to go up during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the estimated quantity of the above variety to be grown and exported during 1996-97;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover more area under Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in Karnataka to boost exports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to provide remunerative prices to the tobacco growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) FCV Tobacco crop size authorised for production by the Tobacco Board during 1996-97 crop season is 112.84 million kgs. The export projections of FCV Tobacco for the year 1996-97 is 54,500 MTs (packed weight).

(d) & (e). Keeping in view the increased demand for FCV tobacco in the international markets, the authorised crop size for FCV tobacco in Karnataka has been increased from 25.24 million kgs. in 1995-96 to 29.50 million kgs. in 1996-97 which will entail an increase in area.

(f) Steps taken to provide remunerative prices to the growers *inter-alia*, include :

- (i) fixing of the FCV tobacco crop size so as to match the domestic and export demand with supply,
- (ii) Operating auction platforms to ensure a process of competitive bidding,
- (iii) declaring minimum support price (MSP),
- (iv) negotiating with the trade for announcement of minimum guaranteed price by the trade which is normally higher than MSP,
- (v) implementing development/extension schemes for improvement of quality and yield of tobacco, and
- (vi) promoting Indian tobacco in overseas markets.

Financial Irregularities in Oriental Bank of Commerce

5776. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI investigation has revealed financial irregularities to the tune of Rs. 30 crores at Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the Reserve Bank of India has also investigated into some major branches of the nationalised banks in Mumbai;

(c) if so, whether there has been a large scale irregularities found in nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the step being taken to check recurrence of such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a case relating to financial irregularities to the tune of Rs. 15 crores at some Mumbai branches of Oriental Bank of Commerce has been registered in January, 1996 and the case has not yet been finalised. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also reported that inspection/special scrutiny was conducted in Regional Office and four branches of Oriental Bank of Commerce in Mumbai. Information readily available relating to number of frauds and amount involved in public sector banks during 1994-95 is given below :

	Total No. of frauds	Amounts involved (Rs. in crores)
1994	2266	200.07
1995	1890	115.51

The public sector banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for checking corruption and prevention to frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI to strengthen the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continuous basis by RBI, advising the banks of *modus-operandi* in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the Department of Supervision in RBI.

[Translation]

Package for Textile Processing Sector

5777. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the progress made on the package to encourage investment including foreign investment including foreign investment through joint ventures in Textile Processing Sector;

(b) the programmes likely to be chalked out through this package;

(c) the amount of expenditure (including foreign exchange) likely to be incurred on this package; and

(d) the details of the time bound programme of the package ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (d). No specific package to encourage investment including foreign investment through joint ventures in textile

processing sector has been worked out. However, in order to invite foreign investment in textile manufacturing including textile processing sector several measures have been announced in the New Industrial Policy on 24.7.91. Further, to motivate the industry to go in for modernisation of the processing sector, the Govt. had reduced the customs duty on import of specified items of capital goods for the processing sector from 25% to 10% in the Budget 1996-97.

[English]

Production and Export of Turmeric

5778. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the total production of turmeric of the world produced in the country;

(b) whether quality requirements of turmeric in developed countries are changing day by day; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to educate the grower of turmeric and its exporters about its quality needs in the foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLL BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world. Data on the world production of turmeric is not available.

(b) The quality requirements of all food ingredients including turmeric, undergo modifications on accounts of changes in consumer preferences and health standards.

(c) Some of the measures taken to educate the growers/exporters about the quality requirements are :

- (i) regular training of farmers/exporters on the quality standards laid down by importing countries;
- (ii) supply of inputs at subsidised rates for post harvest handling and cleaning;
- (iii) extending financial assistance for construction of warehouses and drying yards;
- (iv) educating farmers through distribution of booklets, handbooks, posters etc. (printed in regional languages) on hygienic practices to be adopted for processing, cleaning, storage etc;
- (v) training of exporters on improved methods of packaging handling and storage to ensure quality of export produce;
- (vi) arranging interaction of exporters with growers to bring about changes in quality stipulations as demanded by the buying countries;

(vii) sponsoring quality/laboratory personnel for training in laboratories abroad on analytical methods.

Direct Foreign Investment

5779. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by the Union Government during the current year till June 30, 1996 and the amount of foreign investment involve therein;

(b) the manner in which it compares with foreign investment proposals approved during the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995;

(c) whether the Government consider the level of foreign investment in the country to be sufficient ; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to encourage more foreign investment in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared and the amount of foreign direct investment envisaged therein during the period from January, 1996 to June, 1996, and for the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995, are as under :

Year	No. of Proposal approved	Amount of foreign direct investment (Rs. in crores)
1994	439	2454.44
1995	581	7716.09
1996	619	11719.43

(c) and (d). After the announcement of New Industrial Policy, the trend in foreign investment is satisfactory. To further augment the foreign direct investment into the country, various incentives have been announced by the Government such as revamping the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and constituting the Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC), capital subsidy, sales tax exemption, power subsidy, allotment of land on priority, setting up of growth centre and transport subsidy in hilly areas.

Jute Cess Fund

5780. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of jute cess fund collected during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on research and development activities relating to the jute industry during the above period;

(c) whether the Government propose to make available more funds for research and development activities in jute industry in addition to the jute cess fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The figures of cess collected on jute manufactures during last three years were as follows :

Year	cess collected
1993-94	Rs. 1773 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 1692 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 1254 lakhs

(b) No amount has been spent on R&D relating to jute industry during the above period from the Cess Fund.

(c) and (d). Government is funding, *inter-alia*, R&D activities under the UNDP assisted national Jute Development Programme in the fields of packaging, ploymerio finishing of jute, jute textiles & non textiles, jute blended yarn, multicomponent yarn from jute, wool and other fibres jute blending in open spinning system, non woven carpets from jute, jute fibre, jute sticks & whole jute stalks for newsprint & paper making.

Tax Dues on Multinational Companies

5781. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of multinational companies are having arrears of various tax dues to the Government alongwith the details;

(b) the steps taken or propose to be taken by Government to recover the tax dues;

(c) the number of cases of evasion of tax have been found so far; and

(d) the action is being contemplated against these tax evaders ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Domestic Supply and Export of Tea by Multinational Companies

5782. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the share of value added tea exports out of total tea exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the share of the Export Promotion Zone (EPZ) units in value added tea exported by the multinational companies; and

(c) the total share in domestic supply and value added tea export turnover of these multinational companies during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Information available with the Tea Board about total tea exports and value added tea exports in the last three years are as under :

Year	(Qty. Mn. Kgs.)(Value : Rs. Crores)			
	Total Exports of tea		Exports of Value added tea	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1993-94	154.55	1062.06	67.05	500.86
1994-95	152.16	986.41	54.37	395.05
1995-96	163.65	1191.19	84.22	647.10

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

[Translation]

Registration of New Companies

5783. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies registered by the Registrar of Companies in the country during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending with the Registrar of Companies for the registration of new companies, State-wise; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for the expeditious disposal of these applications ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The number of companies registered by the Registrar of Companies in the various States/Uts. during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till August, 96) and the number of applications pending for registration are given in the Statement attached.

(c) The offices of the Registrars of Companies (ROCs) have been computerised for providing expeditious services to the corporate sector. With the introduction of this facility, the time taken by ROCs in registration of new companies has been considerably reduced. Disposal of the pending applications is also dependent upon the companies having filed complete applications with all information/documents as required under the Companies Act, 1956.

STATEMENT*Number of Companies Registered & Applications pending for Registration in Various States/Union Territories*

Sl. No.	Uts/States	Number of companies registered in				Applications pending for Registration
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Apr-Aug. (1996))	
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	1732	2576	3763	1407	285
2.	ASSAM	177	253	260	114*	—*
3.	BIHAR	542	594	715	290	40
4.	GUJARAT	2486	3554	3880	1435 **	209**
5.	HARYANA	293	356	409	221	21
6.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	80	108	111	49	—
7.	J. & K.	36	47	94	39	02
8.	KARNATAKA	1279	2065	2655	889	69
9.	KERALA	733	1050	1371	457	44
10.	MADHYA PRADESH	623	1031	1419	492	01
11.	MAHARASHTRA	6023	9581	11090	3728	208
12.	MANIPUR	12	7	8		
13.	MEGHALAYA	10	19	19		
14.	NAGALAND	7	7	6		
15.	ORISSA	266	374	440	197	—
16.	PUNJAB	832	1169	1260	498	—
17.	RAJASTHAN	895	1540	2012	695	61
18.	TAMILNADU	3093	4550	5329	1785	79
19.	TRIPURA	0	3	2		
20.	UTTAR PRADESH	1018	1508	1909	882	83
21.	WEST BENGAL	4371	7925	8136	2169	23
22.	A.&N. ISLAND	0	0	0		
23.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	13	15	17		
24.	CHANDIGARH	282	483	431	201	—
25.	D.&N. HAVELI	1	20	24		
26.	DELHI	5302	8811	10685	3839	376
27.	GOA	206	242	230	118***	14***
28.	DAMAN & DIU	6	17	12		
29.	MIZORAM	0	0	1		
30.	PONDICHERRY	75	115	145	40	01
G. TOTAL		30393	48020	56433	19545	1516

* Includes the States of Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura & Mizoram.

** Includes Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

*** Includes Union Territory of Daman & Diu.

— Means Nil.

*[English]***Export of Cotton**

5784. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the fixation of quota for export of cotton on the basis of production in each State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of quota fixed or likely to be fixed during the current season, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Government releases quotas of cotton for export based on a firm assessment of the supply and demand for cotton in the country as a whole. A quota of 14.90 lakh bales cotton was released to various exporting agencies; including the Cotton Corporation of India, State Federation, private trade and modern ginning and pressing units during the 1995-96 Cotton season. While some quotas are given exclusively to State Federations, the remaining quotas are not fixed State-wise. No quotas for export of cotton have so far been announced for the 1996-97 season.

Setting up of Free Ports

5785. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Expert Committee was set up to suggest ideal locations of free ports in the country;

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

(c) the action taken on each of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Committee felt that it was desirable and feasible to set up a Free Port in India and recommended Goa as an ideal location for the Free Port. The Committee also suggested Tuticorin as a suitable site for a second Free Port on the east coast. The recommendations of the Committee besides involving financial implications, also touch upon crucial areas of industrial, fiscal and monetary policies and raise several issues such as environmental/ecological protection and insulation of the Free Port area from the hinterland. As these matters require careful examination, no final decision has been taken.

Garment Export Quota

5786. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quota fixed for export for the garment exporters for 1996;

(b) whether there is an inordinate delay in the release of aforesaid quota to the garment exporters; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to release the quota immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The quota levels agreed in the various bilateral agreements for exports of garments for 1996 are distributed amongst the eligible garment exporters under the following systems :

System	Percentage of Annual Level
(1) Past Performance Entitlement (PPE)	80
(ii) First-Come-First-Served (FCFS)	20
(of which New Investors Entitlement (NIE)	(10)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Revision of Pay Scale

5787. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Guwahati Bench (Shillong Circuit) has given a verdict that the Senior Auditors working in various state A.G. (Audit) Officers should be given Rs. 1640-2900 scale in parity with the employees of the Central Government;

(b) whether the said scale has already been given to the Senior Auditors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. The Central Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati Bench, had, however, asked the Government to re-examine the question of revision of the pay scale of Senior Auditors in the Indian Audit and Accounts Departments from Rs. 1400-2600 to Rs. 1640-2900 and take a suitable decision.

(b) to (d). The matter was carefully reviewed in the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal and it has been decided not to increase the pay scale of the Senior Auditors as it raises, *inter-alia* inter-linked parity issues with several other similar categories of posts. The matter has also been specifically referred to the 5th Central Pay Commission for making comprehensive recommendations keeping all aspects in view.

Foreign Assistance to Power and Mining Sector

5788. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for foreign direct investment in Power and mining sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the guidelines for foreign funding in the above sectors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Till date, the Government have received several foreign direct investment proposals in Power sector as well as in Mining sector.

(b) A list of proposals received in Power and Mining sectors is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). The foreign direct investment policy including guidelines for foreign funding in Power and Mining sectors is constantly under review to make it more dynamic with the objective of increasing foreign direct investment into the country particularly in priority/core sectors, including infrastructure.

STATEMENT

List of Power Cases

1. M/s. ESB Power Systems Ltd.
2. M/s. ST Power Systems Inc.
3. M/s. Daewoo Korba Power Project.
4. M/s. Suryachakra Group of Industries.
5. M/s. RPG Industries Ltd.
6. M/s. Energy Development Ltd.
7. M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd.
8. M/s. Indeck Energy Services Inc.
9. M/s. Essar Power Ltd. (Hazira)
10. M/s. Independent Power Service Corpn. Ltd.
11. M/s. Yamunanagar Power Co. Pvt. Ltd.
12. M/s. Ascent Hydro Projects Ltd.
13. M/s. Dodson Lindblom Hydro Power Ltd.
14. M/s. Reliance Patalganga
15. M/s. Mesco Indeck Power Corpn.
16. M/s. S.R. Windogen
17. M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Co.
18. M/s. Peenya Power Co.
19. M/s. Gwalior Power Pvt. Ltd.
20. M/s. Soros Fund
21. M/s. Public Power International
22. M/s. Panda Power Energy Corporation
23. M/s. Global Boards Ltd.

24. M/s. Rashmika Narendra Wind Source Pvt. Ltd.
25. M/s. Greenview Power Projects Ltd.
26. M/s. Mitsurishi
27. M/s. CESC Ltd.
28. M/s. CRA Energy
29. M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.
30. M/s. Palakkad Power Generating Co.
31. M/s. Wasan Exports Pvt. Ltd.
32. M/s. DESI Power Orchha Pvt. Ltd.
33. M/s. Electricite de France
34. M/s. Prime Power Corporation Ltd.
35. M/s. SPIC Jel Engg. Construction Ltd.
36. M/s. Electricite De France
37. M/s. Sree Maheswar Hydro Power Corpn.
38. M/s. Chamundi Power Corporation
39. M/s. Kedia Power Ltd.
40. M/s. Kalinga Power Corporation
41. M/s. Orissa Power Partners
42. M/s. Daya Ogden Power Ltd.
43. M/s. Essar Power (Gwalior) Ltd.
44. M/s. Reliance (Jamnagar)
45. M/s. Reliance (Bawana)
46. M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.,
47. M/s. Costal Power Co.

List of Mining Sectors

1. M/s. BHP Minerals
2. M/s. De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.
3. M/s. Fimex Metal Refiners
4. M/s. Monnet International Ltd.
5. M/s. Lum Mawshun Mineral Pvt. Ltd.
6. M/s. CRA Energy
7. M/s. BHP Minerals Holdings Pvt. Ltd.
8. M/s. Associated Cement Co. Ltd.
9. M/s. UP Hepworth Pvt. Ltd.
10. M/s. Australian India Resources N.L.

Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme

5789. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the villages selected or identified under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during the last year, State-wise; and

(b) the work done so far in such villages under the Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). On the basis of proposals recommended by various State Governments, 37 projects were sanctioned under the Intergrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during the last year. The villages selected & identified therein were as under :

S.No.	State	Villages
I.	ANDHRA PRADESH	1. Parla
		2. Bandarulanka
		3. Pavukaraopela
		4. Ghattupal
		5. Narayanapuram
		6. Yemmiganur
		7. Chinnaporia
		8. Tatikonda
		9. Amistapur
		10. Khilla Ganpur
		11. Thommidirekula
		12. Vallala
II.	ASSAM	13. Gendrabil
		14. Labalial
		15. Phulbari Patber
		16. Bura Puri Deorigaon
		17. Bub-Barangabari
		18. Bora Binnykheta
III.	BIHAR	19. Pokhrikalan
IV.	MADHYA PRADESH	20. Mura
		21. Pandravan
		22. Shivani
		23. Chandarpur
		24. Makshudan Garh
		25. Bahadurpur
		26. Ranigaon
		27. Kullada
V.	ORISSA	28. Muktanagar
		29. Dindigul
VI.	TAMIL NADU	30. Ammaivappan
		31. Kallipatti
		32. Nalvoy Kandical
		33. Bamutia
VII.	TRIPURA	34. Mohanpur
		35. Gorla
VIII.	UTTAR PRADESH	36. Guneshrur Kovia
		37. Daspur
IX.	WEST BENGAL	

As the facilities to be provided under the Scheme to the weavers encompasses pre-loom/post loom & infrastructural components and also since a substantial assistance is expected to flow from other Schemes of the

State/Central Governments, it normally takes a few months for the project to take off at the ground level and a few years to complete the project. It is therefore pre-mature to assess at this stage the work done under such projects sanctioned during the last year.

CBI Investigations against STC/MMTC Officials

5790. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigations have boo ad any officials of State Trading Corporation/Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details therof, separately;

(c) the action taken against those officials who were found guilty in both the organisations; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen its own vigilance wing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c): Five cases initiated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) involving six officials of the State Trading Corporation (STC) are pending trial in the Courts. Action against the officials will depend on the outcome of these cases.

(b) Vigilance function in respect of the two public sector undertakings vests with the Executive Directors appointed for the purpose. The Chief Vigilance Officer in the Ministry is appointed in consultation with the Chief Vigilance Commission (CVC) which is in overall charge of vigilance in the Government.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

5791. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned loan for water supply and environmental sanitation projects in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned and allocation likely to be made from the funds received from World Bank, project-wise; and

(c) the details of the implementing agencies of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Restructuring of Public Sector Units

5792. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a concept paper on proposed restructuring of the public sector;

(b) if so, the brief contents of the concept;

(c) whether the sick units under the proposed concept are likely to be closed down; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). A concept paper for units under Ministry of Industry is under preparation.

[Translation]

Policy of Indeginous Industries

5793. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of the Government to promote indeginous industries;

(b) whether under this policy the indeginous industries are competent to compete with the industries set up by multinational companies; and

(c) the facilities available to indeginous industries vis-a-vis multinational companies ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Under the new economic reforms, the industrial policy of the Government is to build on the gains already made, correct the distortions or weaknesses that may have crept in, maintain a sustained growth in productivity and gainful employment, attain international competitiveness and encourage all sectors of industries to grow and improve on their past performance.

(c) Various measures have been taken to provide to the Indian companies a level playing field vis-a-vis foreign companies. Some of the measures taken by the Government, *inter-alia*, include reduction in excise duties, levy of countervailing duty wherever required, reduction in corporate tax, etc.

[English]

Transport Subsidy to Industries in Assam

5794. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the transport subsidy has not been sanctioned to the industrial units located in the State of Assam has created a negative condition for industrial growth; and

(b) the total amount of transports subsidy payable by Union Government till date and the steps being taken to release this amount ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Transport Subsidy to the tune of approximately Rs. 70.00 lakhs is payable by the Union Government by way of re-imbusement to the State Government of Assam. This is pending for want of additional information/clarification from the State Government and will be released on receipt of requisite information.

Export Turnover of SSI and NSIC

5795. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total export turnover of small scale industrial units was Rs. 24,150 crores and National Small

Industries Corporation Ltd. was Rs. 13.21 crores during the year 1993-94;

(b) if so, the reasons for less export turnover of National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The direct export from small scale sector in 1993-94 was Rs. 25307.09 crores. National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. had an export turnover of Rs. 13.21 crores.

(b) and (c). NSIC's aim is to develop small scale industries to enter into export market, and induct the units by providing them the initial support for entering into business contacts with buyers and other agencies. Once the units are established and have the linkages and knowledge to export, they start exporting directly and their turnover is not included in NSIC's exports. In place of the outgoing units new units are inducted. The role of NSIC is developmental nature. The corporation is providing continuous and constant support to the SSI units in exporting their products all over the world either through them or directly with the support and guidance of NSIC. The Corporation has adopted a Single Window Assistance approach to boost export of projects and products from the SSI sector.

[Translation]

Class IV Employees

5796. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether class IV employees working in many Undertakings are paying Income Tax;

(b) if so, whether the pay scales differ in Undertakings, Banks, Ministries and many other public institutes due to which there is resentment amongst it. Government employees getting less pay resulting in discouragement; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to bring parity in the pay scales ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Income-tax is payable by a person if his total income of the previous year from all the sources (including salary) exceeds the maximum amount which is not chargeable to income-tax. At present, the limit of total income not chargeable to income tax in the case of an 'Individual' assessee is Rs. 40,000/-. It is not necessary for a salaried assessee to mention in the return of income the class (i.e. I, II, III or IV) to which the employee belongs.

(b) The present pay structure of the Central Government employees is based on the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission as accepted by the Government with certain improvements. This Commission also considered the demand of the employees for parity in the wages of the Central Government employees vis-a-vis employees of the public undertakings. Prima facie the Commission observed that the job contents of even a Peon/Messenger in the

Central Government may not be similar in all respects with that in the public sector undertakings for variety of reasons. The 4th Pay Commission further observed that the Central Government is a vast and complex organisation. The pay structure for the employees of such an organisation cannot be based on a simple comparison of pay scales of posts at the lowest level in the Public Sector Undertakings. Accordingly, the pay structure and conditions of service of the Central Government employees have to be determined on their own merits.

(c) In view of (b) does not arise.

Scheduled Tribes in Public Undertakings

5797. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings in the country and the number of employees working in them;

(b) the number of scheduled tribes amongst them;

(c) the number of posts reserved for scheduled tribes lying vacant; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to fill up the same ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). In all, there are 245 Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the country. As per information available from 228 PSUs, as on 1.1.95, out of 20,46,090 employees, 1,61,023 belong to S.T.

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

(d) All Public Sector Undertakings have been advised to assess the backlog vacancies reserved for SC & ST and fill up these vacancies through Special Recruitment Drive by 31.3.97.

[English]

Liquidity Problems Faced by SSU

5798. SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the small scale units in the country are facing liquidity problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help small scale units in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Credit outstanding to small scale units from Public Sector Banks has increased from Rs. 25,843 crores at the end of March, 1995 to Rs. 29,482

crores at the end of March, 1996. The share of small scale credit as a percentage of net bank credit has also increased from 15.29% at the end of March, 1995 to 15.99% at the end of March, 1996. In addition to credit from Public Sector Banks, Small Industries Development Bank of India has given direct assistance of Rs. 2468 crores in 1995-96 to small scale units.

(c) Does not arise.

Participation in Automobile Fair in Frankfurt

5799. SHRI P. C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India propose to participate in the Frankfurt Automobile Fair in September, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of items proposed to be exhibited.

(c) whether adequate publicity have been given by the Engineering Export Promotion Council and the Automotive Manufacturing Association; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Some of the items to be exhibited by Companies participating in the fair are Automotive lighting and components, Automotive rubber components, sheet metal parts, Hydraulic engine and transmission mountings, Suspension accessories, Automotive halogen lamps, Electrical components, Leaf Springs, Forgings, Seals, and gas setc, Cylinder liners, Trailer parts and Rear axle shafts.

(c) Yes, Sir. Adequate publicity has been given by the Engineering Export Promotion Council and the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association in India and abroad. In addition, ITPO who are also participating in the Fair, have also organised publicity.

(d) The Publicity measures undertaken by Engineering Export Promotion Council and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association and India Trade Promotion Organisation are as under :

EEPC

— Mailing campaign has been done to major wholesale and distribution associations in all the EU countries.

— Invitation letters have been sent to major buyers and OEMs in Germany.

— A leaflet highlighting the following has been brought out for distribution at the EEPC's Information Booth :

(a) Highlights of Indian Automotive Industry

- (b) World Major Car manufacturers of Auto Components already having collaboration Arrangements in India.
- (c) Names of World's Major manufacturers of Auto Components already having collaboration arrangements in India.
- (d) Names of International OEs shopping in India.

ACMA

ACMA has brought out "Exhibitors Catalogue" for this occasion. Worldwide publicity to the ACMA Group participation has been given by ACMA through direct mailing to key international buyers. Publicity has also been done in countries like U.K., France, U.S.A., Canada, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Pakistan etc., where ACMA has MoUs with counterpart organisations. ACMA has also advertised their participation on the World-Wide-Web on Internet.

ITPO has undertaken pre-fair publicity by inviting over 600 specially identified importers of auto components from Germany. It has also published a special brochure for the occasion which will be distributed at the fair to all visitors. It has tied up with the Indo German Export Promotion (IGEP) Programme for giving publicity to a larger number of buyers on the rolls of the IGEP, Germany. The IGEP has also publicised the participation of ITPO amongst the Media.

Foreign Direct Investment

5800. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals regarding foreign direct investment relating to automobile sector and proposals of Shell and Caltex pending with the Government for clearance; and

(b) since when the above proposals are pending and by when these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There are 8 proposals for foreign direct investment in Automobile sector pending with the Govt. No proposal of shell or Caltex is pending with the Government.

(b) Receipt and disposal of applications is a continuous process. Normally the foreign direct investment proposals are cleared in 6 weeks times.

Seizure of Teakwood

5801. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of seizures of teakwood during the last three months by the customs authorities in Assam and Nagaland after these have entered the stream of normal trade and commerce upon its redemption at entry points by the authorities in Manipur ;

(b) the reasons as to why the customs authorities could not check the movement of timber at originating point at Manipur;

(c) whether the Government propose to prescribe standard guidelines to be followed by timber dealers and also issue directives to the authorities concerned to act strictly in accordance with law; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Customs Authorities have not seized teakwood in Nagaland and Assam upon its redemption at entry points by the authorities at Manipur. However, details of smuggled teakwood seized by Customs Authorities in the State of Nagaland and Assam during the last three months is as follows :

	Qty.	Value (Rs. in lacs.)
Nagaland	1529.326 cft.	5.79
Assam	8423.56 cft.	62.17

(b) Anti smuggling agencies on Indo-Myanmar Border in the State of Manipur are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of teakwood. However due to porous nature of Indo-Myanmar Border some cases of smuggling of teakwood into India from Myanmar have been noticed. Such smuggled teakwood remains liable to seizure and confiscation by Customs authorities.

(c) and (d). As far as smuggling of timber from Myanmar is concerned the Customs Authorities have been directed to act strictly in accordance with law. So far as standard guidelines to be followed by timber dealers are concerned, the Central Government are not considering issue of any such guidelines under the Customs Act, 1962.

Escorts Shares

5802. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether shares of Escorts Tractors has been transferred to non subsidiaries below the market price;

(b) if so, whether due to this shareholders have been deprived of crores of rupees while promoters have doubted their control to 40%;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the book value and market value of shares;

(d) whether Government's attention has also been invited towards the news item appearing in *Economic Times* dated August 12, 1996 under caption "Escorts merger blues: Shareholders deprived of crores"; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to sort out the issue and safeguard the interest of shareholders ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

5803. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
 SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new voluntary retirement scheme for the employees engaged in industrial units functioning in public sector of the country;

(b) if so, the outlines of this proposed draft scheme;

(c) whether the Govt. have identified the number of surplus employees in public sector institutions before introducing this scheme; and

(d) if so, the number of surplus employees engaged in these public sector institutions uptill April, 1996 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises was introduced in October 1988 with a view to reducing surplus manpower. Th scheme is still in operation. The option to avail benefit of the scheme is with the employees.

(c) and (d). Managements of Public Sector Undertakings are to identify the number of surplus staff depending on their requirements, from time to time.

Setting up New Industrial Areas

5804. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the government of Madhya Pradesh seeking approval for setting up of new Industrial areas in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the approval of the Union Government has since been accorded; and

(d) if not, by when the decision is likely to be taken on the above proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. Setting up of new Industrial areas in the State is a subject being looked after by the concerned State Government.

[English]

Manufacture of EMD

5805. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters of intent issued by the Government for manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide (EMD) and the letters out of them converted into industrial licences till now;

(b) the number of licences of various categories of Drycell manufacture in the country alongwith their installed and production capacity; and

(c) the estimated quantity of raw material for the above licences produced indigenously and the quantity imported during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). A letter of Intent issued on 30.1.1987 was later converted into an Industrial Licence dated 2.4.1991 in favour of M/s. Magno Mining Company Limited, Hyderabad (A.P.) for setting up a unit at Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh for manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide for a capacity of 2500 tonnes per annum. There are 22 licensed units in the country for manufacture of Dry Cell with a total installed capacity of 5872000 Thousands Nos. Annual Production during 1995-96 was 11,28,700 Thousands Nos. Information regarding indigenously and imported raw materials used for the purpose is not being centrally maintained.

Duty on Timber Trade

5806. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether directives issued to the customs authorities in Manipur with regard to redemption fines on timber flowing along Indo-Myanmar border ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the redemption fines is quite high in the prevailing circumstances of the trade ;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such directives have been issued

(b) Timber being smuggled into India from Myanmar is liable to confiscation and offenders liable to penalty under the Customs Act, 1962. The adjudicating authority who adjudges each case is empowered to give an option to the offender in such cases to pay a fine in lieu of confiscation which is also called redemption fine.

The adjudication orders passed in above cases were found to be defective, hence the Customs Department has preferred appeals before the Appellate Authorities concerned. Appeals are still pending.

(c) to (e). Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

[*Translation*]**Fire in Coal Mines**

5807. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of fire broke out in various coal mines of the country as on date during the last three years, mine-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total number of labourer's killed and financial losses suffered, mines-wise;

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to the family members of the labourers killed in the coal mines;

(d) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such incidents;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce any special scheme also for controlling the fire in coal mines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL). State-wise details of incidents of spontaneous heating and fires in the coal mines of CIL during the last three years are given below :

State	1993	1994	1995	1996 (Upto July, 1996)
West Bengal	11	12	24	15
Bihar	1	1	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1	2
Maharashtra	—	3	—	—
Orissa	1	—	—	—
Assam	—	1	—	—
Total	14	18	25	17

Coal company-wise details of workers killed and financial losses suffered as a result of above fire incidents are as under :

Coal Company	Financial loss (in Rs. Lakhs)	Production loss (in '000 to)	Workers killed
Eastern Coalfields Limited	805	237	55
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	10	34	—
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	—	—	3

(c) In case of injury, the amount of compensation is worked out as per provisions contained in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 and is based on the degree of disability, age and monthly earnings of the worker. In case of death, in addition to the compensation amount computed as per provisions of the Act, the following amount is paid by Coal India Limited (CIL) to the dependants of a deceased worker :

(i) Funeral expenses	— Rs. 500/-
(ii) Ex-gratia amount	— Rs. 10000/-
(iii) Amount under Life Cover Scheme	— Rs. 15000/- (Revised to Rs. 20,000/- under NCWA-V)

In addition, employment to one of the dependants of the deceased is also offered. Alternatively, in lieu of employment, the widow/female dependant is paid a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- till she attains 60 years of age/dies/remarries whichever is earlier.

(d) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps, Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels training and re-training of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards.

(e) to (g). The main problems arising of these shallow fires exist in Jharia Coalfield of Dhanbad District in Bihar where twenty two fire projects to deal with such fires at an estimated cost of Rupees 114.57 crores are under various stages of implementation. With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires a diagnostic study under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project, assisted by World Bank, has been completed in June, 1996. Action on preparation of final report has been initiated by the consultant engaged for the purpose.

Interest Rates on Agricultural Loans

5808. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to reduce the interest rate on the agricultural loans for small and marginal farmers;

(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 FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Setting up of Industries in U.P.

5809. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries such as small, medium and large set up in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years with the help of domestic/foreign companies; and

(b) the details of such domestic/foreign companies and also the details of the investments made by them ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) During the period Jan '94 to Dec '95, 33 Industrial Licences were granted for setting up various industries in the state of Uttar Pradesh and intimation regarding commencement of commercial production was received in respect of 95 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda during the same period.

(b) The details are published in the Monthly News Letter of Indian Investment Centre and SIA-Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Industry, copies of which are regularly sent to Parliament Library. The approvals for setting up industries under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 do not always indicate the financing pattern and as such the details of the projects to be established with Government, Non-Government and foreign participation are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Garment Export Quota Policy

5810. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the task force appointed for reviewing the current garment and textiles export quota policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the task force; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The report of the task force is under Government's consideration.

Disinvestment Commission

5811. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the composition of disinvestment Commission alongwith its terms of reference; and

(b) by what time it is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A Disinvestment Commission consisting of a full time Chairman and four part-time Members has already started functioning. The terms of reference of the disinvestment Commission are given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

The terms of reference of the Disinvestment Commission are as under :

- (i) To draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group.
- (ii) to determine the extent of disinvestment (total/partial indicating percentage) in each of the PSUs.
- (iii) To priorities the PSUs referred to it by the Core Group in terms of the overall disinvestment programme.
- (iv) To recommend the preferred mode (s) of disinvestment (domestic capital markets/international capital markets/ auction/private sale to identified investors/any other) for each of the identified PSUs. Also to suggest an appropriate mix of the various alternatives taking into account the market conditions.
- (v) To recommended a mix between primary and secondary disinvestment taking into account the Government's objective, the relevant PSU's funding requirement and the market conditions.
- (vi) To supervise the overall sale process and take decisions on instrument, pricing, timing, etc. as appropriate.
- (vii) To select the financial advisers for the specified PSUs to facilitate the disinvestment process.
- (viii) To ensure that appropriate measures are taken during the disinvestment process to protect the interests of the affected employees including encouraging employees' participation in the sale process.
- (ix) To monitor the progress of disinvestment process and take necessary measures and report periodically to the Government on such progress.

- (x) To assist the government to create public awareness of the Government's disinvestment policies and programmes with a view to developing a commitment by the people.
- (xi) To give wide publicity to the disinvestment proposals so as to ensure larger public participation in the shareholding of the enterprises; and
- (xii) To advise the Government on possible capital restructuring of the enterprises by marginal investments, if required, so as to ensure enhanced realisation through disinvestment.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-534/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the Delhi State Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Delhi State Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-535/96]

Notifications under Sub-Section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 :—
- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 286(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1996.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 287(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-536/96]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Supply of Milk by D.M.S.

SNQ3. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Milk Crates are being stolen from Delhi Milk Scheme plant due to which milk is falling short in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of cases of theft of these milk crates reported from D.M.S. Plant during the last three years, till date;

(c) the number of persons apprehended as a result thereof and the action taken against them; and

(d) the measures taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d). Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has been taking adequate security precautions to see that milk crates are not stolen and there are no reported cases of crates being stolen from the DMS Plant in the last three years. The DMS has been maintaining a supply of over 3 lakh litres daily. However, due to price differential, there is large demand for DMS milk.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Indian Institute of Mass Communication New Delhi for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 :—

- (i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 521 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1996.
- (ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Development Staff) (Amendment) Scheme, 1996, published in Notification No. S.O. 522 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-537/96]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. (405) (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose antidumping duty on Sodium Ferrocyanide, originating from People's Republic of China and exported to India by the Exporters, under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-538/96]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

- (i) G.S.R. 397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to the goods including automobiles, imported into India by the Ford Foundation for their official use from the whole of the duty of Customs leviable thereon.
- (ii) G.S.R. 288 (E) to G.S.R. 305 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding customs duty changes and exemption in the context of the Budget proposals pertaining to indirect taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 22nd July, 1996.
- (iii) G.S.R. No. 120(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to facilitate quick disposal of the currencies immediately after seizure without waiting for the departmental adjudication proceedings.
- (iv) G.S.R. No. 334 (E) and G.S.R. No. 354 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th July and 6th August, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to include specified components in the List of Electronic components attracting a concessional rate of Basic Customs duty of twenty percent.

(v) G.S.R. No. 338(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 47.96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

(vi) G.S.R. 396 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to restore, the All Industry Rate of Drawback on export of Embroidered fabrics with effect from 16th June 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-539/96]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :

(i) The United Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulation, 1995 published in Notification No. 2/95 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-540/96]

(ii) The Canara Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1979 published in Notification No. PWPM/1108/71/SV in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-541/96]

(iii) The UCO Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulation, 1995 published in Notification No. OSR/1/1995 in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-542/96]

(iv) The Bank of Maharashtra (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. AXI/ST/BM/5547/95 in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-543/96]

(v) The Punjab National Bank Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. PNB/DAC/3/94 in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-544/96]

(vi) The Amended Schedule 1994 to Bank of Maharashtra Officer Employees (Discipline and Appeal) Regulations, 1976 published in Notification No. AXI/ST/DAM/10065/94 in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-545/96]

(vii) The Allahabad Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. HO/Legal/0279 in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-546/96]

(viii) The Corporation Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. PAD/IR/15/95 in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-547/96]

(ix) The Union Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. OSR/10 in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-548/96]

(x) The Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No P/IR/SAH/191 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-549/96]

(xi) The Punjab National Bank (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1979 published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-550/96]

(xii) The Syndicate Bank (Officers') Service Amendment Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. 671/S/0089/PD/IRD (O) in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-551/96]

(xiii) The Union Bank of India (Officers') Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. ORS/11 in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-552/96]

(xiv) The Punjab and Sind Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1995 published in Notification No. PSB/STAFF/OSR/ 1995 in Gazette of India dated the 21st February 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-553/96]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. SBD No. 11/1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 1994 approving the amendment in Regulation 17(1) of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra and Travancore Employees' Provident Fund Regulations, under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-554/96]

(7) A copy of the Imperial Bank of India Employees' Pension and Guarantee Fund Rules and Regulations (Amendment) 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. CDO/AMD/SPL/5328 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1995, under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-555/96]

(8) A copy of the State Bank of India Employees' Pension Fund Rules (Amendments) 1995 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. CDO/ADM/SPL/5329 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1995, under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the State bank of India Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-556/96]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—

(i) G.S.R. 306 (E) to G.S.R. 327 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Central Excise Duty changes and exemption made in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 22nd July, 1996.

(ii) G.S.R. 339 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four Notifications mentioned in the Notification.

(iii) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 340 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) G.S.R. 341 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/96 CE dated 23rd July, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-557/96]

(10) A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Vidur Gramin Bank for the year 1993-94, together with Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-558/96]

(11) A copy each of the following annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional

Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1995, together with Auditor's Report thereon :—

- (i) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-559/96]

- (ii) Raebareli Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raebareli (U.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-560/96]

- (iii) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Coochbehar (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-561/96]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 29 and Sub-section (5) of section 31 of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India Act, 1984.

- (ii) A copy of the Reivew (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-562/96]

- (13) A copy of the Third Interim Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifth Central Pay Commission for the Central Government Employees.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-563/96]

- (14) A copy each of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of India, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Indore, State Bank Patiala, State Bank of Saurashtra and State Bank of Travancore for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditor's Reports thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, respectively.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-564/96]

- (15) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :—

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 1995-96, alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-565/96]

- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 1995-96, alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-566/96]

- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Canara Bank for the year 1995-96, alongwith Account and Auditor Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-567/96]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Central Bank of India for the year 1995-96, alongwith accounts and Auditor' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-568/96]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Dena Bank for the year 1995-96, alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-569/96]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Syndicate Bank for the year 1995-96, alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-570/96]

- (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 1995-96, alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-571/96]

- (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 1995-96 alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-572/96]

- (ix) Report on the working and activities of the United Bank of India for the year 1995-96 alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-573/96]

- (x) Report on the working and activities of the Oriental Bank of Commerce for the year 1995-96 alongwith Accounts and Auditors Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-574/96]

- (xi) Report on the working and activities of the Vijaya Bank for the year 1995-96, alongwith Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-575/96]

- (16) A copy of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the Execution of the Provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from the 1st January, 1995 to the 31st December, 1995, under section 62 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-576/96]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board

of india, for the year 1995-96, under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Securities and Exchange Board of India for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-577/96]

- (18) A copy of the Cost Accounting Records (Industrial Gases) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 271 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 1996, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-578/96]

Ramesh Chandra Inquiry Report and Special Order of President under Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982 etc.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Ramesh Chandra Inquiry Report regarding the Incidents and related sequence of events at the State Guest House, Lucknow, on 2nd June, 1995 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-579/96]

- (2) A copy of the Special Order (Hindi and English versions) made by the President authorising Governor or Gujarat for additional expenses during 1994-95 under 'Electricity' of Schedule-II to the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987, under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the of Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-580/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur for 1993-94 etc.

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. BALASUBRAMONIYAM) : On behalf of SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1993-94.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rajasthan State Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-581/96]

- (b) (i) Review of by Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-582/96]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-583/96]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1984-85.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1984-85, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-584/96]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-585/96]

Annual Report and Review of the working of Rubber Board, Kottayam for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1994-95.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-586/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board for the year 1994-95.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board for the year 1994-95.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-587/96]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, 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 Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Cochin, for the year 1994-95.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-588/96]

Annual Report, Annual accounts and Review of the working of Medical Council of India New Delhi for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): On behalf of SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-589/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi 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 National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-590/96]

Annual Report and Review of the working of Banaras Hindu University for 1994-95

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : On behalf of SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Banaras Hindu University for the year 1994-95.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-591/96]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-592/96]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 28 of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-593/96]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English version) by the Government of the working of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-594/96]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University (Volume I and II) for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-595/96]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-596/96]

12.03 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th September, 1996, agreed without any amendment to the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th September, 1996."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th September, 1996 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1996 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th September, 1996 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.04 hrs.

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following three Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha—

- (i) Representation to the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996;
- (ii) Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1996.
- (iii) Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 1996.

[English]

12.04 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Second Report and Minutes

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Railways on 'Redressal of Public Grievances by Indian Railways' and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.05 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri R.V. Subha Rao of Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Shri R.B. Maitra of Calcutta and other bidi workers requesting immediate cancellation of licences for manufacture of small cigarettes and formulation of a clear cut bidi policy.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, before the Zero Hour Commences, I would like to inform you that I have a list of 33 Members, and I will give a chance to each of you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

I will take up according to seriatim.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Yesterday it was decided that the Bill would be taken up immediately after Zero Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, yesterday I gave a notice to raise an important matter under Rule 193. It is a very urgent matter. I understand for lack of time, it could not be accommodated, as could be seen from the Revised List of Business. I understand that the BAC could not accommodate my notice under Rule 193 to raise a very important matter. In this connection I called on the hon. Speaker also.

Sir, I will take only half a minute to raise this matter which concerns the entire House. Shri Murli Manohar Joshi also raised this issue. This is regarding a statement made by Naval Chief, Shri Shekawat and the Army Chief. They have voiced their concern about the shortage of officers in the Indian Army. In the context of CTBT and its fallout, there is an alarming concern about the preparedness of Indian Defence. I thought that the Minister of Defence who is very much available in Delhi, at least before the rise of the House, should make a statement as to what is the approach of the Government in this regard. It cannot be just wished away. The Chief of Army Staff in Calcutta made a statement that the Army is having shortage of officers and no officers are recruited. He said that young people are not getting encouragement. Shri Chidambaram said that there would be no shortage of money and that aspect would be taken care of. In spite of the concern regarding Defence, the hon. Minister of Defence has not been able to express anything because the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence were guillotined. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has raised this issue alongwith other hon. Members. I gave a notice for a discussion under Rule 193, but it was not admitted because of lack of time. I only wish that the Government should come out with a statement because

the issue of CTBT will be taken up in the United Nations once again. You know the kind of fall out which was there in Pakistan. They are being armed and it was also shown on the TV yesterday. Mrs. Banazir is gunning with all her power at her command against India in Kashmir border. At this time, the statement of the Chief of Navy about our naval capability on the ocean and the statement of the Chief of Army about our preparedness are causing concern; and if the Government does not react to it, it is very unfortunate. That is why, I would like to draw your attention.

So, Sir, the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister or some other Minister on behalf of the Government must react to the situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary please

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I want to support what Shri Dasmunsi has said. The matter is very grave and serious. It is absolutely necessary that the Government makes a statement in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, Yesterday it was decided that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill would be taken up immediately after the Question Hour is over. But now you are permitting the Zero Hour to go on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take it up after the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have no objection if you want to take it up just now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, that was our understanding ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take up matters under Rule 377 after Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the arrangement was that it has to be sent to the other House by 1 P.M. and so, we should immediately take it up after Question Hour is over. That was the impression given to us by the hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Otherwise, how can you send it to the other House ? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The decision taken yesterday was to take up that Bill immediately after the Question Hour. What is happening to it now ? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will give a chance to all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has to be taken up after Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has to be finished.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will not take more than one hour.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, you are not listening to us. Yesterday, hon. Speaker has decided that in order to send the Bill to the other house, we have to conclude our deliberations by 1 P.M. Now, if you take up the Zero Hour, how can we complete the discussion on that Bill ? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it has to be sent to the other House also ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Minister also has to reply ; and today is the last day of this Session ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, is there any rethinking on this matter by any of the parties here ? We would like to know it because every party has committed to its passing yesterday. Is there any rethinking on this ? Let us find it out (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Lady Members have been invited to the Chamber, talks are going on. The House will be informed of the decision.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : (Lucknow) : There is no rethinking on this matter on the part of my party; and if there is any rethinking, it is on the other side of the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why then is the Leader of the Opposition not insisting on taking up that Bill immediately ? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You ask the Members on the other side.... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, we have even issued a three line whip for our Members ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Member to speak. Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have a multi-purpose Subarn Rekha project which has affected hundreds of villages in my area. (Interruptions) Lands of many persons have been acquired for this project (Interruptions) We talk here about farmers and poor people time and again ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him speak.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bank has acquired the land of villagers but no compensation has been paid ... (Interruptions) It they behave like this we will also not allow them to speak ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me tell you something.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A meeting of all the leaders was held this morning at 9.30 in which it was agreed that all the hon'ble Lady Members should be called to the Chamber of the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The meeting is going on. I would inform you about the decision taken by the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The meeting is going on.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ram Tahal Chandhary has to say.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Lands of hundreds of people have been acquired ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Unless you allow Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Land belonging to hundreds of people has been taken over ... (Interruptions) Crop has been destroyed but no compensation has been paid. The displaced persons are neither being paid compensation nor have been given jobs despite the assurance given by the State Government.

The roads of the village have submerged into the dam and there is no road communication available. Roads have not been provided, rehabilitation measures have not been taken. The bank cheques issued in the name of rehabilitation are not being honoured by the bank officers without illegal gratification. The farmers there are on the verge of starvation. People have been leaving on an island for six months. The situation have assumed a very serious dimension.

Sir, through you I would like to tell the government which claims to be the wellwisher of the farmers and poor people, that the poor people are not being paid compensation for their land and I would, therefore, demand that an inquiry should be conducted by constituting a Committee into the Chandil Subarna Rekha Project and compensation should be paid to those displaced families who have not been given compensation so far they should be provided jobs, they should be rehabilitated. I would also request that arrangements for their medicare and security, which do not exist, should be made, otherwise, the affected people who are agitated can resort to a big agitation. I want that the government should pay compensation to these poor farmers immediately.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Indrajit Gupta, Home Minister wants to inform the House on the tragedy of Amarnath Yatra.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I had promised yesterday that the decision of the Government regarding the Inquiry Officer to inquire into the Amarnath tragedy would be announced today. So, I am informing the House now that we have appointed Shri Nitish Sengupta, a retired senior IAS Officer of the 1957 batch as the Inquiry Officer. Shri Sengupta had been holding very senior positions in the Government of India. He had been the Secretary of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary of the Department of Civil Supplies and Director-General of Tourism, Government of India. He is an eminent civil servant with 35 years of distinguished service. After retirement, he is presently working as the Director-General of the

International Management Institute. We have requested Shri Sengupta to complete his inquiry within one month.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL (Kheda) : The soiled notes of the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 are in circulation in Gujarat and the entire country which are not accepted by rickshaw pullers, vegetable vendors, cooperative banks and even scheduled banks. The State Bank does not have new notes of these denominations nor have they coins of the denominations of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 as a result of which people are facing great difficulty. I have written in this regard to the hon'ble Finance Minister and also to the Reserve Bank of India. I will request the hon'ble Finance Minister to take urgent appropriate measures and ensure availability of new notes or coins.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South-Central) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the India Workshop Limited in my areas the workers of which have not been getting their wages to the last 104 months. It is a matter of shame for the new government. I have met the former Finance Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji and the present Finance Minister Shri Chidambaramji many times and they assured me that the wages of these workers, who are doing their duty will be paid. But wage arrears amounting to Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 crore have been accumulated and no payment is being made while the workshop is selling ships worth crores of rupees. I will therefore, request the government, the hon'ble Finance Minister is not present, but the House should direct him to make payment of their wages as early as possible. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who is present should give us a categorical assurance that their salaries will be paid.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the matter I am raising is very serious. The population of Jaipur City has gone beyond 20 lakhs which is likely to go up further because of Constitution of Municipal Corporation. We have 383 postmen there who are handling and delivering 1,58,000 Letters and parcels daily in Jaipur City while according to the work norms, 383 postmen are supposed to handle and distribute only 60,000 letters. So, there is no postmen to deliver 90,000 letters and parcels. People are receiving letters as late as 1 week to 2 weeks. The marriage invitation cards are received when the couple has been blessed by a baby. This is the situation likely to develop there. The entire system is in disarray. I had demanded from the postal department of the Government of India that 120 new postmen should be recruited but nobody is listening to my request. The dak delivery system has been rendered more ineffective because of development of new colonies such as Vaishali Nagar, Gandhinagar, Shyam Nagar, Malviya Nagar, Vishva Karma Nagar, Durgapura, Sanganer Airport etc. and these colonies are not visited even by one postmen. New posts of postmen are not being created and the old vacancies are also not being filled. This has rendered the postal system most ineffective. I would urge upon the

Government of India and also the postal department to remove the ban imposed on new appointments and fill urgently the old vacancies. If this arrangement is not made immediately I will be forced to bring the people of Jaipur city here and stage a dharna in front of the House of the Prime Minister. Therefore, the Government of India should recruit new postmen and fill the old vacancies.

SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious issue. Following the Chinese aggression 1600 Km Farvisganj-Darbhanga Lateral road was sanctioned but a large stretch of the proposed road on Indo-Nepal border has been left out while China has constructed road much beyond Nepal border and has taken other measures. Keeping the seriousness of this development in view, the government should declare this Farvisganj-Dardhanga lateral road as National Highway and complete the remaining work without further delay. I would like to inform that this road has been approved by the Planning Commission as well as the railways. Out of this 1600 Km Banaras-Balia via Gorakhpur, Darbhanga, Farvisganj section of road, 205 Km link section remains to be constructed. So, government should complete this road. The hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Kishanganj a week ago had made an announcement in this regard. I would like that this road should be constructed immediately.

SHRI NAND KUMAR RAI (Raigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than 14500 branches of 196 regional rural banks are functioning in 382 districts of the country in which nearly 70,000 officers and employees are working. The object of setting up of rural banks was to meet the banking requirements and safeguard the interests of rural people but these banks are unable to fulfill their objective of meeting the regional level demands because they are controlled by other banks. I would therefore, demand that zonal banks should be set up in different areas. The officers and employees of rural banks had organised a dharna in Delhi from 2nd September to 6th September where they placed some of their demands. We have been given to understand that the government proposes to allow private banking operation in these areas and the bank employees were opposing this move. The regional rural bank employees had not been extended the benefits of 6th wage agreement of the banking industry. I will request that these benefits should immediately be extended to these employees.

Sir, you are aware that the government of India has taken a decision to extend with effect from 1st January 1991 same pay and allowances to rural bank employees as are available to the employees of sponsored commercial banks as envisaged under the National Industrial Tribunal Award but the same has not been implemented so far. I would request that regional level banks should be set up under as National Apex Body which should be a central agency in order to strengthen the regional rural banks

economically and to make them self sufficient. I would through you again request that the Government of India should consider this matter urgently.

[English]

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I come from Miryalguda in Andhra Pradesh. There is one Amrita Nagar Sugar Factory there which is being privatised. There are about 185 permanent workers and 285 seasonal workers who are going to be unemployed once it s privatised. Is the name of losses they would down the factory and create problems for the workers. The workers would be rendered jobless and shelterless. The Government on the one hand is thinking of creasting more and more employment. Before we privatise any unit or before we close down a unit, we are supposed to provide re-employment to the workers, take care of their food and shelter. Instead of doing that the Government of Andhra Pradesh in a hasty manner decided to close down or otherwise privatise the factory. The workers who would be affected by this decision are staging a dharna and nobody is there to care for them.

The new management may take any action in the circumstances. I, therefore, request the Central Government and the Ministry of Industries to see that something is done for those people who are working there, before anything is done to this unit, and before it is put in the hands of other people who would run it in their own way.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kota town of Rajasthan has a lone Public Sector undertaking namely, the Instrumentations Limited whose profitability has suddenly turned into loss because of administrative complacency, inefficiency and lack of acumen. It used to employ 5000 workers and now it has come down to 3200 on voluntary appointment basis. This enterprise is continuously incurring loss and as a result 20,000-25000 members of the families of these employees are facing the situation of starvation. These employees are not getting their wages. Shri Jaswant Singh ji and I have been endeavouring to get it merged with BHEL so as to revive this undertaking. I would urge that this Instrumentations Limited should be merged with BHEL and the workers paid their wages immediately.

I would like to make another submission. This undertaking is running in loss and not getting orders from the Department of Telecommunication. Sukhramji had set up his own factory and discouraged the development of this undertaking. The orders placed on this undertaking were cancelled. On the other hand, the top officers are making foreign tours to get supply orders. This should be stopped immediately. These officers are spending lakhs of rupees on their foreign tours inspite of the fact that this Undertaking is incurring losses worth crores of rupees. The outcome of their foreign tours is never made public.

Therefore, I would, with all the force at my command, request the government to merge this industry with BHEL to keep in alive.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Before the Disinvestment Committee started functioning and given the recommendation before the Government, the hon. Finance Minister on the last day-probably yesterday or day before yesterday-in a Seminar declared unilaterally that 74 per cent of the non-core public sector undertakings will be disinvested. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether this Disinvestment Commission set up by the Government and declared in the Budget Speech by himself is simply a matter to be described as a reference or it has got a serious meaning.

The second point which I want to highlight before you and before the House is in regard to the international situation that has developed as a result of mobilisation of war fleet in Indian Ocean and especially having its base in Diego Garcia in the Context of war that has broken out in Iraq and in the context of India's stand on CTBT. I would like to know the India's stand on the CTBT and the situation that is prevailing in Iraq. In this background, the mobilisation of war fleet in Diego Garcia and the Indian Ocean by the United States is a serious threat to the peace in the Indian Ocean. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I want that the house should take this into serious consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat—not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a serious submission before you. One crore population of Bihar is in the grip of devastating floods and crop, houses and public property worth Rs. 80 crore has been destroyed. More than 6000 villages are submerged and more than 6 lakh cattle heads are stranded. The situation there is like the 'Niro is playing flute while Rome is burning'. Today One third population of Bihar is on the verge of devastation and the state government has become a mute spectator. Sir, I am not levelling allegation. The hon'ble Agriculture Minister visited Bihar and he had openly accepted that the Bihar government was not serious towards relief operations.

Sir, the hon'ble Agriculture Minister has reprimanded them and I would like to request through you the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister to impress upon the Bihar government to do something for this flood affected one crore population. Last year, 526 people were killed during the floods and it is in official record. This year more than

200 people have been killed in the floods upto the month of September but not a single penny by way of emergency relief, natural calamity relief has been sanctioned neither for those died last year nor for the dependents of those killed this year ... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : We will not allow the House ... (Interruptions) Just now I am coming from the meeting. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him finish.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Government is deviating from its stand. (Interruptions) Government is saying that they will bring this Bill next time. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the problem ? This is not good.

Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

12.34 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Mamata Banerjee came and stood on the floor near the Table)

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. You are a senior Member.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have got to pass this Bill. We have to take it up and pass it. (Interruptions)

Unless this Bill is taken up, no other matter should be allowed. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : After giving a promise to this House, why are they going back ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I request all of you to take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We were under the impression yesterday when the House rose that there is a national commitment and commitment of this House and that this Bill will be passed. So, we are requesting you that this Bill be passed and nothing else be taken up. The discussion is over. Now, let the Bill be passed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, it is not a usual thing to suspend the Question Hour and introduce a Bill. The hon. Speaker, yesterday, promised that the Bill will be

*Not recorded.

passed after 12 noon today. Now, what is the reason for going back from that promise ? If such is the case why was it necessary to introduce the Bill yesterday by suspending the Question Hour ? This is not a show. This is not a joke. Why should the House be taken for a ride ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mamataji, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go an record
(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do not you utilise this time for Zero Hour ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The policy matter can be looked into later on. Yesterday, we decided that if there is any further amendment that will be done. This House cannot be treated like this. OBC matter can be taken up later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentlemen, take your seats please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do not you resume your seats ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I am on a point of order ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no issue before the House, so there is no question of any point of order.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Look here. The meeting is going on. You will be informed about the decision taken. Let us utilise this time as Zero Hour. Please do not waste time.

[English]

The hon. Minister will inform you about the decision taken in the meeting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, till the meeting is over, you can adjourn the House ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, the meeting is going on and I have to go there ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is listed in today's List of Business. Why are you not taking it up ?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are not allowing Zero Hour to be taken up. The meeting is going on and the Minister will inform you about the result.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Zero Hour can be taken up after this Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you can ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to make a statement ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow Shri Chitta Basu to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, with your kind permission, ...(Interruptions) I also want the cooperation of Kumari Mamata Banerjee...(Interruptions) Let me speak. I will also support your cause, there is no problem.

As the House knows that or nation is celebrating 50th Anniversary of our Independence ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak and sit down.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is a sad experience for all of us to know that the Government has withheld, from our scholars and historians, official records relating to the freedom struggle of this country.

12.44 hrs.

(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee went back to her seat)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, it is all the more ironical when we find that the researchers at Institutions, such as Indian Council of Historical Research, are denied access to any papers relating to the Indian National Army, disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and records of evidence of his activities and whereabouts since August 1945. All these are being withheld from public knowledge, researchers and other interested historians only under the purview of Official Secrets Act of 1923.

Sir, this has led to distortion of history writing and to some other kind of misinterpretation of the history of the freedom movement of our country.

It is our rich legacy and it is our rich heritage. We, the Members of this House, the other members in the Public life, young generation, and men and women should know the traditional history of the freedom movement of our country when the country is celebrating the Fiftieth anniversary of our Independence.

Sir, it may be mentioned *inter alia* that the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front has promised to review and to amend the Official Secrets Act keeping in view the need for transparency, freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 (1) of the Constitution.

Sir, having regard to its importance and significance, I would request the entire House, the leaders of all the political parties including the Congress-I to see that the history of our country is made known to young generation and to the present generation also.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question that has been raised is very important. I would like to remind the House that government had taken a decision to celebrate the centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from 23rd January 1997 and a Committee had been constituted for this purpose and all these matters were raised there, but we do not know what the Committee has done so far. I am one of the Members of this Committee but no meeting of it has taken place during the last one year. We are told that an executive committee will be constituted which would process the programme further. Now January 1997 is approaching. May I know what government propose to do in this regard. This is a very important matter.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I would request the honble Minister Shri Bommai to call a meeting of this committee ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I had asked for convening the meeting of this committee and raising all these issues therein. I had demanded that various academies should be named after Netaji, chairs should be provided in Universities after Netaji, his correspondence should be published because it is a part of the History the records which are outside the country should be acquired. I have raised all these issues but the government is sleeping over it. I would therefore, request that some decision should be taken in this regard as early as possible.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, I would like to suggest that whatever Committee that is in existence should be revived and the Members of the different parties should be taken in that Committee. This matter should be expedited. That is my humble suggestion. The birthday of Subhash Chandra Bose falls on the 23rd January. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : In the Subhash Chandra Bose Centenary Celebration Committee, some young people should be there ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the Government may form a Committee relating to Netaji Centenary Celebration and a Committee relating to Independence Golden Jubilee Celebration. In those Committees, the people, who are above 65 years and who had suffered imprisonment during the national struggle, should only be there, and none else who did not fight for our freedom, should be there ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the people of 28 districts of Bihar have been ruined by the vagaries of floods and the government of Bihar has not repaired any embankment of any river of Bihar. The funds earmarked for this purpose were either siphoned off or utilised as administrative expenses as a result, the embankments are breaching rapidly and a population of more than 1 crore is today facing the fury of floods. Sir, the Agriculture Minister had visited the area and announced that an assistance of Rs. 500 per acre would be provided to small and marginal farmers out of the Central Flood Relief Fund but the relief has not reached there so far. Last year, 526 people were killed in the floods and this year 200 people have died so far, but the dependants of none of them have been given the amount of emergency relief. Sir, through you, I request the government of India to ask the Bihar Chief Minister not to be concerned about the construction of a railway bridge at Patna, not to remain involved in Folder Scam but make arrangements for providing immediate relief to the flood affected people of Bihar ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have the list of names of all of you, I will give each of you a chance to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I call Shri Rup Chand Murmu to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak.

SHRI RUP CHAND MURHU (Jhargram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a good number of passengers daily avail themselves of the trains running in between Kharagpur Railway Junction and Tatanagar at Nimpara railway halt station for their avocations.

But there is not ticket sale counter. Hence the passengers have to travel without ticket which is illegal and punishable. Further, the platform level of that station is very low causing much trouble to the passengers to get in and get down the trains. This station is used mostly by the tribal people. They have been appealing repeatedly to the local officers for doing them justice but to no avail. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, again we have come. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Under the circumstances, the hon. Railway Minister is urged upon to look into the matter of opening a ticket sale counter and raise the platform at Nimpara Halt Station under South Eastern Railway. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today morning the press boycotted the Question Hour proceedings of our Parliament from 11.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs. All the organisations of newsmen throughout the country are demanding the grant of interim relief.

[English]

12.51 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and another hon. Member came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : The newsmen are demanding a 50 percent minimum relief of the relief recommended last year by the Wage Board and they have raised this demand many a times and have met the government also. Today they have not covered the Question Hour in the Parliament.

I demand that they should be granted an increase of 50 percent interim relief of their basic pay. The salaries of all other salaried persons have been enhanced because of price rise. We do not know when final recommendation in this regard will be received. I would request the government to invite the representatives of pressmen and exceed to their demand.

Secondly, the government has not framed any rules so far in regard to the official residences allotted to newsmen as a result of which the High Court and the Supreme Court are creating problems for these people. I would demand of the government that it should frame rules and regulations for allotment of government accommodation to the newsmen based on the rules framed for government employees and

the pressmen should be allotted government accommodation under those rules. If a pressmen with a salary of 5000-7000 per month is forced to rent private house in Delhi then I think he will not be able to discharge his duty honestly. He would not be able to support his family. I would like the government to take immediate decision on these two demands and accept their justified demands.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri G.A. Charan Reddy, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Please let him say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The distinguished lady Members are raising a very important issue. Please hear them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mamataji your Government is backing out. We are not backing out. Your Government is backing out.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, have you to say anything ?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.54 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee sat on the floor near the Table.

12.54 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sandhya Bauri went back to her seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House adjourned to meet at 2.00 P.M.

12.55 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

1405 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to you that the Bill relating to reservation for women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies should be passed today, according to your commitment. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have promised that this Constitution (Amendment) Bill would be passed. That promise of yours should be kept up.

MR. SPEAKER : Who said that it would not be passed? Has anybody ever said it? I have not heard about it. Why are you presuming things?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. I have not been told that it would not be passed. But I do not know how you have got this impression.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Then we are happy. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will resume the discussion on the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill. But before that, there is one Bill for introduction which is again a very important Bill, the Lokpal Bill and then, the next item is the Matters under Rule 377. It is the right of the Members. We will complete these two items and then we will resume the discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that under the historic initiative you took yesterday the Question Hour was suspended, all the rules were waived but today you are taking up unimportant matters and you will now take up Matters Under Rule 377. Then a Bill was introduced. We have one and a half hours time with us because the Private Members' Bill will be taken up at 3.30 and the House will adjourn *sine die* at 6 O'clock. Yesterday you took a historical initiative which has sent a right message from this Chair world over. It was a revolutionary initiative. Why your revolutionary fervor has got worsened today? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, No. I have not slackened.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is a most revolutionary Bill, it should not be treated as an ordinary Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : No, not at all.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Yesterday you suspended the Question Hour at your own initiative and asked the Prime Minister to introduce the Bill and exhorted the Members to pass the Bill without discussion. This Bill has seen many ups and downs since yesterday and ultimately there is talk of referring it to a Select Committee ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. Now you listen to me. Again, you all wasting the time. It is the question of time, do not waste it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the House can sit for the Railway Budget discussion till 7.30 in the morning, do you have any objection for this Bill? I am available upto 6 O'clock tomorrow morning. My first flight to Beijing is at 7 O'clock tomorrow morning. I am prepared to go to the airport from here. This is my personal position. I do not know what the position of the Government is. The discussion will resume.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You are talking of the night, but what is the incidence of presence during those hours of proceedings of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will go by what the House says.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The House says that the Bill should be passed today without any further discussions ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is here.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to the Prime Minister that this Bill should be passed immediately. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me dispose of the introduction of the Bill. It is also very important and let us also finish Matters under Rule 377.

14.09 hrs.

LOKPAL BILL, 1996

[English]

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. BALASUBRAMONIYAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against public functionaries and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal to inquire into allegations corruption against public functionaries and for matters connected therewith."

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I have a point of order. My point of order is that this is another very important Bill that this House was to have. Ordinarily even by the rules the Bill ought to have been circulated to the Members before its introduction. We would waive all that considering the importance of the Bill provided the Government apologise and you censure the Government for this failure ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Bill not been circulated ?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : We must have 48 hours' time to look into it. It is a very important Bill and we must have time look into it. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not an ordinary Bill...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You look to us. Take the House into confidence, how can it be ?

The Bill cannot be introduced in this way.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do share the feeling of some of the hon. Members. Important issues before the nation and important programmes before the country should not be done in hurry. It is not a good trend. Members are here and they have expressed their opinion. The Bills of this nature or even the present Eighty-first Constitution (Amendment) Bill, as far as possible, we should do as per the procedure after giving proper thought and after a serious debate. It is not good for the country to rush things. Therefore, I would request the Government, in future, to do things in a cool and calm manner according to the procedure. Let us keep this thing in mind.

The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against public functionaries and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAM : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an objection. We wanted division but you did not allow it and they will go on doing like this. They are in a haste, we are not. We want to study all the aspects. The Bill is circulated in the morning, it reaches us at 9.30 hours. We have not been able to study it so far ...*(Interruptions)* You would have read it, you might have received it yesterday. You belong to treasury benches. You people must have received it earlier. We received it only this morning. I am not joking.

[English]

I cannot allow this acstatic to go and to play with the House in this fashion. There are limits to everything. If they are ignorant of the rules, they must learn the rules. They cannot just come before the House and say, 'We did not know the rules.'

[Translation]

It is not the first time that we are discussing this Lokpal Bill in this House. We have been discussing it for a long time. Why are they after them. I received it in an envelope this morning and I could not go through its contents. That is why I have said no. We are not opposed to the Bill. We are opposed to the fashion in which they have brought this Bill. It has become a habit with the Prime Minister. He will make announcement outside this House that he is doing this or that and later on say that he is not going to do this. He must speak after due consideration. He must maintain the dignity of the Office he is holding.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fernandes, after the Chair had made observation, I think, we should proceed now.

1414 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to improve the functioning of telecommunication systems in Madhya Pradesh particularly in rural areas

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the telecommunication system has come to a stand still throughout the country particularly in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh. The telephone exchanges remain out of order and the telephones do not work for months together. The telecommunication department has no time bound programme to set these phones right. The tower telephones have remained dead from the day they were installed in Raisen, Vidisha, Bihar and other districts of Madhya Pradesh and no efforts have been made to set them right even after

registering repeated complaints. Hundreds of subscribers have booked their telephone connections two years ago in several towns including Lakui, Chakaldi etc. of Madhya Pradesh but telephone connections have not been released so far.

I would request the Central Government to strengthen the Communication system in Madhya Pradesh particularly in rural areas.

[English]

(ii) Need to shift Sugar Mill in Bareilly to its new site at village Saidpur (Bareilly)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : A decision had been taken in 1988 for the shifting and augmentation of production capacity to 2500 tonne of the Nekupar (Bareilly) based Sugar factory of the U.P. Government Sugar Mills Corporation to village Saidpur (Vithri Thenpur development block), Bareilly for which land had been acquired in Bareilly but no action has been taken so far to shift the said Sugar mill even after the lapse of such a long time. This is affecting the farmers of the area. This mill has been running in loss continuously and the State government is also incurring annual recurring loss worth crores of rupees. This loss can be checked and problems of canegrowers can be resolved only by immediate shifting of this Mill. I had given a suggestion that if it is not possible for the State Government to shift and run this mill, it can handover it to the private sector and some industrialists are ready to set up this mill in the private sector at the selected site (for which land has already been acquired).

I therefore request the State Government to issue appropriate directions for setting up this sugar mill at the proposed new site.

[English]

(iii) Need to set up a F.M. Radio Station and Metro Channel Transmitter at Alleppey, Kerala

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, the high power transmitter of Akashvani, located at Alleppey serves almost the entire region of Kerala. It is linked to the Akashvani's capital station at Thiruvananthapuram. The programme originated at the capital station at Thiruvananthapuram is taken to Alleppey through Microwave and Satellite links and broadcast over this high power station for wide coverage.

The transmitter at Alleppey is 25 years old and has become obsolete. It is being replaced by a modern transmitter system having double the power of the existing transmitter. Even after this rejuvenation process Alleppey will continue to be a relay station with no programme originating studios.

To meet this long felt need of the people, setting up of a local Radio Station most preferably an F.M. with the capability to produce and broadcast programme at Alleppey is highly necessary. There is enough talent available in and around Alleppey.

The T.V. reception at Alleppey is not satisfactory. It depends on the HPT at Cochin which is about 70 kilometres away. Viewers have to put up their antenna on high poles and have thus expensive boosters to get satisfactory reception. The recently started Metro Channel is not at all visible in the T.V. set at Alleppey. There is a popular demand for a metro channel transmitter at Alleppey. The capital outlay and infrastructure required for the metro being much less, it could be sanctioned early.

(iv) Need for Early Construction of Rourkela-Bimlagarh-Talchar Railway Link Line of Orissa

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you regarding construction of Rourkela-Bimlagarh-Talchar railway link line of Orissa. The people of Orissa have been demanding for the construction of this railway link line for the past 30 years. The distance between coastal and western Orissa will become shorter if this link line is constructed. It will provide direct rail connection between the coastal Orissa and the hinter land of Western Orissa, particularly between the State Capital, Bhubaneswar, and the Steel City, Rourkela. Since the survey work on this line has been completed a long time ago, I would request the Government through you to consider construction of this line during 1996-97 financial year.

(v) Need to widen National Highway No. 39 between Barauni and Purnia in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV (Khagaria) : There is need to widen and strengthen the Barauni-Purnia Section of National Highway No. 39 because this road has been badly damaged by severe floods, uninterrupted rains and increasing road traffic.

The Central Government is therefore requested to take immediate steps for widening of Barauni-Purnia Section of National Highway No. 39.

[English]

(vi) Need to Open Tetulia Corridor to Connect Dinajpur with Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : I like to draw the attention of the Government to the legitimate demand of the people of North Bengal and the adjacent region to open Tetulia Corridor in order to have a short cut road via Bangladesh. The distance of Chopra in the district of Dinajpur from Jalpaiguri via Siliguri is about 110 KM

whereas the distance between these two places *via* Tetulia Corridor in Bangladesh is only 27 KM. If this Corridor is opened, then not only the mileage will be decreased, but also huge foreign exchange will be saved by unexpected less consumption of fuel. The entire North-Eastern Zone will be directly benefited if this corridor is opened. This is, no doubt, a national interest serving project. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary initiative so that the above Corridor to connect Dinajpur with Jalpaiguri may be opened at an early date.

(vii) Need for Construction of Overbridges on Railway Crossings at Erode and Mohudan, Tamil Nadu

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : There are a number of railway subway crossings where railway overbridges are to be constructed in Southern Railways, particularly at Erode which has a population of about four to Five lakh in capital town of Periyar district. There is one railway crossing on which as a result of heavy traffic, accidents are taking place. It is on Erode-Palani Road. This affects office goers and long distance travellers also. Likewise at Mohudan-Zovadi, there is a railway crossing at Idepaddy Road where a railway overbridge is urgently required.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Railways to sanction two overbridges, one at Erode and another at Mohudan-Zavadi road, to fulfill the needs and solve the problem of the people of Tiruchangode Constituency, Tamil Nadu and a new railway division may be started in Erode also.

(viii) Need to include Sub-groups of fishermen Community in different parts of the country in SC/ST list

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many sub-castes of fishermen community such as Mallah of Delhi, Majhuwar, Gond, Surcha of U.P.; Kewat in Basti District, Gond, Beldar of Bihar, Dhivar, Manjhi, Majhwar in Madhya Pradesh, Pivar (Dewar) in Orissa; Nayka in Goa, Koli, Rajgond in Gujarat; Bhovi, Gond, Rajgond in Karnataka; Koli Rajgond, Takre, Malhar in Maharashtra; Kevati, Jalia, Jalo Malo Bhai in Meghalaya; Manjhi in Sikkim; Mallah, Bind, Kewat Tiyyar, Kevati, Gond in West Bengal; Koli, Dar, Tokra, Boli in Rajasthan, Dhivar etc. in Kerala are included in the List of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes but their Synonymatic sub-castes have been deprived of this reservation facility and they are being treated as backward classes while the profession of these sub groups of fishermen community is fish catching, sailing boats, net weaving and other water and pond based jobs. Their socio-economic and political condition is most pitiable and most of them are illetrate and live in Jhuggi-Jhonpris along river banks, ponds, sea banks.

I demand of the Central Government to send instructions immediately to all the State Government for the issuance of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates to these synonymetic Sub-Castes of fishermen community of the whole country.

[English]

14.23 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT)

BILL—Contd.

(Insertion of new articles 330A and 332A)

MR. SPEAKER : For the consideration of the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, the time allotted was two hours and we have already consumed two hours and 35 minutes. There is an endless number of names before me. Please be brief.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJE (Calcutta South) : You pass it please.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot deny, Kumari Mamata Banjee, the opportunity of other Parties to speak. Those major Parties who have already participated with two or three Members, if they can now give chance to smaller Parties, it will be good.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I submit only one thing. Before 3.38 P.M. when the Private Members Bills start, this should be passed.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : If the time of voting is announced by you today, that will be good.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. You decide.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We are under a whip.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (F umdum) : We interrupted the Question Hour so that we can get this Bill passed even without discussion. Then things have changed. What are the causes of these changes ? Let the Government explain. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I do not know the position of the other hon. Members. *(Interruptions)*. We are not speaking on this Bill. Only the women Members will speak. Since our Congress Party Members are under a Whip, if you give an indication that this is the tentative timing of voting, we can do some little work in the library and then come back. *(Interruptions)* Unendingly, we cannot just do like this. Please tell us that within one or two hours, it will be done. We are under a Whip. That is why I requested you to give this indication of the tentative timing of voting ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shall we say that the Minister will reply at three of the Clock ?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will reply at three of the Clock. I asked the Minister yesterday how much time he would take. He said that he would take about 10 to 15 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : It will need only five minutes. ...(Interruptions)

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : This is an important Bill. Everybody has to participate in the discussion. The DMK, TMC and the CPM Members have to participate. Please give us time.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : At three of the Clock, the guillotine should be applied and the Motion should be put to vote. In five minutes' time, he can do it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you time. You will get the chance. Now, Shri George Fernandes to speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : He has already spoken. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to place two points before you. This Bill was introduced by the Prime Minister himself yesterday. I don't know whether this Bill was listed against his name in the Order Paper or it was listed against the name of Law Minister, because this Bill ought to have been introduced by the Law Minister. Now if the Prime Minister has in his zeal taken over the responsibility of the Law Minister, then I have nothing to say. I accept that the Bill which has been introduced is a historic Bill and this ought to have been discussed here in this House seriously, not because that some party has different opinion about this Bill, the Manifesto of all the parties have conceived of this Bill in one way or the other but printing of this concept in party Manifesto is different from expressing and recording detailed views in this House of the respective parties.

Sir, I have said that this is a historic Bill but historic Bill doesn't mean that this should be passed in this House at this very moment. A situation is sought to be created as if this is the end in itself. Now kindly look at this Bill. You are again and again calling this 81st Amendment Bill and in the Bill itself 81st Amendment has been printed. Therefore, you are reading correctly. But an amendment has been moved by the Law Minister contained in List No. 1; it says—

[English]

“Page 1, Line 3—
for “Eighty First” substitute
“Seventy Ninth”

[Translation]

That means their cabinet also does not know what this Constitutional Amendment is. The Prime Minister stood here and read out the Bill. They have the cabinet, a large Secretariat, a big Government of India behind them and he, as a Prime Minister is introducing Eight-first-Constitutional Amendment which is infact Seventy Ninth Amendment. This ought not to be taken lightly. This House should not be mocked in this way. Sir, the Law Minister brings an Amendment which says:

“Page 1, Line 3
for “Eighty First” substitute
“Seventy Ninth”

[Translation]

But he has left the name of the Bill as it was. He has not brought Amendment for Constitution (Eighty First Amendment) Bill .

Now Sir, this Bill *ab-initio* is ultravires because it is Eighty First Amendment Bill. It may not be wrong if I may say so. If he says that it is a typographical mistake, I cannot accept it because the Law Ministry has all the information with it. Does the Law Ministry not know what Constitutional Amendment it is ? We were so far at the Seventy eighth Amendment and now going back to seventy fifth Amendment. Did the government have no knowledge of it. I think the Prime Minister should not leave so fast as to leave a 3-4 Constitutional Amendment and jump straightaway to Eighty first Amendment. They may say that they are in a hurry and they have very little time. Sir, I am raising this point because I sense some complacency in this and don't see any sense of seriousness. He may say that this Bill has to be passed, we should hurry, the House is going to hurry; pass it immediately, then he has to go to Uttar Pradesh and tell the people that he has enacted a legislation for providing reservation for women. We are giving everything to the women. But how fictitious it is, this legislation is itself a manifestation of it. Not only in the context of its drafting but you please read Section-4. What is in Section 4 ?

[English]

Section 4 says:—

“The Amendments made to the Constitution, by this Act, shall not affect any representation in the House of the People or in the Legislative Assembly of a state until the dissolution of the House or the Assembly, as the case may be, in existence at the commencement of this Act.”

[Translation]

We take it that the Prime Minister and his 13 Parties and your 14th party together want to run this Parliament for the next five years, which means you will not allow women to enter this House during the next 5 years. This is written

in this Bill. The Prime Minister still continues to be the Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and he must not have thought of dissolving the Karnataka Vidhan Sabha immediately to bring in more women Legislatures. I concede that he has no such thought in his mind even though his thoughts may be concentrated on Karnataka, but, I don't think he has thought in this way. He must not have said to his colleagues of his State and his comrades of West Bengal that we are going to pass this Bill and that they should dissolve their Legislative Assemblies and then elect one-third women members to their respective Assemblies. Then, may I know why this haste ? Is it connected with Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

14.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

I could have given you the benefit of doubt if it was not written in your Bill but now I cannot give this benefit of doubt. I also cannot say that it seeks to achieve the welfare of women or he has had some great realisation because he has straightaway written that this will not be enforced. He has been saying here that this Parliament will last for five years, his supporters, his 13 Parties are saying that this government will last for 5 years. Therefore, I fail to understand why is he insisting on immediate passage of this legislative measure. Heavens are not going to fall if this is not adopted by 5 P.M. today, what for this haste ? What is the way of your doing things...*(Interruptions)* If the Samata Party splits we will again unite and we are prepared to take some of you...*(Interruptions)* A few of you can join us and we will consider your cases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will never speak in favour of this Bill because I had introduced this Bill as a Private Members' Bill on the first day earmarked for Private Members Business in the first session of this House. My Bill is pending with this House and therefore, I would not like to make any comments or make any fresh point about this Bill. I have already given arguments for introducing this Bill. I have given detailed reasons in the Statement of objects and reasons of the Bill. They have no arguments, no reasoning because they have never thought how and what to do in this regard. They have not thought of drafting this Law in an appropriate manner. They have a firm belief that this House can last for four and a half years and there is no question of implementing it. Same is the case with Legislative Assemblies. The Punjab will be the first to have Legislative Assembly elections after the introduction of this Bill. I don't think the Prime Minister will ask the Election Commission to postpone elections because he is passing a new Law providing 33 percent reservation for women and that the nominations should be filled up afresh. I don't think he has any such intention. That is why I want this measure should be discussed in this

House seriously. I don't know why the hon'ble Members belonging to different parties in this House want to skip over the debate ? It is a historical step. The women have to struggle for this for many years. The political parties also tried in their own way but whatever be the attitude the mental bent up of the treasury benches, I feel this measure has been introduced belatedly. We shall not be able to send out a message to the world outside that the women of India had to struggle for forcing the government for bringing this Bill. I would like to place on record of this House the dispensation of our society, how the women are treated by it, how they see their future. The proceedings of this House are not meant for publishing one or two times in the Press and we should not be satisfied that our names have been brought out in the Press. Our message has gone to the country. Every word, every sentence, we speak here in this House is recorded. This House creates history and this law will create a legal history. Whenever some one writes a history of the movement of the emancipation of Indian women after twenty years hence, when many of us may not be alive in this world, he will look at this House, at what we members thought, what we said while adopting this legislation, what struggle women had to launch. I, therefore, want that all these things should come in the record of this House so that, in future, any historian of this country or of the world, while writing about the women's Liberation movement of India, may be able to understand the genius of this movement by going through the records of the proceedings of this session or the next session of this 11th Lok Sabha in which this Bill is likely to be passed. He will appreciate the job done by the members of Lok Sabha of this country on this issue. Therefore my suggestions about this Bill is that it should be passed but not in the way in and not with the intention with which the Prime Minister wants it to push through. This legislation should be adopted by recording in this House the views of all-of-us and I would request that debate on this Bill should end on the basis of the sentence '81st Amendment' as introduced in the Lok Sabha, if there is no other reason and the treasury benches should be directed to introduce this Bill in the House afresh. This is all what I have to say today on this Bill.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whether I have to speak on the amendment or on the Bill?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You express your views.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I want to know whether I have to speak on the amendment or on the Bill ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Speak on the Bill.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, yesterday, according to the List of Business for the day, the hon. Law Minister, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap was to move for introduction and the Bill was circulated just the day before

yesterday. We did not have an opportunity to go through the provisions. We thought that this Bill would be introduced and thereafter, some time later, it would come up for consideration.

Yesterday, during the Question Hour one question was over and all of a sudden the hon. lady Members of this House collected together and demanded that this Bill should be passed without having any deliberation. I was really surprised. When we intend to undertake an amendment to the Constitution, they demand that this amendment should be passed without having any deliberation; this was most surprising and that too, the demand was supported by some learned Members of Parliament. What is the purpose of this august House ?

When we come here as representatives of the people, it is our responsibility to ensure that each and every amendment, each and every Bill, which we intend to pass in this House should be thoroughly examined, thoroughly deliberated and after application of mind, a final decision is taken. I saw that the entire atmosphere was favouring this particular demand for achievement of political mileage in order to seek the votes of the ladies of this country, to get more and more sympathy from the ladies. This Bill was introduced to get more and more sympathy from the ladies.

First, the Question Hour and the Zero Hour were cancelled. Subsequently, the Prime Minister had come to the House with the Bill.

Hon. Law Minister, Shri Khalap was about to introduce the Bill. But the entire House has said that only the Prime Minister should introduce the Bill and no one else should do it. The demand was justified and there was nothing wrong in it. So, he moved that. But subsequently things have come to a stage when they said that they should not have any deliberation on the Bill. Then, at that time, I got up and said that we would also support this Bill. It is not that we are opposing this Bill. It is not our intention to oppose. But whatever we intend to do in this House, should be done properly after thorough and proper application of mind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your knowledge one very important thing. In this House, there are 287 Members of Parliament who are entirely new; they have come to this House for the first time. Most of them have not understood the procedure of the House. They have not gone through this Bill also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Do not say like that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let him speak. It does not matter. It is not a serious thing

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : What I am saying is entirely different. Please try to understand that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : First you understand what you are saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Have you understood the Bill ? Okay, I welcome you. I congratulate you. There is nothing wrong ...*(Interruptions)* But many MPs do not understand the procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I met a number of MPs. They said that they had not gone through this Bill. It is a fact. I have met a number of MPs and they said that they had not even seen this Bill.

If that hon. Member has seen that, it is welcome. He is a studious Member and he understood it. I congratulate him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please utilise the time properly. Shri Sarpotdar, please carry on

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, when I say something, it is an authenticated statement.

After having a discussion with some of the new MPs, I have made that statement. If it is wrong, they can pardon me and there is nothing wrong in that. I do not underestimate them. All MPs being equal, I will not make any allegation against any hon. Member. That is none of my business. I will make my statement only. That is all...*(Interruptions)* That is what I said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : If you are not satisfied, please tell me, what do you want me to do ? ...*(Interruptions)*

This morning, I received one piece of paper, as the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes pointed out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude; the Minister has to reply at 3 P.M.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : No. Sir, I am speaking on the Bill. One cannot put any restriction of time on me because I am speaking on the Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, please allow me to make a few points. I am not asking a very long speech.

The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill was sanctioned in the Bill which was circulated yesterday. But today I have received a letter saying that that was not the Eighty-first Constitution (Amendment) Bill, but it was Seventy-ninth. Moreover, they have not mentioned any title for the Bill. I can understand that this Bill was circulated in order to fulfill the promises which they have made in the Common Minimum Programme; and so, they have prepared this Bill and it has come before this House for introduction. This Bill seeks to insert two Articles, namely, Article 330A and Article 332A.

It is meant for seats for Assemblies and seats for Lok Sabha.

I have seen the way in which the entire proceedings started yesterday in the House. Thereafter, it was decided to cancel all other business. We started deliberating it in the House. Yesterday, I was seated here right up to 8.15 in the night. I thought that perhaps we may participate in this deliberation so that we win. Do you know how many hon. Members were there in the House? Out of these who had shown so much interest in the morning, even 50 per cent people were not there in the House.

When we talk about the ladies, I will go a step further and say that even all the ladies present here in the morning were not present at 8.15 in the night. I must thank those who were there because that was in their interest. I looked at it. While introducing the Bill, the hon. Law Minister told that it was a historical Bill. We are creating history in this House. I was just looking at him. I did not know what history they were creating. During the last 50 years, this was the responsibility of all the Members to see that a proper representation is given to the ladies. They miserably failed.

Now, you are saying that you are creating history. Whatever you were supposed to achieve, you could not achieve by making a provision under the law. You are trying to implement it now. It means that it is not by heart but by law. That is the difference. There is no such provision under any Act that ladies are not supposed to participate in any election, and they are not supposed to vote, and only men should participate and they should vote. There is no such provision. Any party can contest any number of seats. Ladies are also contesting. They can also get elected. There was no ban. But somehow this was not implemented only because of a feeling that ladies might not get elected. So, they had been kept aside. It was a wrong move. It was a failure on the part of the men and not a failure on the part of the women. We are taking this punishment today. We are saying that we are creating history and the entire world is looking at it. So, whatever mistakes we had committed in the past, we are correcting them now.

For dowry purposes also, we will eventually be compelled to enact it. For prohibition, we—including

Mahatmajī—tried our level best that people should not drink alcohol.

We had failed miserably. Eventually, we enacted a law and the entire country has become more addicted due to prohibition. Because of prohibition alone, some of the people have started drinking more. So, one should do those things—which we are trying to achieve socially—by making a provision in the law. Therefore, I feel very sorry. We are not putting our efforts to bring more and more ladies into the mainstream.

It is not our contention that we should not bring ladies on the forefront of politics. We started this action not today but 20 years back. We started giving tickets to ladies also. At that time, there was a provision in the law. But yet we decided, yes, ladies should also equally come up because they are also a part and parcel of the society. They are equally responsible. They are equally intelligent. They are equally capable. Only one lady had come. And for eleven years, she was the Prime Minister. What was the state and condition of all men in this country?

They were shivering ...*(Interruptions)* One Durga had come ...*(Interruptions)* I am not asking for your information. Sir, they were shivering. Yesterday, while deliberating and participating on this particular business, hon. lady Member of Parliament, Sushmaji also participated. Those who were shivering have understood what it was.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I just want to know what exactly was shivering?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Those who were shivering have come to know of that and it is for them that I am saying this ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I do not want to make any particular reference to anybody. ...*(Interruptions)* ...Is he referring to some group of people or all the people who are in that area?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Those who were shivering have understood it. The rest of them should not take it at all. That is all.

So, while participating in the delivering yesterday, I was very quietly observing Sushmaji—her approach, her way of expression and her attacking speech. I thought that all who were seated here were *Mahishasurs* and that *Mahishasura Mardini*, that is, Durga was speaking over here. I was getting that impression. It was an attacking speech. There is nothing wrong in it. In order to establish her point, it is highly necessary that one should express it in that manner. But luckily, thereafter I had heard Girijaji speaking. One Goddess, *Mardini* had expressed herself and thereafter, I noticed Girijaji on the dais who expressed her views on this Bill ...*(Interruptions)* ...The names of the three Devis were taken. They were Lakshmi, Saraswati and Durga. I noticed Durga over here, that is, Sushmaji and I had noticed Saraswati over there. But I was in search of Lakshmi. I have not come across her as yet. It always happens that

whenever we run after Lakshmi, Lakshmi runs away from us. This happens always...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, what is going on here ? What relevance has it got to the Bill? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : When the Bill was taken up yesterday, not a single person had taken objection and when I started talking about these names, I do not know why do you grumble about it. After all, I am on the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Try to conclude.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I have got only a very few points and then I will finish. I never interrupted when other Members were speaking. I was sitting quietly and listening to them right upto 8 P.M. ... (Interruptions) ... Please listen to me for some time. Have some patience. I am not accusing anybody nor am I saying anything against the Bill. I am only trying to support the ladies but the method is different ... (Interruptions) ... When this demand was actually raised in the House, hon. Speaker was compelled to adjourn the House for one hour and thereafter, we discussed the matter in the leaders' meeting. Again, we came out and deliberation started and a number of Members participated in the deliberations. In Maharashtra, we had introduced this reservation in 1990 when Mr. Sharad Pawar was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I was one of the Members of the Assembly. At that time also, same views were expressed by me.

15.00 hrs.

Instead of bringing in a legal provision into this, let us try to change the entire society slowly and gradually by convincing them; and changing the mentality of men. Let us try to bring them to the mainstream of life.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Fifty years have elapsed.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I know that 50 years have gone by and for that I am blaming men and not women. I am a man and naturally I am blaming myself also.

Sir, yesterday I noticed another thing also and that is the haste to bring this about. Why was it necessary to bring it in such a haste ? Would the skies have fallen on the nation if it had been kept pending or kept in abeyance or had been referred to a Select or a Standing Committee and then, once for all, a comprehensive Bill in this regard was brought forward ? This is what I have said yesterday also and this is what I am saying today also. It should have been brought after involving every section and after proper deliberations. Today the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes have been involved but what about the people from the other backward Classes who have not been included in this Bill ? My humble request to the hon. Prime Minister, the

leader of the house, is that provision should also be made because we should not introduce any Bill in a piecemeal manner. What we are doing today and everything that we are trying to do is out of haste.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Madhukar ji, please wind up.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Yesterday I heard what Shrimati Sushma ji said.

[Translation]

She said in Hindi that the attitude of the male should change. My question is : Can we achieve this by framing a law ?

[English]

Whether introducing this provision in the Bill.

[Translation]

Will we succeed in changing the attitude, can this law change our attitude ? What have we achieved by law ?

[English]

That is the question. I am posing before this August House.

[Translation]

The culture of this country is associated with many sayings. We in our country say, "Yatra narasya pujiyante, Ramante tatra devata;"—Women are worshiped in this country. What we practise, is a different matter. But what is the remedy ? If we fail to respect our women folk, the position will continue to remain the same as is obtaining elsewhere even after providing 33 percent reservation for them.

[English]

I have seen exactly what happens by giving reservations also. A number of women candidates have been elected to different Houses, Nagar Parishads, Gram Panchayats and in Corporations also and we have seen the functioning of these bodies. I have not come to that conclusion and unless we come to a conclusion I would not pass any remark on that but all that I would like to say is that our experience in this regard is not good.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Should I thank you now ?

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Our colleague Uma Bharatiji made an excellent speech.

[English]

Sir, I can not ignore what Uma Bharatiji has said.

[Translation]

She cherishes the feelings of sacrificing everything for us, each word of her reflects the greatness of Hindu culture, demonstrates our commitment towards the backward section of our society; is it not the philosophy of this country; does it not raise our head high ? This is the question. I pose to this House. She had expressed her feeling in most appropriate words.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our party has made good efforts. We are not against any enactment for women. Our efforts are around at changing the circumstances.

[Translation]

We should endeavour to change the male mentality, male domination. At least, women Members must try to bring men around this argument provided this Bill is accepted in this House.

[English]

It is not that we will vote against the Bill. We will vote in favour of the Bill. I have put my views before this august House and I hope that the entire House will take cognizance of them. I suggest that this Bill should either be referred to the Standing Committee or a Select Committee for a thorough discussion and thorough application of mind after which a comprehensive Bill can be brought.

15.06 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is three O'clock. What do I do now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all parties should be allowed to speak on this Bill ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be given an opportunity Mr. Speaker, the entire world is watching us and we want to expose this Government through this legislative measure. They have in mind Uttar Pradesh in bringing this Bill. Each Member should be allowed to speak on this Bill for two-five minutes... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Please give a chance to all of us to speak for five minutes... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you Minister would reply at 3 O'clock.

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, now call the Minister to reply... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If every body says 'pass it now' and somebody says 'do not', what can I do ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What do you do in respect of other Bills ? We have discussed it for more than the time allotted for it. It is three O'clock now, the Minister should reply. Kindly move the motion for division ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : If we go on arranging like this, it will take one month ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Why do you not ask the Minister to finish the reply and start voting ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Everybody is thinking that it will be passed today ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do ? So many other parties want to speak on this Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You please start the voting process.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You also decide about other Bill. B.A.C. had allocated two hours and we have deliberated for three and a half hours. For how much more hours you want to allow discussion on it ?

MR. SPEAKER : The other Lady Member also wants to speak. Tell one, what can I do ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to pass this Bill at any cost ... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Let the Minister reply to the debate. How long can we wait ? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Pannani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very important Bill is before us and all of us realise its significance and far reaching consequences. It is said that the need for introducing this Bill was felt because women do not have full representation in Parliament and Legislative

Assemblies. It was also admitted that every section, every part of the society should have full representation; they should be done justice. If this is the criteria, then, I am sorry to say that we must feel pity so far as representation of OBCs and minorities, particularly of muslims is concerned.

Sir, the way the minorities and muslims have been facing difficulties in every walk of their life, the way their standard of living has deteriorated since independence, deserve our sympathies. I had great expectations from my sisters here, the condition of OBCs and minorities is worse, they deserve our pity. We have Legislative Assemblies in India today ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order in the House, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not talk in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the place for discussion among yourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I will quote Madhya Pradesh. The Madhya Pradesh Assembly has no muslim representation today. This is pitiable, more pitiable than the position of women. So, I had expected from my sisters here that they should have come forward and said that the OBCs, muslims and minorities deserved more sympathy; give them reservation first, then think about us'. But, today the parameters of justice are different. Our cases are different and if I try to narrate our difficulties, it will take too much time. The deterioration in the living standard of minorities and muslims can be understand from the mouths of the Shair :—

'Khwab main bhi na Socha thha hamane kabhi,
yeh alam bhi chaman main gujar jayega,
Bhaware Chhin lenge libase-bahar,
Aur phulon ka chéharan utar Jayega.

We need a comprehensive Bill which may do justice to all the sections of the society. This Bill is unwarranted and has been brought in a haste —

[English]

ill-advised and unwarranted haste.

[Translation]

This is ill-advised and has been brought in a haste. Had it been the case of burning of brides, atrocities on women, then we could understand this haste. Now, they say it will come into force after the dissolution of the House, not today—after the dissolution of the legislatures, after fresh

elections. Then how this haste is justified ? Besides, I would like to draw his attention to—

[English]

Clause 1, Sub-Clause 2, which says —

"It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette appoint"

It is not said that 'it shall come into force immediately.'

[Translation]

What type of hypocrisy is it ? They are pushing through the Bill in haste but not saying that this shall come into force immediately. Then, the Bill has many technical flaws, many queries which are to be discussed and resolved.

We have 22.5 per cent reservation for SC/ST and now they propose 33 percent reservation for women which means a total reservation of 55 percent, while the Supreme Court says that total reservation should not exceed 50 per cent. So, we have to deliberate this aspect. I have pleaded for providing reservation for minorities and muslims. As far as Muslims are concerned, the draft constitution had envisaged 10 per cent reservation for Muslim community, but after objection from a muslim sister, the clause was dropped, but at the same time some promises were also made. I would like to draw your attention to what Shri Pattabhai Sitaramaiya had said :

[English]

"It is a gentleman's agreement"

[Translation]

He said this when the clause for 10 percent reservation for Muslim community was dropped from the draft constitution. I quote him—

[English]

"It is a gentleman's agreement that we have entered into a terrible responsibility that we have taken upon our shoulders when we ask them meaning muslims—to give up their reservations and their separate electorates. We have to find many representatives from the muslim community through the medium of joint electorates as would have been their legitimate share if they had their separate electorates. Even so, what was the case, with the Indian Christians and others ?"

[Translation]

Today, this gentleman's agreement has been torn apart. We have assemblies, we have Parliament, but no representation of muslim community; today, their member is less that of women, while they deserved reservation first.

Secularism was remembered, minorities were remembered by us only when BJP government came to

power. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee assumed the office of the Prime Minister. We voted that government out by raising the bogey of the rights of minorities. But today, this Bill is coming from those who claim to be the wellwisher of minorities, who claim to be the champion of the cause of minorities. They are concerned for one section only, we will have to think of what percentage reservation should be provided for OBCs, minorities, Muslims, Christians. Now the Supreme Court say that it should not exceed 50 percent. Then, how to provide for reservation for these people. We propose 33.3 percent for women, 22.5 percent is already there for SC/ST which come to a total of 55.8 percent. A case of enhanced reservation in Tamil Nadu came up for judicial scrutiny, while the Supreme Court has been repeatedly issuing directions regarding reservations in the services and educational institutions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

I demanded that a constitution amendment should be brought and the reservation quota which exceeds 50 percent in Tamil Nadu, should be protected. Nothing has been said in this important legislation about reservation for OBCs. I am sorry to say that it is an unwise, unwarranted, ill-advised measure brought in a haste.

My second point is.

[English]

We will not associate ourselves with this unwarranted, ill-advised and unwise Bill.

[Translation]

I am again sorry to say that all the stages of this Bill are being completed in a haste. They must bring a comprehensive Bill, only then we will consider it, otherwise we will not associate ourselves with it, we will not be able to support it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to take up Private Member's Bill at half past three.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : So many persons are waiting out side to know about this(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We should know what is going to happen ? Why are we being kept in the dark ?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : We can sit whole night.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Government's intention does not appear to be good.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, with your kind permission under Rule 362, I want to move the motion, the question be now put ...(Interruptions) That means closure...(Interruptions)

I beg to move :

"That the question be now put"

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, he cannot move like this ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please explain, what is closure ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me understand what is this motion. I do not know.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that before the motion for consideration is moved, we should know as to what unanimous opinion has emerged about the Bill which we are debating. The Private Member's Bill is to be taken up at-half-past three, is it to be advanced ?

What is their thinking about this Bill which is connected with women and if there is any difficulty, the House should be taken into confidence. This is one opinion. But we are of the opinion that this Bill should be passed as introduced.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : This Bill will not be passed until OBCs are included ...(Interruptions) We would also like to express our views.

MR. SPEAKER : This is being said by a Member belonging to the ruling party

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Please allow us to participate in the discussion. This is a very important Bill ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, it was decided that this Bill should be passed as introduced and that the Prime Minister should give an assurance that another Constitution Amendment Bill would be brought which would provide for reservation for backward classes ...(Interruptions) We are talking of women.... this was the unanimous opinion expressed yesterday. Who has backed out of this unanimity ? Why the ruling party not

following this unanimous decision ? We are not against reservation for women belonging to backward classes, but they do not want to pass it. It creates a doubt that they are creating obstacles in this also. We do not want reservation for the women of all sections ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We do not want to create obstacles ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Then, let it be passed and let the Prime Minister give an assurance. The problem can be solved ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is not so simple. Please listen to us also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You please ask the Government to make the entire position clear.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please give us also a chance to speak. This Bill should not be passed without discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have one minute ? Let me tell you why I have moved this motion.

Before the discussion on this Bill was taken up, there was a meeting yesterday and ultimately it was agreed, so far as I could gather, nobody had pretested to pass this Bill and even there was a suggestion to pass this Bill without any discussion. Then it was held that about one or two hours would be taken for discussion so that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : This is not correct ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Some hon. Members might have taken more time. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling as to what had transpired at that time and the entire nation should know as to what had happened. Sir, it was held that two hours would be allotted for discussion and each party would have something to say. Yesterday, we were told that the voting would take place today morning. Since it has to go to Rajya Sabha and when we found find that it has been going on unending, I have moved this motion.

Sir, our rules contemplate that if sufficient discussion has taken place, the Speaker has the right to put it to vote. So, we hold further discussion and put the main question to vote, namely the consideration of the matter, for which there is a provision under rule 362. Therefore, nobody should claim that there was not a sufficient discussion on this Bill. Therefore, the Bill, as it is, cannot be passed. So far as the other issues are concerned the House will certainly take them up and consider them as and when occasions come. Therefore, I feel that it is proper to do it. It is being said that there is no hurry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : All parties had agreed to pass it and it is on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me also speak. I also want to express my views...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please be cool.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bangarappa, I am on my legs. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot stand up when I am on my legs. Please be cool. It is becoming history in another way now.

Now it is 3.30. It is time for Private Members' Bills. What do we do ? Shall we proceed with this ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Minister should explain on voting. ...*(Interruptions)* We want voting now.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Let us take up voting, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, what have you to say ? Let us listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you standing up ?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : We want to bring up another motion.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot do that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we stand by the stand taken by the Government yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : You stand by that.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to put forth my views ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore, now listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please guide me. The Government's stand is very clear that it will be passed. Voting will take place.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now shall I put to vote the Motion of Shri Somnath Chatterjee ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : You will have to hear us before you put that Motion to vote. I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : According to our commitment, when we have issued a whip to the Members, we told them that the whole issue would be over before the Private Members' Bill. ...(Interruptions) Now I shall request, if you extend the time for Private Members' Bill, even then, give some out of time, by which voting will be done. Many of them have bought the tickets for five o' clock flight. They will have to leave the place by four o'clock. Or you say that you do it after two hours, take a decision, so that they will cancel the tickets. There should be a firm decision. The second thing is that we want that it should be passed. The Government should take into consideration whether it can be passed.

The hon. Speaker of the House as also somebody. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not my business.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Sir, it was decided only yesterday that all will speak on this. Parliament will not function only on their terms. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am on the point of order raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. He has moved a Closure Motion under Rule 362. Rule 362 is very clear. It says, "at any time after a motion has been made, any Member may move : 'That the question be now put', and, unless it appears to the Speaker that the motion is an abuse of these rules or an infringement of the right of reasonable debate, the Speaker shall then put the motion 'The the question be now put'".

[Translation]

Sir, this is an infringement of reasonable debate. We must have debate in this House ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, we have had the debate for 4-5 hours instead of two hours ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, She is misleading the House ...(Interruptions) I fail to understand why she is shouting while other are sitting quite. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

She will always pull the tail and watch the dog !

Yesterday you made a statement in the House. Here are the proceedings of yesterday. Your statement of yesterday's is that the decision of all Party leaders meeting is as follows. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : He is giving a sermon ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is this ? What are you doing ? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday, Shri Somnath Chatterjee had said that there would be a discussion on this ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am drawing your attention to what you said yesterday and your statement is very clear. You said and I quote :

"The decision of the all Party Leaders meeting is as follows."

This is your statement in the House and you said that the Constitution Amendment Bill would be discussed. Then, Shri Somnath Chatterjee intervened and he said : "as it is" and the hon. Speaker said; "as it is". That is all. And as it is, it is the 81st Amendment; it is not the 79th amendment. It is the 81st amendment as it is that you want to pass now. As it is, it says that the Bill will come into effect, as far as the Lok Sabha is concerned, if Shri Gowda has his way, with running the country for four years and nine months. As it is, that is what it means. This Bill needs to be looked into. This Bill needs to be examined from all its aspects. Therefore, there is no commitment made by the Speaker. There is no statement made on behalf of the all Party Leaders' meeting that it would be passed today. Why is this House being misled ? Why is everybody getting up and shouting like this ? Do they think that the louder they speak more correct they are ? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No no, that was the misunderstanding.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make myself very clear. The issue is not whether we are on the 79th or the 81st Constitution (Amendment) Bill. The hon. Minister for Law and Justice is going to clarify so far as the issue which you have raised, whether it is the 79th Amendment or 81st Amendment Bill.

Yesterday, I was in the Rajya Sabha because my question was there. The House was stalled here and the Leader of the House came to the other House. He requested me saying that the proceedings of the Lok Sabha were stalled because some of the lady Members were agitated

and I must come to the House. With the permission of the Chairman of that House I came here. At that time again the issue was raised. In fact, one question was already taken up for answer. At that time your goodself intervened. Please note what I have said at that time. I said, 'if the entire House agrees, I have no objection'. That is one point which I want to make myself clear.

Secondly, the hon. lady Member, Kumari Uma Bharati had expressed her reservations about backward classes. I also made it clear that her views cannot be brushed aside. If the House wants to pass this Constitution (Amendment) Bill then her views cannot be brushed aside. That is what I made clear when your goodself adjourned the House and called the Leaders of all the political parties for a discussion in your Chamber.

Let me make one thing very clear to Shri George Fernandes, one of the seniormost Members. I may not have much experience like you. The two Constitution (Amendment) Bills, that is, the 73rd and the 74th, had been brought before this very same House when I was here. I also served as a Member of the Joint Select Committee. No Constitution (Amendment) Bill has been hushed up like this. I do know that. I was a Member of the Joint Select Committee. It met for nearly two months. We discussed the pros and cons about that. Then we recommended to this House and this House had ultimately taken a decision about certain powers to be delegated to the local bodies and the panchayats and the municipalities.

The two Bills are here. Have they been hustled through like this? At that time the intention of the Government was not like that. I would like to make myself clear. I am not going to take the credit for the whole thing. I said that almost all the political parties, in their manifestoes before the Lok Sabha elections, have made a promise to give reservation to the women.

So, in this background, I also assured when the lady Members came and met me. Yesterday morning, several delegations came to me and they persuaded me to see that some reservation is given to the women. With this background, I have committed to them that before this Session is over, I will bring the Constitution (Amendment) Bill about the Lok Pal and the reservation for women. This is what I have stated.

But unfortunately, yesterday when the things came up even the Question Hour was suspended. In the morning when the lady Members came to my house to see me, I told them: 'We are going to introduce the Bill and let it be referred to a Joint Select Committee and we will examine the whole thing. Certain omissions and commissions may be there. Let it be scrutinised properly and brought back before the House.' But they tried to persuade me saying that it should be passed yesterday itself. Then I said that if

the entire House is prepared to agree, I do not come in the way. That is all what I said. I do not want to come in the way. Shri Banatwalla used the word 'hypocrisy'. Shri Banatwallaji, I do not want to play any hypocrisy. In my lifetime I will never do it.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Hippocracy has been going on for the last fifty years.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOVDA : I am hearing it from yesterday saying as if the Government wants to go back on this reservation issue. No. But the only thing is that on this issue the Bill should not be defeated. I will tell you very frankly. If you want to improve upon it, I have no objection. I have shown not only to the country but to the backward classes also about the intention of the Government.

In the Constitution (Amendment) Bill passed earlier there is a provision made. I do not know how many States have implemented it. There are so many political parties which are ruling in their States. How many political parties have implemented the provisions made in the Constitution (73rd Amendment) and (74th Amendment) Bills? I will read out.

AN HON. MEMBER : Have you done it?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Yes. I have done it. ... (Interruptions) I did not rise when Shri George Fernandes was making such sweeping remarks. I do agree that I have to learn so many things. Shri Fernandes, you are a senior Member. You have got vast knowledge in parliamentary life. When you were speaking, I was keeping quiet.

In the very same Constitution (Amendment) Bill—in the Joint Select Committee of which I too served—we have made a proposal. I will read out :

"Nothing in this will prevent the Legislatures of the States from making any reservation of seats in any municipality or corporation or office of chairperson in the municipalities in favour of the backward classes."

Based on this, we brought the legislation in Karnataka. I was not only for backward classes but we went further and we gave it to the backward castes also by identifying the castes. Many of them, in their lifetime, could not have got elected to those posts. We gave reservation in sitting municipalities, taluk municipalities, town municipalities, corporations and zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats. Reservation has been given based on caste. ... (Interruptions) Yes, it was given to minorities also; including Muslim minorities, I gave it to them.

Today the House has not come to a consensus decision. Yesterday, when our other sister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was speaking, I was not here. Madam, when you were speaking, I was not here.

On my part, there is no need for anybody to suspect the intention of the Government. I am ready for it today. The only thing is that the Bill should not be defeated. I want to make a sincere appeal to you on this issue. Fifty per cent of the total strength of the House should be present and two-thirds of those present and voting should vote in favour of it. The Bill should not be defeated. That is my earnest appeal. I want to make myself clear about the stand of the Government on this issue. The Government is not going to say that we are going to revise our decision. The only thing is that the Bill should not be defeated for that purpose.

In fact, the original idea was that these two important Bills—the Lokpal Bill and this Bill on reservation to women—should be referred to the Joint Select Committee. That was the intention to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have given a motion that it should be referred to the Select Committee. I moved that it should be referred to the Select Committee. I have given the notice in time.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Your goodself were not here yesterday. You were not here yesterday.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If I were here yesterday, Sir, I would not have allowed you to move it.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Thank you very much.

The only thing is that the entire House was in a mood to accept this without discussion and then, at that time, the hon. Speaker adjourned the House and made my point very clear.

Even the views expressed by Kumari Uma Bharati should be taken into consideration. The feelings of the backward classes also should not be hurt. That is my intention. I do not want to mislead the House. Even now, if the House wants to pass the Bill as it is, I have no objection. If the House wants that the Government should bring a comprehensive Bill, I have no objection for that also, because nobody should think that the Government is backing out. If you all want to pass this Bill, I am agreeable; Let us pass the Bill.

Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You will not give me a chance later. Do we have no feelings ? The Prime Minister has said a very important thing ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. Mr. Speaker, I am requesting you again and again for giving me time to speak. You kindly allow me to make my point, I will not take more than 5 minutes ...*(Interruptions)* You kindly listen to me. It is an historic occasion. You listen to me. I want to express my sentiments.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give me also a second—should this job be done or not ? It is not proper to waste time.

There is no need to speak any more on this Bill. This is what I have to say.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : All right. Please look at your watch and give me five minutes, I will not take a second more than five minutes.

It is an historic Bill and there is no need to repeat it. There are no two opinions about giving rights to women, but I would like to make some point about this Bill...*(Interruptions)* That is the difficulty. I have asked five minutes time only. Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly do not make a mockery of us. There must be some considerations. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are on the panel of Chairmen. Now, the House has to decide whether the Private Members' Business has to be postponed or not. Without deciding that I cannot allow you now. It is time for Private Members' Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this could have been done at 3.30 P.M. Now you have done it, which means you have taken the sense of the House and time extended. You should have done it at 3.30. I request you with folded hands kindly give me five minutes to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you suspended the Private Members' Business ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not decided about that.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You have already decided. You have given time to the Prime Minister. It amounts to your having taken the decision. You might not have taken the sense of the House, but you have allowed the discussion to continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the consensus of the House that the Private Members' Business be suspended ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the House cannot decide it. The Private Members' time cannot be changed by the House. You cannot change it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can change it. There are many precedents.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the Private Members' time is sacrosanct. Please look at the rule.

MR. SPEAKER : What is that rule ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am on Rule 26.

MR. SPEAKER : What does it say ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, Rule 26 says :

"The last two and-a-half hours of a sitting on Friday shall be allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Business;"

Sir, the only option you have is this :

"Provided that the Speaker may allot different Fridays for the disposal of different classes of such business and on Fridays so allotted for any particular class of business, business of that class shall have precedence:

Provided further that the Speaker may, in consultation with the Leader of the House, allot any day other than a Friday for the transaction of Private Members' Business:

Provided further that if there is no sitting of the House on a Friday, the Speaker may direct that two-and-a-half hours on any other day in the week may be allotted for Private Members' Business."

Sir, today is the last day of this Session and the Private Members' time cannot be changed. That is the rule. That has been the rule of this House. That rule cannot be broken. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, there are so many precedents where we have suspended the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say something now. Please have patience to hear me. I am trying to cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I uphold the point of order raised by the hon. Member Shri George Fernandes. Therefore, the Private Members' Business will be concluded at 6.00 p.m. The Half-an-Hour Discussion will be taken up at six o'clock. The debate will resume at 6.30 p.m. and the Minister will reply at 8.30 p.m.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am on a point of order. That is not a correct interpretation of that rule. It is a totally wrong interpretation which he has given ...*(Interruptions)*. If it is the last Friday, that cannot be the rule ...*(Interruptions)* They are not sincere to support this Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This is a fraud committed on the women of India ...*(Interruptions)*. The male chauvinism has prevailed. ...*(Interruptions)* We walk out in protest of this attitude.

[English]

15.52 hrs.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.

15.52 hrs.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.

15.53 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : UNEMPLOYMENT

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Private Members' Business.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : (Calcutta South) : There are so many precedents when the Private Members' Business has been suspended ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will be done today

Shri Rajendra Agnihotri—not present.

Shri Oscar Fernandes—not present.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have said that it will be done today. I have not denied it.

Shri C. Narayana Swamy—not present.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, order in the House, please.

Shri P. Shanmugam—not present.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ram Chandra Dome—not present.

Shri R.L.P. Verma—not present.

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria on which we have already had a long discussion. It is unfortunate that the incidence of unemployment has been growing continuously in our country and the Government have failed to take positive steps.

[English]

15.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

The result is that we have more than 15 crore unemployed youth in the country. They are not getting employment. Nearly five crore people are registered with the Employment Exchanges and they are unable to get

work despite continuous efforts. Many of them become overage and they remain registered with Employment Exchanges, but never get jobs. Besides these people, we have still greater number of unemployed youth in the rural areas. We used to have cottage industries, small scale industries, which provided employment to rural population but this dispensation is slowly evaporating and no serious efforts are being made by Government in this direction to ensure employment to rural people. Our policy must take into account the needs of the country two-thirds of our population which lives in villages, and no concern is being shown for them. The result is that the rural unemployment is mounting, the agriculture is not profitable. If we are able to link agriculture with employment, it will definitely help provide employment to rural population. We do not have proper road communication, proper power supply in rural areas in the absence of which, we cannot set up industries there. If we are able to link each village with roads, provide adequate electricity, the people can get employment, the migration of rural youth to cities can be checked, because, if adequate infrastructure is available, the youth can start their own small industries. But our misfortune is that the Government at the Centre is not concerned very much about this problem. The incidence of poverty and unemployment has been growing during the last fifty years of our independence. This Government is not taking any positive measures in this regard, then how can we give proper direction to our youth. If we are unable to show them the right direction, naturally, they will get astrayed. The need of the hour is to provide right direction to the youth. The National President of our Party had said that computer chips should be imported but infact, we are importing potato chips which is not going to do any good for the country. We will be able to resolve our problems only if the rural population gets adequate basic facilities and is given a right direction.

Today, the burning problem is unemployment and we cannot provide work to each hand keeping in view the tremendous increase in our population. Our government is unable to provide right direction to the development of agriculture without which our country cannot progress. The unemployment incidence in the country has increased and so has increased the incidence of our problems. We are unable to pace our development with the pace with which country's problems are increasing.

I will not take much time. The resolution moved by Shri Katheriaji is a welcome measure and I would urge upon the government to take some concrete steps because hollow statements are not going to resolve our problems. The schemes launched for the development of rural areas are unable to provide adequate employment to the rural youth. Government should frame its scheme in such a way that they are really employment-oriented. Many schemes have been announced by the Prime Minister and many others are already in progress but the youth is not getting employment in the real sense. The need of the hour is to provide genuine employment and direction to the youth.

We will be able to give a right direction to the youth only if the government takes steps in this regard. I conclude with the words that Shri Katheria ji has moved this resolution for consideration, which is extremely relevant in the present scenario. I also thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to Katheria ji for moving for consideration of this House, a resolution which is very relevant in the present context. The Planning Commission while drafting the Eighth Five Year Plan and even before that it was estimated that we would add 50 lakh unemployed youth at the end of completion of the Eighth Plan. So the imperative need is that the government must frame plans which provide for increased employment. We must have primarily employment oriented policies but our misfortune is that Multi-Nationals are being encouraged and automatic machines are being brought to the country. The result is that employment opportunities are diminishing. However this leads to increased production.

16.00 hrs.

We will have to follow and formulate an employment oriented economic policy for our country

The hon'ble Minister of industries is sitting. I would like to submit that, no doubt, we will be able to increase our production by installing big machines on the U.S. pattern, but we will not be able to augment our employment potential which will dilute the purchasing power of the people and the entire economy of the country will be shattered. So what we need is encouragement of small scale industries which can eradicate unemployment. It is a common knowledge that small scale industry products account for more than 30 percent exports and it is the major sector for providing employment. The government have no vacancies and the vacancies resulting due to retirement or deaths in harness are not filled so the small scale industry has become the primary source of providing livelihood to the people. We can revitalise our economy through small scale industry and also release the pressure being put on our economy through GATT or by other means. So I will request the government that they must establish a relation between the human hands and the capital which will reduce unemployment in the country.

They may set up major industries but if the youth revolts, these industries will not help. Our comrade Maxists who talk of socialism are sitting silent. I would like to submit that when the people would be starving, when the youth will be without employment then nobody will be able to control them from taking to violent revolution. I do not want this sort of situation should arise. The revolution should be peaceful if any. So this country can progress only when each hand gets work and each field gets water.

The hon'ble Prime Minister was saying that they are going to interlink the major rivers of the country so that no place in the country is left without adequate water supply but only Speeches are not going to help, they have to be translated into action. My submission is that the small scale industrial sector must be given encouragement.

The small scale sector has been under attack since the days when Morarji Bhai was the Finance Minister, the interests of workers and labourers are being negated, their wages are being cut. So my request is that the small scale sector should be extended financial assistance. They talk of giving financial assistance. I was going through the statistics of employment schemes given by the Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda and also the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. Those schemes also contained details about bank credits but today the educated youth is not getting bank loans. The bank officers hesitate in advancing loans to them. One can get bank loan only if he is able to grease the palms of bank officials. Naturally, this sort of corruption will give rise to a sense of revolt among the youth because they will not be able to start their own work without the bank assistance. Thousands of unemployed persons commit suicide for this reason only. It is a challenge for we politicians also. The situation is that 40 percent people of the country sleep in the night half fed. The people living below poverty line eat Tendu leaves and do their job by risking their lives. So, government must ensure easy financial assistance to the unemployed youth to enable him to take to self-employment. The small scale industry also needs infrastructure, it needs financial assistance, it needs electricity. Every leader talks of the infrastructure but it is never provided. I would demand of the Industry Minister to start a single window system where each young man gets bank loan and power. He should also be provided the marketing facility. All these things are associated with production because his industry will get ruined if he is unable to ensure production. So I will request that he must be given a package covering all the necessary inputs of small scale sector.

Sir, I would also like to submit that some areas should exclusively reserved for small scale sector because the multi-national companies like Pepsi-Cola, Coco-Cola are stepping into the domain of small scale sector, such as setting up of fruit juice factories in rural areas. The namkeen of Haldiram had been patented by a foreign company. As a result thousands of workers engaged on producing Bikaneri bhujia are on the verge of starvation. The multi-nationals are now trying to monopolise this sector also. Why are they bent upon, why are they conspiring for the demolition of the economy of the entire country? I would urge through you, Sir, this area should be reserved for small scale sector, otherwise this sector will not be able to progress. This sector needs government assistance, official goodwill and protection from monopolists sector. I don't mean to say to allow them

to sell their product at arbitrary price, the element of competition is between the two equals. The multi-nationals are prepared to compete but government must lay down some norms in this regard. They manufacture chips which are packed in a beautiful wrapper and the 50 gm chips packet costs Rs. 10. Its price should be reduced. The retailers sometime sell the product at twice the actual retail price. The multi-nationals brainwash the consumers through commercial advertisements and the product is portrayed in such a manner as if it is much superior. So, our culture and the sentiments of our consumer have also to be exposed to the people at large.

Mahatma Gandhi had a dream of self-sufficiency and de-centralisation which is being attacked today. The development of small scale sector is a pre-requisite for creating a self-reliant economy, it needs official assistance. There is also need for creating a National Workers Bank. The artisans, the skilled workers working with jewellers who produce quality and sophisticated products are being neglected because their labour has been replaced by big dies. The government is encouraging this process but the interest of the artisan is ignored. I would like that quality aspect be given more importance. This will ensure a self-reliant economy for the country and strengthen our social base. We will be able to achieve the social justice that we have been talking about. Today we talk of providing reservation but ignore the steps to increase employment opportunities. The administration in the country is sought to be run by doing some slogans. The reservation will be effective only when he have jobs. May I know from the government how many new jobs were created and how many new appointments were made by the government during the last five years against the reserved posts? As far as my knowledge goes, the employment position in the railways is that the number of posts has come down during the successive last 5 years. Same is the case with Central Government employment position. I have with me the official figures so we cannot improve country's economy unless the small sector is strengthened, unless the government is committed to it. We can give arguments for and against, we can serve our political end but the economy of the country can develop only if production increases, for which encouragement of small scale sector is imperative.

I will make one point more and conclude. I was going through some statistics pertaining to the development of agriculture. The government has admitted that the agriculture sector has come to a stagnant situation, the increase in production has halted. The reason, it is said, being more than 1 crore uneconomic holdings. We cannot expand the land, we cannot increase its dimension, the farmer will be prosperous only when he cultivate his fields and during non-agricultural season he and the Members of his family are engaged in some other type of self-employment. An industrial revolution has come in West Uttar Pradesh,

Haryana and Punjab because the women, the children of farmers families rear buffaloes, cows and supplement family's income. It is the women who brought about this revolution first. In the olden days selling of milk was prohibited, milk sale was equated with the sale of the son. But when they realised that selling of milk does not amount to selling of the son and that it can be the means of their prosperity they took to this trade and today the women are prosperous and the dairying has become a part of their small industry, a part of their economy. I would like that such small industries should be encouraged and a national Artisans Development Bank should be set up because, today, the old relation of teacher and pupil is no longer there because of changing social attitude and emergence of social tension because of economic unemployment. Earlier the people were trained by the Gurus free of charge. Similar training centres should be set up and they should provide guidelines to the unemployed. This job can be done through I.T.I.s also. The job needs elementary knowledge. The worker can be imparted this elementary knowledge at these centres or at I.T.I.s. If this sort of arrangement is made on a large scale it will definitely strengthen our economy. With these I support the Resolution.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important resolution. I also express my gratitude to Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria ji for expressing not only his concern but also inviting our attention to the increasing sense of disappointment among the increasing number of unemployed youth of the country.

Sir, if we look at the poor people of the entire country their population is more than half of the population of the nation. What I mean to say is half of the population of the country is living below poverty line. A large population of the country has no food to eat no cloth to wear and no house to live in. The population is galloping so fast that the day is not far off when the people without employment will reach a situation of starvation.

So, the need of the hour is to deliberate at every level as to how this unemployment situation can be controlled. The hon'ble Members have given many suggestions during the course of their speeches and through you, I would also like to make some submissions on this issue. The hon'ble Industry Minister is present in the House. I am of the firm view that the unemployment problem cannot be solved till the small scale sector is extended appropriate encouragement. I think, very little attention has been paid to this sector after the attainment of independence. Mahatma Gandhiji had said that while not ignoring major industries, we must encourage small and cottage industries. I am of the view that had we followed this principle this situation of mounting unemployment among the youth of the country would not have arisen.

Sir, look at the situation that is prevailing today. The hands engaged in small and cottage industry have become idle. Their number is declining constantly. There are many reasons for this. Government's attention has not gone to the people engaged in this sector and as a result, small and cottage industry is closing down its number is dwindling slowly. The hands employed in it are being rendered redundant. So, the need of the hour is to provide government assistance to this sector. The People engaged in this sector should be afforded technical training. Unless small and cottage industry becomes prosperous, unless it is encouraged, we cannot remove unemployment from the country. So, if we want to strengthen our economy, we ought to strengthen the hands engaged in cottage and small industry sector, they will have to be encouraged, made more efficient. The government should formulate policies providing for expansion of this sector.

Sir, today everything is computerised, new scientific methods are being adopted. I am not against them. What I would like to stress is that technical education should be imparted to those engaged in small scale industries. The major industries are resorting to large scale retrenchments, which should be checked and their welfare should be taken care of. This can be ensured only by providing incentives to small and cottage industries. This should be given sufficient credit and power to make them self-reliant, so that the people dependent on this sector are able to earn their livelihood in a befitting manner. This will help us checking increasing unemployment.

Sir, the education system obtaining in the country is defective. Today, we need technical education. We are satisfied with our wards getting B.A. or M.A. degrees but do not endeavour to give them technical education. Even if some efforts are made in this direction, they are not proving effective. So, I would plead that we should encourage our youth to take technical education. They can work as good mechanics, they can run the industry efficiently, their faculties can be utilised in a proper manner by imparting them technical education. So there is need to change over present system of education so that our youth do not look at government jobs only after acquiring B.A. and M.A. degrees, since, in the present era, no governments, can provide jobs to all the educated youths of the country. Therefore, if we want to curb unemployment if we want to provide work to the youth, we will have to change the systems of our education and employ them in small and cottage industries by imparting suitable appropriate technical education. We have very capable and high calibre youth and if we are able to identify their capabilities and create suitable atmosphere they can run the industries very ably.

Mr. Deputy-Seaker, Sir, the government should prepare a comprehensive plan and frame a comprehensive industrial policy to prevent disintegration of small and cottage industry in order to remove the increasing unemployment which has

been invited attention to by the resolution moved by Shri Katheriaji. This will reinforce the strength of those engaged in small and cottage industries. There is imperative need to evolve such a policy without any further delay. Otherwise, the coming time will prove disastrous. We must take timely and specific steps to prevent our youth from straying to wrong path and to prevent all the awkward situations that are cropping up in the name of modernisation. Some effective measures should be taken to revive the sick cottage and small industries, to help the youth to start house to house cottage industry. This will ensure employment to the youth belonging to poorer section of the society. The cottage industries which are lying closed on large scales should be revived to generate employment, to prevent the disappointed youth from taking wrong steps. Sir, through you I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister that he must pay proper attention to the problems raised by Shri Katheriaji and take some effective steps in this regard to respect the feelings of Shri Katheriaji and also that of this House.

DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR (Hapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important resolution. I also thank Shri Katheriaji for introducing this very important resolution which deserves deliberations and the points raised therein need resolution. The number of unemployed youths is increasing every year and the youth after receiving education feels that his future is in the dark. He goes from pillar to post in search of job but returns disappointed. This country cannot prosper economically if the future of the youth of the country is in the dark.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that government should frame employment-oriented schemes but the policies being followed by the United Front Government or the policy followed by the previous Congress Government tended to destruct the small scale industry. This industry is becoming sick. It is this sector which provides employment to the youths and if the industries of this sector are closed, the workers engaged therein will be rendered jobless and the youths will not get employment. Sir, I will request though you the hon'ble Industry Minister who is sitting here, to frame such policies as would encourage small scale industry. It should be provided one window facility, it must get power and its other infrastructural needs be met.

Sir, the youth who is interested in setting up a new project after completing his studies, is not granted bank loan without greasing the plans of concerned officials, his loan is not sanctioned. How can he then set up his project. I will request the Minister to encourage small scale industry and cottage industry. The multi-nationals should not be allowed to invade all the manufacturing sectors. They should not be allowed to work in the area where small scale industry can deliver the goods. For example chips, soap, soft drinks, etc are manufactured by small scale industry/cottage

industry. We should not invite multinationals to this sector because they are rendering our youths unemployed by installing automatic plants. The employment should be the first priority of the government. It must overcome the problem of increasing unemployment.

I would like to submit that a provision for free travel for the youths going to take interviews should be made and the unemployed youths should be given unemployment allowance till they get employment. They must be helped in every manner. The former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao had introduced an employment scheme which remained on paper only. The youths did not get the assistance envisaged for them. Sanctions had been accorded by various committees for granting bank loans for setting up small scale industries, mini projects by unemployed youths but the banks do not accept those projects and simply advise them that it is not possible. So this has to be improved upon. Only then can the country progress. The poor worker, the poor farmer provides education to his child with the desire that he will get a good job after completing the education but he goes from pillar to post in search of employment. Who will make arrangements for his employment ? It is the duty of the government to provide him job. Therefore, I urge that a transparent policy should be framed to encourage small scale and cottage industry. Some areas should be exclusively reserved for production for small scale sector and the multi-nationals should not be encouraged in these areas.

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Industry that the conditions prevailing in our country are different from those obtaining in other countries. We have sufficient man-power and the unemployed hands must get employment. May be, the youths are not unemployed in other countries despite installation of automatic plants. They can set up automatic plants for producing small items but our conditions do not conform to this position. We have enough manpower who work as artisans. They are short of funds. So, there is need to set-up-a National Artisan Development Bank.

Shri Katheriaji deserves our congratulations for introducing this Resolution because it is a very important issue which is being discussed in this House. I would again submit that small and cottage industry should be encouraged. The sick industrial units should be revived by providing financial assistance. These steps will definitely generate employment for unemployed youths.

I do not want to say much on this and support this Resolution. I will request the Minister of Industry to get this Resolution adopted and lay down such a policy as would ensure employment to the unemployed youths and they may feel that the Government sitting at the centre is not the government of more announcements but it does want to do something for the youth. With these words, I thank you, Sir.

SHRI SUKHDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject. I also thank Shri Katheriaji for bringing this Resolution. Unemployment is spread throughout the country and we are not dealing with this issue in a befitting manner and with a sense of seriousness from the very beginning. The former Prime Minister's Shri Narasimha Rao had introduced a Prime Minister, Employment scheme whereunder a sum of Rs. one crore was provided and a promise made for providing credit to unemployed youths. But very few people, less than one per cent get this loan, you will be surprised to know the difficulty being faced by them. They do not get loan ever after running from pillar to post for several months. The present dispensation is such that everybody from bottom to top demand bribe. They are obvious of the fact that the unemployed youth bears the burden of his family, his old parents; he does not get loan after his efforts of several months. He sees his future black. The hon. Minister of Industries is sitting. She knows the prices are rising. The loan of Rs. one lakh is insufficient. It should be raised to Rs. five lakh. The project which he wants to set up should be approved. Earlier five-seven years ago, a loan of Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000 used to be sanctioned. Some people had taken a loan of Rs. 7000 to Rs. 10,000 five seven years ago. When we visit our area, they come to us and complain that the banks have got their property attached and warrant issued against them and they are harassed by bank employees and police. Their factories are not working profitably. What should they do ?

Some months bank, a national convention of Educated Unemployed youth was held in Delhi which was attended by a large number of people, many M.P.s were also invited. They demanded that their loans should be written off because, they were new and could not repay bank loan instalments and that they should be given fresh loan so that they are able to run their factories and repay bank loans. But this is not being done. These educated unemployed persons are being harassed, their properties being attached. I would urge upon the Minister of Industry to get the warrants of attachments revoked so as to enable these people to run their factories and repay bank loans.

Today, the main issue to be considered is how the unemployment situation assumed such a serious proportion whatever governments came to power are responsible for this situation because, none of them tried to link the education with the employment. Why does a person becomes unemployed ? If the education is linked to employment right from the primary education upto college education and some sort of training is imparted then, I think there would not have been such a large scale unemployment. They would have generated some sort of self employment and this number of crores of unemployed youth come down considerably but governments have failed to evolve such a system. They have not been able to take

any concrete decision with regard to the measures to be adopted for dealing with the unemployment problem.

An age limit has been fixed for providing employment. Where is the justification for laying this age limit when jobs are not provided ? There should be no age limit at all. A provision should be made that the youth will be provided job so long as he is unemployed. There is great resentment among the youths for not making such a provision. The terrorism in some states is the result of this unemployment. We have this problem of terrorism in Kashmir, in Bihar, in Uttar Pradesh. If the unemployed youth is given work, the tendency of taking to terrorist activities would definitely be checked.

The youth has to go for interview from one State to another State, from one district to another district, whether it is the Central Government job or the State government job, he faces great difficulty on this behalf. I would like that the Central Government should send instructions to each state that who soever educated unemployed person goes for taking interviews should be allowed completely free to and fro journey in trains or in State transport buses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my opinion you should call an all party meeting to thrash and the problem of unemployment and to suggest measures to deal with this problem as we do in case of several other important issues in the Lok Sabha, before taking a final decision.

In 1974, we had been jailed when Shri Jai Prakash Narayanji had launched an All-India Movement. The issue at that time was also removal of unemployment and over hauling of education system. This movement started from Bihar and Gujarat and spread all over the country. If we do not take the unemployment problem seriously then it will, one day, erupt like a volcano. So government should take some concrete measures for the removal of unemployment.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the resolution on unemployment moved by hon'ble Member Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

Several views have been expressed about providing employment to the unemployed. We express our views very forcefully whenever any discussion takes place about unemployed youth but we also know the practical difficulties in this regard. A lot of things have been said here about small scale industry. In my area several small scale industrial units were functioning earlier but they are slowly closing down. No new unit is coming up because these units do not get the facilities and relief necessary for their functioning. Then, the corruption is so rampant that nobody dares set up new small scale units. The units already set up are slowly closing down. The owners are harassed by local departmental officers. The small scale industrial units are

also closing down particularly in Ranchi and Jharkhand-Vananchal region of Bihar for other reasons also. This is resulting in rendering lakhs of people jobless. In my area we had a high tension Nalanda Ceramic industry which employed thousands of workers but it has closed down because of government's apathy. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the power department and the irrigation department one crores of rupees to this industry from which they purchased the products of this industry as a result of which its capital sank and it closed down. So, if there is official apathy then, I don't think, the small scale industrial units will prosper from the suggestions we are making here. A suggestion has been made for setting up village cottage industry but these industries can function only when power is available in the villages and road communication is provided. Half of the unemployment problem in rural areas will have been solved if adequate power supply is ensured and road communication provided. We have schools, hospitals in the villages but no doctors wants to serve in these health centres because they are not connected with roads and they prefer to stay in cities to look after their children.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time allotted for discussing this Resolution is over. Is it the sense of the House that it should be extended by one hour ?

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time is extended by one hour for considering this Motion.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Sir, we have not been able to solve this problem even after so many years of independence. In my area the people are living the life of doccoits. These incidents take place because of non-availability of small amounts of loan, absence of roads, non-availability of electricity, lack of supply of potable water. People are unable to get facilities of education and medical care. These facilities can be provided with a meagre amount but no steps are being taken in this regard. Many big scams are being exposed in the country and so much money is found from one person only as would be sufficient for the development of one State. When we demand that a bridge should be constructed in our area we are told that funds are not available. I want that unemployment problem should be resolved, villages should be developed. At the same time, steps should be taken to check corruption.

As far as banks are concerned, they always say that funds for advancing loans are not available but if some loan is made available then half of the loan amount is actually paid. Suppose one has been sanctioned a loan of Rs. one lakh he will get only Rs. 40,000-50000 and the rest is spent on transportation and bribing the bank officials. The loanee is not paid full amount and therefore, is not able to do the job he intended to do. I would, therefore, request that some

concrete measures should be taken to check this sort of irregularities being committed by the banking system.

Sir, we have an irrigation scheme which can provide irrigation and power facility to Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. This project is still incomplete. The land has been acquired for this project namely, the Chandil Project, but the persons whose land was acquired, have not been paid compensation. There are many other similar projects which are incomplete. These projects, for which land has been acquired, should be completed. The position of employment will improve when all the villages are brought under irrigation. The government must pay their attention to this aspect. The small items being manufactured by big industries should be reserved for small scale units. This will reduce unemployment incidence.

Sir, if we fail to provide electricity to the villages, the small industrial unit which we take of, will close down. So, I would request the Government to pay special attention to the supply of power to rural areas. The figures given about rural electrification show that sufficient power has been supplied to rural areas, but the fact is that even an electric pole raised is included in the electrification programme figures. I would request that an inquiry should be ordered in this regard, and whatever work is done that should be done with honesty. No body should be allowed to play the figures game, it is a fraud with the society, with the country. This aspect should also be looked into.

Sir, large amounts are being spent on literacy programmes. There are no schools in villages and where schools exist, there are no teachers. If more schools are provided in rural areas, we can provide employment to 40-50 thousand people in each state. The position with regard to government service today is that the post which fall vacant on retirements or on deaths are not filled. I would request that all such vacancies should be filled in every department.

In Bihar, thousands of teachers have been working for 15-30 years in various schools, these schools are called 'no-fund' schools these teacher are serving with empty stomachs. I would plead that such type of exploitation in whichever state it may be obtaining, must end and the teachers must be paid their dues. The incidence of loot and exploitation is increasing which is adding to unemployment figures and helping the extrimists. The youths will continue to take to terrorism till they are assured of livelihood. This should be paid special attention. The funds pumped by the Government for developmental works, for eradication of unemployment should be distributed honestly. Only then can the problems of terrorism and unemployment be resolved. The problem is not going to be solved by paper work, by more talks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would now like to draw Government's attention to vocational education. Maximum number of people should be imparted vocational education

and maximum number of small scale units should be set up. The villages should be provided with adequate power and road communication. These measures can help eradicate unemployment.

Lastly, while supporting the Resolution brought by Katheriaji, I would like to say that he has done a commendable job by bringing this Resolution for the consideration of this House. I thank him and also express my gratitude to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on this important subject. I also express my gratitude to Shri Katheriaji for introducing this Resolution for the consideration by this House.

Sir, unemployment and poverty are two gigantic problems the country is faced with and today, crores of youths roaming on streets in search of employment. The people responsible for running this nation must think about these unemployed youths and take concrete measures for solving this problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today suitable jobs are not available to the educated youth. An engineer is engaged as a lawyer, a lawyer is working as a teacher. Their training has not fruited. They have to work in the fields which are not of their chair. They are compelled to take to other jobs because they do not get jobs in the fields for which they have received education. The teacher spend the precious period of their life in non-aided teaching institution, and make their both ends meet with a meagre wage of Rs. 100 to Rs. 500, that too, at the fag-end of their life. We will have to ponder over it and find some way-out. Now, if the educated unemployed youth wants to take up some alternative job, wants to set up cottage industry, small scale units, he goes to district industry centre and does gets some loan but that loan amount gets distributed and he gets frustrated and is unable to take up the jobs in an effective manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I represent Khalilabad Parliamentary Constituency and Maghar a weavers habitat, is situated there. They weave cloth and supply it throughout the country. We have national level cloth market, but because of rise in the prices of cotton yarn and non-availability of electricity, the weavers are unable to function smoothly. I have raised this issue in this House repeatedly and placed it before the Government. I, however, would like to thank the Prime Minister for his efforts for improving power supply position. In my area, people are now relieved of power shortage. We have also Bakhira Bazar adjacent to Khalilabad, which is a centre of utensil factories. Our 'Kasaira' community was running its utensil industry on national level, but today, this industry is on the verge of closure. The educated youth do not get jobs and if they want to run the utensil industry, they are not given

assistance. The Bakhira industry is almost dead today. We are very much concerned about this industry, we want that it should be revived, repanded, and strengthened. I have the support of all other political leaders in this regard. Similarly, the fisherman community lives along the banks of Ami river and the youths of this community take to fish-catching because of non-availability of other employment, but the water of this river gets polluted by industrial affluent discharged from Sanjay Papers Mills. The assurances given by MLAs and MPs for cleaning this river, are not fulfilled for some reasons or the other. The fishermen community now comes to us and demands that the rivers be made pollution free. Same is the position of the Ghaghara, which is known as the Saryu in our area, and of the Rapti and Buri Ganga. The fishermen community is greatly disturbed. They have been meeting the district officials and others but no way out has been found. The hon. Minister is present in the House. I had made a request to Capt. Nishadji who assured me that he would try to get all the river in my constituency cleaned and made pollution free.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about unemployment problem, I would like to submit that the difficulties being faced by weaver community, fishermen and utensil producing units be removed. Jute is cultivated in my area and the 'Samai' community spin jute and make articles like ropes for charpoys. It is a jute producing area, and jute based mills can be set up there. There is only one jute mill at Sahjanwa in Gorakhpur. A jute mill can be run efficiently at Haisar Bazar along the Suryu banks, but nobody has paid attention to this proposition. The end result is that the jute based cottage industry in facing a disastrous situation. The youth today is frustrated. He is not getting jobs, he bears burns his academic degrees. He feels that these degrees and certificates are of no use if they fail to assure livelihood to him. I would like to cite an example of my Khalilabad area. Young Shri Mohar Ali is an MA. BEd. and works in a Junior High School at a salary of Rs. 12. I am surprised, why officers attention does not go to these things. A young MA, BEd, who has full life before him, is facing all sorts of difficulties. Nobody listens to him because he belongs to scheduled Caste, he is called a 'safari karmchari' there. This is the situation. The youths after getting LLB, LLM, Engineering degrees are working on such a meagre wage in different departments as is not sufficient for their sustenance. So I would plead with this House to keep a strict watch on this unemployment problem. In this connection I would like to give an example. There are 180 trained railway workers in Gorakhpur Division who are not being given employment. They have staged 'Dharna' before the G.M. office thrice, they have been sent to jail thrice; they are now not allowed to stage 'dharna' they are not allowed to express their grievances. They have become overaged. New recruitments are made but these trained persons are not being given appointment. They have their families to support. They are being harassed. Why are they not given employment in this Railways ? The Railway

Minister is not present. I would, through you, like to draw his attention to this situation. These persons are lathi-charged by the police before G.M. office and are sent to lock-up. Why is this happening ? This sort of things should not happen. Similarly, in the Department of Communications, many persons have completed their training, many employees have been removed. I would request that their cases may be considered sympathetically and they should be given employment and reinstated, as the case may be. So, my submission is that we have to look at this situation at national level.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Surendraji, please conclude now. You have spoken on this issue earlier also.

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV : I am concluding, Sir. Farmers' land is being acquired in Gorakhpur at throw-away prices in the Gorakhpur Development Authority jurisdiction but the wards of these farmers are not being given employment. Their economic condition is not good. They should be paid higher compensation so that they are able to start some new business. Sir, I would request that the matter that has been placed before this house for consideration should be taken seriously so that the unemployment youth gets some employment and some assistance, some sympathy to take up self-employment. With these words, I thank you Mr. Deputy-Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is very rich in mineral wealth, forest wealth, coal, iron-ore, manganese etc., but is still poor and the main reason for this poverty is unemployment, and the unemployment is mounting for want of adequate development of Small scale and cottage industry. Wrong governmental policies are responsible for this situation. The Government should formulate policies for providing work to every hand. They should spend money on this count. This Government and all the previous Governments did not frame their policies keeping in mind the genesis of Indian economy and that India is basically an agricultural country. This has resulted in continuous increase in unemployment. The ratio of small and cottage industry vis a vis major industry has been declining and the small and cottage industries already set up are continuously closing down. The wrong official policy is primarily responsible for the ruination of this sector. The government will have to make a firm resolve that the expenditure being incurred on the maintenance of law and order should be diverted to setting up of small scale and cottage industries. I think, this will definitely reduce the incidence of criminal activities, theft incidents, looting and murder incidents. The government will save the expenditure incurred on apprehending the criminals and processing the criminal cases. But the government is not inclined to do so.

When we talk of unemployment and industrial development, naturally our mind goes to Germany, Japan, France and Australia. Japan and Germany were destroyed

during the second world war. They had neither coal nor iron ore, no raw material. Same was the position of Switzerland and France. These countries are much smaller in size than India. They had been importing raw materials like coal, iron ore etc. from India, from Madhya Pradesh for a long time and continued to export finished goods to other countries and thus earned lot of money. Today they are prosperous countries and there is no unemployment problem. We have all the natural resources, still we are at third, fourth or fifth place in the line of developing countries. We are nowhere in the list of developed countries. The unemployment problem is continuously assuming greater proportions because of faulty planning of the government. Such examples are a-glore in Madhya Pradesh and in other States too.

During the last few years, the Madhya Pradesh government abolished nearly one lakh government posts and removed from service 28,000 employees. Same is the position with the Central Undertakings, NTC mills. These Undertakings are continuously becoming sick, mills are closing down and the workers are being rendered jobless. The government is not making any effort in the direction of providing employment to youth, to the educated unemployed people.

I have greater knowledge of the situation obtaining in Madhya Pradesh and if I try to narrate the position prevailing in other states, then the scope of this Resolution will expand which I will not be able to cover even after making a speech for one hour. In India, Ludhiana is the only city which I have not seen but Sir, you must have seen it. It is called the Japan of India. If we can have small and cottage industries in every house in Ludhiana from where finished goods are sold in every nook and corner of India. Why cannot we make such arrangements in other major cities of India, in small villages ? Why can't we set up small and cottage industries all over the country ? The intention of the government is not good. The small and cottage industries have received negligible facilities compared to those available to big industries which have been set up since independence. Take the case of subsidy. The major industry, the medium, and the small industry have been given considerable subsidy but because of automation they are hardly able to employ 100, 200, 300, 400 or 500 people. There are very few industries which provide jobs in proportion to the capital investment. In case the same subsidy in proportion withdrawn and given to small scale and cottage industry, our economy can receive a boost in the next five years. This can eradicate unemployment from the country, the youth can be provided work. An atmosphere of peace and prosperity can be created but the present policy of the government is not going to improve the situation and whether we wish or not, the incidence of riots, loot, theft etc. will go on increasing. The population is galloping, the unemployment is mounting and people are frustrated because of government's wrong policies. What is the reason that an

young engineer of the country is going pillar to post to find a job of Rs. 2000 when the same young man earns Rs. 40,000—Rs. 50,000 per month in other countries and produces better quality goods than those produced in India?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, plans are not being formulated keeping in view the position of our economy, the rural and agricultural scenario as a result of which, on the one hand, our industries are closing down and on the other, the unemployment situation is becoming alarming. We are not doing the job of encouraging industry and thereby making employment potential available.

Sir, there was a time when employment oriented education used to be imparted in schools which, in turn, proved helpful in setting up small and cottage industries. At the same time, sports period used to be compulsory for physical and mental fitness. But today, very little attention is being paid to that self-employment providing employment-oriented education. Instead, computerisation is being taught. We have today very few training centres in India which prepared students for setting up their own small scale industry. Such an education is not imparted today. So, there is imperative need of imparting such an education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Resolution introduced by hon'ble Member Shri Katheriaji and demand of the government that the subsidy being given for setting up major industries should be curtailed and the amount so saved should be diverted to small and cottage industries. The small scale industries should be supplied power at the rate or even below that rate, it is being supplied to major industries. The rule and regulations governing the establishment of small and cottage industry should be liberalised and simplified. The District Employment offices and District Industry offices are in a very bad shape and infested with corruption and irregularities. In case a person who intends to set up a small industrial unit visits the District Employment office and asks for the profile, he does not get the profile. If he asks for the profile for setting up a cylinder or a math box or a slate factory, he is not given the profile nor provided with any sort of information and in case some one goes with the recommendation of the Union Minister or the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister, then the officials themselves rush to his house and talk of providing all sorts of facilities and subsidy. The big industrialist is able to set up his unit on the strength of his money power but the small entrepreneur doesn't get assistance from these centres. The manager is not available in the District Industry Centre and if he is available the Inspector is missing and if he is found the dealing clerk is not available. So, a demand that these aspects should be taken care of and the situation improved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the big industries are exempted for seven years from excise duty, for five years sales tax, for two years from labour rate but the small

scale entrepreneur faces many difficulties in securing these concessions. Therefore, everybody is after setting up of big industry and nobody is ready to run small and cottage industry. All the legal incumbrances are applicable to the small entrepreneur.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this government as well as previous governments did not pay their attention towards the welfare of industrial workers as a result of which there is no coordination between the industry and the industrial workers. The workers must have a sense of national interest while working for the industry. They should adopt the industry from their soul and mind but this is not happening. The Labour Unions have not been given recognition because of introduction of secret ballot system and thus a few people have monopolised these Unions. They have created a situation of causing loss to the industry by using their influence in a wrong manner. Such examples are there. Every government is prepared to modify its labour policy then I am sure the industrial units which are on the verge of closure or are getting sick can be revived and they can contribute to the augmentation of industrial production in the country. These are the issues, Sir. Through this Resolution, I would request the government to liberalise the rules governing the setting up of small and cottage industrial units. They must frame some concrete policy for eradicating unemployment. In case some commission has already been set up the same should be revived, activated. A separate bank at national level should be set up for the people intending to set up small and cottage industrial units and the bank should be entrusted the responsibility of providing encouragement and assistance to such units. This should be done with a views for removing unemployment. If the government is prepared to take such corrective measures and frame such a policy then the unemployment incidence will definitely come down.

The establishment of small and cottage industry can enervate our economy and the efforts can be made for bringing about peace and tranquility. Otherwise this government will continue to follow the path it has been following so far which will bring disastrous consequences for the country in the coming time, if not today. It is my believe that the government will pay attention to these things and take appropriate steps. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR (Ottapulam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, unemployment is a serious national question. This problem is being exploited by our internal and external enemies. Approximately, our national unemployment figure is 3.5 crore. The rural unemployment is even more when calculated. In Kerala there are 45 lakh educated unemployed youth. It is increasing day by day. Unemployment is of three types—educated unemployment, uneducated

unemployment and under-employment. We are celebrating 50 years of our independence and we are now discussing the Ninth Plan. If we want to reduce unemployment considerably, we have to increase our agricultural production and reform the agriculture structure.

But the record in the field is very poor. That is why the industrial sector also is in a deadlock. For the last five years the economic reforms have compounded the problems on the one side and the fast mechanisation has, on the other side, increased unemployment. In the name of austerity, the Government did not fill lakhs of vacancies in different Departments. Computerisation has also contributed its share.

Though it is unavoidable, in the context, I request the Government to implement a comprehensive unemployment relief scheme throughout the nation and include the right to work as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution of India.

Lastly, I would point out that speedy agrarian reforms and corresponding industrialisation are the lasting solutions to this problem.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Pudrauna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Katheriaji which seeks removal of unemployment, setting up of small scale industry in rural areas for creating employment potential and for providing financial assistance to these industrial units. In this connection I would like to make some suggestions. The main cause of unemployment is our faulty education system which creates lakhs of clerks. If you expect a person to work in the agriculture fields or to run a paan shop after obtaining degrees of B.A. and M.A., I think, it is too much. The basic question is of education. In foreign countries the student is imparted education keeping in mind his aptitude, his inclination but this is not so here in our country. We are granting the youth the degree of unemployment. So, I would demand of the government that they must make basic changes in our education system. A boy belonging to a poor family who is unable to do his B.A. or M.A. should be given vocational training at school level itself, for example he can be given training of manufacturing of soap, repairing tyres, manufacturing tractor parts etc. He can earn better livelihood in this way. A paan vendor today earns more than the earnings of educated people.

Today, maximum unemployment is among uneducated youth. If a youth after doing his M.A. degree is unable to find a job, he gets frustrated and takes to crime. Today many criminal activities are taking place in the country. The youths are forced to take to smuggling, dacoity and stealing. Our Scriptures say :

Bhu bhukshatam Kim No Karoti Papam
Shilajarani Nishkaruna Bhavanti.

It means a hungry person can commit any type of sins of the world. The unemployment is the cause of this blot on our youth. If we fail to check unemployment there would be no peace in the country.

I come from cane growing area where people operate kolhu and prepare gur, but they are not allowed to operate these Kolhus electrically. If they are allowed the use of electricity it will involve less amount of labour and also cost less and earn more profit. This can help in removing unemployment. It is their right to get electricity for operating their kolhus.

The district from which I come, used to manufacture Nickel utensils but today their position has worsened. The banks do not advance loan to them. The credit society also does not give loan to them. The banks charge certain percentage of interest on the loans advanced by them. We have Nickel industry in Pudrauna and Mirzapur which are known for Nickel utensils. But today these artisans are without work. I would demand that bank loans should be given to these utensil manufacturers. The eastern U.P. and Western Bihar are most backward. The people from Gorakhpur and Bihar can be seen working as labourers in Mumbai and Calcutta. A Commission was constituted for the eastern region during Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's time to suggest concessions to be given to the people of this area but that has remained on papers only. No facility has been given so far. As my hon'ble friend has said, Sarahi and Jute is grown in our area and fine mats are prepared out of them. These mats are sold every where but the manufacturers of these mats do not have enough resources. I think if this cottage industry is provided adequate resources, it can manufacture fine mats which can be exported and which would be finer than those used in the houses in Delhi.

Cane wood is also available in our area and beautiful chairs can be manufactured out of this cane but for want of economic assistance the people engaged in this job are unable to expand their work. They are very good artisans and can produce artistic chairs if given adequate financial assistance. We also have powerloom industry which is lying closed for want of supply of power and non-availability of cotton yarn. Barar village had earned much fame by producing fine cloth. They are also not getting yarn and bank loan. This industry is also lying closed today.

The government have introduced a scheme for advancing loan for purchase of milching cattle—cows and buffaloes but the scheme is infested with corruption and the officers do not help the villagers in this regard. I would like to say a couplet here. A Maulana was taking liquor in a Mosque and some passersby asked him why is he taking liquor at this sacred place on which the Maulana said :

"Maszid main baith kar sharab peene de saki:

Varna wah jagah bata, jahan Khuda na ho."

The same couplet applies to the situation obtaining in the country. No department is free from corrupt practices. The situation is very bad. The government subsidy is given for animal husbandry but what the officers do is that they take the subsidy on some fake document and give only that amount to the farmers which is treated as loan and which attracts interest. I feel we would do good to the villagers if every family is given cows and buffaloes for dairying purposes. This can provide better earning and remove the unemployment. As regards poultry farming, though I am not an expert of poultry farming. I was told by a Minister of Agriculture that if I took to poultry farming, his department would be benefitted on which I replied his department might benefit or not, but being a Brahmin, I will not take to poultry farming. But I have seen in rural area that people ... (*Interruptions*). Please listen to me. It is a matter of fact. I am not concocting a story. I have seen that the persons engaged in poultry farming make a good income by selling eggs in the market. So, the poultry farming needs greater attention. It can supplement the income of villages. We have ponds in every village where fish can be reared. But the pisciculture department is very complacent. I don't know where they are. If they take a little interest, the fishermen community can produce fish and earn a lot of money and the people will also get fish to eat. I am talking of my village. We had a pond there which used to be sold for Rs 10,000, but when I became somewhat active, it was sold for Rs 1,60,000. We can improve upon this further by using some extra vigilance and material.

Turmeric is grown on large scale in my area. I think no house-hold is complete without turmeric but small machines are needed for grinding it. The turmeric powder can be exported to foreign countries. We cultivate superior grade turmeric. Similarly 'Kathal' is grown in our area out of which very tasty pickle and Murabba is prepared. But the multi-nationals are engaged in this manufacturing job. How can then a villager compete with them in the manufacturing of Kathal pickle. I would request the government to give priority to setting up such cottage industries. A group of 4-5 women can be provided with a sewing machine who can stitch clothes and earn money but, my experience is that the subsidy meant for the purchase of sewing machine is also swallowed by the officials. Sir, there is one thing more. Mere government subsidy is not going to remove unemployment. Even if you provide lakhs of rupees, you will have to overhaul our system of education. The people will have to be imparted education which will make them self-sufficient. But at the same time, the administration must provide financial assistance to cottage industries functioning in villages. For example, the oil producing industry is at a stand still and people purchase oil from market. If crushing

machines are installed and electricity provided the villagers can purchase their requirement of oil from there. This can provide employment as well. What I mean to say is that such cottage industries should be set up in villages.

As far as cooperatives are concerned, this movement has been very successful in Maharashtra. But it has totally failed in Uttar Pradesh. I suggest that ills that cooperatives have developed should be removed and cottage industries can be set up by forming village cooperatives. This will help in removing unemployment to a large extent. But the moot point is that the cooperatives will not develop unless they are freed from corrupt practices. So, the first thing to be done is to root out corruption. Many of my hon'ble friends have said that the subsidy amount does not reach the beneficiaries in full. The government must make provision for extending easy interest loans and providing subsidy to cottage industries in the villages.

Fruit and vegetable are grown on large scale in our area but it lacks road communication and power supply. There is no electricity in the northern region of Pudrauna. Electricity is essential for running small scale industries which should be provided. I know whatever we say here, remains a record on papers and is never taken care of by the hon'ble Minister. But if he pays attention, I am sure, the poor will be benefitted in this way or that way.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Resolution regarding removal of unemployment and creation of new employment opportunities in the country moved by Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheriaji has caught the painful nerve of the country. This is the manifestation of his concern for the country which has become poorer because of price-rise and unemployment. Many of our political leaders and farmer Prime Ministers have won elections in the name of poverty. Even today, people talk of eradication of poverty. But unemployment is mounting and prices are increasing. The result is, as Tulasidasji has said :

Nahin darid sam dukh jag mahi.

which means poverty is the greatest curse.

Bhatakate hanjawan Ko roji na mile,

Bhuk se tarapate insan ko roti na mile,

Tumhari siasi taqariron ko chaten Sriman,

Jab nange insan ko langoti na mile.

(The youth is not getting employment, bread and cloth. Should he eat the political speeches of the leaders)

We are a agriculture and labour oriented nation. The small and cottage industries which we had are slowly closing down. Our country was rich and called the 'golden bird'. Rivers of ghee and milk used to flow here. How this so prosperous country has come to this pass today, the reason being that we have not been able to fix correct priorities, as

Mishraji had said, had we set up agriculture based industries, the position might have been different. In my area, Copper and Nickel industry was prospering but the same is also closing down today. Jaunpur and Mirzapur area are famous for carpet production but the same has been banned under GATT agreement. Why should people produce these carpets when they are not being allowed to be exported? Lakhs of workers are becoming jobless. Multinationals are coming to this country. Shri Katheriaji has sought in his Resolution, establishment of small scale industry and provision of financial assistance to existing units. These units should be provided electricity and other infrastructural facilities. Some areas of production should be reserved for small scale industry and National Development Banks should be set up for this purpose. Our domestic industry is not being provided these facilities and the multinationals are affecting the interests of the indigenous production. All the facilities are being withdrawn. I would like to quote an example. We have a Birla Group Diamond cement factory where the entire job is carried out with the help of automatic machines. Workers are not employed there. The entire area is being exploited in this way. The workers who were working there earlier are being retrenched in a phased manner. Several mills have closed down in Indore. The very system is breaking. The cottage industry is winding up. The plight of workers there is also bad and unemployment is increasing. Lakhs of acre of ravine land is available along the Chambal river in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. These ravines shelter the dacoits. Millions of rupees are spent to deal with the dacoity problem. I would suggest that this ravine land should be reclaimed and distributed among unemployed youths who can make it cultivable. They can cultivate this land if they are provided seeds etc, under the new agricultural policy. But we are fully engaged in maintaining law and order and spending on apprehending dacoits. If the said land is levelled and irrigation facility from the Chambal river is provided, the problem of unemployment can be resolved to a great extent. There are many other such areas which need attention. If this proposal is taken up seriously it will help in the development of Chambal area.

Sir, the animal husbandry is another important industry connected with agriculture. The dairy industry can be run profitably if the cow progeny is improved. We have had this industry but now the situation has changed. Slaughter houses have been provided where cows are slaughtered. The day is not far off when we will be deprived of the darshana of cow mother. What I mean to say is that we should frame our policies based on our culture and by understanding our traditions. Only then will we be able to deal with the unemployment problem and get some reprieve from poverty.

We have genius doctors, engineers who migrate to other countries and by dint of their hard work and

dedication, they have enhanced the prestige of their country. But what is the reason that we are not able to give them work conforming to their faculty. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kusmariaji, please wait. We have completed the extended hour and therefore the House should be extended by one hour more.

MANY HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSUMARIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are not able to utilise the brains available here and this is the reason that we are retrograding and there is large scale brain drain. We have not been able to exploit these brains. Sir there is difference between utilisation and exploitation. When we feed a cow and extract milk, that is different kind of exploitation, but our faculties are being exploited abroad.

Today, we see that big multinational companies have been invited here for manufacturing salt as a result of which lakh of workers have been rendered unemployed. The agreements we have entered into with them have been destroying our basic industry and our workers engaged on them are becoming jobless. This is also one of the major reasons for which unemployment is mounting in our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that if we want to save our traditional industries, we will have to impart training to workers employed in these industries and employ them by setting up industries suitable to them.

Today, the Prime Minister's Employment scheme is being insured. We have in our area many people whose cases are pending with banks and the latter refuse to finance their projects. The banks do not entertain our requests because we have no say in banking matters. I would, therefore, request that instructions should be issued to banks to release loans to the unemployed beneficiaries.

We have Panna Diamond rivers in Damoh where thousands of workers are employed. What is happening there today? The river are being leased to the corporation which is employing outside workers. The diamonds being extracted by N.S.B.C. are stolen. There are no other industries in this area except stone and diamond mines.

Unemployment is increasing in Panna district because local people are not being given employment there. I would request that local people should be given work in these rivers because they are the traditional worker of this industry. Diamonds worth millions of rupees are being smuggled today. I have given an example earlier of how a large Kohanoor diamond extracted from Panna was replaced by a fake diamond by the local administration. Sir, if a large diamond is found by a poorman he is excited but same is not the case with the rich, because the poor cannot conceal the diamond. The Corporation has big persons with a very strong heart, they are corrupt and have no fear. So, these mines should be freed from the control of such persons.

and local people employed therein. The Forest Department has now made new demarcations in the area where mines were working, saying that the land belongs to it. Sir, such sites should be located and surveyed and revenue land should be given in lieu thereof. The process of allotment and acquisition and *vice-versa* should stop with a view to angmenting the revenue and employment opportunities.

At the end I would say:

Sare zulm ke hone se shuru hoti hai;

Kisi gharib ke rone se shuru hoti hai;

Bhasm hote-takhte-taus bhi;

Jab aag kisi kone se shuru hoti hai.

So, I would request the Government to care for the poor, to provide employment to the poor. With these sentiments, I support the Resolution brought by Shri Katheriaji and conclude but request the Government to adopt this Resolution unanimously and take appropriate steps for the welfare of the poor.

[*English*]

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN (Palani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a timely suggestion made by our hon. Member Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria. Our country is one of the biggest nations in the world. Throughout India, even in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas, there are so many youngsters who are unemployed. Giving employment to the unemployed persons and the unemployed educated youth is important. This is a timely suggestion given by the hon. Member.

In our country, the Government of India has given a number of schemes for creating employment in the rural areas. For example, I can cite four important schemes that have been given which are : the IRDP, the DPAP, the JRY and the NREP schemes. In this country, in all the rural areas, most of the youngsters are wandering on the streets after education without getting any employment. The Government of India must identify the places in all the mofussil areas to start small scale industries and also to give financial assistance to start small scale industries. This is an important suggestion.

I can say one thing. In the year 1973, a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of hon. Justice Bhagwati to go into the unemployment problem. In the Report of that Committee itself, it was mentioned that in our country, 18.7 million people were unemployed and also 9.7 million were employed only for four hours per week.

Out of them 86 per cent of people were in the rural areas.

With respect to starting of small scale industries, now a days even though the Government is giving licences to

start small scale industries, the banking authorities are not supporting people to start small scale industries. The banking authorities start collecting money by force even before these youngsters get the licence or electrification to start a small scale industry. With the result, these youngsters suffer a lot and industries get closed. During the previous regime unemployed graduates applied for the PM Rozgar Yojana and their applications were forwarded to the authorities. The authorities also recommended the sanctioning of one lakh rupees or so to the applicants to enable them to start a small scale industry. But the banking authorities are not considering these applications. They are totally rejecting these applications. For example, I can say that in Tamil Nadu or in Kerala most of the youngsters, after completing their post graduation courses, are working in tea shops, mechanical workshops or are driving autorickshaws.

For starting a small scale industry only financial assistance is not sufficient. We have to provide all other assistance also to the youngsters. The amount of assistance should not be less than Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh for each scheme. Instructions in this regard should be given to the banking authorities by the Government of India. Then only all unemployed graduates can be given employment. If we see the youngsters of our country along with those of other countries, most of the youngsters throughout the world are facing the same problem. The work participation rate is directly linked with the state of economic growth. In England and Germany the work participation rate is 45 to 50 per cent. But in India it is only 30 to 35 per cent. Since work participation rate by youngsters is very less because of non-availability of work, the Government of India has to take every possible measure to see that more and more job opportunities are created.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Hawrah) : This is related to unemployment. This can be linked with the 81st Constitution (Amendment) Bill because many of us will become unemployed. That is why it can be debated together.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, someone has said :

Tan ki havas man ko gunahgar bana deti hei,

Bag ke bag ko bimar bana deti hai,

Bhukhe pet ko desh bhakti Sikhane wale,

Bhukh insan ko gaddar banadeti hai.

We repect our youths that they should be patriotic, they should bear good moral character, they should be honest, but Sir, through you, I would like to say that patriotism art literature and culture come to mind only when we have the roof over our head, clothes to cover our body and food to eat, but when we have no food to eat, hunger alone revolts around our mind; this hunger alone gives birth to dreaded dacoits of Chambal rivers, to AK-47 rifle carrying terrorists, mafia gangs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that today I am taking part in the debate on unemployment which is being discussed now for seven hours. The country is entering into 21st century a few-years hence when 10 to 20 crore unemployed hands would be demanding work and their silent and worried eyes, their empty stomachs and their pale cheeks would tell the tale of their unemployment. What priorities did we set for us after the independence? We always imitated the west blindly in every area, whether it is agricultural policy, education policy or industrial policy. Do we have something here to give a direction to the nation? We blindly followed the West which has created problems for us. The education policy is based on British days Macaulay doctrine which meant to created English blackmen in our country I feel that even today, the Macaulay pattern of education might be influencing our minds and thoughts.

We talk of employment-oriented education. We constituted many commissions like Kothari commission, Radhakrishan Commission but we have failed to provided job-oriented education even today. Many governments have came and gone.

[English]

18.00 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have repeatedly said that right to work, right to employment would be incorporated as the fundamental right. May I know whether Government will consider inclusion of right to work in the Fundamental Rights? The youth should be given work according to his capability and the need. Unless such a provision is made, we will not be able to resolve unemployment problem. Mahatma Gandhi had drempt of Ram Raja and Gram Swarajya, but what is the condition of villages today? Villages were self-sufficient, self-reliants units 20-25 years ago, many persons used to get employment in one village—black smith; gold-smith, carpenter, all were getting job. There used to be a 'Teli', oil vendor, who supplied pure edible oil to the entire village. The cabler used to make show and chappals. Thus several artisans used to get work in the village itself ...[*Interruptions*]

[English]

18.02 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Length of National Highways in the country

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we pass on to Half-an-hour discussion.

...[*Interruptions*]

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : It commenced about 4' O clock, not at 3.30. Kindly listen to me, you can check up from the record...[*Interruptions*]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, more time should be given.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah): Yesterday, at our request, she agreed to have to today. We should be grateful to her. [*Interruptions*]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was officially started at 3.30 p.m. itself.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The Prime Minister had intervened at that time and finally the Speaker had given his decision.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : What I want to submit is that we had started it at 3.30 p.m. officially. It was probably ten minutes late. ...[*Interruptions*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It was not just ten minutes.

[Translation]

Sir, full time should be given.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : We should have full 2 1/2 hours debate on this ...[*Interruptions*]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : She has the claim that this discussion should take place at six o'clock

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Yesterday, she had conceded to our request. We must be grateful to her.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the transport net-work, whether it is surface transport or rail-transport, is considered to be the parameter of the development of a nation. Smooth traffic is the manifestation of a developing country. It is rightly said:

[English]

"It is good road not because it is rich, but it is good road and that is why it is rich."

[Translation]

If we apply this saying to India, our attention goes to the National Highways. We have only two percent National Highways in the whole country the kilometerage length of which is 34291 k.m. The entire surface transport depends on it. These roads account for 70 per cent traffic load. But what is their condition? I will come to that later. Sir, this small percentage connects our entire country. Different types of vehicle operate on them which transport goods from one state to another and if we do not have roads, we cannot move goods from one place to another place, and the country cannot become prosperous. This equation is unending. We talk of globalisation, we talk loud of achieving interruptions competitive leved, and therefore, suggest establishment of big industries. But, while suggesting all this, we do not think of the condition of roads in our country. I think of roads obtaining in Madhya Pradesh applies to

Uttar Pradesh or to any other state. I would like to quote an example. Madhya Pradesh is a central province and has its boundaries with about seven states and Madhya Pradesh is the gateway to all the states. If this is the condition in Madhya Pradesh, you can imagine what will the condition in other states.

Now I come to the kilometerage length of the National Highways in such a vast country as is ours. It comes to 0.7 per cent per kilometer area. We have built this length during all these long years. I am trying to draw the picture of the whole country by giving the example of Madhya Pradesh. It has eight roads, and we have been demanding that they might be declared as National Highways. These roads are significant from movement of minerals and from tourism point of view because, they connect mineral bearing areas and tourism centres from which lot of foreign exchange is earned. May be, there is longer list of such roads. There are many industrial belts which are sought to be linked with other states. Out of the list of 8 roads, Gwalior, Jhansi, Khajuraho and Reva are important from tourism angle. Nagpur, Obedullaganj and Bhopal are important links with other states. Then, there is mineral belt, that is also important.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : This covers our area also.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Yes, your area also comes. It is important. But I am talking of the areas of national importance. Similarly, we have mineral bearing areas of Rajamundry, Jagdalpur and Bastar, which are important for the development of the country. Thus, we have given 8 proposals which have not been accepted. Recently, the hon. Minister had said in reply to a question that we have increased the National Highway length by 240 kilometers during the last three years which is obviously ridiculous. We have been able to increase the National Highway length by this much in these three years. ! We have a long standing demand of declaring eight roads on National Highways. Same is the position of Uttar Pradesh. The demand is not met and we get the stereotype reply that funds are not available. The other day also, we were told in reply to a question that maintenance was not possible because of paucity of funds. What is the position regarding maintenance ? As I have said, we have 34291 k.m. road length. I was talking to Shri Shivraj Singh, and we have calculated that a sum of Rs. 284 crore is available under maintenance head. What maintenance can be done with this meagre amount ? I do not know whether it comes to two thousand or Rs. 2.5 thousand per kilometer. This is the position today regarding maintenance. Now, when we talk of big National Highways we talk of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and the North-East. We talk here of industrial development of Vananchan, of tribal areas. The National Highway No. 31 bears the traffic load of millions of tonns in the North East, but its condition is very deplorable because funds are not available for its maintenance, State Government does not get funds for this purpose. Same is

the condition of the Grand Trunk Road. We name this road as Shershah Suri or Chandra Gupta Road, we associate the names of greatmen with these roads, but if you happen to pass through Bihar, you would come to know the national position of these roads. The condition of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar No. 4. No. 5 is also bad. It is important to work at this road because we are suffering loss in movement of goods, it is affecting the propriety and development of the country. Roads are the basic infrastructure of our developmental activities. I recollected Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Road because at one time, it was in such a bad shape that Justice Pattanaik of the Supreme Court had met a fatal accident on this road.

A very negligible provision has been included in the current budget for the maintenance of roads. Only 0.6 percent of the budget has been allocated for the maintenance of roads ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen. According to the Rules, you are supposed to make a short statement and put some specific questions only. Please remember the Rules.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : All right, I put questions. But Mr. Chairman, Sir, the need for giving notice for half-an-hour arose only when the hon. Minister said in every reply that there was no budget allocation. Am I wrong Mr. Minister ? He had said that there was no budget allocation. If he agrees, I would like to give a suggestion, because we have never given a thought to this subject, Government have never thought of it.

We had some talks about increasing the kilometerage length of roads and given some proposals. Whether they have been considered ? We say that the kilometerage length of National Highways should be increased and more and more roads should be included in the budget so as to augment transport capacity which will, in turn, help accelerate developmental process. Have we ever thought from this angle and whether any scheme has been chalked out ?

Second, we had set up a National Roads safety Council sometimes ago and have received its first report, but no unanimous recommendations has been made about remedial measures to be taken. Accidents take place because of bad roads. What measures have been taken to prevent road accidents ? We had also raised the question of patrolling. Which stations have been set up for patrolling ? In fact we should set up Trauma Centres because, generally, young people are involved in fatal accidents. Has this angle been considered ?

Third, as far as privatisation of road is concerned, I think, it is good to a certain extent, but if we talk of only of

National Highways, then, they pass through many small villages where different types of vehicles operate and I will not suggest of imposing any vehicle tax or toll tax on the people using the roads. However, we can think of privatisation of road bridges and culverts and also of bypasses.

Fourth, in 1983, we had formulated a scheme for construction of an Indore-Dewas bypass on Mumbai-Agra National Highway which involved an outlay of Rs 32 crore, but later a proposal for four-laning and concretisation was mooted and the 1983 outlay of Rs. 32 crore shot-up to Rs. 105 crore in 1996. So, my question is : Whether he proposes to take early decision on pending cases ?

It is said repeatedly that budget allocations are not available. In this context, may I know whether Government propose to earmark five or ten percent amount of petrol and diesel consumption for transportation, for maintenance of roads? If this is done, we will support the proposal. Do the Government propose to bring such a measure ? It will be a profitable proposition. It is essential for the development of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, better transport facilities, construction of more National Highways are the basic means of augmentation of our national assets. What are the Government doing keeping in view this basic aspect ? I have also to request the Planning Commission not to reduce the budget allocations meant for good schemes by sitting in airconditioned rooms. It must adopt a pragmatic approach and consider schemes on ground-level.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are other four names. I want to remind the hon. Members again that, according to Rule, you are entitled to ask only one question. I think, the Rule is to be abided by.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had once said that there was no salvation without roads and railways no development was possible and the roads and railways were the veins of the nation through which development blood flowed. National Highways and roads are very essential inputs of the development of a country. So, Sir, as per year orders, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, while the Government have approved a unigauge system for the development and expansion of railway routes, why simodara scheme is not being formulated for integrated development of National Highways and other roads ? Part (b) of my question is that we have developed 34 thousand kilometerage National Highways so far and as per the proposal received from various State Governments, 38 thousand kilometer National Highways are to be constructed and maintained which involves an outlay of

about Rs. 3200 thousand crore, so Sir, I would like to know through you, whether Government will extend special assistance to backward and area-wise large states like Rajasthan, where traffic load has increase for the construction and maintenance of National Highways ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, part (c) of my question is : Delhi-Mumbai National Highway No. 8 covers large area of Rajasthan, particularly between Delhi and Ajmer, in respect of which the Government of India had taken a decision to convert it into four laning because of heavy pressure of surface transport, and frequent road accidents; when the proposal providing four-laning will be implemented and whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan for increasing the kilometerage length of National Highways ?

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (BALIA) (Bihar) : Sir, I have also given my name for speaking on this subject and my name is in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If your name is in the list, I shall allow you to Speak. I am following the established system.

DR. STYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing National Highways but, I feel, we have left this subject untouched. We talk of National Highways, we talk of super National Highways, but do not take appropriate measure to translate it into action. Whenever prices of petroleum products were revised, we suggested earmarking of certain percentage thereof for utilisation on construction of roads, but the same could not be implemented because of non-availability of such funds while nearly Rs 10 thousand crore, are spent on increased petrol consumption and maintenance of vehicles because of bad condition of roads.

Sir, through you, I would like to say that proposals for construction of new National Highways have been received from all the states and Madhya Pradesh has demanded an outlay of Rs. 30 thousand crore; may I know what amount is needed for construction of National Highway as per the proposals received from several states and what steps is he taking to get the amount sanctioned ?

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Barielly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when this question was discussed in the House, an important question was raised which was not supplied to by the hon. Minister on behalf of ruling Janata Dal. A unanimous Resolution was passed on 13th May, 1988 about Central Road Fund which does not appear to have been implemented even after a lapse of 8 years. May I know which states accepted the Resolution and which states have implemented it ? This information was not given by the hon. Minister at that time. So, my first question is : What is the official opinion about this ? Whether there is any plan to privatise the National Highways; and if the whether there is any proposal to construct bridges and by

passes? If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented? Third, Uttar Pradesh is the largest state population-wise, but Rajasthan has more kilometerage length of road than Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has still greater length and Maharashtra has the maximum length. Then, why this step-motherly treatment with Uttar Pradesh? How many proposals of Uttar Pradesh are pending with Government and when are they likely to be disposed of?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my last question is about National Highway No. 24 on which my constituency is situated and a proposal regarding Barielly bypass has been pending for a long time. I want that this bypass should be constructed early and he must give some suggestions or directions on this proposal.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : Sir, Shrimati Sumitraji has provided a very good background on which I want to draw the attention of the Government. I have also given the facts which she has advanced. I come from Bihar and I want to express my painful feelings. My native place is 70 kilometers away from Patna and only one day service operates between Patna, the capital of Bihar, and my native place. This is the position even today. The question of National Highways has been raised. I consider it necessary to draw Government's attention to the importance of the National Highways in the development of the country. No state can develop without adequate road communications, power supply and necessary infrastructure and on this count, Bihar is totally neglected. I would like to tell the hon. Minister how the construction of National Highways is politically motivated. The National Highway denotes linking of the Nation. What are the considerations for sanctioning comparatively greater kilometerage length of roads for some states? I would like to quote some samples and expect reply from the Government. In 1993-94, Andhra Pradesh was sanctioned 5,126 kilometer roads while Bihar was sanctioned only 3000 kilometerage length. In 1994-95, Andhra Pradesh was sanctioned 1252 kilometerage road length while Bihar was sanctioned only 221 kilometerage length. May I know whether the kilometerage length of roads is sanctioned on political considerations for each state?

My second question is very important. The Standing Committee of Rajya Sabha under the Chairmanship of Shri Promod Mahajan had made 16 recommendations about the National Highways ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need to repeat those sixteen points.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : May I know from the hon. Minister what progress has been made by the Government and his Ministry during the last two years towards the implementation of those 16 points? All the problems are enumerated in that report. The Report of the Standing Committee has indicated the progress made by

Government in this regard. All the points being raised here are included in that report ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusaria) : Five persons have been killed in the road accident in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is being done as per the Rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please study the Rules first, then put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I quite agree with what the hon. Members have stated with their facts and figures. What they have stated about the state of affairs is really true. But at the same time ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, this is the condition before the passage of the Bill. I do not know what would happen after the Bill is passed! They are asking us to vacate the seats!

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister be allowed to answer.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, I would like to submit that what all they have stated is without taking into consideration the progress that have been made right from the year of our Independence, that is, from the year 1947. In the year 1947, the total length of the national highways was only 21,440 kilometers. In 1996, the total length of the national highways has increased to 34,298 kilometers. There are 12,859 kilometers have been added.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : This has been done over a period of 50 years.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : That is all right Madam. You have stated something and I have to satisfy you. I have to find out how it has happened. Within three months' time I cannot do magic. Please follow me ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow him to answer. You have put the questions, he has to reply now. You may not agree with his reply but he has to reply.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, may I proceed?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the hon. Members have asked so many things about privatisation and what is that I have got to do to see that it is improved. We are making efforts on the lines of the privatisation policy. The National Highways Act has been amended in 1995. According to the privatisation policy private persons can take part in it and ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : How much investment has been made ?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Please, hear me. I cannot answer piecemeal.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Do not get angry.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I am very hungry.

The fiscal benefits announced are : five years full tax holiday, and 30 per cent over the next five years; standardisation of BOT procedure; Government to bear the cost of land acquisition, shifting of utilities, and environmental litigation expense; and capital base of NHAI to leverage this capital to generate more funds from the market and the external funding agencies.

In the Budget, we have been awarded a capital of Rs. 200 crore. We have to make it seven to eight times more by means of the leverage we are getting and also by creation of Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation for cheaper funds for investment in this sector. This is the policy which we are going to follow to improve the standards and also to improve the meagre funds awarded to the road sector.

18.32 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Some hon. Members have asked about the progress made in the BOT projects. Some BOT projects have already been finalised. The projects which are under progress are: No. 3 and 4 Thane-Bhiwandi bypass in Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 17 crore; NH-8 Udaipur bypass in Rajasthan at Rs. 24 crore; and NH-8 Chaltan Road over-bridge in Gujarat at Rs. 10 crore. These are all the projects which are under progress.

The projects that are in the pipeline are : Hubli/Dharwar bypass in Karnataka at a cost of Rs. 40 crore; Nellore bypass in Andhra Pradesh at Rs. 80 crore; Coimbatore bypass in Tamil Nadu at Rs. 88 crore; the second Narmada bridge in Gujarat at Rs. 45 crore; Vivekananda bridge in West Bengal at Rs. 400 crore ; and Revel bypass in Maharashtra at Rs. 350 crore...(Interruptions) The Eighth Plan provision was Rs. 60 crore including Rs. 12 crore of spillover ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Uttar Pradesh is the biggest state of the country, where has it gone ? Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the country as is Delhi. The hon. Minister should reply the questions about Uttar Pradesh ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : The reply given by the hon. Minister is different from the questions asked.. (Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Barielly) : The hon. Minister has not given proper answer to any question. It was an important question and you allowed Half-an-Hour

discussion keeping in view the significance of the subject. The Minister has not given satisfactory answer or information. I want that detailed information should be given ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply. Hon can you come to the conclusion that he is not giving proper reply which he is in the midst of his speech ?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : What we have said is that he is not saying anything new.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Please give some information about Uttar Pradesh. He must say something. See the condition of Delhi-Agra-Calcutta National Highway. Its condition is very bad. He must tell us something about Uttar Pradesh ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAYED MASUDAL HOSSIAN (Murshidabad) : Elections are being held in Uttar Pradesh. How can he say about it ? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister speak.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : You must understand that originally there was a road fund. There was a resolution dated 18-6-77 whereby 3.5 paise per litre was provided and through that only we have been providing funds to the states. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : We have read it in the Annual Report.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : When you know everything why do you have to put a question ? Please listen to me when I give certain information. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Please, answer the questions we have asked ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : There was a second Resolution. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Yes, Sir.

By both the Resolutions of Parliament which were passed on 13.7.88, they proposed that five per cent of petrol and diesel should be provided for the Road Fund. ...(Interruptions) What is this ? If you know, come to this place, I will go away(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb the hon. Minister.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Therefore, it was not implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You always try to disturb.

[*English*]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Running commentary will not help you. You are a senior Member. You must understand that. *(Interruptions)* That was not put into effect. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been writing to that effect. You know that I assumed charge only three months back. Previously there was a chequered carrier with regard to the implementation. But later at a point of time when the Speaker has raised this and said that it is an important issue and that it must be answered and there must be an half-an-hour discussion, by which time, I got a note from the Cabinet that I should give a report. Then, I have incorporated all the things that has happened and also the urgency and the need for this Fund. Because of half-an-hour discussion in Rajya Sabha as also here, I am waiting and I am going to send your impressions and expressions with regard to this Fund. If that Fund is given, yearly we will have Rs. 2000 crore, thereby I will be able to satisfy, at least, some States, if not all the States. For doing that, you must all help me to see that it is implemented. That is already there. But that is not being implemented for which I cannot be held responsible. I am pleading. On your behalf, I am sending a note to the Cabinet in this connection to the effect that it is very necessary. The funds that are provided in the Budget are very meagre. Therefore, this Central Road Fund should be given to us. I will also impress upon the Government that cess should be given. I also understand your feelings. I am also pleading for more funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We are requesting him to reply the questions we have put ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : What is this ? I am telling the House that the Resolution is there and the implementation is there. *(Interruptions)*. On your behalf, I am impressing upon the Government that five per cent cess will be of great help to relieve the financial crunch for road development.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur) :

[*English*]

I just want to ask one line question.

[*Translation*]

I want to say only one thing. We have discussed here the length of highways. This is important. The question is

of providing infrastructural facility, it has been given somewhere and not given elsewhere. For example, many things have been said about Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot reopen it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Sir, let me complete ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the Bill be passed. I had promised to do it at 6.30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER : I have come exact at 6.30.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is now quarter to Seven. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh—Delhi) : It has already been delayed. Let there be no further delay.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : All want to speak.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : It is a fraud on women.

[*English*]

18.40 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE : MEMBERS OF THE
PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER : I have to make a very small announcement. I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha I have nominated the following members as Members of Panel of Chairmen, (1) Shri Basudeb Acharia, (2) Shri Chitta Basu, (3) Shri P.C. Chacko, (4) Shri Nitish Kumar, (5) Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, (6) Shri P.M. Sayeed, (7) Col. Rao Ram Singh, and (8) Prof. Rita Verma, for remaining part of the House.

18.41 hrs.

[*English*]

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT)
BILL—*contd.*

(Insertion of new articles 330A and 332A)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, what do we do with this Bill ?

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh—Delhi) : Without any delay voting must be done ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jena, do you want to say anything.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Let us start the discussion. Sir, you said that for some time we can discuss this issue. Shri Nitish Kumar was on his legs. So, we can discuss it and then the Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : The message that went from here yesterday could have secured a position for India in the galaxi of progressive nations of the world. But the scenario that is emerging now, the ups and downs we have seen since yesterday about this Bill, the dimensions this discussion has touched, have surely saddened us. It appears that a fraud is being committed on the entire women community of India. Yesterday, our expectation were raised so high that the Bill was proposed to be passed without discussion, the question Hour was proposed to be suspended. Today, it is 6.30 p.m. What is the scenario here today ? We have debated it for four hours ... (Interruptions) We are being decured ... (Interruptions) Please ask the hon. Minister to reply to the debate and take up voting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, a lot of discussion has already taken place. All Parties have expressed their opinion. From all the Parties, more than one hon. Member have spoken. So, as far as the discussion is concerned, all the problems that could be there are already on the record. Now, it is a question of passage of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the Law Minister ?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : This is not the way to function. Let the House come to order ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to the Government.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Law Minister to not present in the House. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Why do you not listen ? He is coming. He is in the other House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, this is no more an issue with the Lady Members only ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : The absence of the hon. Law Minister at this moment shows his casual attitude ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : The other House is also going on ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : How are they going to dispose it of, this way ? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The discussion on this Bill started yesterday morning and it is now 7 O'clock, but the Bill is yet to be passed ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It was decided here that discussion on the Eighty-First Constitution (Amendment) Bill will resume at 6.30 p.m. It was proper on the part of the Minister of Law to be here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, he is in the other House. I have already sent a message to him. He must be on his way. He will be coming within minutes ... (Interruptions) The other House is also going on ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Till the Minister comes, I would like to know the views of the Government on this .

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Imcha, you may speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have to allow the Members from North-East also. They have a peculiar problem. They have every right to place their views. I will come to you too. I will give you time.

SHRI IMCHA (Nagaland) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to request the Lady Member of this House not to agitate over this. We also have our own problems, which I feel, they should listen.

Sir, actually yesterday, when I came to this House after the Question Hour, I was really surprised when I found that time had come for voting on this Amendment. I would like to say that if the present Amendment in this form is passed by this House, it is going to have far reaching effect throughout the country and it will have adverse effect in the North-Eastern region. I am not against any reservation to be given in respect of women, but in this form if it is passed, it is going to create lots of problems. Therefore, about this, I want to say one or two words.

Sir, first of all, I would like to say, that even in the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika Bills, Nagaland has been left out because it is against the spirit of the provision, which is laid down in Article 371 (a). It will violate that spirit, that is why in these two Acts or so we have been left out.

So, if you pass this Bill in this manner, it is going to interfere with our established social practices which are provided by the Constitution. It will create lots of problem in our State. That is why, without some special protection to that, it will be difficult for me to support this Bill.

Sir, as I have said, keeping in view the religious and social practices and the customary laws of Nagas—all these things are there which are protected by Article 371 (a)—it should not be passed like this. It is because of this that the Nagar Palika Act and Panchayati Raj Act became non-applicable in respect of Nagaland. That aspect has not been taken into consideration or thought over while introducing this Bill.

Sir, this is one point on which it is going to be very difficult for us to support this Bill.

Secondly, there is one very peculiar situation. Ours is a male-deminated society. It is women who have to accept it. That is more important. We are finding it difficult in our State even to find candidates for our civic bodies, *(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Sir, this is not true. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI SELJA (Sirsa) : That is not correct. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI IMCHA : Sir, if you put a flat reservation of 33.33 per cent, that is one-third, we have the Assembly of 60 Members, then how do we find these 20 candidates ? Even in our civic bodies, we are finding difficulties. Our society is in the process of transformation now. What I want to say is that there will be a leadership vacuum. If you do like this, it will create a leadership vacuum. In democracy, there is nothing more dangerous than creating a leadership vacuum. It is not in our case alone. I have discussed this with the Assamese leaders. It is also there in Assam, in Maghalaya, in Mizoram, even in Manipur and in parts of Bihar also. What I want to say is that we are not against it. But, I think, we should take some time and we should see as to how it will be made practicable.

Let us not pass something which will create problems, particularly, in the sensitive areas like the North-East. That is why, I would like to make this request to you, Sir, and to the hon. Prime Minister. Sir, we have enough problems. Please do not add more problems like this ... *(Interruptions)* We have sufficient problems. That is why, as I have requested earlier, if you want to pass this Bill, please leave us out *(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Sir, the hon. Member has said that women are not capable of providing leadership. Whatever he has said about women, that should be expunged. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI IMCHA : Please do not think that Delhi is India; do not think that Uttar Pradesh is India; and do not think that Karnataka is India. *(Interruptions)* We have the people in the regions, which are in the territories of this country. We have to take care of them. That is why, if you want to pass this Bill, I want to say that you have to leave us out. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Beed) : He is speaking against the constitution, he is talking of male-demination.

[English]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, he has talked about male-dominated society. Whatever he has said about women, that should be expunged. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the records.

Now, I call upon Shri Nitish Kumar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at last you have given me time to speak for which I am grateful to you. Yesterday I was not present in the House, but I have seen and gone through the proceedings of the House and also have read Press reports. I also got an opportunity to learn many things from the hon'ble Member. I wanted to speak because it is an historic Bill and this Parliament is going to enact a historical Legislative measure. I want to give a vent to my feelings on this occasion and as a Member, I have the right to express my views and that is why I want to express my feelings.

As far as women's rights are concerned, not only women but men also have been fighting for their rights. It has been a world wide phenomenon. The question is not of male versus female. We will have to give the women their lawful rights and if the male society shows slackness in granting the women their rights then they will fight and rest only after achieving their due rights. They cannot be suppressed in a democratic set up. I do not want to go into the legal aspect and also the technical aspect about the manner in which this Bill has been introduced in this House. Much has been said on this aspect. It may have some drafting deficiencies but its intention is to provide one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, although the Bill has left out Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils. We have not been able to provide reservation to women in government jobs and other jobs. The women ought to be given their right in every field. I would like to put forth a different aspect. The Statement of Reasons and Objects of the Bill says that reservation already provided in Panchayats and Municipalities is being extended to Parliament and

Vidhan Sabhas. The Constitution was amendment to provide for reservation for women in Panchayats and municipalities and it also included reservation for OBCs but the same was left to the State Legislatures. I have worked as an active Member of a Select Committee. But what is the position today ? The Prime Minister has rightly said that law has been enacted, the Constitution has been amended and the State Government given powers to provide for reservations for OBCs. But what is the position today ? Has reservation been made in all the States ? What about West Bengal (*Interruptions*) . They are reacting to my speech everytime. ...(*Interruptions*) . They are preventing me to speak on this subject. What is the position in regard to OBCs in West Bengal ? How much time will they take in doing this ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It has been done before elections.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It has been done, it is alright but the OBCs will get reservation in Panchayats after elections. I attach great importance to women. We have sympathies for them. This Bill is meant for women and there is unanimity. There is no difference of opinion. But I would like to ask what crime has been committed by the OBC women. ...(*Interruptions*) . Please do not bring in Casteism. The Mandal Commission report was implemented and everybody has to accept it ...(*Interruptions*) . The CPI accepted it but CPM was opposing it ...(*Interruptions*) . But now all have accepted the report of the Mandal Commission and it has been implemented. ...(*Interruptions*) . You cannot stop me from speaking. You may continue to interrupt me but I will rest only after putting forth my views ...(*Interruptions*) . This is not fair. I heard you patiently. You express your views when you speak. All of us accept that we have to struggle to implement the Mandal Commission Report. There was great hue and cry. Today it is the Bill for women and I support it. I would demand serious discussion on other matters of this Bill and the women ought to be given one third reservation. But at the same time the OBC women should not be neglected. Reservation for SC-ST alone will not do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, new castes are included every day in the list of scheduled castes and people have been raising their voice for achieving this object. The scheduled Caste population is increasing alongwith the population of the country. Reservation in the Constitution has been provided according to the population. Naturally, the number of Scheduled Castes will increase with the increase of population and their reservation will also increase. The reservation would be horizontal as far as women are concerned.

19.00 hrs.

The SC and ST have vertical reservation. I therefore demand that backward classes should also be provided vertical reservation. Thereafter bring horizontal reservation for women and reserve one third seats for them. This has to be

done. Nobody can deny this. The representatives of backward classes should not plead for their class taking advantage of this Bill and if they do so it would mean they are opposing this Bill. This will convey a wrong message.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said here that a message has gone to the country and the world since the debate commenced in this House yesterday and if nothing is done today, a wrong message will go. This is the value system of middle class, this is the value system of higher middle class they want to do the politics of indication and message. They do not want to do a service for women but want to show that they want to convey a message that they are doing something for the women. The term of this House will end in 2001 and new elections will be held. Nobody knows whether mid-term polls will take place but we are sitting here today and may not be a Member of this House tomorrow but we must think of the situation to be faced by us during the next five years. The life of this Lok Sabha is five years and the identity cards we have been issued is upto 2001. The women will get the benefit of reservation not today but after five years when elections will be held. The Lok Sabha will not be dissolved today and we should not think that if this Bill is not passed today, the women would be deprived of their rights. We should not take this matter so lightly and we must not create a scenario in the House that this is the problem of women only. This involves men also. Those who are against male Chauvinism, male domination but will support this Bill and I want to go on record that we are against this male Chauvinism. We are prepared to make any kind of sacrifices to secure legitimate rights to the women, but, at the same time, rights of women belonging to backward classes should also be taken care of lest the general category women take advantage of reservation and, the women belonging to backward classes remain unrepresented. I may be excused for my audacity that we have single vote system in our democracy and due to this system, the representation of the weaker section, suppressed, oppressed and dalits is increasing in Parliament and Vidhan Sabhas. Had we not the one person one vote system, had we not adopted the democratic system, a person like me would not have been here in this House today, a person like Deve Gowda would not have been the Prime Minister, many of those sitting here would not be here. Suraybhanji would not be sitting here. So an awareness has come. It has come because of single vote system. This system has manifested itself in the composition of this House. We would not allow the social composition that has been achieved after a long struggle to be changed from the backdoors. In case such a message goes out it will pain our hearts, it will pain the women of backward classes. This aspect has therefore, to be considered seriously. They must be given their rights and the heavens are not going to fall if this is done. This measure is going to come into force after a reasonably long time, so

we must have proper discussion on it. We must place on record during this discussion the history of women atrocities and that our resolve of granting these rights to the women. Whenever some research is conducted on this subject, this record will be readily available. We quote here frequently the debates of Central Assembly and Constituent Assembly. Similarly, the debate of this House will be quoted in future. So, all these things must come on record and hence a serious discussion is called for. If we are able to have debate on this Bill for 10-20 hours or for 2 to 4 days, it will be considered a major contribution in our efforts to secure legitimate rights to women. This will also send a right message to the world. In fact, as has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, this is an extension of the reservation already provided for in panchayats and municipalities. So, I want the other provisions that have been provided for panchayats and municipalities should be included in this Bill. It has been provided that the State Legislature, if they so desires, may provide for reservation for OBC women in panchayats and municipalities. We have before us the Constitution Amendment Bill and this has to be adopted in this House. So, we must provide reservations for OBCs. How long will we go on discussing and how long will people go on fighting for their rights? Reservation should be provided for all based on their population. The OBCs should be given population-based reservation in this House, as is being done in case of SC-ST. Today the population of all categories is increasing. The backward castes should be given representation in parliament, in Vidhan Sabha and in Vidhan Parishads in proportion to their population. Reservation should be provided in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils for SC-STs, for OBCs for women etc. Similar provisions should be incorporated in this Bill.

All these points should be incorporated in this Bill. This can be done by collective debate in this House or the Prime Minister may be requested to give an assurance to this House that a Comprehensive Bill will be introduced by incorporating various suggestions made here and that a special session of Parliament would be called for this purpose after the U.P. elections are over and before the commencement of winter session or this Bill, as introduced, should be referred to a Joint Select committee with the request that it may submit its report within 15 days, one month or two months as may be deemed fit. A comprehensive Bill can be prepared and introduced by amending the present Bill, It will be a milestone in our history.

The job done in a haste will not give good result and this will be legally wrong. This is a Constitution Amendment Bill and do we not need a special majority to adopt this Bill? In case this Bill is put for voting and keeping in mind the presence in this House it may fall. Then it will convey a message to the world that we introduced a Bill for providing reservation for women and the same was defeated. Therefore, I will urge and pray humbly that government

should improve the position by bringing a comprehensive Bill by suitably amending the present Bill lest the present Bill may fall. The comprehensive Bill should be referred to a Joint Select Committee which, after being deliberated by the Select Committee, should be debated in this House during the next session or by calling a special session. This is what I have to submit. I thank you for giving me time to express my views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Minister like to reply to this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not closing the debate. A suggestion had come. I am only asking from the Government whether they would like to react or not. I have not closed the debate. I am only wanting the Minister to react to the suggestion that had come.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : We also want to participate in this debate. I shall express my views in two minutes.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : I also want to make a suggestion ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not understand what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the suggestions made by the hon. Member Shri Nitish Kumar, the Government has no hesitation to accept the proposition in whatever way—it could either go to the Select Committee or it could be, that if the House wants a comprehensive Bill it can come. The hon. Prime Minister has already clarified it. We can put our minds together and come before the house and if necessary, if everybody agrees and the Select Committee passes it unanimously we have no objection again to call for a Special Session.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that no further discussion should be allowed on this Bill since we have already had very long debate, wide deliberations on it. We have received your full cooperation right from yesterday till today and the world at large has seen how the Speaker of Lok Sabha of India has favoured women community. I, on behalf of all the women, request you to give your ruling on this Bill because you are fully alive to the rights that women are going to get in the coming times.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, yesterday everyone of us was very happy to see, and to quote some hon. Member, the historic unanimity of the House. Unfortunately, today we have seen that still there are issues where there is a question mark. The most important issue that came up during the course of the debate, during the course of discussion—even outside the House, I had a lot of consultation—was the question of Other Backward Classes. It is a very very valid point and the Prime Minister himself has told me that it is a very important issue and this issue of Other Backward Classes cannot be ignored.

Secondly, though yesterday we fixed that this Bill could be discussed for two hours and then the House can take up voting, several Members of Parliament today pleaded that adequate time should be allotted and all the political parties must have a say in this matter. The hon. Members should have a chance to speak and participate in the debate because this is a Bill, this is a piece of legislation which is unique in itself where 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent reservation is going to be given to women. We are the first country to do it. It is going to be a historical thing. The hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes pointed out in the morning and drew attention to Rule 362 and reminded us of the right of reasonable debate—that on an important issue of this nature, Members must have the opportunity to exercise the right of reasonable debate. I think it is quite a valid point that the hon. Member has made.

Even just now, we find that so many hon. Members are raising their hands and want to speak. Considering all these aspects and specially when the Government is willing to cooperate as they have stated again and again—the Prime Minister has stated again and again—that they will stand firm on what they have committed, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has just now said that whatever the House decides, they are willing to agree to it. If the Bill is to be referred to a Joint Committee, they are agreeable; if a comprehensive Bill is to be brought, they are agreeable; if a Special Session is to be called, they are agreeable. I think, the Government have adequately demonstrated their desire. As the hon. Member, Shri Nitish Kumar, has rightly pointed out that—well, I know that there can be some elections to the Legislative Assemblies, the earliest Legislative Assembly elections—we are not talking about U.P.—are going to take place, I think, in Punjab it will be in the beginning of next year. That is going to be the next election and the elections to Parliament will come after five years. So, we need not be in a hurry. So, I would also feel, after listening to the debate very carefully today, that this matter deserves a deeper and more elaborate debate. Therefore, I would postpone the consideration of this Bill.

Hon. Minister, I do have your Joint Committee proposal.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, we immediately move a Joint Committee proposal and the Speaker can be authorised to nominate Members as per his choice.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Now the question is that in this Bill about reservation for women, there may also be other things which have to be considered *per se*, but we are all committed to this Bill. Sir, you are proposing to refer this Bill to a Joint Committee. We often see that there are extensions and extensions. We want an absolutely time-bound Joint Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with that. My direction is, we decide that a Joint Committee will be constituted by the Speaker and the Bill will be referred to the Joint Committee to give the report on the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 1996. That is my final ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ensure that in the Joint Committee also, the same ratio of representation to women is given as is given in the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Why cannot be it that this Bill is passed ...(Interruptions) Why cannot it be ...(Interruptions). Let it be passed as introduced and a committee be constituted to go into the issues raised. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your sentiments.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That is a far better proposal ...(Interruptions) our leaders have said, all of us have said, the C.P.M. leaders have said ...(Interruptions). A committee should be constituted on the issues raised today ...(Interruptions). That is a far better proposal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has been moved and accepted. The final decision has been taken.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to raise any procedural point. We had said that we would go along with any proposal that is practical and is aimed at achieving the goal. It is not the procedural point that I am raising. But when you call it a Joint Committee, you are referring to the other House as well. It is not within the purview of the Lok Sabha alone to set up a Joint Committee, because it becomes a Committee of both the Houses of Parliament and therefore, it is not within the purview of this House alone to anticipate what the other House is going to say. If there is a proposal simply saying that a Select Committee be constituted, then, of course, this House can decide. But if it is a Joint

Committee, then it is a recommendation that you are making and therefore, the other House also comes into play. It is not a procedural matter that I am raising. Otherwise, we will again have some difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER : You are right. Mr. Minister, do you want a Select Committee or a Joint Committee ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, Jaswant Singhji is correct. In the case of the Joint Committee, the consent of both the Houses will be required.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker Sir, please give me one minute to speak after your observations.

MR. SPEAKER : Umaji, your request has been accepted. It is your victory.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : So my proposal is that at your level and at the Rajya Sabha Chairman's level it can be sorted out. It can be a Joint Committee. If it is not, then it can be a Select Committee. That will be better.

MR. SPEAKER : I will be in touch with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and I will decide. The minimum I can assure the lady Members here is that the principle of

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent reservation to women will be followed in the Joint Committee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The report will have to be made available to the House on the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 1996.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, by what time this Committee would be constituted ?

MR. SPEAKER : You must leave that to me. How can I say that now ?

I thank all the hon. Members for their cooperation.

Now, the hon. Members may kindly stand up for *Vande Mataram*.

19.17 Hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

19.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.